

# Buddy Play Guidelines

## FIELDING

### POSITION & READINESS:

- Coaches will assign positions on the field. Encourage your player to field balls that come to that area. Occasionally, however, we may intervene in order to give as many players as possible a turn to field a batted ball.
- Fielders should stand behind the arc (a safe distance from the batter).
- Avoid standing in the base paths.
- **Stand diagonally in front of your athlete so you will be in a position to protect him or her from a batted or thrown ball if necessary. This is especially important if your athlete is in a wheelchair or using a walker. (This may not always be possible if you are holding the hand of your player...use your discretion.)**
- **Before each play begins, the coach of the batting team will look for a signal that players are ready. IF YOU ARE NOT READY, please do not hesitate to communicate this!**
- **When your athlete is ready to throw a ball, be sure the receiver (and anyone in proximity to the intended receiver) is ready to catch it.**

	Blooper	Hard Hit Ball
Athlete with unlimited mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow player to field the ball alone</li> <li>• Direct player to throw the ball to the pitcher (SR) or coach (JR). With Juniors, be sure the coach is ready for the throw and baserunners have already scored before throwing the ball.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If ball is going into the outfield, LET IT GO!</li> <li>• Encourage a player to go after the ball and remind him/her where to throw it if necessary.</li> <li>• If it is hit in the infield, knock it down if necessary and allow a player to field it. (Don't knock a ball down unless you need to do so to protect a player.)</li> </ul>

At the end of an inning, all players and buddies should remain on the field until the last baserunner scores.

## BATTING

- If necessary, help your athlete choose a bat and get into batting position.
- While the athlete is batting, stand out of bounds halfway down the first base line. Stay alert for foul balls!
- Some players will need guidance on where to run. In this situation, move toward first base and encourage your athlete to run toward you.

Thrown pitch	Batters are allowed a number of pitches depending on time. If there is no success at hitting a pitch, the coaches will intervene and encourage the athlete to use a tee.
Tee	The coach will set the tee and place the ball when fielders are ready. Some batters will need physical support while swinging the bat. Others may need encouragement and/or help with swinging. Don't hesitate to provide this when needed.

## BASERUNNING

In most cases, runners advance one base each time a batter hits the ball. Stolen bases are fun and allowed! You may need to direct your athlete where to run or move in front of him or her and provide a target instead of pointing.

In most cases, you should run with your athlete and stay close enough to protect him or her from a batted or thrown ball (we encourage you to carry a glove if you are a buddy in the senior division).

Several players are independent and will resent close shadowing. Your responsibility for the player's safety does not change, but we will help you look for alternative ways of providing protection (notifying other buddies on the field, etc.)

Before allowing your player to run toward home plate to score, be sure the previous runner is out of the way and the area is clear.

## END OF GAME

Assist coaches with lining up players to shake hands. Get in line with your player and participate in this important ritual.

Remind your athlete to shake hands gently and watch to be sure this is done.

Stay with your athlete until a family member meets you.