

# Questions & Answers

**What is the Challenger Division?** The Challenger Division offers boys and girls with physical and/or mental challenges, ages 5 to 16 (or until the completion of high school), the opportunity to participate in an organized game of baseball. The fundamental goal of the division is to give everyone a chance to play.

**What is LZBSA?** The Lake Zurich Baseball and Softball Association (LZBSA) is an all-volunteer organization based in the Lake Zurich area providing baseball and softball programs for over 1000 boys and girls (ages 5-18). This will be the first year that LZBSA will be partnering with Little League International to provide a Challenger Division. There are NO boundary restrictions for Challenger players.

**How does the program work?** A "buddy" is assigned to each Challenger Player. The buddies are volunteer boys or girls, at least 11 years old, and are from the LZBSA baseball and softball community. The buddy is responsible for playing side by side with the Challenger Player and assisting them throughout the game. Activities include helping them play in the field, talking to them in the dugout, helping them hit, moving them around the bases if needed, and talking about the game after it is over.

**What will LZBSA provide?** LZBSA will provide uniforms, playing fields, equipment, team assignments, reasonable accommodations to facilitate play and team treats after the game.

**Where/When are the games played?** The games will be played on our regulation baseball fields, primarily at Staples Park in Lake Zurich and Heritage Oaks Park in Hawthorn Woods. We anticipate that Challenger games will typically be played on Sunday afternoons or Monday evenings.

**What does the program cost?** Due to the overwhelming generosity of our many local sponsors, LZBSA is able to offer this program at *no charge*. Your help to keep donations coming and to patronize our sponsors (listed on our website at [www.LZBSA.org](http://www.LZBSA.org)) is always appreciated.

**When does the program start?** LZBSA anticipates a mid-May start date. We plan to play games during the months of May and June.

**How many games will be played?** This will depend on a variety of factors including the number of participants. The goal is to have each team play at least 6 games.

**Can I volunteer to help?** Absolutely. The easiest way to help is by spreading the word about the Challenger Program. Assistance will be needed in the coordination of a variety of activities to help the program grow and succeed. LZBSA has a group of volunteers committed to the program and to making it work. We are also always looking for Buddies.



## Testimonials from the Challenger Division

"Very well organized and very inclusive. It gave our son an opportunity to play an organized sport that he otherwise would not be able to play without the help of the Challenger Division."

~ *Gus & Julie Silva (Parents)*

"The people who make this happen touch my heart. To think that my son can wear a uniform, play baseball and be involved is more than I could have imagined. What a wonderful experience for not only our son Michael, but for our family as well."

~ *Gary & Karen Parker (Parents)*

"After opening day it was clear that Challenger's Baseball was a great fit! It was awesome for Morgan to be able to play in the outfield and have a chance to bat every inning. For a first year program, I have to commend the Challenger division for providing an amazing opportunity for special-needs kids to get out there and PLAY BALL!

~ *Jeff & Carrie Lucas (Parents)*

"I liked helping out with Challenger because I enjoy teaching kids with special needs how to play baseball. I also liked to see my buddy every week. He was funny and fun to be around."

~ *Aidan Johnson (Buddy)*

"I liked helping kids with special needs play baseball. I want to do it again next year, and I hope my Buddy does too."

~ *Tim Randl (Buddy)*

**Questions: Email Gloria Palmblad at [gloria@lzbsa.org](mailto:gloria@lzbsa.org)**