



BILLET GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to provide a clear basis of understanding of what it means to be a billet family and a billet player for the Milwaukee Jr. Admirals organization.

WHAT IS A BILLET?

Many players leave home to play Midget and Junior hockey. A billet or host family is where a player lives during the season. This is a player's home away from home.

The Milwaukee Jr. Admirals realizes that without billet families we could not provide the high-quality program we have.

Host families can be two-parent families, single-parent families or "empty nesters". The common denominator is a desire by the family to make a difference in a player's life. Billet families help shape athletes into young adults and help them move onto the next level in school or sports.

We have found that early, open and honest communication help create a better experience for both billet players and host families. We have created a discussion guide to assist in these conversations. Your Billet Coordinator is also a resource to help you with any questions or conversations.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

The Milwaukee Jr. Admirals expect their players to be model citizens. Being a billet player is a privilege.

We expect our billet players to become a part of your family. The coaching staff works hard to identify players with not only hockey talent, but also kids with strong moral and ethical values. We also look for players who are looking for the family experience. We believe players should be thought of as one of your family members and should also obey the rules of your home. These players are told that they are moving into a family home that will be different than what they are used to. This is part of developing the skills they need to move on in hockey and in school.



PLAYER EXPECTATIONS (CONTINUED)

As our players are adolescents, they need to develop life skills that will assist them to transition into adulthood. Our players are also teenagers so they will need guidance to know what to do in your home.

- Don't expect them to know what to do in your home. Remember you are the adults in the household, and you set the rules for your home.*
- Don't expect them to know what to do and don't be afraid to ask them to help out.*

Mentorship plays a big part in billet families. We expect our players to interact with your family, especially if you have children in the home. We have set the expectation for our t players that hanging out in their bedroom all the time, being on a gaming system and not socializing is not acceptable behavior.

BILLET FEES

Billet families will be compensated \$400 by the player's family and paid on the 15th day of each month. Payments are to be made on 8/15, 9/15, 10/15, 11/15, 12/15, 1/15, 2/15 & 3/15. If a player remains in the home to complete school after our season is complete an appropriate fee shall be arranged between the player's family and the billet family.

Billet families provide for essential needs such as food, shelter, laundry facilities, utilities and a bedroom. Players are responsible for their own personal items including school supplies and toiletries. Billet families are not responsible for giving players money for lunch. Players are responsible for their own school/work lunch money. If a player goes out to eat, s/he is responsible for his/her own expense.

- If a player arrives with less than 50% of the month left or leaves with more than 50% of the month left, the family will be compensated 50% of the monthly amount.*
- If a player arrives with more than 50% of the month left or leaves with less than 50% of the month left, the family will be compensated 100% of the monthly amount.*

The billet fees are not meant to help pay your mortgage or your rent. A good portion of the money will go to food as they are growing teenagers and there may be a bit left over to cover extra utilities.

Your Billet Coordinator will send email reminders of when payments are due.

TEAM RULES

The team provides player rules that will be provided to both players and billet families. We ask our billet families that they help enforce these rules. Please note: the most restrictive rule between home and team always takes precedence.

FOOD & MEALS

It is expected that players respect the mealtimes established by the billet family and be present and on time. Players should inform their billet family if they will not be home or on time for meals. Players are expected to help the billet family in the kitchen by assisting with meal prep and clean up.

The schedule players adhere to is extensive and, for most, exhausting. For them to increase muscle mass and weight, they need a nutritious balanced diet. It is imperative that the players receive enough nutritious food and are not hungry. Everyone's idea of healthy is different. Our interpretation is that most meals be cooked from scratch. Providing a variety of healthy food, not pre-packaged food is the best. Families are expected to provide enough food for 3 meals a day and snacks; this would include fruits, vegetables and a variety of other healthy foods to snack on. Our athletes will eat more than the average teenager and we know how much a teenager eats. We do not expect you to provide any nutritional supplements such as protein powder or vitamins, Gatorade; the players are responsible for these kinds of things.

Your fridge and food rules should be clearly defined. Ask players if they have any food preferences or allergies. Taking a player to grocery shop during his/her first week in your home is a good "bonding" experience. The players will often express their food preferences while you are reaching for things on the grocery shelves.

PLAYER BEDROOM

If you are hosting multiple players, they may share a room if both players agree. The player's room should include a decent bed, storage and desk (if they are a student). The player will need reasonable access to a bathroom.

PRIVACY

Clearly let the player know if there are areas of your home that are off limits. Also, let the player know what kind of privacy they can expect from you. Tell them when you will be going into their bedrooms and for what reasons.

SCHOOL & WORK

All players of high school age are expected to be enrolled in school.

Players who have graduated are expected to enroll as a part-time college student or work at a job.

PHONES & ELECTRONICS

Players are expected to have their own mobile phones and should not need to use your house phone. Additionally, many players will bring his/her gaming system with them. Please set expectations with your player about use of electronics and any "quiet" times you expect in your home.

TRANSPORTATION

It is not required that a billet family provide transportation for a player. Many players have their own vehicle. If a player does not have a vehicle a mutually acceptable transportation plan may be arranged between the player and the billet family. Your Billet Coordinator will work with you, the coach and the team to coordinate transportation.

VACATIONS

When billet parents plan to be out of town for one night, a weekend, or longer, they are to notify the Billet Coordinator and Head Coach. Players are rarely allowed to remain in a billet home while the adults are not in residence. We have found through experience that this is a sound policy.

VISITORS

Billet families that have housed players for many years find that setting a visitor policy is important. There are lots of questions that can come up in this area – how many, when, how often, food, etc. Remember, team curfews are not only the time a player has to be home, but it is also the time that all other visitors must leave the house.

Another aspect of visitors involves the opposite sex. Some billet parents allow girls/boys to visit players in their homes, many do not. Remember, if the players visit with girls/boys in their own home, then it is more likely that the his/her parents know what is going on.

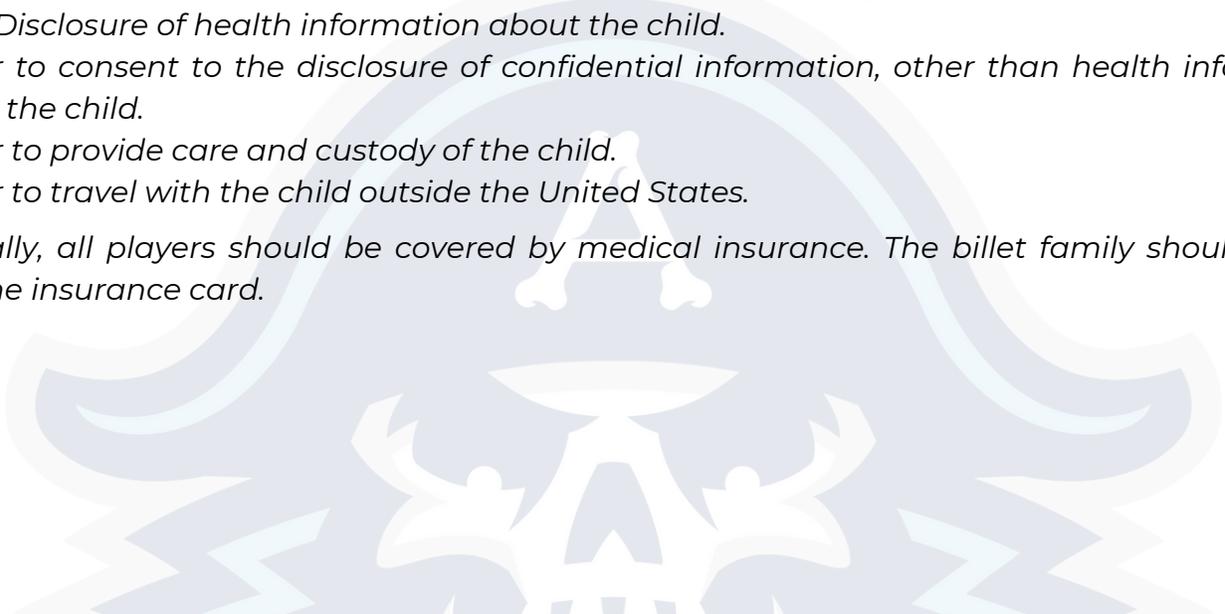
PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

In the state of Wisconsin billet families hosting players under the age of 18 will need to have a Power of Attorney Delegating Parental Power as authorized by s.48.979, Wis. Stats.

Minimum parental power that should be delegated is:

- Health Care Decisions – Ordinary and routine health care, excluding major medical procedures, extraordinary procedures, and experimental treatment, Emergency blood transfusions, Dental Care, Disclosure of health information about the child.*
- Power to consent to the disclosure of confidential information, other than health information, about the child.*
- Power to provide care and custody of the child.*
- Power to travel with the child outside the United States.*

Additionally, all players should be covered by medical insurance. The billet family should have a copy of the insurance card.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLAYERS IN HIGH SCHOOL

Players may choose to attend high school in person or online school. If your billet will be attending high school in person, billet families will need to enroll the player and provide proof of residency. Additional Power of Attorney consent to educational and vocational services may be required.

Based on our experience, we strongly encourage players to attend high school in person. If the player already participates in online school, the player's parents will manage enrollment. Player parents and Billet families should talk regularly about school expectations and include the Billet Coordinator and Coach if expectations are not met.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Players and billet families must be willing to communicate honestly. If conflicts arise between the player and billet family that have been discussed and cannot be resolved, it is critical that the Billet Coordinator and Head Coach be contacted immediately. Quite often the Billet Coordinator and Head Coach can facilitate a successful resolution for both parties.

Additionally, it is necessary that the player and the billet family communicate honestly with the Billet Coordinator and Head Coach regarding whether team rules are being followed. This is essential. You are not doing your player any favor by pandering to poor behavior, especially behavior that is not in line with the team rules. Players may be removed from homes where billet families do not communicate with the Head Coach or

Billet Coordinator honestly about the player's behavior or activities. As much as you may grow to like the player that comes to live in your home, he/she is a young person committed to a rigorous athletic program. "Protecting" him/her from the team rules is not the way to help your player meet future goals and is detrimental to the team as a whole. This can be one of the hardest aspects of billeting.

INTERESTED IN BILLETING?



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