



Baseball Manitoba Zone 2 (Rural)

Changes for the 2024 Season

(Updated – January 30/24)

In late 2023 several motions were passed at the Baseball MB semi-annual general meeting that necessitated changes to how baseball runs in rural Manitoba.

A rural sub-committee has met several times in fall/winter to come up with a solution on how best to move forward with these changes.

The focus of this group has been on how best to aid in player development. Three significant changes for 2024 and beyond are:

- Additional provincial tournament opportunities
- A change to how AA teams are made at 11u, 13u, & 15u
- A focus on having players of similar caliber play with and against each other – with the goal of more success for all players

In the past, South Central has used a major-minor system based on age to make teams at the 13u and 15u levels. Previously, only major age players would have the opportunity play at the higher level (previously known as AA). For 2024, South Central will allow communities to hold tryouts open to both Major and Minor aged players at the 13u and 15u levels.

We understand that change is not always easy and that it will take a little time for us all to feel comfortable with how things will work.

The decisions that were made were not done so lightly. There has been a lot of back and forth in an attempt to get things right – with all of the discussions focusing on what's best for the development of the players. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email admin@winklerminorball.ca. The information provided here will explain how the team creation and tryout process will work for the 2024 season. Evaluation schedules will be provided to you in the coming weeks.

11u Provincial Tournaments

- 11u Tier 1 (previously known as AA Provincials)
- 11u Tier 2 (new for 2024)
- 11u Tier 3 (previously known as A Provincials)
- 11u AA

11u League Play

For 2024, nothing will change for regular league play. Winkler will continue to make teams that are as even as possible for league play. To help make teams as even as possible we will have an evaluation session at the MEC in Winkler in April (Date TBD).

At the end of the season the top 6 teams will play in a league tournament to determine the Tier 1 & Tier 2 rep. The tournament winner would be the Tier 1 rep and have priority when it comes to pickups. The 2nd place team would be the Tier 2 rep.

Teams that finish 7-12 would play in a league tournament with the winner of the tournament being the Tier 3 rep.

The balance of the teams will have an opportunity to play in a consolation tournament (provided a community steps up to host).

11u AA Team

Winkler will have the option to put together an 11u select team. The purpose of this team is to provide additional development opportunities for kids interested in an extended 11u season. This team would compete to qualify for the 11u AA provincials in mid-July.

This team will not have a regular league to play in, but they would be encouraged to practice together during the season and possibly play in a tournament as well.

After the 11u regular season is over we expect there would be playdowns or a tournament to determine which team from our region would be the representative at provincials. Additional fees would apply to cover the costs of the extra games/tournaments.

At registration we will provide an option to sign up for this AA team. If we have more players than is reasonable for a team like this we will have a tryout or evaluation night to help determine who will be selected for this team.

13u Provincial Tournaments

- 13u Tier 1 (Previously known as AA Provincials)
- 13u Tier 2 (Previously known as A Provincials)
- 13u Tier 3 (New for 2024)
- 13u AA
- 13u AAA

13u League Play

Tier 1

Winkler will have evaluations in April to determine the Tier 1 team. This team will play in a Tier 1 South Central league with the hopes of qualifying for the Tier 1 provincial tournament. Both Majors and Minors will be eligible to tryout for this team.

Tier 2/3

If there are enough players for 2 teams at the Tier 2/3 level, we will do our best to make these teams as even as possible. We will use the evaluations in April to help with this process.

The Tier 2 provincial rep would be the team that wins the end of season league tournament. The Tier 3 provincial rep would be the team that finishes 2nd in the end of season league tournament.

13u AAA & AA Teams

South Central 13u AAA will play a ½ schedule as they've done in the past. All AAA players will need to double roster with their Tier 1 or Tier 2/3 club team.

Players who do not make the regional 13u AAA team are able to tryout for a regional 13u AA team from SC. This team will not have a league to play in but will be able to practice together throughout the season when it works, and also find exhibition games/tournaments to play in. AA players will also double roster on their Tier 1 or Tier 2/3 team.

The expectation is that the SC 13u AA team will receive a spot in the AA provincials. If there are more teams than spots, regional playdowns may be required. Additional fees will be paid to be a part of this team (like what happens with the AAA teams).

Information on tryouts for the SC AAA & AA teams will be provided at a later date.

15u Provincial Tournaments

- 15u Tier 1 (Previously known as AA Provincials)
- 15u Tier 2 (Previously known as A Provincials)
- 15u Tier 3 (New for 2024)
- 15u AA
- 15u AAA

15u League Play

Tier 1

Winkler will have evaluations in April to determine the Tier 1 team. This team will play in a Tier 1 South Central league with the hopes of qualifying for the Tier 1 provincial tournament. Both Majors and Minors will be eligible to tryout for this team.

Tier 2/3

If there are enough players for 2 teams at the Tier 2/3 level, we will do our best to make these teams as even as possible. We will use the evaluations in April to help with this process.

The Tier 2 provincial rep would be the team that wins the end of season league tournament. The Tier 3 provincial rep would be the team that finishes 2nd in the end of season league tournament.

**New for 2024: -5 bats are allowed at 15u AA and Tier 1/2/3.

15u AAA still requires a -3 bat**

15u AAA & AA Teams

South Central 15u AAA will play a ½ schedule as they've done in the past. All AAA players will need to double roster with their Tier 1 or Tier 2/3 club team.

Players who do not make the regional 15u AAA team are able to tryout for a regional 15u AA team from SC. This team will not have a league to play in but will be able to practice together throughout the season when it works, and also find exhibition games/tournaments to play in. AA players will also double roster on their Tier 1 or Tier 2/3 team.

The expectation is that the SC 15u AA team will receive a spot in the AA provincials. If there are more teams than spots, regional playdowns may be required. Additional fees will be paid to be a part of this team (like what happens with the AAA teams).

Information on tryouts for the SC AAA & AA teams will be provided at a later date.

18u Provincial Tournaments

- 18u Tier 1 (New for 2024)
- 18u AA
- 18u AAA

18u League Play

Winkler will participate in an 18u AA league play as we've done in the past. If there are enough players for 2 teams we will do our best to make the teams as equal as possible.

The winner of the league tournament will play in the AA provincials and the 2nd place team will play in the Tier 1 provincial tournament.

18u AAA

South Central 18u AAA will play a full season. All AAA players will single roster and ***not*** play with their club team.

Information on tryouts for the SC AAA & AA teams will be provided at a later date.

Comparison chart of changes for provincial reps

11u

	2023	2024
11u AA	Top 6 tourney winner	Town select/try out team
11u A	Middle 6 tourney winner	N/A
Tier 1		Top 6 tourney winner
Tier 2**		Top 6 tourney runner up
Tier 3		Middle 6 tourney winner

13u

	2023	2024
13u AAA	Double rostered	Double rostered
13u AA	Winner of AA league	SC regional team (non AAA players)
13u A	Winner of A league	N/A
Tier 1		Tier 1 tourney/play down winner
Tier 2		Tier 2/3 tourney winner
Tier 3**		Tier 2/3 tourney runner up

15u

	2023	2024
15u AAA	Double rostered	Double rostered
15u AA	Winner of AA league	SC regional team (non AAA players)
15u A	Winner of A league	N/A
Tier 1		Tier 1 tourney/play down winner
Tier 2		Tier 2/3 tourney winner
Tier 3**		Tier 2/3 tourney runner up

For 11u, 13u, and 15u: Tier 1 is what was previously called AA in SC. Tier 2 is what was previously called A in SC. Tier 3 is a new provincial added for 2024.

18u

	2023	2024
18u AAA	Single rostered	Single rostered
18u AA	Winner of AA league	Winner of AA league tourney
Tier 1**		League tourney runner up

****new provincials for 2024**