

Buddy

Miracle League Buddies are volunteers ranging in age from 14 to senior citizens. These include family members and local youth/civic groups and corporations. Though we call them Buddies, many people refer to the volunteers as *Angels in the Outfield*.

Goals

- To protect the Miracle League Player at all times
- When hard hitter is up to bat, Buddies are to step in front of Player for protection
- Always allow Player as much freedom as possible to play his/her own game
- Assist Player according to their needs
- Be of good spirit with enthusiasm, love, good attitude and concern in motivating the players and their families
- Become their friend; get to know the players and their families
- Demonstrate high morals and integrity on and off the field
- Act as teacher and mentor to Player

Responsibilities

- Regularly show up on your assigned Player's game night once a week – either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday – and for opening/closing games (2 Saturdays). Arrives 30 minutes prior to game time.
- Attend 45 minute training session (new Buddies)
- Be properly dressed in Buddy shirt and athletic footwear (no open-toe shoes or shoes without backs; no slides, sandals or deck shoes on field)
- Protect Players – be attentive and stay near them at all times
- Provide enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the game – and have fun!! 😊

Team Assistant

(formerly Buddy Coordinator/Team Mom)

Responsibilities

- **Arrives 30 minutes prior to game time**
- **Assists league Volunteer Coordinator with weekly Buddy assignments**
 - **Communicates with Parents and Buddies each week prior to next game as to expected attendance plans or absences**
 - **Responsible for weekly coordination of Buddy schedule. Arranges for substitute Buddies in the event of Buddy cancellations. A team Buddy 'on call' list will be provided. Works closely with league Volunteer Coordinator.**
 - **Picks up game materials for the team from the concession stand and coordinates Buddy-Player assignments as Players and Buddies arrive for their game. Ensures Buddies are wearing name tags.**
- **Assists the Head and Assistant Coaches, with game-day activities and coordination of team events (i.e. roster, batting order, team pictures, etc.)**
- **Keeps the line-up moving from dug-out to batting order. Assists Players with helmets and bats. Helps Assistant Coach with immediately retrieving bats after each batter so they are out of the way of runners and neatly returns them to the team's bat rack.**
- **Coordinates special events sign-ups for their team for both Players and Buddies (i.e. Grandparents Day and Family Fun Day at end of season). Distributes and keeps track of event tickets.**
- **Demonstrates enthusiasm, love, and concern for each player and family**

Head Coach

Responsibilities

- Arrives at the field 30 minutes prior to game time
- Coordinates team activities with Assistant Coach and Team Assistant
- Verifies that each Player and Volunteer has registered and signed a release
- Ensures that each Player has a uniform
- Contacts Players families as to team assignment
- Provides families with game schedule or where to find it on Web site
- Maintains regular contact with Players and their families to provide information on upcoming events, schedule changes, rainouts
- Communicates concerns regarding specific Player to the Exec Director
- Attends Coaches meetings as called by the Executive Director
- Provides copies of the team line-up to the game announcer before each game (Players name, pronunciation, and number)
- Packs up the team equipment if playing the last game of the day
- Assist Players as they cross home plate, high-five, congratulate them
- Designates the responsibilities of the Assistant Coach and assures that they take an active role in participating in the coaching duties
- Ensures that the game keeps moving to avoid running past the next start time
- Enforces league rules, including requirement for wearing correct athletic footwear, wearing a uniform, and having the batting helmet on. (No Shoes, No Play; No Uniform, No Play)

- **Huddle Players before each game in order to get them excited about the game.**
 - 1. A prayer if the coach prefers**
 - 2. A great big “GOOOOOO (Team Name)”**
- **Is responsible for maintaining a fun and safe atmosphere for Players**

Assistant Coach

Responsibilities

- Arrives at the field 30 minutes prior to the game
- Assists the Head Coach and Team Assistant with team activities
- Verifies with Team Assistant that each Player has a Buddy
- In the absence of the Head Coach, is expected to know the duties of, and carry out the responsibilities of Head Coach for that day
- Picks up the batter's bat immediately after each batter so out of the way of runners and neatly returns them to the team's bat rack
- Actively provides encouragement and enthusiasm to Players
- Gives attention to the Players and their needs at all times
- Helps pack up the team equipment to return to storage if playing in the last game of the day.
- Enforces league rules, including requirement for wearing correct footwear, wearing a uniform, and having the batting helmet on. (No Shoes, No Play; No Uniform, No Play)
- Demonstrates enthusiasm, love, and concern for each Player and family