



ST. LOUIS CHALLENGER BASEBALL

B U D D I E S

**KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS
10-20
YEARS OLD**

READ ME FIRST!

Being a buddy to our Challenger players is very easy. If you haven't done it before, you'll feel like you have in just a few minutes. To help, here are some very simple thoughts:

- ❶ **The main objective of a buddy is to be a friend to our players.** Talk, laugh, kid around, see what's up.
- ❷ **It might take a few minutes to gauge how much assistance a player might need.** Don't be afraid to ask if you're not sure.
- ❸ **Don't catch a ball that is hit by a player (don't use a glove), and don't throw the ball.** If it gets by and they don't get it, take your player to the ball. Let them throw it. Any direction will do.
- ❹ **SACRIFICE YOUR BUDDY!** If a ball is coming pretty hard at your player, knock it down. Our first priority is our players' safety.

Here is some background information on the league and a registration form:

Kids that have physical and/or mental disabilities can play baseball on a team in the St. Louis Challenger Baseball League. The league is entering its seventeenth year and is looking for kids who want to play baseball.

The St. Louis Challenger Baseball League is open to any player from age 5 on up who has a developmental disability. We have teams for players 5-10 years old, 11-17 years old, and teams for players 18 and up. Teams will play other teams with the same skill level.

Challenger players will play on the same fields, use the same equipment and wear the same uniforms (including jerseys, pants, socks and hats) as traditional teams.

The most fundamental goal of Challenger Baseball is to give everyone a chance to play. To realize that goal,

out. Beyond following basic safety rules, Challenger will adjust certain rules to the skill levels of the children playing. (For instance, players can be pitched to by a coach, or they can hit from a batting tee.)

To help these kids, Challenger Baseball also provides for a "buddy" system in which young volunteers (ages from 10 to 20) can assist Challenger players when needed both at bat and in the field (in most instances, this program can be used toward required community service projects in your school). For instance, buddies can push

Challenger Baseball has some basic thoughts: each child will bat every inning, and each child will play in the field. No score is kept during games and nobody is ever

players using wheelchairs around the base paths after a hit, or take a player to the ball when it gets past them. Among the many benefits of our buddy program is the social interaction between the Challenger players and the non-disabled buddies. Our buddies gain valuable insights regarding people with disabilities and realize that they are not very different from themselves. Not only is participating in Challenger baseball rewarding for our buddies, but it is equally rewarding for our players. Many terrific friendships have begun through Challenger Baseball. Our players think the world of our buddies.

The 2010 Challenger Baseball season in St. Louis starts Saturday, May 1st at Tilles Park on McKnight Rd. The 18-and-over teams will play at 9 a.m., and all younger teams will play at 10:30.

For more information on St. Louis Challenger Baseball, please call 314-822-2518 or visit www.challengerbaseball.org

MAIL THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: ST. LOUIS CHALLENGER BASEBALL, 402 N. GEYER, ST. LOUIS, MO 63122; OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CHALLENGERBASEBALL.ORG.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____