



# Buddy Guidelines

Being a Buddy in the Miracle League of Findlay is about ensuring the safety of the players and creating an inclusive environment for your player as well as other buddies. This inclusive environment will be built around respect, trust and compassion. The game of baseball is about being part of a team and having fun. With your support, encouragement and enthusiasm you will make this all possible for our players.

**A few KEY Guidelines to follow while being a Buddy for the Miracle League of Findlay:**

## **1. Buddy Check In**

*It is suggested you wear closed toed shoes for your safety. Arrive at Miracle Field 15 minutes before each game to get checked in with the coach. Head behind your buddy's team's dugout to meet with your buddy and their family. Be ready to play ball with your player. The buddy video can be viewed ahead of time at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuxkOp3mqR4>.*

## **2. Learn your players wants and needs.**

*Be sensitive to each player's different needs and concerns. You want to meet with your player and their family to understand how you can make the game a safe and fun experience. Communicate with your player on their eye level. Find out how your player can be assisted (i.e. holding their hand, pushing their wheelchair, holding the bat, etc.). Find out if your player is comfortable with high fives, hugs, etc. If your player becomes agitated, try to divert their attention to eliminate the anxiousness. As a buddy, help your player get a hit and circle the bases to score a run each inning. Be in the moment with your player during the game and focus on helping your player to have their best game ever. Each player will be looking to you for support, guidance, and encouragement. Be a cheerleader!*

## **3. Protect the player at all times.**

*The safety of each player is very important. To create a fun and exciting environment, we must first make sure we create a safe environment for the players to play baseball in. Always be ready to protect your player from potential falls or flying balls. Some players use metal bats. Be extra conscious when they are in use. For the protection of everyone involved, please no cellphone usage while on the field or in the dugouts during the game.*

## **4. Always allow the Miracle League Player as much freedom to play his/her own game.**

*Give your player the chance to be themselves and play the game with as much freedom as possible. Provide your player help as needed. This could mean helping the player with fielding the ball and directing them where to throw it.*

**I, agree that as a Buddy, it is my job to support the mission and purposes of this organization. I will respond to any situation and be flexible when it comes to working with the Miracle League players.**

Buddy Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete volunteer registration and the release form at

<https://app.myezreg.com/Leagues/Login/mlfindlay>

Miracle League of Findlay, P.O. Box 971, Findlay, OH 45839 Phone: 419-889-8349

[www.miracleleagueoffindlay.com](http://www.miracleleagueoffindlay.com)

