



SOFTBALL MANITOBA

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On July 19, 2024, Softball Manitoba received a proposal from Manitoba Thunder and Winnipeg Lightning organizations proposing that the two (2) organizations amalgamate into a single organization and that their existing Urban Regional Boundaries (Minor Division Operating Rule 1.A.2) be merged into a single Urban Regional Boundary. The proposal also includes a plan for the Manitoba Thunder to formally dissolve their Board of Directors and cease operations, the Winnipeg Lightning would then become the sole AAA organization operating in the newly formed Urban Regional Boundary.

After reviewing the proposal and holding discussions with the two (2) organizations, Softball Manitoba's Board of Directors has agreed to allowing this amalgamation to take place for the 2024/25 season and that the Board of Directors will be work with them to prepare the necessary Notice of Motions needed to make this a permanent change at Softball Manitoba's 2024 Annual General Meeting.

The decision to grant this amalgamation was based on the following criteria:

- The amalgamation was brought forward by the two (2) organizations as a resolution to an on-going challenge to forming competitive teams in their Urban Regional Boundaries due to the number of athletes available. The amalgamation of these two (2) organization's boundaries has no impact on the Regional Boundaries of the other AAA organizations currently operating as per Softball Manitoba's Minor Division Operating Rules (MDOR).

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- The amalgamation will not impact the current “A” programs as both NESAs and Bonivital Softball will continue to operate as they always have regarding formation of the community-based softball programs.
- The amalgamation brings our current Regional Boundaries closer to the existing Boundaries in place for Manitoba Games programming.
- The amalgamation will allow athletes in the new Urban Regional Boundary greater access to opportunities to “AA” programming as the change will increase the area from which “AA” athletes can be selected.

Softball Manitoba would like to thank and recognize the Manitoba Thunder for their contributions to the sport of Softball in Manitoba, we all appreciate that this decision was not the easiest to make. We also want to wish the Winnipeg Lightning all the best as they take on the responsibility to provide quality programming into the 2024/25 season and beyond.

Larry Giesbrecht

President

Softball Manitoba

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