



Minnesota Wilderness Hockey Billet Guidelines



Communication:

It is imperative that all lines of communication between the Minnesota Wilderness organization, billet families, and players are wide open. Please reach out to Associate Head Coach Brendan Phelps for any questions or concerns.

A billeting list with players' addresses and emergency telephone numbers will be provided to each billet family and updated as needed. Please keep this information confidential. The schedule of practice and events will be sent each half by Associate Head Coach Brendan Phelps.

TEAM FUNCTIONS / DATES TO REMEMBER

Throughout the course of the season, the team will be in attendance at a variety of functions. Most of these events are planned well in advance and will be listed on the monthly schedule. Players are required to attend all team functions. Billet families are encouraged, but not compelled to attend most of these events. Coach Phelps will authorize all team affairs. Players and billet families are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and should maintain a positive image in the community. Players and billet families are the public faces of the Minnesota Wilderness Organization.

BILLET FAMILY VACATIONS / EXTENDED ABSENCE

Players are NOT permitted to remain in their home overnight when their billet family is out of town. In the event that a billet family will be on vacation or otherwise absent for an extended period of time, arrangements for temporary billets will be made through the Billet Coordinator.

At times, a player may submit a special request for a specific temporary billet. Most times this request will be honored. However, all arrangements must be made through the Billet Coordinator. Coach Phelps will be notified of any such requests made.

TRANSPORTATION

Players are asked to bring their own vehicles to Cloquet, Minnesota. If a player does not have a vehicle, it is not the responsibility of the billet family to provide a car or transportation. Players without a vehicle should make transportation arrangement with

other players living near them. Players without vehicles should reimburse teammate(s) for gas expenses. All players are required to travel with the team to and from all road games.

PRIVACY / CONFIDENTIALITY

Privacy and confidentiality are reciprocal, and all parties should be sensitive to this. The daily life of billet families is not a topic for discussion with teammates, schoolmates, co-workers, or anyone else. Players & billet families are expected to respect private areas such as bedrooms and act in a manner as to not make someone else feel uncomfortable. Billet families are not to discuss your personal affairs outside of the home (an exception being made to Minnesota Wilderness staff in the event of policy issues or concerns they may have about the player's well-being). Just a reminder: No one is required to billet a hockey player. They do so out of the goodness of their hearts and their generosity is highly prized by the Minnesota Wilderness organization.

PAYMENT TO BILLET FAMILIES

Players are required to present upon arriving in August eight (8) pre-dated checks and an equipment deposit check. If paying with a credit card a 3% processing fee will be added to the total payment made. Review the Pre-Dated Check Schedule & Amount insert for dates and amounts.

Any player whose check does not clear due to insufficient funds will not be allowed to practice or attend games until the situation is resolved. Players that are paying their own way will still be required to have pre-dated checks held at the Minnesota Wilderness office. The player will make arrangements with his parents for reimbursement.

If a player leaves the billet family before the end of a given month, the billet family will receive a prorated portion of that month's payments.

If a player remains beyond the hockey season to complete the remainder of the school year, the player and the billet family must make arrangements for additional payment(s). Players are held to the same standards of conduct as during the hockey season.

OFF-ICE CONDUCT

Violations of any of the established rules, regulations, or verbal instructions from the coaching staff, billet family, ice arena officials, hotel/motel, restaurant, transportation personnel, or causing any public disturbances will not be tolerated. Any and all instances will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the



Minnesota Wilderness organization. Players are expected to act like professional adults in all situations and realize that you represent the entire Minnesota Wilderness organization and its affiliates.

CURFEWS

The follow curfews will be strictly enforced... 11:00pm during the week, 10pm nights before games & 12:00am on weekends. This is to include the use of cell phones & the internet. Minnesota Wilderness personnel will conduct curfew checks to make sure that curfew is followed. Players are not to spend the night at another player's home unless previous arrangements have been made through Coach Phelps. Approvals for situations like these are not automatic.

If a player's family is in town, he may request to stay with them. This must be approved by Coach Phelps with 24-hour notice. The player should notify his billeting parents when he has been given permission to stay with his family. The player is subject to follow curfew rules. Curfew penalties will be determined and enforced by the coaching staff. Billet families will be notified of any such penalties, and if necessary, players' parents will be notified. Billet parents are expected to notify the coaching staff when the curfew is broken or if a player leaves after a curfew check.

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE

All players are required to have a calling card or cell phone. Players are not to charge calls to billet family's phone or Minnesota Wilderness office phone. All long-distance calls

must be made with a calling card or personal cell phone.

OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS / GIRLFRIENDS

If out-of-town friends visit, players must still adhere to the same curfews. Under NO Exceptions are girlfriends or female companions allowed in the billet home. This makes for an extremely uncomfortable situation for everyone involved. Nor shall players spend the night in hotels or at other homes with friends or girlfriends.

MEALS

Proper nutrition is very important to a player's mental and physical success. Meal schedules should be discussed and are at the discretion of the billet families. Houses are not to be treated as restaurants.

Players are to be prompt for scheduled meals and must notify their family if they will be late or cannot attend. Unless previous arrangements have been made, players should plan to eat at their own homes. Players should familiarize



themselves with the kitchen, including the dishwasher. Players may be expected to prepare some of their own meals. Each player will have his own individual food preferences and may have specific pre-game requests. Discuss food preferences early on.

BILLET ASSIGNMENTS

All billet assignments are made with the Wilderness coaching staff's approval. Players are initially placed into homes based on specific information harvested from interviews and questionnaires. In the event that a player or billet family makes a specific request, we will attempt to honor it. While every attempt is made to match personalities, some matches are not successful. If this occurs, the billet family should contact the Billet Coordinator so that a solution can be reached.

Any concerns from the player must go to Coach Phelps. This does not always mean that the player has to be moved.

Sometimes conflicts can be resolved with improved communications between the parties. It is important to remember that all matches are not marriages and that all parties involved must feel comfortable with the placement. Any reassignments will be made through the Billet Coordinator. *Players are not to make arrangements on their own.*

SCHOOL / WORK

It is essential to the player to be productive off the ice as well as at the rink. Therefore, all players are encouraged to attend high school (if necessary), take collegiate courses, or hold a job during the season. Many take classes and also work. It is the players' responsibility to find a job and be productive enough to keep it. Players should arrange their work to class schedule around their hockey obligations.

VOLUNTEERING

Each player will be partnered with a house hockey team through the Cloquet Youth Hockey Association. They will promote the sport of hockey and to help make a difference in a young player's lives. Also, scheduled events arranged throughout the year will be expected. You are to dress in proper attire and act in a fashion that represents yourself and the Minnesota Wilderness as a professional organization in the community. Most importantly, be on time and polite at these events.



MEDICAL / DENTAL CARE

The Minnesota Wilderness retains a team physician. In the event that a player should become ill at home, they should call the head coach. They will provide directions on what to do and coordinate efforts through Coach Phelps. All players must carry their own medical insurance. The team's medical staff will handle on-ice emergencies and injuries. Each player is required to have undergone a recent physical examination and dental check. If any player has not had a recent physical or dental checkup, the Minnesota Wilderness organization will require one.

DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

Drug and alcohol abuse will not be tolerated and this is a very serious offense. Any confirmed violation will be brought before the coaching staff. The findings and decisions of the Minnesota Wilderness will be final. The North American Hockey League also sets policies for abuse of drugs and alcohol by players. Players are subject to the NAHL rules and policies, as well as those of the team. The Minnesota Wilderness organization will fully cooperate with the league to protect its own standing in the league. Billet parents should be aware of any alcohol they may have in the home and monitor it.

SMOKING & TOBACCO USE

Smoking and tobacco use (chew) will not be tolerated. This is a very serious offense. Any confirmed violation will be brought before the coaching staff. The findings and decision of the coaches will be final.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PLAYERS AND BILLET FAMILIES

The following are some things that you and your billet family should sit down and discuss shortly after your arrival. Knowledge of what is expected avoids Misunderstandings.

- Answering the phone and taking messages

- Removing shoes upon entry of home
- Bathroom rules
- Rules when having visitors
- Cleanliness of bedroom
- Shower times



- Durations of phone calls, Internet
- Snacks
- Food allergies – likes and dislikes
- Spare car keys
- Gameday rituals
- Toilet seats
- Laundry, where it goes, who does it, when to do it
- TV / Internet rules
- Player's family in town
- Wet towels
- Quiet times
- Where to park your car
- Family time
- Where to store hockey equipment
- Mealtime
- Who gets the mail and where to put it

Communication is ESSENTIAL

Understanding the individual rules of your billet family (outside the billet family / player guidelines) is necessary.

It is likely the hockey player and billet family will have different lifestyles, rules, and thought processes. Learn to notice the good in how they live and what you can take away from each other. Seeing the cup half full will make your year more enjoyable and productive.

Living away from Home

Living away from home for the first time can be a very rewarding experience. However, acclimating to a new family, school and team can be a challenge. The purpose of these guidelines is to give parents ideas that should be implemented to make this transition a positive one.

The players are ACCOUNTABLE for their actions. Always inform your billet family where you are and when they can expect you to return. You can leave a note or simply pick up the phone. Always call if there is a change in plans. The key is to be on time so no one is worrying about where you are. Your time is valuable and has to be managed wisely.

Between hockey, school, work, and your billet family, it is important that you leave enough time for all of them.

You have to be RESPONSIBLE. Learn to clean your room, take the garbage out, babysit if

needed, help with the dishes, do your laundry, shovel snow, rake leaves, wash the car, complete your homework, and ensure you give 100% to your part-time job. These



things should be done automatically: You should not have to be told to do them. If the family has children, make sure you make time for them. Their parents have opened their house for a positive experience for you and their children. They will look up to you and hopefully, you will leave feeling better than when you arrived. You will be a better person for doing so. Get plenty of rest but go to bed at a decent hour and participate in morning chores with the family.

If you have any questions please ask, they cannot read your mind. Don't assume they know what you are thinking. Make productive use with your free time. Make sure you keep in regular contact with your family back home.

Make sure you always show respect in every situation. Your employers, friends, teachers, coaches, billet parents, team staff, officials, etc... As parents of these players, it is important that your son has the necessary social skills before he leaves home so his adjustment period is short.

Make sure you can deal with successes and failures. Keep your focus on doing the right things and don't let distractions get in the way of your goals. Make sure you have the confidence to ask good, pertinent questions when you are in doubt. Take good notes and write things down so you don't forget.

If you live by these simple guidelines, your experience with the Minnesota Wilderness can be a very rewarding and memorable experience.

The Minnesota Wilderness organization wants to set high standards for other organizations to follow, and we expect our players to set high standards for other players to follow as well. Welcome again to the Minnesota Wilderness. If you are here, you have earned it.

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