

SOUTHWEST BASEBALL LEAGUE (SWBL)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

OBJECTIVES

To provide players in Western Manitoba the ability to play competitive Baseball in a league sanctioned by Baseball Manitoba, operating under the rules laid out by Baseball Manitoba and this constitution.

1) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Member teams are defined as teams that have a current bond paid to the league of \$100, and have been active participants in the previous three seasons.
- b) Teams wishing to take part in the Southwest Baseball League must be represented at the Spring meeting. Teams not present at a league meeting, who still wish to participate in the current season will be fined \$50.00.
- c) New member teams wishing to participate must meet the following criteria:
 - i) Attend any league meeting and make a presentation to the membership and executive
 - ii) Receive support of 70% of the existing membership that will be done through a closed ballot.
 - iii) Pay the current bond to the league

2) EXECUTIVE

- a) The Executive will consist of the following positions:
 - i) Past President
 - ii) President
 - iii) Vice President
 - iv) Secretary/Treasurer
- b) These positions are to be elected at the spring meeting in even years for a two year term.
- c) In the case that there is no one willing to seek election, then the roles will be rotated based on Schedule A between the member teams.
 - i) Individuals will need to be specifically delegated for a minimum of President, and Secretary/Treasurer
- d) If an election occurs, or if a team is taking over the roles this will be recorded in the minutes.
 - i) In the case that a team takes over the books, they have the right to find an individual or individuals in the region that is not involved in the team to help fill those roles

- e) The president can appoint someone to fill a vacant executive position. If that appointment comes in the first year of the 2 year term, then the membership will need to approve the appointment at the next meeting.

3) MEETINGS

- a) The membership and executive will meet a minimum of once per year in the spring prior to the season.
- b) A fall meeting shall be held should members or the executive consider it necessary, but is not required.

4) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- a) The league will maintain a bank account at Sunrise Credit Union with the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer as signing officers.
- b) The league executive will present Financial Statements to the membership at all meetings, to be passed by motion
- c) The league executive will present an operating budget to the membership each year at the spring meeting.
- d) League Fees will be set by the membership based on the leagues operating budget. These league fees will be in addition to fees that are payable to Baseball Manitoba for player, coach and team fees.
- e) The league executive will invoice the member teams their Baseball Manitoba, and league fees once the invoice from Baseball Manitoba is received. These fees are sur within 30 days of the invoice.
- f) Cash flow management, including the purchase of any investments, or savings products must be passed by the membership at a regular meeting.

5) STATISTICIAN

- a) The league membership and executive will appoint a statistician each year, who is responsible for keeping statistics and maintaining the league website, and social media presence.
- b) The honorarium for the position will be voted on at the Spring Meeting.
- c) The home team is responsible for forwarding game reports to the media and league statistician by 10pm game day. The league executive will provide a list of media outlets and deadline times to the membership before the season starts

- d) If game reports are not received by the statistician by 10am the day after the game then the home team will be fined \$50.

6) UMPIRES/UMPIRE IN CHIEF

- a) The league membership and executive will appoint an Umpire in Chief each year, who is responsible for assigning all home plate and base umpires for each team. .
 - i) Member teams may provide a list of possible base umpires to the Umpire in Chief in order to cut down on mileage.
- b) The honorarium for the position will be voted on at the Spring Meeting.
- c) 2 Man Umpire system will be used in the regular season and playoffs
- d) When possible a 3 man system will be used for the league finals.
- e) Umpire fees and Mileage will be presented by the Umpire in Chief based on Baseball Manitoba recommendations, to be approved by the membership.

7) LEAGUE FORMAT AND PLAYOFFS

- a) The Format of the league and its playoffs will be decided each spring at the League Meeting once the number of teams participating is confirmed. This Format shall include:
 - i) Whether the league will be split into 2 divisions and which teams shall make up the divisions if they are split.
 - ii) The number of regular season games
 - iii) The playoff structure including the number of teams, the length of series, and when the series need to be completed
 - iv) How the league will determine representation in Baseball Manitoba Provincial Championships
 - v) How pickups will be determined for these provincials if the league is sending more than one team.
- b) Teams will supply their preferred nights of the week, special event requests and any black out dates prior to the draft schedule being completed
 - i) League preference is for games to be played on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday when possible.
- c) Regular Season games are to start at 7:00 pm during the week
- d) Double headers on Sunday's are 1:00 & 6:00 when possible.
- e) Start time for Sunday single games will be at the home team's discretion.

- f) Playoff games will begin at 6:30 pm during the week, and no later than 6:00 PM on Sundays.
- g) Regular league games (rained out or postponed) must be played by the end of the regular schedule or in the next few days following as drawn up in the schedule by the current league executive
- h) If 2 teams are tied for the final playoff spot in the league or in a division a one game playoff will occur.
- i) Teams tied in the league standings other than for a provincial berth will be decided head to head throughout the year.
 - i) If still tied the Baseball Manitoba formula will be used to break the tie.
- j) If three teams are tied for either the final playoff spot or for a provincial championship birth then the following Criteria will be followed:
 - i) The Baseball Manitoba formula will be used to rank the the teams 1 through 3
 - ii) The 1st place team will get a bye, and the 2nd and 3rd place team will play off at the 2nd place teams diamond.
 - iii) The winner will then play the 1st place team at their diamond.

8) RULES OF PLAY

Any rules that are not covered by the specific rules of play of the league will follow the Baseball Canada Rule book, or the Baseball Manitoba Handbook.

- a) All games will be 7 innings in the regular season and the playoffs. A legal game will be 5 innings. In a rainout situation before the 5th inning, only mileage will be paid to the umpires. Only one game fee will be paid for each game
- b) Teams are allowed to fill their roster up to the number allowed by Baseball Manitoba:
 - i) Only Rostered players are allowed to play in provincials.
 - ii) 18U and 22U players can be brought up as affiliate players without being rostered if the roster is at the Baseball Manitoba maximum.
- c) All players are required to play 5 games in a 13 game schedule to be eligible for the playoffs. This number can be changed by motion at the spring meeting if the schedule is a different number of games then 13.
- d) A player shall receive credit for a game played if they have an official plate appearance, appear defensively in the field, or enter the game as a pinch runner
- e) A team can apply for a player not meeting the games limit to be eligible for the playoffs to the league executive by following this criteria:

- i) This would be emailed to the league president by the end of the regular season including the reason why the games limit was not met.
 - ii) The league president will ask for a vote by the member teams by email.
 - iii) The player will need to receive approval from 70% of the teams to be eligible for the playoffs.
- f) A designated hitter may bat for any defensive player providing this is on the original lineup card prior to the game.
- g) The league shall adopt the re-entry rule as outlined in the Baseball Manitoba handbook.
- h) If a player is injured during the game and the injured team has used all of its players, they will be allowed to use one of the players that has been taken out of the game.
- i) A courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher where there are 2 outs in an inning. This rule is not mandatory but highly suggested. A courtesy runner may be a player who is currently not in the lineup or the last out
- j) The home team is to supply at least 3 new baseballs for each game. These baseballs should be the approved game baseball of Baseball Manitoba.
- k) Each home team is responsible for designating an official scorer.
- l) Teams that wish to forfeit a game must have the league executive approval. \$50.00 fine to the home team

9) APPEALS, PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

- a) Any appeal, protest or grievance will need to be reported immediately after the game to the league executive, with a full report in writing by 10 am the next morning.
- b) The protest committee will consist of the following:
 - i) President
 - ii) Vice President
 - iii) Umpire in Chief
 - iv) Past President
- c) In the event that any of these individuals were directly involved or in a conflict of interest, they will be removed from addressing the situation.
- d) In the event that two or more people need to be excused, the remaining members will seek other people from the league to be involved in the decision.

- e) The committee will gather necessary information in writing from teams, players and officials involved, as well as seek guidance from the Baseball Manitoba Handbook, and the constitution.
- f) Decisions will be made in writing as soon as possible. If a decision cannot be reached within 48 hours, then the committee will advise in writing.

10) LEAGUE AWARDS

- a) The league Batting Champion will be awarded to the player who finishes the season with the highest batting average in a minimum of 30 plate appearances
- b) The league ERA title will be awarded to the pitcher who finishes with the lowest ERA on the season with a minimum of 20 innings pitched.
- c) The Most Valuable Player award will be nominated and voted on by the member teams in a vote conducted by the Executive. Teams may not vote for their own nominee. The Executive will break a tie if needed.
- d) The Rookie of the Year award will be nominated and voted on by the member teams in a vote conducted by the Executive. Teams may not vote for their own nominee. The Executive will break a tie if needed.
- e) The Mark Minor Award shall be awarded to a player or team official that shows dedication to the team and community, and is named to honor the memory of former Lyleton Leaf Mark Minor. It will be nominated with a brief write up and voted on by the member teams in a vote conducted by the executive. Teams may not vote for their own nominee. The Executive will break a tie if needed.

AMENDMENTS TO SWBL CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting April 25, 2023, and hereby replaces any constitution or bylaws that has been written for Border League North or the Southwest Baseball League, and any decisions passed in meeting minutes prior to April 25, 2023.

Amendments can occur at any regular meeting by motion from the executive or membership.

SCHEDULE A

Order of Teams filling rolls if there are no voted nominees will go in the following order:

- 1) Elkhorn
- 2) Souris
- 3) Virden
- 4) Boissevain
- 5) Wawanesa
- 6) Oak River
- 7) Hamiota
- 8) Hartney
- 9) Deloraine
- 10) Reston
- 11) Rivers