



ROUGHRIDERS® HOCKEY CLUB BILLET GUIDE

Welcome billet parents and those of you who might be considering housing a player for the 2025-2026 hockey season. The RoughRiders® Hockey Club would like to thank all billeting parents and families for their continued support and commitment to youth hockey. There are responsibilities that come with being a billet family, but the reward and relationships that are built last well beyond the hockey season. The RoughRiders® Hockey Club Billet Guide is developed to assist billet families understand what is expected of them and what they should expect from the players.

Out of state players and in state players, who live too far to make the drive every day will be housed with billet families. The RoughRiders® coaching staff will work hard at identifying players who are not only top-quality players on the ice, but off the ice as well. RoughRiders® players should strive to be high end students, athletes, respectful and helpful in your presence and in your home.

Upon a player arrival, the house rules should immediately be established. Clearly define your expectations and ask the player his expectations of you and your home. Each team has their own “Team Rules” which will be given to you to review. It is important that both you and the player sit down to review and discuss the team rules. It is important to be unambiguous about all the rules, early, to ensure everyone feels comfortable. Small annoyances can grow, and we want to help you avoid feeling “put-out” by adding a new person or two to your household. Some things that should be discussed with your player are:

- ✦ **Alcohol and Drugs** –Drinking of alcohol by underage youngsters is not condoned by the team and it is illegal. Drugs should not be brought into billet homes at any time or under any circumstances. The Billet Coordinator should be notified immediately if ever a drug or alcohol problem is suspected. If billets suspect there are illegal substances in a player’s possession, they are to contact the Billet Coordinator to request the Coach to conduct a search.
- ✦ **Billet Fees** - Billet fees are \$450.00 per month and are to be paid directly to the Host Family on the 15th of each month. Billet families provide essential needs such as food, shelter, laundry facilities, utilities, and a bed. Players are responsible for their own personal items including school supplies and toiletries, but are not limited to such items as shaving supplies, toothpaste, deodorant etc. Billet families are not responsible for providing player’s meals outside the home, including school lunch, restaurant meals, travel meals, etc., unless they choose to do so. This is considered a billet player’s personal expense.
- ✦ **Communication** - Billets must be willing to communicate honestly with the Billet Coordinator and coach regarding whether team rules are being followed. This is essential. You are not doing your player any favor by pandering to his 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 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 is a young man committed to a rigorous athletic program and “Protecting” him from the team rules is not the way to help him meet future goals and is detrimental to the team as a whole. This can be one of the hardest aspects of billeting.

We strongly encourage the billet families to talk with the player’s parents prior to arrival. The player’s family is made aware of the same rules and expectations that are expressed in this guidebook. However, each family is unique, and it is important that each family shares their expectations.

- ✦ **Cleanliness** – Upon arrival communicate to the player what you expect of him regarding cleanliness of each of the rooms in your house including the bathroom. Let the player know what is expected of him from dishes in the kitchen to cleaning their bedroom. This can be accomplished while taking a tour of your home. Like with all people, reminders are part of the norm.
- ✦ **Common Courtesy** – It is not necessary to wait up, provide transportation, or do anything you feel is above the call of billeting duty. Saying “No” can be done with a smile. However, being courteous around the house to each other is usually appreciated by everyone.
- ✦ **Community service** – When players commit to playing for the RoughRiders Hockey Club, they commit to performing any and all community service asked of them.
- ✦ **Down-time** – Down-time is anytime there is no formal team commitment. Generally, team commitments are on or off ice activities from 5 to 7 days a week. Players who are not enrolled in school are encouraged to find a part time job. Downtime for these student athletes should be minimized.
- ✦ **Duties and Chores** – Prior to a player moving into your home, compile a list of the duties and chores you expect the player to perform as a member of your household. If your family shares chores, it is fair to expect the player to participate as well.
- ✦ **Food** - 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 first week in your home is a good “bonding” experience. Preferences are often expressed when reaching for items on a grocery shelf. Billet families are expected to provide breakfast, dinner and some snacks for the player. If arrangements have been made for a meal outside the home, let the player know your communication expectation. Conversely, if a meal is not to be provided by the billet family, converse with the player to consider an alternative arrangement.
- ✦ **House Rules** - You have to remember that you are the adults in the household, and you set the household rules for your home. Both billet parents and players are expected to always treat each other with respect. Asking a teenager to follow your house rules should be an expectation. When rules are not set, the billet parents can become annoyed, and players get defensive regarding ignorance of the “unspoken rules”. It is better to avoid tension in a household by clearly talking with the player during the first few days. As you think of other expectations to address, communicate them!
- ✦ **Household Curfew** –Team rules include curfews that may vary for weeknights, weekends, nights before games, and game nights. The coach will set the team curfews, and the billets will be notified about these times. As billet parents you may want to set your own “house curfew”. You have every right to ask your player to abide by a curfew that is more restrictive than the team curfew. You should always be aware where a player is and what time expected home. This is one of the player’s responsibilities.
- ✦ **Laundry** – The player is responsible for personal laundry, unless you decide differently. Procedurally, let the player know your expectations. Demonstrate washer and dryer procedures if the player is to be responsible for their wash. Do not presume this teenager knows how to operate either a washer or dryer regarding how much detergent, rinse, etc. to use.

- ✦ **Parties** – Team rules are such that parties are not to be held during the preseason or season without the direct consent of the coach. (A party is defined as more than three players and friends) We expect both the players and their billet parents to respect this rule. There is a time and place for parties, but we are trying to maintain a structured environment for these young athletes.
- ✦ **Player's Bedroom** – Players need a place to sleep. This usually means a bedroom with a decent bed. Sometimes two players can fit in one room. To help keep kid's rooms somewhat in order, by supplying a laundry basket by each player's bed, this prompts them to keep the dirty clothing off the floor, so the room can be vacuumed.
- ✦ **Privacy** – Clearly indicate which areas of your home that are considered out of bounds. Also, let the player know what kind of privacy they can expect from you. Communicate if you will be going into their bedroom and for what reasons.
- ✦ **School** - A few players are still in high school. This hockey organization expects education to be an important priority. This is a developmental hockey program aimed at moving many of these athletes on to play at the college level. Academic rules are included within the "Team Rules".
- ✦ **Telephones** – Each player should have a cell phone. They are not to make or charge incoming calls on the phone line of their billet families. If the billet family's phone is to be used, you can tell them when their use of the phone would not cause an inconvenience. Use and care of appliances - General instructions should be given to the new player. If you do not want the player to use an appliance, please tell him so.
- ✦ **Vacations** - When billet parents plan to be out of town for one night, a weekend, or longer, the Billet Coordinator must be notified. A player is not allowed to remain in a billet home while an adult is not in residence without prior approval.
- ✦ **Video and TV** – Renting movies and downloading music is not allowed unless purchased in a player's device and account. Make it clear that you do not expect to pay for any unapproved charges on your account. Also, clearly state your policy about rated materials that may show up in your home. What are the limits?
- ✦ **Visitor Policy** –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 girls. Some billets allow girls to visit players in their homes, many do not. Remember, if the players visit with girls in the girl's own home, then it is more likely that the girl's parents know what is going on.

While we discourage sleepovers, we do realize that there are times with the hockey schedules, travel, etc., when it would be advantageous for a player to either stay with another player or have a player stay at your house. When these situations occur, it is required that you speak with the Coach and/or the Billet Coordinator prior to making any sleepover arrangements.

The RoughRiders® Hockey Club is a member of USA Hockey® and supports the SafeSport program to ensure participants are safe both on-ice and off-ice. The Handbook may be found on the USA Hockey® website. On page 27, the billeting policies and procedures are outlined.

It is to be noted that In the context of billeting, where athletes live with billet families, the athletes and billet families are responsible for their own actions. The association is not responsible for any actions within a billet house and that the billet family assumes all liability. Both parties are making a choice, and the player is not required to billet to play. To reiterate, here are some general guidelines that are often followed:

- * Players are responsible for their behavior and will be held accountable for their actions.
- * Players are not allowed to stay anywhere other than their own billet house unless approved by the billet family.
- * Players must respect the individuality, privacy, and beliefs of each member of the billet family.
- * Players are responsible for all bills incurred at the home of the billet.

However, the specific rules and responsibilities can vary depending on the team, league, and billet program. It's always important for both the players and the billet families to understand and agree to the terms of the billet arrangement. If you have a specific situation or question, it might be best to consult with the organization, legal counsel, and your insurance carrier.

We do not mean to scare people away from billeting players with this discussion of rules, limits, boundaries, and how to avoid problems. Oftentimes, the special people that open their homes find that their attachment to the player grows rapidly. The rewards can be many. Rewards come from knowing you are providing a stable environment for teenagers who, in most cases, are living away from home for the first time. The RoughRiders® Hockey Club would like to thank you for opening your doors and supporting our AAA Hockey Program. Without you, it would be very tough for us to continue to provide one of the elite AAA hockey programs in the country.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

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