



## Information Guide



## **Preamble**

North Winnipeg Pirates have operated under the authority of the North Winnipeg Minor Baseball Association (NWMBA) since 1996. The AAA Director(s) represents the AAA program on the NWMBA Board in the role of First Vice President. In addition, the AAA coaches can vote at the Annual General Meeting of the NWMBA.

The Pirates AAA program is affiliated with the Winnipeg Amateur Baseball Association (WABA) and with local community centres from which baseball diamonds are rented.

AAA coaches are selected annually by application to the AAA Director(s).

NWMBA holds tryouts annually to determine each season's teams. No player is guaranteed a spot from year to year. Head coaches, the NWMBA evaluators, and the AAA Director(s) will select each team.

AAA team managers and parent liaisons are chosen by each team's head coach. Parents are invited to volunteer for these positions

### **North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Program Executive**

AAA Director & NWMBA First Vice President	Chris Mussell	204-803-6905	AAAdirector@nwmba.ca
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AAA Director & NWMBA First Vice President	Carly Duboff	204-599-2550	AAAdirector@nwmba.ca
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## **North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Coaching Philosophy**

- AAA baseball is the highest competitive level of baseball in Manitoba.
- Coaches make decisions that are good for the team, the players, and for NWMBBA.
- Coaches will determine positions throughout the season. Coaches will assess players during practices and games to find the position(s) where players will succeed.
- During practices, coaches will run drills for all players at all positions. Players will have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of most positions. Coaches will let players try positions during game play and will put players in positions that will provide the strongest offensive and defensive playing situation for the team as a whole.
- During the development portion of the season (the first two-thirds of the regular season and tournament round robins), players will receive equal opportunities to play. Opportunities are created by situation, effort, and ability during all aspects of the program. Coach work to achieve a minimum playing time of two-thirds of defensive innings played for each player. During the playoff portion of the season (the last third of the regular season and playoffs and tournament playoffs), coaches will decide who plays in games and in what roles.
- Coaches expect good sportsmanship and appropriate behaviour from players.
- Coaches want everyone to have fun and enjoy baseball, including our players, parents, and fans, as well as our opponents, their fans, and the umpires.

## **Responsibilities of North Winnipeg AAA Coaches**

1. To obtain and maintain the qualifications required to coach in WABA, provincials, and inter-provincials
2. To treat all players, coaches, parents, game officials, and league representatives with respect
3. To work in conjunction with the NWMBA AAA Director(s) for team selection
4. To maintain a level of consistency regarding curriculum
5. To attend all NWMBA AAA coaches meetings
6. To attend monthly NWMBA meetings to report on team progress or submit a written report when a conflict arises
7. To hold meetings with parents as required

## **Responsibilities of North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Players**

1. To conduct themselves proudly as a member of the North Winnipeg AAA Pirates organization
2. To treat all players, coaches, parents, game officials, and league representatives with respect
3. To be at games one hour prior to game start, dressed in proper attire
4. To be at practice 15 minutes prior to practice start, dressed in proper attire
5. To supply their own water for games and practices
6. To focus on interactions with the team during games and practices
7. To socialize with spectators after games and practices
8. To control their reactions in negative situations
9. To remain with the team after each game for a team meeting and field maintenance
10. To notify their coach as early as possible if they cannot attend a game or practice

## North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Player Code of Conduct

I am a North Winnipeg AAA baseball player. Because I have the privilege of playing baseball for the North Winnipeg Minor Baseball Association, I agree that I will represent my team, my coaches, my parents, the North Winnipeg Minor Baseball Association program, and baseball with pride, respect, and good sportsmanship. Furthermore, I agree to uphold the following expectations of North Winnipeg Minor Baseball Association:

1. **I will have a good attitude at all times**, win or lose, playing on the field or supporting my team from the bench. I recognize that some days I will play well and some days I may be off. In either case, I will be positive and supportive of our team and my teammates. I will not swear.
2. **I will be a great team player.** I will understand and fulfill my role on the team and understand that my role for any particular game or practice is decided by the coaches.
3. **I will not quit.** When I quit on myself because of a mistake or carry a bad attitude about my team or coaches, I am quitting on the team.
4. **I will respect my coaches, umpires, opposing players and coaches, and parents.** I will address my coaches by "Coach". I will answer questions when asked.
5. **I will respect my home field and the field on which I am a guest** by ensuring that the dugout is clean before I leave. I will assist in collecting equipment at the end of all games.
6. **I will hustle at all times** and be a good example for my teammates at all games and practices.
7. **I will improve as a player.** I will listen to my coaches and work hard at improving my mental and physical baseball skills. I recognize that working on my baseball skills only at practices will not be enough. I will also work on the areas my coaches point out to me outside of normal practices.
8. **I will keep myself physically fit.** Outside of practices, I will exercise and work at some form of cardio activity every week.
9. **I will eat and sleep well during the baseball season.** I will minimize my consumption of unhealthy foods and drinks during the baseball season.
10. **I will study.** I will do my school homework and complete assignments on time. I will do my best at school at all times. Doing well in school is more important than doing well as a baseball player.

## **Responsibilities of North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Parents**

1. To conduct themselves appropriately as a representative of the North Winnipeg AAA Pirates organization
2. To treat all players, coaches, parents, game officials, and league representatives with respect
3. To pay the annual registration fees and any team fees in full and on time
4. To ensure uniforms and equipment are purchased and maintained
5. To ensure players attend all games and practices
6. To support and encourage all players on the team
7. To allow players to focus on interactions with their team and coaches during games and practices
8. To socialize with players and coaches after games and practices
9. To put any concerns or complaints into writing for the parent liaison

## North Winnipeg Pirates AAA Parent Code of Conduct

1. **I will let the players play.** I will cheer them on when they do well and encourage them when they struggle. I will be a fan of everyone on the team, not just my own child.
2. **I will let the coaches coach.** My child's coaches deserves my cooperation and respect even if I disagree with how the team is managed. I will not coach or instruct from the stands and will not interfere with the game. I will not speak negatively about the coaches to other parents or my child. I will not teach my child in a way that contradicts their coaches. If I disagree with the way the coaches manage any aspect of a game or practice, I will discuss it personally with the coach or through the parent liaison.
3. **I will respect the coaches.** I understand that verbal or physical abuse of a coach will not be tolerated. I understand that a parent's first offense will result in a one-game suspension of the parent from attending their child's game and a meeting with the head coach and AAA Director(s), and that a second offense will result in an indefinite suspension.
4. **I will let the umpires officiate.** I will accept the calls made by the umpire and understand that the coaches are the sole individuals responsible for reviewing plays and rules with the umpire. I will not make any negative comments to the umpires or about their calls.
5. **I will respect the umpires.** I understand that verbal and physical abuse of an umpire will not be tolerated. I understand that a parent's first offense will result in a one-game suspension of the parent from attending their child's game and a meeting with the head coach and AAA Director(s), and that a second offense will result in an indefinite suspension.
6. **I understand that playing time may not be equal.** I understand that North Winnipeg Minor Baseball Association provides equal opportunity to all players. I understand that some players may have more plate appearances, innings pitched, positions, and roles than other players, and that these things are at the discretion of the coaches. I understand that players will be put into positions where they can succeed.
7. **I will communicate responsibly.** If a problem needs to be discussed, I will wait 24 hours to submit my concerns to the parent liaison. I understand that coaches will also follow the 24-hour rule when dealing with issues. I will advise the parent liaison of any safety- or health-related items immediately.
8. **I will display good sportsmanship.** I understand that negative comments or actions are disruptive and destructive to the development of my child and their team.
9. **I will positively encourage the players on the field.** I will not intentionally distract the opposing team and understand that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

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10. **I will not enter the dugout or participate in conversations with the team during a game.** I will ensure that my child is prepared with everything they required prior to the game.
11. **I will respect the facilities that we play in.** I will assist in keeping facilities clean and safe.
12. **I will encourage my child to take ownership and be responsible for their baseball experience.** I will encourage my child to follow the Player Code of Conduct.

## **Volunteering**

The North Winnipeg AAA Pirates is a volunteer-run organization. Parent participation is vital to a successful baseball program.

Coaches are volunteers. While most are parents of players, the Pirates also have non-parent volunteers who are committed to the same goal: making the best possible experience for all the players on the team.

All families are expected to volunteer to ensure their child's team runs efficiently.

### **Full Season Roles**

Each team requires a manager and a parent liaison for the season. The manager assists the head coach with scheduling (e.g. Team Snap) and fee collection. The parent liaison is the go-between for parents and coaches in the event of a concern or complaint. Parents can volunteer for these roles or may be approached by the head coach fill them.

### **Game-by-Game Roles**

Volunteers are needed at each game to assist with field preparation and maintenance (as requested by the coaches), pitch counting, and score keeping. Parents are asked to volunteer for these roles at each game. If there are no volunteers, coaches will ask parents to fill these rolls.

Additional volunteering needs may come up during the season, such as fundraising, helping at tournaments or playoff games, or organizing or assisting with team activities during double headers, out-of-town games, or tournaments. If there are no volunteers, coaches will ask parents to fill these rolls as needed.

### **NWMBA Board**

To participate on the NWMBA Board of Directors or on a Board committee, individuals can speak with the AAA Director(s) or attend the NWMBA Annual General Meeting in the fall.

## **Conflict**

If a parent has a concern or complaint during the baseball season, they are asked to wait 24 hours before raising the issue. After at least 24 hours, the concern or complaint should be put in writing, either in an email or on paper, and given to the parent liaison. The parent liaison will provide it to the team's head coach who will determine if the issue can be addressed at a team level or if it needs to be elevated to the AAA Director(s) or the NWMBBA Board of Directors.

If a parent has a concern or complaint about the parent liaison, they can bring the issue, in writing, directly to the head coach.

If a serious discipline measure needs to be taken with a player, coaches will be guided by the current Baseball Manitoba handbook. Decisions regarding suspension of players will be made with input from the AAA Director(s).

Please remember that players play, coaches coach, umpires call the game, and parents cheer. You cannot do more than one of these things. Respect the players, coaches, umpires, and parents.

## **Registration Fees**

Registration fees include the cost of field rentals, field maintenance equipment, baseballs, umpires, one tournament, a team hat, a package of team clothing (a short-sleeved shirt, a long-sleeved shirt, a hoodie, and shorts), and a shirt for each coach.

Registration fees must be paid in full by the date determined by NWMBA. Payment can be made by cash, e-transfer, or cheque made out to North Winnipeg Pirates.

If registration fees have not been paid in full by the NWMBA due date, players will not be allowed to practice or play, unless payment arrangements have been made with the AAA Director(s).

Coaches will determine if additional fees need to be collected for tournaments, fee-based workouts, indoor practice space in the event of rainouts, or other team requirements. These fees will be paid directly to the team and will be reconciled by the manager.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

The North Winnipeg Pirates provide jerseys at a cost which is determined annually. Players who have jerseys can wear them from year to year. Hats are included in the registration fee. The remainder of the uniform and equipment is the responsibility of the player and must include:

- White baseball pants
- Black belt
- Protective athletic support
- Black batting helmet
- Baseball cleats with rubber or metal spikes (must meet Manitoba Baseball Association/Baseball Canada rules)
- Bat (must meet Manitoba Baseball Association/Baseball Canada rules)
- Glove

## **Fundraising**

Teams are allowed to fundraise to offset team expenses at the discretion of the head coach. Parent volunteers will coordinate fundraising with the support of coaches.

## **Team Windups**

Team windups are not included in registration fees. Teams are responsible for organizing their own windups at their own cost.

## League Play

### Season Start

The season starts the first week of May. Coaches will schedule practices and will share the game schedule when they receive it.

### Diamonds

13U home games: Access Centre (48 Holland Road, West St. Paul) – northwest diamond

15U home games: Access Centre (48 Holland Road, West St. Paul) – southwest diamond

18U home games: Koskie Field (480 Chalmers Avenue, Winnipeg)

### Provincial Championships

13U – August Long Weekend

15U – August Long Weekend

18U – Late July

The entry cost for Provincial Championships is covered in full by NWMBA.

### Tournaments and Extra Games

Teams are encouraged to enter up to two tournaments during the season. Registration fees include the cost of entering one tournament. The entry fee for a second tournament is the responsibility of the team.

As well, teams can choose to schedule extra play with other AAA teams in the Brandon, Eastman, Interlake, Midwest, Parkland, and South Central areas if time permits.

### Western Canadian Championships

Western Canadian Championships are held in mid to late August. Should a AAA team qualify for the Western Canadian Baseball Championships, the entry fee will be covered in full by NWMBA. Financial support will be given to teams attending the championships as determined by the AAA Directors and NWMBA Board.

