



CHALLENGER BASEBALL BUDDY CODE OF CONDUCT

What is a Challenger Baseball Buddy?

Buddies are volunteers who provide one-on-one support to Challenger Baseball athletes to help them reach their individual and unique short-term and long-term goals for each season. Above all, a buddy is a great friend!

Challenger Baseball Canada has developed a Code of Conduct to assist Buddies in enhancing their skills and know-how as a well-rounded, inclusive and active members of society. Please review the Buddy Code of Conduct below:

1. Remember that athletes play Challenger Baseball for their enjoyment. They play for *FUN!*
2. If working with athletes with disabilities is a new experience for you - **welcome!** You are in for a *beautiful ride!* Please let your Coach or Coordinator know if you have any questions or if you ever feel unsure about anything. We are all here to learn from one another and to have fun!
3. Be open-minded and patient when working with athletes with diverse and unique abilities.
4. Try your best to build a connection with your athlete by being a friend, supportive partner and biggest fan.
5. Develop a relationship with your athlete's family to build the athlete's and family's trust. Ask the athlete themselves or their family if you have any questions about best practices.
6. Encourage athletes to try their best to work on the four goals of Challenger Baseball:
COURAGE, CONNECTION, INDEPENDENCE, and LOVE OF SPORT
7. Support athletes and foster independence by encouraging them to reach their short-term and long-term goals. **These goals look different for every single athlete!*
8. Foster a safe and inclusive environment where athletes and families feel comfortable in your care.
9. Be dependable and consistent when working with athletes with disabilities. Try your best to *show up* for the athletes each week!
10. Be innovative and creative to help athletes participate with limited-no barriers. If you're unsuccessful at first that's okay – *try, try again!*
11. Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
12. Respect the rights, dignity and work of every athlete and their family regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion

As a buddy, I acknowledge that ...

- Not one athlete is the same as another! Everyone is unique and responds differently to situations!
- I will treat athletes living with disabilities the way I like to be treated.
- When in doubt I will ask! Instead of jumping in right away to help my athlete, I will ask first to see if they need help or I will wait for them to ask me for my help.
- I will be patient and listen attentively when speaking with someone who has difficulty speaking. If necessary, I will ask them to repeat themselves if I didn't understand the first time.
- High fives, "Hello's", smiles, and prompting questions are great ways to interact with athletes.
- I will interact in a bubbly and excited tone when speaking with all athletes, including athletes who are non-verbal.
- I will identify myself before meeting or speaking to someone who has a visual impairment.
- If an interpreter is helping me speak with a person who is deaf, I will make sure to talk to the athlete, not the interpreter.
- I will not speak louder than normal when talking to athletes with disabilities or athletes who are deaf, hard of hearing or blind.
- An athlete's wheelchair or mobile device is part of their personal body space and I will avoid leaning or hanging onto it without their permission.
- I will interact at face-level with athletes who use wheelchairs or mobile devices.
- It is my responsibility to help athletes **have fun** and feel **included** when playing Challenger Baseball.