



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES: BATTER UP!

Challenger Baseball will batter up for its first pitch of the season on Saturday June 3rd, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Peter Barry Duff Field in Paradise. Challenger Baseball is a program that provides an opportunity for children with cognitive or physical disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of participation in baseball at a level structured to their abilities. Baseball games are played in a fun, safe environment where no score is kept. Able bodied “Buddies” are assigned (one on one, where possible) to each participant. These Buddies assist the Challenger players with their involvement in the game. Pushing wheelchairs around the base path, assisting players in how to hold the bat and swing, or providing protection for the Challenger player from a batted ball, are just a few of the ways the Buddies offer a better experience for the participants in Challenger Baseball. Each participant is treated like every other player in the conventional baseball program.

All players are outfitted in uniforms, use the same equipment, and play their games at the local baseball parks. A team picture is a must for Challenger, as it is in the other divisions. “We want it to be just like every other team.” Said Colin Rose, Program Coordinator – Avalon Area, Challenger Baseball NL. “To have a designated field, an umpire, players, and coach. We want this to feel just as important as any other baseball league!” he said. Last but not least, the smiles are plentiful and free! The joy on the face of each participant in Challenger Baseball makes it very clear how much fun they are having. No pressures, no playing time issues, everyone just has fun! It's what baseball is supposed to be all about. “When the players arrive they are so excited to get on the field and line up! Said Kimberly Churchill, whose son Carter participates in Challenger Baseball. “Challenger Baseball is an invaluable program for the kids but it is also so important to educate the community that children of differing abilities can play organized baseball, just like their peers.” she said.

For all inquiries, please contact

- Colin Rose, Program Coordinator – Avalon Area
 - o 709-691-3609 or challengerbaseballnl@gmail.com
- Ryan Garland, Provincial Coordinator, Challenger Baseball
 - o rgarland@sportnl.ca

Playing in a Challenger division gives players and their families the opportunity to:

- Enjoy the Thrill of Playing Baseball
- Make New Friends
- Be Part of a Team
- Develop Physical and Social Skills