

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BILLETING A HOCKEY PLAYER**

### **What is a billet family?**

A billet host family is where a player lives during the season. A player's home-away-from-home.

### **Are billet families paid?**

A pre-established fee per player per month is paid directly to the billet family. This assists with additional household expenses such as food and drink.

**Do I have to be involved with hockey to be a billet family?** Although we would love to have you as a fan, you do not have to be involved in hockey to be billet family. What you need is the desire to support someone else's goals and dreams.

**How many meals do I have to provide?** Billet families are asked to provide at least 2 prepared meals per day, with availability to groceries for players to make snacks and other food on their own.

**Is there a "typical" Host family?** There is no typical family. Host families may be two-parent families, single-parent families and occasionally an "empty nester". The common denominator is a desire by the host family to make a difference in a player's life.

**How many players can a family host?** A family can host 2 players. Some billet families have hosted up to 3. By hosting more than one player it provides company and support to the player. It also assists with transportation and carpooling when matched with a player with a vehicle. The only requirement is that each player has adequate space/living arrangements. Players may share a room but must have own bed, access to a closet or dresser and acceptable access to a restroom.

**How long does a player stay?** Players arrive in Mid-August. The host family commitment is through the end of the hockey season (April).

**Will the same player stay with us?** Players are meant to stay with the same billet family throughout the duration of the hockey season. There sometimes becomes a need for a player to leave the team or be moved to another billet home and the need for the host family to take in a new player.

**Who is responsible for players medical expenses?** Players must have their own medical insurance and are responsible for their own medical expenses. Players are covered through Hockey Canada for any hockey related injuries. Billet families are never responsible for medical payments.

**Do players join our family for personal events?** You are welcome to invite players to join you for family celebrations or activities: however, it is not mandatory for you to do so. All players will have time off at the Christmas holidays.

**Will I have to pass a background check?** Yes, the NOJHL and the IFJAH require background screening.

**What does the Billet Family Provide?**

- A) Room – Billet host families provide a private bedroom for the player. Players should not be housed in a room with anyone of the household family. The billet home should be clean and organized.
- B) Meals – Basic meals – 3 times a day
- C) Monitoring of Behavior – Billet host families assist the IFJHC management by ensuring that each player complies with the NOJHL rules and regulations. In addition, billet host families may impose reasonable additional rules to fit their lifestyle.
- D) Internet Access – Billet host families are responsible to provide internet access to players. Not only is this a necessity to players personally but is required to stay connected to team apps and communication and to their families.
- E) Transportation – Players are responsible to provide or find their own transportation. However, if a billet host family chooses to assist and provide transportation, it is highly recommended that the player is not allowed to drive a billet host family vehicle. If a player is allowed to drive a billet host family vehicle, the family assumes responsibility and must ensure the player has proper vehicle and their insurance policy is valid.

**What does the Billet Family Not Provide?**

- A) Unlimited Food. Billet Families ARE NOT responsible for supplying an unlimited amount of food or snacks, nor are they expected to provide meals on an erratic schedule. Players are asked to eat what is a reasonable menu and should conform to the meal schedule of the billet family.
- B) Non –Essential Items: The purchase of non -essential or personal items by the player is not the financial responsibility of the billet families. Protein powders, supplements, personal preference snacks, personal hygiene products medications etc.
- C) Long Distance Telephone: Players should have their own phones with their own data and long-distance plans. Players should not be using Billet Home Families home phone lines for their personal use.
- D) Electronics – Billet Host Families are not required to place televisions, telephones, stereos, computers, or any other electronics in the player’s room. If the billet family has extra electronics, they would like to lend to the player for use during their stay is appropriate but not required.
- E) Internet – WIFI and Internet IS required for players stay. Some players are in school, they need to communicate with their families and with their teammates as well as their coaching and management staff.

**When will the billet player arrive?** Each year players will generally arrive in mid-August at a date dependent upon the preseason practice required to prepare for the season. This also allows sufficient time for high school student enrollment and get prepared for their school year. Billet compensation begins for the first full month of the player’s residency.

**When do I get paid?** Billet families’ fees are paid on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. There will be times during the season that players will be away from their billet homes for longer period. Billet family fees may be adjusted after the family has been paid and will be asked to be returned the funds or deducted from any moneys paid in the next payment. Therefore, this structure applies to players arriving early or their stay extending past the season.

- a) Payment will be collected by the IFJH and paid out to the billet host family.
- b) If a player’s billet fees are delayed in being received or cleared in the bank, payment to the billet family is delayed.
- c) If players are required to move out of the home for an extended period of time of more than 3 days, fees for the next month will be adjusted.

**What happens if we must leave home for an extended period?** Players shall not be left alone without adult supervision overnight. If a billet host family has vacation plans, work obligations that will result in an overnight absence, the Billet Coordinator will place in a temporary housing until the billet host family returns and inform the Head Coach and the Organization of the temporary change. Arrangements must be made, through the Billet Coordinator, for the player(s) to stay with another host family. In this incident if the stay is longer than 3 days the next month’s billet fees will be adjusted, and the alternative host family will be compensated.

**What kind of support will I be provided?** The Billet Coordinator will serve as your point person for all your basic questions or concerns. They will also provide ongoing support to you and your family throughout each player’s stay. Additionally, they will provide regular check ins via phone and in person. Support may also come from the teams AGM Player Personnel.

**How will the billet player fit into our family?** The IFJHC puts a great amount of effort into placing players in the homes of families for compatibility. As a result, no problems are anticipated once the players and families have had time to adjust to one another. However, there may be times when player and billet family are simply not compatible by no fault of anyone. In addition, there are situations where the Billet Host Family lifestyle may have an unexpected change. At those times, the billet host family simply contacts the Billet Coordinator and the Head Coach to plan to remove the player from their home and arrange a player change.