

**Billet Family Program & Guidelines**

Families (Billet Families) who open their homes and hearts to North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros players living too far away to commute to practices and games (Players) play a vital role in our organization’s success on and off the ice. These special people enable Players to pursue their hockey dreams not simply by providing Players with a place to live, but by enabling an environment in which the Players can thrive physically, academically and emotionally. All that is really required is a willingness to help a player(s) by providing a “home away from home”. Meanwhile, the essential values and principles to become a successful member of the North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros will be expected from the player in the rink, the home, school and the community.

A successful hosting and billeting experience is truly rewarding for both the Billet Family and the Player through the formation of a unique connection that lasts a lifetime. Billet Families and their Players often stay in contact long after the Player finishes playing. Any young player who has played away from home will tell you that some of their fondest memories include their Billet Families and vice versa!

**Guidelines:**

The North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros consider Billet Families part of the team who play a key role in the development of their billeted players and who represent a rewarding hockey program. Agreeing to act as the Billet Family is a great responsibility and the Billet Family, the family of the Player (Player Family) and the Player each need to understand their obligations and expectations with respect to each other.

To ensure the experience is successful, The North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros are providing suggested guidelines for Billet Families, Player Families and Players. Please note that these are simply guidelines to assist the Billet Families and Player Families in determining the rules, responsibilities and expectations that they will follow, and it is solely up to the families to determine the scope, extent and content of such rules, responsibilities and expectations. Each of the Billet Families, Player Families and Players understand that The North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros are not responsible for the actions or inactions of any of the Billet Families, Player Families and Players.

**Length of Stay**

• The players will arrive mid-August and will be here until the season ends.

**General Rules**

• Billet fees are due on the 1st of every month. If a player is cut/traded prior to the 7th of the month they will receive $300 reimbursement from the billet family. Anything after the 7th there is no reimbursement. All payments need to be made directly to the billet family.

• No more than two (2) players should be housed with the Billet Family. This may change depending on circumstances.

• All adults living in the household of the Billet Family will have undergone background screening in accordance with the policies of USA Hockey and must complete Safe Sport training prior to the Player moving in with the Billet Family.

**The Billet Family will:**

• Provide the Player with a safe, fun, healthy, fair, and inclusive family environment at all times.

• Comply at all times with these terms and the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

• Ensure that the Player attends school regularly and is provided the time and a suitable place to complete all school’s assignments. (If applicable)

• Provide the Player with a bedroom. They may be sharing a room with another teammate.

• Treat the Player’s belongings with care and respect.

• Mandatory curfew of 11pm for the Player during weekdays.

• Ensure that the Player does not stay overnight at another location or the Player does not have a person stay over at the Billet Home without the consent of the Billet family during weekdays.

• Provide the Player with food for 3 full, healthy meals a day and accessible snacks (which includes accommodating any dietary restrictions of the Player). Meals may not always be prepared by billet family members.

• Provide laundry facilities for the Player (although, unless otherwise agreed by the Billet Family and the Player Family, the Player is responsible for his own laundry supplies).

• Maintain appropriate homeowners or renter’s insurance.

• Prior to the start of the billet, clearly and fully (i) describe the living arrangements and (ii) communicate the house rules to the Player and the Player Family.

• Respect the individuality, privacy, and beliefs of thePlayer.

• Not engage in any form of discrimination or harassment towards the Player or towards any other people in the presence or to the knowledge of the Player.

• Abide by a strict no drug, alcohol and tobacco policy (meaning that no illicit drugs will be given to or be used around the Player, no prescription drugs will be given to the Player unless prescribed by a doctor and with the permission of the Team Trainer (Madison), and no alcohol will be given to the Player).

• Communicate regularly with the Player and the Player Family, and immediately inform the Coaches and Player Family of any concerns or issues that may arise.

• Acknowledge that the Player Family may make unscheduled check-in phone calls from time to time.

• Acknowledge that the Player Family is entrusting them with a great responsibility and use their best efforts to comply with this agreement and any other agreements or terms reached between the Player Family and the Billet Family.

**The Player will (and the Player Family will ensure that the Player will):**

• Pay for their own cell phone, including long-distance calls.

• Obtain prior approval for bringing any guests into the Billet Family’s home.

• Keep his room or living space tidy and clean, and clean up after himself in the home.

• Participate regularly in family chores.

• Attend school, study hard and maintain good grades.

• Remember that billeting is a privilege, and not a right.

• Abide by the Billet Family’s house rules, including the mandatory curfew. Remember: The player is responsible to adapt to the Billet Family Household.

• Respect the individuality, privacy, and beliefs of each member of the Billet Family.

• Not engage in any form of discrimination or harassment towards any member of the Billet Family or towards any other people in the presence or to the knowledge of the Billet Family.

• Not drive Billet Family vehicles without automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, and documentation and approval of the Player Family and Billet Family.

• Inform the Billet Family of any special dietary, medical or other requirements.

• Inform the Billet Family in a timely manner if he plans to miss a meal.

• Not stay overnight at another location without the consent of the Coaching Staff.

• Refrain from any substance use (drugs, alcohol, or tobacco).

• Communicate regularly with the Billet Family, and immediately inform the Billet Family of any concerns or issues that may arise.

• Comply at all times with these terms and the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

**The Player Family will:**

• Acknowledge that the Billet Family is taking on a great responsibility and use their best efforts to assist and cooperate with the Billet Family as much as possible in accordance with this agreement and any other agreements or terms reached between the Player Family and the Billet Family.

• Not hold the Billet Family liable for injuries or accidents that may occur (including at games, in practices, at home, at school, or on-route to these places) if the Billet Family has complied with its obligations under this Agreement or has not otherwise acted negligently or in bad faith in the performance of those obligations.

• Comply at all times with these terms and the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. The above guidelines are for the protection and benefit of the Billet Family, the Player Family, and the Player. Although we understand the above list is not inclusive of every situation, we expect that any question or situation that arises will be communicated between the Billet Family, Coaches and the Player Family and Player immediately. We also encourage the Billet Family and the Player Family to discuss and agree, up front and on a regular basis on any other terms and conditions for the billeting arrangement. The goal is not only to develop good hockey players, but good individuals/citizens, and your efforts in this area are crucial.

**Resolution of Conflicts:**

• The Billet family is responsible for the initial attempt to resolve violation of house rules/conflict.

• Any issues that need assistance in resolving need to be directed to the Billet Coordinator. NAHL North Iowa Bulls Denise Williams or NA3HL Tara Bissig

• There may be times when a Billet family and a player are simply not compatible by no fault of the individuals themselves. At those times, the Billet family or player may contact the Housing Coordinator and Coach to remove the player from the existing home.

**Waiver and Release**

The Billet Family, the Player Family and the Player each understand and agrees that The North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros (i) makes no warranties or representations of any kind as to the suitability or fitness of the Player or the Billet Family, (ii) will not have legal custody of the Player at any time, including during the billeting period, (iii) will not monitor or oversee the activities of the Player while billeting with the Billet Family and (iv) is not liable or responsible in any way for any action or inaction of, or damages or liabilities caused by, the Billet Family, the Player Family or the Player. In addition, the Billet Family, the Player Family and the Player each understand and agree that (a) the billeting arrangement is solely a matter for agreement between the Billet Family and the Player Family, (b) it is the sole responsibility of the Player Family to determine the suitability of the Host Family, and (c) it is the sole responsibility of the Billet Family to determine the suitability of the Player. Accordingly, each of the Billet Family, the Player Family and the Player hereby release and discharge North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros from, and waive any action against The North Iowa Bulls/Mason City Toros in respect of, any loss, damage, injury, liability or expense that may be incurred or suffered by any of the Billet Family, the Player Family or the Player directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in any way arising out of the billeting arrangement agreed between the Billet Family and the Player Family.

**Questions/Concerns**: (Contact the following individuals either by phone or email)

| **North Iowa Bulls Office** | 100 S Federal Phone: (641) 423-4625 (GOAL)  Suite #118  Mason City, IA 50401 |
| --- | --- |
| **Head Coaches &**  **Assistant Coaches** | NAHL - Nick Bruneteau - Head Coach  Email: [nbruneteau@northiowabulls.com](mailto:nbruneteau@northiowabulls.com)  NA3HL - Mark Hicks  Email: [mhicks@masoncitytoros.com](mailto:mhicks@masoncitytoros.com)  NA3HL - Tommy Adams  Email: [tadams@masoncitytoros.com](mailto:tadams@masoncitytoros.com) Phone: 763-267-2066 |
| **NAHL Billet Coordinator**  **NA3HL Billet Coordinator** | Denise Williams Phone: 641-425-5533  Email: billet@northiowabulls.com  Tara Bissig 641-430-8230  Email: billet@masoncitytoros.com |

****

**Billet Family Program & Guidelines Signatures**

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Last Name First Name

Player Signature Date

Host Family Signatures Player Family Signatures

Host Family Parent #1 Signature Date Player Family Parent #1 Signature Date

Host Family Parent #2 Signature Date Player Family Parent #2 Signature Date