



Participating in the Champions Buddy Program for Roseville Pony baseball is a great way for players of all ages to come alongside their *differently-abled* peers in the Champions division and to help provide them with a great baseball experience of their own. This opportunity is a privilege and must be taken seriously in order to participate. Listed below are the rules of conduct each buddy must review with their parents and agree to before participating in the program. These rules must be followed at all times or you may be asked to leave the program.

- As a Champions buddy you are likely to see things and hear things that may be different than what you are used to with your friends. This may include verbal outbursts, random comments, physical behaviors, complete disinterest in what is happening and possibly angry protests. There is always a reason for these behaviors and if need be a parent or other adult will intervene.
- ✓ I agree to ALWAYS be respectful, to NEVER name-call, mock, imitate or in any way treat any player as “less-than” regardless of what I see or hear.
- Some players will have limited communication but still deserve to be treated the same as everyone else. You may have to wait longer than normal for a response and sometimes you may not get a response at all. It may not be comfortable at first but if you give each player a chance you will find out that they usually understand more than they are able to communicate back.
- ✓ I agree to speak directly to each player and allow extended time for a response. I will never force eye contact or require a response or action. I will refrain from physical touch unless initiated by the Champions player. *For instance if you are helping someone run the bases you can put your hand out and wait for the player to take your hand rather than grabbing theirs.
- This division is filled with a wide range of ages, both boys and girls, all with varying levels of differences and abilities. Our goal is to place buddies with the players that are best matched to the comfort level of both sides but that will take time. We never want to place anyone (neither the Champions player nor the Buddy) in a situation that is uncomfortable for any reason. It is OK to feel uncomfortable and reach out for help.
- ✓ I agree to speak up and let the Champions coach(es) and/or my parents know if at any time I am uncomfortable with a particular situation or child so that a better fit can be found.



- The best way for the Champions players to have a fun, engaging experience is to get to know the buddies participating in the program. This only happens over time with repeat experiences. While everyone understands that there are other baseball schedules you are committed to as a player in the league, we ask that this be made a priority for your benefit as well as the Champions players. If this is an issue but you would still like to participate in a limited capacity please contact the Champions Division DPA.
- ✓ I agree that every attempt will be made to participate at every Champions game. If conflicts arise, I agree to let the Champions coach(es) know so that he (they) can plan accordingly.

I have read all of the above requirements and agree to the rules of conduct. I would like to apply to be a Champions Division buddy for the 2016 season:

Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

Champions Division DPA: David Riviello (champions@rosevilleponybaseball.com)

Alternate Contact: Carolyn Riviello (riviello.carolyn@gmail.com)