

MARCH 24, 2011

BASEBALL MANITOBA

DUGOUT SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



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MANITOBA TO HOST 2011 BASEBALL CANADA CONVENTION



This November, Baseball Manitoba will play host to the 2011 Baseball Canada Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Winnipeg. The Baseball Canada event will be held from November 3rd to 6th, culminating with a joint Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

Provincial delegates from across the country will meet to discuss issues facing the industry. Workshops will be held on a Long Term Athlete Development, Girl's & Women's Baseball, Youth Programs, Officials Development and National Championships. A coaches Super Clinic will be held in conjunction with the convention.

At the Awards Banquet provincial medal winners from Baseball Canada's Championships will be recognized, along with Baseball Canada's and Manitoba's best athletes, umpires and coaches. On Sunday the Baseball Manitoba Semi-Annual General Meeting will be held, which includes the election of officers for the 2012 Management Committee.

HOST SITES NEEDED

Two 2011 Bantam Championships are still up for grabs, as hosts are still required. The Bantam "AA" Provincial Championships, set for July 22-24, will have 15 teams. We also need a host for the Western Canada Bantam "AAA" Championship, a five team event, scheduled for August 19-22. Contact the Baseball Manitoba office if you are interested in hosting either event.

ROOKIE JAMBOREE

This summer will mark the fourteenth year for the Rookie League Jamboree, a non-competitive tournament focusing on fun and participation. This event will feature 1,400 children participating in an enjoyable environment held in several locations across the province. The Jamboree is aimed at children aged 7 – 9 and is designed to recruit and retain members in this important age category while promoting the virtues of Rookie Ball (pitching machine-assisted ball). It is suggested that this year the Rookie League Jamborees be held **Saturday, June 11** in the various regions and leagues across the province. All participants receive a Rookie Jamboree medallion. Teams will also be randomly selected to participate in a Provincial Rookie League Jamboree held on **Saturday, June 25** prior to a Winnipeg Goldeyes game at Shaw Park. Rookie teams involved in the Jamboree must be registered with the Baseball Manitoba, so **get your teams signed up!** The Jamboree is very easy to deliver (1 day!), and provides exposure and value for your Rookie teams.

The Baseball Manitoba Handbook and Policies of the Association are on the Baseball Manitoba website. Go to www.baseballmanitoba.ca to view these documents.



PITCH COUNT REVISIONS FOR 2011

There was some minor tweaking done to the Pitch Count Program for 2011. Bantam and Midget levels had their maximums increased by 5 pitches. The no-rest thresholds changed with Bantam rising by 5 pitches and Midget by 10. See chart below:

Mosquito	Pee Wee	Bantam	Midget	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	4 days
75	85	95	105	Total Pitches Allowed in a Day

Additional Pitch Count changes include the following:

1. A pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher's first two (2) days combined does not exceed:

Mosquito: 25 Pee Wee: 30 Bantam: 35 Midget: 40

If a pitcher's Day 1 + Day 2 total exceeds the figure shown above, they require at least one days rest. A pitcher cannot pitch four consecutive days. Minimally one days rest is required. **Example:** A Pee Wee Pitcher throws 15 pitches on Day 1 (Friday). That same pitcher throws 10 pitches on Day 2 (Saturday). This pitcher is allowed to pitch on Day 3 (Sunday) to their maximum limit, which for Pee Wee is 85. This is a change from the previous rule where a pitcher could not pitch on 3 consecutive days.

2. Once a player assumes the role of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day. This rule allows a player to catch, and then pitch in the same game or the same day. However a player cannot pitch and then catch in the same game or day. This is a change from the previous rule that said players cannot pitch and catch in the same day.
3. Pitchers shall be permitted to have two (2) appearances in the same calendar day, however if a pitcher requires a rest following their first appearance, they cannot return in the same calendar day.

TEAM ROSTERS

Rosters must be completed by all teams - Rally Cap to Senior. Please ensure you have someone looking after the collection of rosters for your leagues. Participants and coaches will sign the roster form and indicate their choice on the privacy content section. As with last year the team rosters will be 17 X 11 inches. This allows ample space for mailing addresses, email addresses and parents/player signatures. The roster deadlines remain the same – June 1 for “AA” and “A” minor teams and June 15 for “AAA” minor, and Senior and Junior teams. The roster forms will be in the coach's kits.

2011 PROVINCIAL, WESTERN AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATIONS

<u>Provincials</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mosquito "AA"	July 22-24	Morden
Mosquito "A" Zone 2	July 22-24	Boissevain
PeeWee "AA"	July 22-24	Altona
PeeWee "A" Zone 2	July 22-24	Hamiota
Bantam "AA"	July 22-24	New Bothwell
Bantam "A" Zone 2	July 22-24	Hamiota
Midget "AA"	July 22-24	TBD
Pee Wee "AAA" Qualifier	July 29-31	St. James
PeeWee "AAA"	August 5-7	North Winnipeg
Bantam "AAA"	July 29-31	Brandon
Midget "AAA" Qualifier	July 29-31	Morden
Midget "AAA"	August 5-7	Reston/Delorraine
Senior "AA" All-Stars	July 15-17	Brandon
Senior "AA"	August 5-7	Wawanesa
<u>Western Canada</u>		
Western Canada Summer Games	August 4-9	Kamloops, BC
Bantam "AAA"	August 18-21	Manitoba, TBD
Midget "AAA"	August 18-21	Victoria, BC
Junior "AAA"	August 12-14	Chalmers C.C, MB
Senior "AA"	August 11-14	Trail, BC
Pee Wee "AA"	August 11-14	Morden, MB
Bantam "AA"	August 11-14	Morden, MB
Midget "AA"	August 11-14	Morden, MB
<u>Baseball Canada</u>		
PeeWee Western Region	August 18-22	British Columbia, TBD
Bantam "AAA"	August 25-29	Vaughn, Ontario
Midget "AAA"	August 18-22	Regina, Saskatchewan
Junior "AAA"	August 18-22	Windsor, Ontario
Senior "AAA"	August 25-29	Chatham, NB
Canada Cup	August 10-15	Moncton, NB

MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP

Baseball Manitoba is in the process of soliciting sponsors for the 2011 season. We have several properties that may be of interest to potential sponsors, including:

- Rookie League Jamboree
- Hit*Run*Throw
- Provincial Championships
- Female Baseball
- Provincial Team programs (Youth Selects, Prospects Series and Games Teams)

Sponsors will receive promotional consideration in all Baseball Manitoba's publications, posters, website and media coverage related to these events. Sponsorship will go a long way in enhancing these and other programs that the Association offers, all in an effort to promote and develop baseball in the province. If you know anyone that we may approach that would like to get involved in a significant way, please contact the office so that we may initiate discussions.

*"I SEE THE HITTER
WHEN HE'S MOVED
IN THE BOX, LIKE
WHEN HE'S MOVED
CLOSER TO THE
PLATE OR
CHANGED HIS
STANCE. I SEE
WHEN THE BATTER
HAS MOVED HIS
FEET, AND THEN I
MAKE MY OWN
ADJUSTMENT."*
MARIANO RIVERA,
NY YANKEES
RELIEVER





*SOMETIMES I THINK
IF I HAD THE SAME
BODY AND THE SAME
NATURAL ABILITY
AND SOMEONE
ELSE'S BRAIN, WHO
KNOWS HOW GOOD
A PLAYER I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN."
MICKEY MANTLE*

2011 PROVINCIAL, WESTERN AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – IMPORTANT ITEMS

The 2011 “AAA” Provincials will follow the same format as 2010, with the exception of the Bantam division. For this season the Pee Wee and Midget “AAA” Provincial Championships will be conducted with 10 teams, with the top 6 “AAA” teams from the 2010 season automatically receiving byes to the Provincial Championships. The host team will also receive a bye. The remaining teams will play in a qualifying tournament with 3 teams advancing. The Qualifying Tournaments to determine the other representatives to the provincials will be held the weekend prior to the Provincial Championships.

The Qualifier tournaments will be a full round-robin. At Pee Wee this could mean 7 teams, which would result in 6 games per team (2 on Friday, 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday). Following the round-robin, the top 3 teams will go on to the provincials. For Midget, there could be 6 teams are in the Qualifier. The Round-Robin would then be 5 games per team (1 on Friday, 2 on Saturday and 2 on Sunday). Following the round-robin, the top 3 teams will go on to the provincials.

At the Bantam division, all the Bantam teams will be in the provincials, which will be held one week prior to the other “AAA” provincials (July 28-31). This move is made necessary as the Western Canada Summer Games, which are for players 15 and under, are taking place August 4 -9 in Kamloops, B.C. If we had the Bantam “AAA” provincials at the same time as the Pee Wee and Midget events, there would be major conflicts for several players.

Listed below are the teams receiving the byes, along with the hosts, and teams that need to qualify.

Pee Wee	Bantam	Midget
Receiving Byes	No Byes in 2011	Receiving Byes
Brandon	South Central	Carillon
Winnipeg South	Bonivital	Midwest
Midwest	Winnipeg South	Winnipeg South
Oildome	Oildome	St. James
South Central	North Winnipeg	North Winnipeg
Bonivital	Pembina Hills	Bonivital
North Winnipeg - HOST	Interlake	Oildome - HOST
	Red River	
Qualifier attendees	Parkland	Qualifier attendees
Carillon	Midwest	Pembina Hills
St. James Q Host	Carillon	Red River
Interlake	St. James	South Central Q Host
Red River	Brandon - HOST	Interlake
Pembina Hills		Parkland
Parkland		Brandon
Portage (if have team)		

“AA” Provincials - The “AA” Minor provincial championships may have one “AA” team from each registered league in attendance. The dates for the “AA” events is July 22-24

“A” Provincials - The “A” provincial championships will be conducted with 10 - 12 rural teams competing. Winnipeg teams will not compete in the “A” provincials. The “A” championships will be held July 22-24.

GIRLS' BASEBALL DAY

The 2011 Girl's Baseball Day event will be held on Saturday, June 4 at Little Mountain Sportsplex in Winnipeg. This is a return to the grassroots level of Girl's Baseball, with the hope being to generate interest and programming at the younger levels. Girl's Baseball Day will promote girl's baseball and create an interest in the grassroots development of the game. It is expected that some players from the Baseball Canada National Women's Team will participate in the conducting of the clinic.

The formation of a girl's baseball program will allow the Baseball Manitoba to recruit girls interested in baseball, and provide a sport alternative. This will also meet Baseball Canada's mandate to provide programs that are inclusive as opposed to exclusive. There are many girls who like to play baseball and enjoy the additional challenges of the smaller ball, runners leading off of bases, and pitching the ball overhand. Ice Hockey was able to fight through the stereotypes that "women can't play hockey", and baseball needs to be afforded that opportunity also.

Girls will be asked to bring a friend or friends along to try the game. These players will be brought together for a day of baseball related activities including a player's skills clinic and some competition. Further details to be posted on the Baseball Manitoba website.

BAT RULES FOR 2011

Bantam "AA" and Bantam "A" teams will follow the minus 3 rule for metal bats for provincial Championships. Wood (and composite) bats will still be used for the Midget "AAA", Midget "AA" and Bantam "AAA" provincial championships. *(Note: the wood bat ruling does not apply to Baseball Canada National Bantam Championships. These will still use metal bats. The wood ruling does apply to Western Canada Championships.)*

RESPECT IN SPORT

Sport Manitoba and Baseball Manitoba believe in being proactive in ensuring sport in our province is safe and welcoming for all participants. Respect in Sport helps us promote those values through a simple and convenient on-line training course for coaches and sport leaders. It is designed as a tool to assist coaches in identifying and dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment, and bullying in sport. Respect in Sport enables coaches to deal with legal and moral responsibilities, making them less vulnerable and more confident in dealing with sensitive issues. A risk management tool, Respect in Sport will help sport organizations reduce liability.

As a mandatory Sport Manitoba requirement, all coaches from all sports (that means every Rookie Ball, "A", "AA" and "AAA" baseball coach) must have the "Respect in Sport" course completed by June 1, 2011, or their name will be removed from the roster.

The course is three hours in length, but can be completed at the coach's leisure, in its entirety or in segments at their own pace. The program is available in both English and French and is provided free of charge to all coaches. **To complete this course, log on to the Baseball Manitoba website www.baseballmanitoba.ca and look under Coaching or Clinics**



"THEY'RE LIKE SLEEPING IN A SOFT BED. EASY TO GET INTO AND HARD TO GET OUT OF." H ALL OF FAMER JOHNNY BENCH ON HITTING SLUMPS





Tim Hortons

*"YOU CAN'T SIT
ON A LEAD AND
RUN A FEW PLAYS
INTO THE LINE
AND JUST KILL
THE CLOCK.
YOU'VE GOT TO
THROW THE BALL
OVER THE DAMN
PLATE AND GIVE
THE OTHER MAN
HIS CHANCE.
THAT'S WHY
BASEBALL IS THE
GREATEST GAME
OF THEM ALL."*
EARL WEAVER,
MANAGER,
BALTIMORE
ORIOLES

RALLY CAP PROGRAM

The Rally Cap Program is a grassroots initiative targeted at kids aged 4 – 7, and sponsored through Baseball Canada. We are looking for at least one centre per region to host the Rally Cap Program this year. The goals of the Rally Cap Program are:

- to create an environment in which children and adults can have fun with baseball
- teach baseball skills, rules, and strategy to our players
- model and teach competitiveness with an emphasis on good sportsmanship and self-esteem

We are also very excited to announce that **Tim Horton's** is back on as a Rally Cap sponsor, supplying uniform tops, medals and a souvenir item for all participants.

In the Rally Cap baseball program, each team will consist of 6 players only, meaning more teams may be formed. Three Rally Cap baseball teams will meet at the park at the same time. Two teams will be playing a game while one team will be practicing in the outfield, allowing more repetitions for players to improve their different skills. The teams will switch places every 20 minutes.

It is named "Rally Cap" as the participants can earn different coloured baseball caps (with the Baseball Canada logo) two times during the season, by performing various skills. The caps are coloured to show the level achieved. All participants will be able to earn the White cap, while more skilled participants may earn the Grey, Green, Blue, Black or Red caps.

There will be a minimal cost to area associations wishing to host Rally Cap Programs. Each hat is purchased by Baseball Manitoba from Baseball Canada for \$2.50 per hat. The hats are distributed free of charge by the Association. Baseball Manitoba has ordered enough hats, in various colors for this year, to accommodate almost 1,600 participants. **We also have Rally Cap DVD's that explain the program. One of these will be sent to each league and also one will be put into each Rally Cap coaches team kit.**

For more details on the Rally Cap program, you may check the Baseball Canada website at www.baseball.ca, or contact the Baseball Manitoba office. **PLEASE TRY TO GET RALLY CAP GOING IN YOUR LEAGUE!**

MOMENTUM FUNDRAISING

Baseball Manitoba is excited to announce a partnership with Momentum Fundraising to provide all members and their friends, family, neighbors, etc with a unique sustainable funding solution for our programs for a long period of time.

With full adherence to privacy and information laws by simply providing an email address to Momentum you will receive the free daily offer with an opportunity to purchase that offer. It will be local offers of significant value and once the deal is purchased you are not only supporting the retailer but more importantly, supporting Baseball Manitoba. This revenue stream would go towards support of our great programs as well as the development of a legacy project that all members can utilize and enjoy - for example an indoor practice facility. More details to come.

COACH CERTIFICATION (N.C.C.P)

Coaches wanting to get certified take an On-Line Program, followed by a Training Module which the coaches attend. The Coaching Certification Program is structured so that coaches take the material that is relevant to the age category they are coaching.

For provincial Mosquito, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget “A” and “AA” at least one coach must have either the old Level 1 Technical, or the Initiation Coach Program

Initiation Coach Program

Baseball Canada has designed a program that will provide valuable and accessible resources and training to coaches who are introducing or working with children in community level baseball programs. The program, called “Initiation Coach” is comprised of two parts:

- Baseball Canada's On-line Library - a complete resource to help get you started and a place to revisit often while you coach children's baseball and
- Initiation Coach Clinic - a local 4 hour, on-field clinic that you attend after completing the On-line module. The clinic covers practice sessions, the fundamentals of the game and ethical decision making.

Upon completion of the Baseball Canada On-line module a coach's status in the Baseball Canada Initiation Coach program will be In Training. Once they have completed the Local Initiation Coach Clinic Module, their coaching status in the Baseball Canada Initiation Coach program will be Trained. With this on-line tool, they will receive interactive instruction on various areas of the game, exams testing their knowledge of the information provided and access to the Better Coaches Drill Library with hundreds of drills demonstrated through videos and images for \$37.45 (includes tax). The Local Initiation Coach Clinic will cost an additional \$25.00, for a total of cost of \$62.45.

“AAA” Coaching Certification

Coach Certification documents are on the Baseball Manitoba website. Changes are on-going, so “AAA” coaches and leagues **MUST** check to see if their certification is current and correct. Go on-line to to www.baseballmanitoba.ca/nccp.php to find out what certification you will need, based on what you are coaching.

The Theory component that had been required in the past is now integrated with the new modules, so coaches will not have to sacrifice as much time to get their certification.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Every year Baseball Manitoba tries to track the progress of elite players that are playing college baseball in the United States or Canada. If you know of any players who are currently attending school for baseball, please contact the Baseball Manitoba office and we will post the information on our website.



Coaching
Association
of Canada

Check out the Baseball Manitoba website for some great articles on people and events in baseball in our province, written by the staff at Manitoba Score Magazine.



PROVINCIAL TEAM PROGRAMS

Shown below are some key dates in the provincial team schedules for Manitoba's 2011 Youth Selects and 2011 Western Canada Summer Games Programs. The Youth Selects are 17 and under, and the Western Canada Summer games is 15 and under (Bantam aged). Further updates will be available on the Baseball Manitoba website, as we move through the season.

Team Manitoba Youth Selects

The coaching staffs for this summer's teams have been determined. The **Youth Selects** team will be headed up by Ben McLeod (Winnipeg). He will be assisted by veteran provincial team coach Mike Krykewich (Winnipeg), Chris Leclerc (Winnipeg) and Jason Miller (Winnipeg). David Olsen (Winnipeg) will serve as the team's Business Manager.

Date	Purpose
May 7 & 14	Regional Identification Camps
May 21-23	Final Selection Camp (Chalmers CC, Wpg)
June 10-12	Games with MB Senior teams
June 24-26	Tournament (Moorhead, MN)
July 8-11	Tournament (Minneapolis, MN)
August 8-15	Baseball Canada Cup (Moncton, NB)

Western Canada Summer Games Team

This team, for players 15 and under playing on full sized fields, must be determined by the end of June. The task of selecting the team will fall to Marc Babaluk (Winnipeg), assisted by Wes Pomarensky (Winnipeg) and Jason Cassils (Warren). This will be a challenging team to select, as there are many quality players at this age, and this is a key age in player growth and development. Due to the early timing of the Games, and the normally busy Bantam schedules for club teams, the competition opportunities for this team are limited to some exhibition games in July. The final roster will be selected late in June.

Date	Purpose
May 28-29	Evaluation Camp
June 4-5	Evaluation Camp and reduction of roster
June 24-26	Final Selection Camp
August 4 – 9	Western Canada Games, Kamloops, B.C.

NOTE FOR NATIONALS

Teams responsible for \$4,000 accommodation costs at Nationals - For the Manitoba representative teams attending the Baseball Canada National Bantam, Midget, Junior and Senior championships, it should be noted that **accommodation costs at the nationals will be \$4,000 per team**, with any additional costs covered by the host. Make sure your "AAA" team has budgeted this amount accordingly. While this increases the expense of attending national championships for the teams, it is hoped that it will provide an incentive to recruit hosts for nationals.

"IN ORDER TO EXCEL, YOU MUST BE COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO YOUR CHOSEN SPORT. YOU MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO WORK HARD AND BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. WITHOUT ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT DEDICATION, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS." WILLIE MAYS, MEMBER OF THE HALL OF FAME

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Baseball Manitoba is pleased to provide Manitoba baseball players with access to three scholarship opportunities. Two of the scholarships are conducted through Baseball Manitoba, while the third is managed by Sport Manitoba. Details and applications for all the Scholarships are available at on Baseball Manitoba website at www.baseballmanitoba.ca. Click on the Programs tab, then click Scholarships.

The scholarships are:

- Manitoba Foundation for Sports Scholarships – April 25th deadline
- Andrew Budge Memorial Scholarship – June 30th deadline
- Winnipeg Goldeyes Field of Dreams Scholarships – July 11th deadline

HIT*RUN*THROW

This will be the 17th year that Baseball Manitoba will run the Hit*Run*Throw program. Almost 1,000 kids took part in the program last year, and the hope is that the program will continue to grow. We are always seeking any interest in sponsoring this event.

This co-ed program is aimed at children aged 6-13 as they compete in three different skills – running, hitting and throwing. Age categories are divided the same as regular baseball (i.e. Pre-Rookie, Rookie, Mosquito and Pee Wee) and the Mosquito and Pee Wee levels are specific gender groupings. Competitions are held locally, regionally and provincially.

Help Baseball Manitoba keep this program alive by making sure your league is not left out this year. Appoint a coordinator for your league that can help get local communities or community centres involved. The Hit*Run*Throw is not just a participatory program for registered players, but is also a great way to introduce non-registered kids to the game. Local competition sites receive a \$2.00 rebate for every participant that registers and pays the \$6.00 entry fee. Recruit soccer, softball, lacrosse, and summer hockey kids to the HRT as a way of drawing them to the game. A proactive approach may help increase participation in baseball.

The provincial final will be held **Friday, August 12** at Shaw Park in Winnipeg.



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