

**BORDER BASEBALL LEAGUE**

**VISION STATEMENT**

Through the leadership of our member clubs and league executive, the Border Baseball League will strive to operate as the premier senior baseball league in the province of Manitoba.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Border Baseball League is to provide the opportunity for local players to play competitive baseball, develop skills, character, respect for others, and a love of the game while participating in a structured league that promotes participation, inclusion and provides an opportunity for local youth to play baseball into their adult life.

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Border Baseball League and its member teams are all required to be members of Baseball Manitoba and are subject to its governance and rules unless otherwise described within this constitution. The Border Baseball League currently consists of member teams from: Altona, Baldur, Carman, Cartwright, Clearwater, Killarney, Morden, Pilot Mound and Winkler.
2. In order for any team to participate in Border Baseball League governance, to maintain full membership and have voting privileges they must be recognized as a “Member in Good Standing”. To operate within the league with the status of Member in Good Standing teams must be an active current non-probationary member of the league, have all league fees and payments paid and not be subject to any form of sanction, suspension or disciplinary action. With a vote of 70% by current league members, a member team’s status as a Member in Good Standing may be revoked for any reasonable justification as determined by league membership. Also, with a vote of 70% by current league members, a member team’s status as a Member in Good Standing may be reinstated by league membership at any time they deem as reasonable. Should a team’s status as a Member in Good Standing be revoked, league membership may elect to permanently terminate their membership in the league, temporarily terminate their membership in the league or allow the team to continue participation in league play without Member in Good Standing status. Any team that voluntarily ceases to be a member of the Border Baseball League, or has their membership permanently terminated, shall have no rights therein. These rights are also non-transferable to another member team if they should they cease to be a member of the league themselves.
3. Leave of Absence – Should a member club of the Border Baseball League request, and be granted a leave of absence, they will forego their voting privileges during this time of absence from the league and will have no rights therein. A leave of absence shall be limited to a maximum of 1 season. After a 1 season leave of absence from the Border Baseball League a team must rejoin the league for the season following their absence or they will have their league membership revoked and will be required to make formal application to join the league just as any new franchise would.
4. Representation – Annually, at the AGM, all member teams of the Border Baseball League must declare their team’s representative that will act as their liaison between their team and the league. This designated representative will be their team’s point of contact for all communication conducted between the league and their team. It will be this person’s responsibility to act as the sole point of contact between the league and their team. It will also be this representative’s responsibility to act as an advocate of the league when speaking to their team, and to clearly define any communication or information received from the league. It is also a requirement that each team be represented at any scheduled meeting of the Border Baseball League. Teams may send multiple representatives to any league meeting of their choice, and all are allowed to speak on their team’s behalf. Regardless of multiple representation, any team attending a league meeting shall be limited to one vote at said meeting. Should a team be absent from a meeting of the league, they herein waive their right to vote or to participate in the proceedings of or business conducted at that meeting. In their absence they also acknowledge that the decisions at that meeting are binding, and they will supply unacknowledged compliance and support for the business conducted at that meeting. Any team failing to a send a representative to a league meeting shall be subject to a fine of $25.00.
5. Conduct – All persons directly involved in the operation of the Border Baseball League or its member clubs should do so with professionalism and must strive to act in a positive and constructive manner for the advancement of the league and/or their team. Professionalism, integrity and respect should be maintained at all times while representing their team or the league in any capacity. Penalties for improper conduct may be levied against individuals at any time deemed appropriate by league membership and must be imposed with reasonable justification. Should teams experience conduct by an individual that they believe is in contravention of the Border Baseball League policies listed in the constitution, it is their duty to report this behavior to a member of the league executive immediately.
6. Quorum - In order for the Border Baseball League to make the best overall decisions regarding the direction and management of the league, quorum is set at 70% of current league members that are currently recognized as a Member in Good Standing. Without a quorum of 70%, the Border Baseball league is unable to call any meeting to order or vote on any constitutional amendments or current league matters.
7. Voting – Unless otherwise herein provided, all questions coming before a meeting of the Border Baseball League shall be decided by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tied vote, the motion will be declared defeated.
8. i. A league majority of 70% is required to approve new member teams entering the Border Baseball League. Application to join the Border Baseball League must be made at the fall Semi-Annual Meeting of the Border Baseball League**.** Upon receiving a 70% vote in favor, new teams will receive approval for probationary participation during their initial season of competition in the league. New entries must pay all required league annual participation fees, as well as post a $100.00 performance bond prior to the start of their initial season of competition.

**ii.** Upon completion of their first season of probationary participation in the league a league majority of 70% is required to approve the new team’s full membership in the Border Baseball League and the status of Member in Good Standing. This vote regarding the removal of probationary status will be conducted at the fall Semi-Annual Meeting following a team’s initial year of competition in the Border Baseball League. Also, in accordance with the rules of the league, the probationary team’s $100.00 performance bond will be returned to them should they receive full membership in the league. Should a team not receive the required 70% approval upon completion of their initial probationary season in the league, they will exit the league immediately and their $100 performance bond will be retained by the league.

**iii.** During a team’s probationary participation in their initial season they will not participate in league governance or have voting privileges in the Border Baseball League. After completing their first season, and achieving a 70% vote in their favor, they will become a full league member and receive the designation of Member in Good Standing.

1. Meetings: The Border Baseball League will have two meetings annually. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Border Baseball League will be held each spring in April at the call of the league executive. The AGM shall be defined as the annual meeting where all official business of the league shall take place. The Semi-Annual meeting will be held in November at the call of the league executive to review the previous season and to prepare for the upcoming season.
2. Constitution: Amendments to the Border Baseball League constitution may only take place at the AGM. Any Notice of Motion regarding an amendment to the constitution must be distributed to league membership a minimum of 10 days in advance of the AGM for their review. Constitutional amendments may be discussed it at the Semi-Annual Meeting, but will not be voted on until the following AGM. If an emergency occurs, a vote regarding an amendment to the constitution is allowed, but would require a 100% “in favor” vote from league membership to bring a constitutional amendment to the floor for movement, discussion and vote at any other time than at the AGM.
3. Meeting Agendas: With reference to the spring Annual General Meeting (AGM) and fall Semi-Annual Meeting, regular boilerplate agenda items for each meeting are clearly defined in two attachments that are included in this constitution. “Attachment 1” details the boilerplate agenda items that are required at the spring AGM, and “Attachment 2” details the required boilerplate agenda items for the Semi-Annual Meeting in the fall. These 2 meetings are not limited to these agenda items, but these boilerplate items must be included in each of these meetings.

**ARTICLE 2 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE**

1. The Border Baseball League executive, consisting of President, Vice-President and Director of Operations, is to be elected prior to each season at the Annual General Meeting prior to that season’s competition.
2. League executive must have 70% approval from the members in good standing of the league to retain their position on the executive of the Border Baseball League.

The executive committee of the Border Baseball League shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Director of Operations, and the official representative of each member team as declared by that team and as recorded in the minutes of that current season’s Annual General Meeting.

1. **i.** Forfeitures, protests, etc. shall be dealt with by the Protest Committee of the Border Baseball League and the aforementioned may be subject to fines, loss of points or other possible considerations by the league. All forfeitures, protests, etc must be formally requested, and requested of the league President via email within 48 hours of the occurrence.

**ii.** The Protest Committee shall include the League President and two other nominated Border Baseball League representatives. Formation of the protest committee shall be limited to the league President, Vice-President, Director of Operations and member club representatives.

**iii.** The Protest Committee will handle any complaints, disturbances, etc by either a team or an individual player. The President, at his discretion, can hand down a judgment himself. If this is the case, and a team or individual feel it is unjust, they have the opportunity to appeal to the remainder of the Protest Committee.

**iv.** A $50.00 bond must be posted with any complaint to the Protest Committee.

**v.** Should the Protest Committee decide in favor of the individual or team, the $50.00 bond will be refunded to them. Should the Protest Committee agree with the President’s decision, the $50.00 would be forfeited to the League.

**vi.** If the Protest Committee is unable to reach a decision, or the protest team or individual feels the decision remains unjust, or not in the best interest of the League, they may post another $50.00 bond and call a full meeting of the Border Baseball League as a whole.

**ARTICLE 3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. **i.** All teams are required to use local players, who either live within the league or have played their minor baseball within the geography of the Border Baseball League.

**ii.** If a player chooses to play for a team other than his “home town” he must have the permission from his town of origin, and must pass a 70% vote of other league members at a league meeting.

**iii.** Players cannot transfer from one team to another within the Border Baseball League during the current season.

**iv.** Players participating in the Border Baseball League must not conduct themselves in a manner that is detrimental, unbecoming in the eye of the public or detracting from the character and reputation of the league. Abuse of fellow players, abuse of umpires, abuse of fans, use of drugs, use of alcohol or the use of excessive profanity will not be tolerated while representing their team in league, tournament or provincial play. The Border Baseball League executive, using additional support when they feel necessary, has the ability to enforce team or individual player penalties for improper conduct at their discretion. Should teams experience player conduct that they believe is in contravention of the Border Baseball League constitution it is their duty to report this behavior to a member of the league executive immediately.

**v.** As a matter of principle, all teams in the Border Baseball League are to employ local players from within their community and products of their local minor baseball system whenever possible. Should a team require players from outside their local area it must always be done in the name of sustainability, and never for motives that are competitive in nature.

**vi.** If a player from outside a team’s local community is allowed to participate with said team, in no way shall any precedent be set or implied regarding future players from this, or any, geography outside any team’s local area. All exceptions or requests allowing non-local players shall be dealt with on an individual basis and will be judged strictly on their own merit, and never be influenced by previous allowances for non-local players.

1. **i.** Each team is allowed to register 21 players.

\*Important Reminder … 18U or 21U players should be on a team’s roster if they plan on taking them to Provincials. Otherwise they would be considered a “pickup” player, and count towards the number of players you are allowed to add to your roster and take with your team.

**ii.** All teams must present their roster at the spring AGM for review and 70% approval by other league member teams.Should a team wish to make a roster addition after their original roster has been approved at the Border Baseball League spring Annual General Meeting, the team must contact the League President via email with their request. The League President alone will then rule on the eligibility of the player, but only if he deems it is clearly a simple request regarding a local player that is clearly eligible to play for the team requesting the addition.  If the President feels that the request may be contentious in any way, he will forward the request to the other member clubs for their consideration and vote.  This request for approval/consideration from the league President must receive 70% approval from other league members, and then receive final approval through the President for the player to be approved to play.

**C** Players must participate in 25% of the regular season scheduled games to be eligible for league playoffs, Provincial and Western Canadian competition. Players signed to an 18U roster are not required to meet the 25% game requirement for playoff participation, but any player signed to a 21U roster must meet the 25% game requirement to participate in games other than regular season play.

Should a player be signed to both a U18 and a U21 roster, the fact they are signed to a U18 roster shall always be the primary deciding factor regarding playoff eligibility. Any player signed to a U18 roster, will not be required to meet the 25% game requirement to be eligible for playoff participation in the Border Baseball League regardless of participation in any form at the U21 level.

Game sheets are to be sent to the Border Baseball League statistician by the home team immediately upon the completion of each regular season game.

**ARTICLE 4 SCHEDULES**

1. Member team tournament dates are decided and communicated at spring Annual General Meeting. Also, dates and locations of the “AA” All-Star Provincial, “AA” Provincial and “A” Provincial competitions are made available at the Border Baseball League spring Annual Meeting, or earlier if available.

B In the event of a scheduled game not being played on a set date, the game shall be rescheduled within 48 hours, with the new date to be within 14 days of the date originally scheduled. The rescheduling of the missed game is the responsibility of the “home team”, and is to be reported to the league President, statistician and league website manager. In the event the teams concerned cannot agree on a date to reschedule within the allotted time, the league President shall set the date.

C The league will send one team to Baseball Manitoba “AA” All-Star Provincials. This team will be a team consisting of managers, coaches and players from within the Border Baseball League. The selection and formation of this team will be decided by the full membership of the league at an appropriate meeting of the league member’s choice.

Should Baseball Manitoba request a second “AA” All-Star team from the Border Baseball League for “AA” All-Star Provincials, the possible participation, selection and formation of this team will be decided by the full membership of the league at an appropriate meeting of the league member’s choice.

**D** The team that is in first place at the conclusion of regular season play will be the Border Baseball League representative at Senior “AA” Provincials. This will be a team consisting of managers, coaches and players from the first placed team in Border Baseball League at the conclusion of the regular season plus a number of pickups from within the league. The number of pickups will be predetermined by Baseball Manitoba.

If Baseball Manitoba should request a second team from the Border Baseball League for Senior “AA” Provincials, the team in second place at the conclusion of the regular season will be selected for participation. This will be a team consisting of managers, coaches and players from the second placed team in Border Baseball League plus a number of pickups from within the league. The number of pickups will be predetermined by Baseball Manitoba.

Should 2 teams be chosen for participation in Senior “AA” Provincials, the selection process for any roster additions will be as follows: The higher place team will make selections 1 & 2 and the lower place team will make selections 3 & 4. Should there be allowances for further roster additions, teams will alternate selections thereafter, with the higher place team beginning at pick 5.

Should the Border Baseball League move to a divisional format (2 divisions, etc), the method for determining a representative/representatives for Senior “AA” Provincials will be discussed and decided at the AGM prior to that season’s competition.

**E** Teams from the Border Baseball League will also participate in Baseball Manitoba “A” Provincials. Selection of participant/participants for “A” Provincials will be made in reverse order of standings and must have finished regular season play in the lower half of league standings. Should more teams elect to participate than Baseball Manitoba can accommodate, population will be utilized to determine our representative (or representatives), with smaller population communities receiving preference over larger ones.

Should 2 teams be chosen for participation in “A” Provincials, the selection process for any roster additions will be as follows: The team with the higher league standing will make selections 1 & 2 and the lower placed team will make selections 3 & 4. Should there be allowances for further roster additions, teams will alternate selections thereafter, with the higher place team beginning at pick 5.

F Should a team qualify for Senior “AA” Provincials, they will be ineligible to compete in Senior “A” Provincials in this same season.

**ARTICLE 5 STANDINGS**

1. i League standings shall be determined by a point system. Two (2) points will be awarded for a victory, while games ending in ties will result in one (1) point being awarded to each participating team.

Ii a. TIES

At the end of the season, should two teams be tied with the same number of points, the 1st tie breaker would be given to the team that had the better record among the two teams involved in head-to-head competition. If the games between the two teams were split, the 2nd tie breaker is the total number of wins in overall league play. Should the teams still be tied, the 3rd tie breaker is run differential of the tied teams in the games played between the two of them head to head. Should the teams still be tied, the 4th tie breaker is run differential for overall league play. Should the teams still be tied, the 5th tie breaker is a coin toss conducted by the league president.

 b. THREE OR MORE TEAMS TIED

In the event that three or more teams are tied, the tie breaking formula as described above will be employed with the tie breaking scenarios employed with all tied teams. As teams standing is declared through scenarios 1 through 5 they will be removed from the process and their standing will be declared from highest to lowest. The remaining tied teams will remain in the tie breaker process and their standing will be determined with the process as described above.

**ARTICLE 6 GOVERNING RULES**

1. All games shall be played under the official rules as published and approved by the governing bodies Baseball Canada & Baseball Manitoba, unless otherwise specifically provided in this constitution.
2. All league and playoff games will be 7 innings in length. Should, after 7 complete innings, the score be tied, the teams will play extra innings until a winner is declared or when the umpire calls the game due to darkness. For extra innings, the Border Baseball League will employ the rule whereby the final out of their previous inning is placed at second base to start all extra innings.
3. Games will be ended and declared complete when one team is winning by at least 10 runs after 5 innings.
4. Teams may start or finish a game with eight players, with the ninth man being an automatic out when his turn in the batting order comes up.
5. The designated hitter rule will be in effect during league and playoff games. A team can choose to have the DH hit for any defensive player on the field.
6. For the purpose of an intentional walk, four pitches must be thrown.
7. The league shall adopt a re-entry rule as stated in sections 7.03 & 7.04 of the MBA Handbook.
8. During regular season games where a game does not reach 7 innings due to rain out, etc it shall be declared a complete game if 4 innings are completed ... or, after 3 1/2 innings are completed if the home team is winning. During playoff games where a game does not reach 7 innings due to rain out, etc. it shall be declared a complete game if 5 innings are completed ... or, after 4 1/2 innings are completed if the home team is winning. Should a game not reach the point of completion, it must be re-played in its entirety and not resumed from the time of rain out.

This updated Border Baseball League constitution came as a result of the Annual General Meeting held in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Sunday \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_. The motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and approved in a vote by league members.

***“Attachment 1”***

***Border Baseball League***

***Annual General Meeting Agenda***

1. **Annual General Meeting / Boilerplate Agenda Items 2 – 14**
2. Call to Order
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Financial Report
5. Election of Officers/Executive
6. League Fees for Current Season
7. Notices of Motion Regarding Constitutional Amendments
8. Declaration of Team Contact/Representative
9. Member Team Roster Presentation/Discussion/Approval for Current Season
10. Schedule Format Discussion for Current Season
11. Playoff Format Discussion for Current Season
12. Umpire Discussion for Current Season
13. League Website Manager Discussion for Current Season
14. League Statistician Discussion for Current Season

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* New business
* New business
* New Business
* New Business
* Adjournment

***“Attachment 2”***

***Border Baseball League***

***Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda***

1. **Semi-Annual Meeting / Boilerplate Agenda Items 2 – 9**
2. Call to order
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Discussion and vote on any member club that has completed their initial probationary season and requiring league approval for full league membership
5. Application of new teams for membership.
6. Regular Season Review of Past Season
7. Playoff Review of Past Season
8. Review of Provincial Participation During Past Season
9. Discussion Regarding Possible Constitutional Amendments For Spring AGM

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* New Business
* New Business
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* New Business
* Adjournment