



Wanneroo Giants
Challenger Division

Challenger Division Background

- Challenger Baseball is an all-inclusive game for children aged between 4 – 18 with physical and intellectual challenges
- It commenced in the USA in 1989
- Currently there are over 950 programs encompassing 10 countries and some 30,000 participants
- Australia has one Challenger Division league
- www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/challenger/ for more general information





Wanneroo Giants Challenger Division Background (formerly Perth Northern Metros)

- Matt and Barb Callaghan commenced Challenger Baseball in 2016, initially for a sport for their son Cameron to play.
- They found there was a great need for an all-inclusive sport for children with special needs
- Founding the Perth Northern Metros Challenger Division
- It has grown from approximately 18 children in the first year to 34 children in its Fourth year
- A Charter split in 2020 saw us welcomed to Wanneroo Giants Baseball Club and become Wanneroo Giants Challenger Division

The Game

- Batting

- The game is a modified game of baseball
- 2 teams with 6 – 8 members each and same number of buddies is ideal
- Each team bats all the way through the line up, with each player advancing one base at a time
- The last player bats and scores a home run with all players clearing the bases.
- There is no limit to the amount of swings the batter can have to hit the ball
- Ball can be placed on a tee to hit off if the player prefers
- No score is kept





The Game - Fielding

- Each team fields and takes a position around the infield of the Baseball Diamond
- As a ball is hit, they field the ball and throw it back to the ball tosser/pitcher
- Usually, several baseballs are thrown around to the fielders, so each player gets a chance to field a ball.
- Fielding finishes when the last batter has rounded all the bases

Buddies Role

- The Buddy is there to assist the player in whatever capacity is needed.
- Each player has varying needs where some are quite independent, and others require a bit more help.
- This may be as simple as helping them run to the base after hitting and letting them field a ball
- Some players may need help swinging the bat when the ball is pitched to them. Some may need help hitting it off a tee.
- Fielding may see the need to help them field a ball and help with throwing
- Most importantly, the buddy is to keep the player safe and having fun





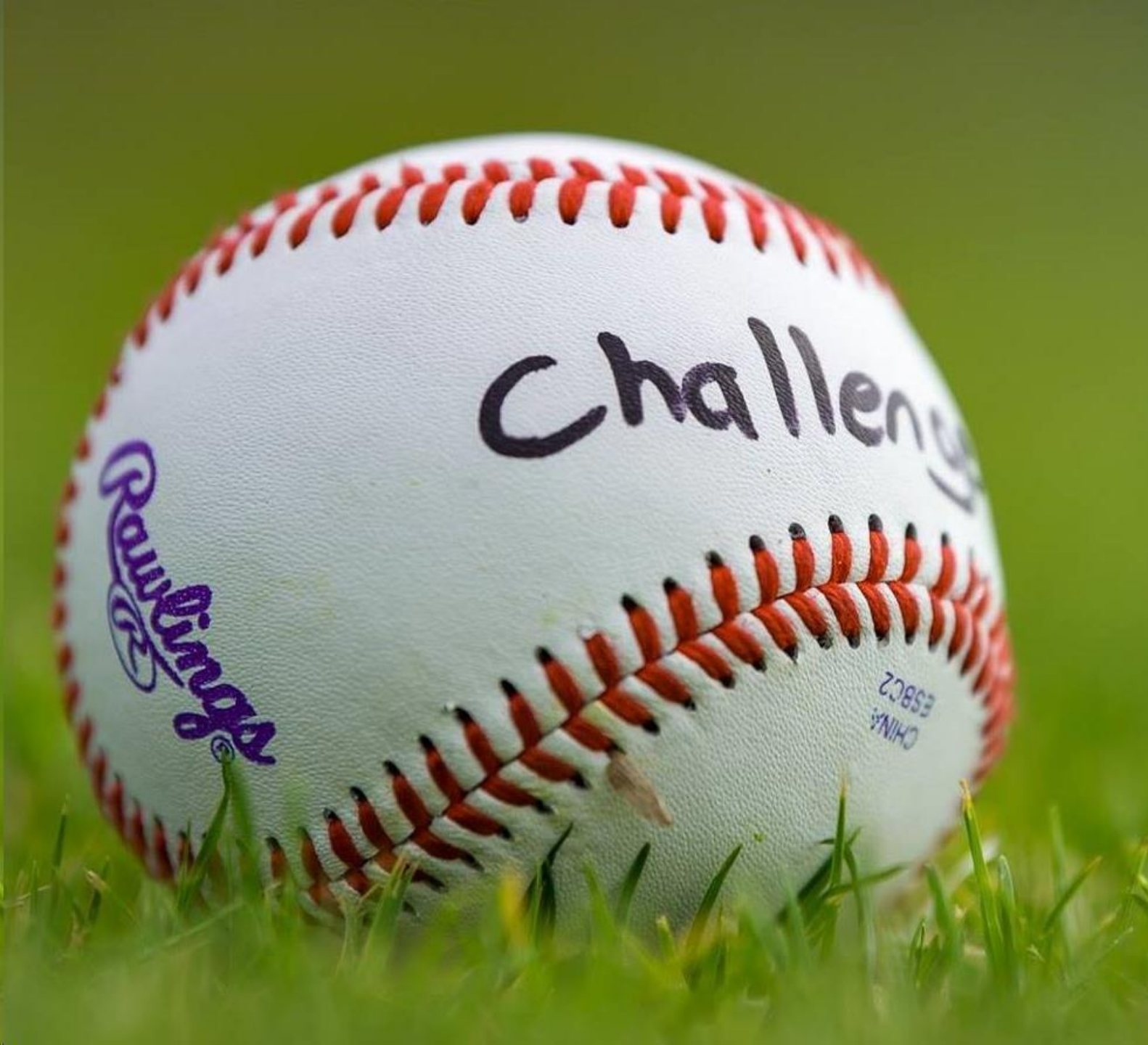
Buddies - Requirements

- There is no age limit to be a buddy, it comes down to the maturity of the buddy.
- We currently have some buddies who play baseball & tee ball and plenty that don't, that just want to help out
- Our buddies do vary in age with us having teenagers to adults
- Buddies over 18 that are not a parent of a player require a Working with Children permit
- We assist with the processing of this and happy to reimburse the cost of application which is currently \$11

Our Season

- Commences at the same time as the Little League season and runs the same as their season.
- Our games start at 8.30am on Saturday mornings, this is to beat the heat and also to be off the diamond before Little League starts.
- We usually have a couple of functions a year, a Christmas party and a Wind-Up Party.
- Our events sometimes include playing an Exhibition Game at a Perth Heat game, Exhibition game at the Little League State Championships.





QUESTIONS?
