

BILLETING POLICY

It is recognized that some youth and junior hockey players leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents.

Having Minor Athletes live outside their homes increases risk for abuse and misconduct to occur.

“Billeting” means an arrangement where a Minor Athlete lives away from his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) in a private family residence arranged or coordinated by a Member Program (or USA Hockey) and meeting the requirements described in this Policy.

“Billet” refers to the host adult(s) and family with whom the athlete lives.

Billeting arrangements do not include housing arrangements in which the host adult or family is related to the Minor Athlete or otherwise has a Dual Relationship with the Minor Athlete or where the housing is arranged privately by the parents/legal guardians of the Minor Athlete. Billeting also does not include group housing arrangements such as a dormitory, apartment, or hotel or similar residential dwellings that are not operated by the Member Program.

All organizations and teams that arrange for players to live with billet families shall have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement.

All billeting policies and procedures shall be provided to the player’s parents in advance of placing the player with the billet and shall meet the following requirements:

- Billet families and the player and player’s parents shall all sign an agreement with the Member Program and/or team that they consent to the billeting arrangement, acknowledge that the adults in the billet household are considered Adult Participants as defined in this Safe Sport Program Handbook, and that they will comply with the terms and conditions of the Billeting Policy, the SafeSport Code and the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook.

The billet agreement shall include information on completing applicable training and how a player, parent or billet can make a report of misconduct.

- If required by the jurisdiction where the player is billeted, the player’s parents shall sign and provide a power of attorney and/or guardianship (as necessary by applicable state law) to the billet family adults to allow for them to make emergency medical and schooling decisions.

- Each Member Program or team that billets players shall have a SafeSport Trained and background screened billet coordinator who shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Billeting Policy, the SafeSport Code and all USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies.

- No more than two billeted players may be housed with any one billet family. At the Junior level, there may be exceptions to the number of billeted players permitted in one billet home if approved by the applicable Junior league, however approval should only be granted when necessary.
- Absent an emergency, or unless a Dual Relationship exception applies and the team has obtained the necessary consent, coaches may not host or billet athletes who play on the coach's team. It is strongly recommended that team/program owners, management and staff (except the billet coordinator) do not host or billet athletes. Emergency situations should be documented and kept with the Member Program.
- Minors must be placed with a billet family and may not reside in an apartment or home solely with other players. This includes homes, apartments or hotels used as a "dormitory" unless the housing is offered in conjunction with and authorized by a school that is accredited or sanctioned by the state school system.
- All adults living in the household of the billet family must be registered with USA Hockey, screened in accordance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy, and must complete the SafeSport Training in compliance with Section II. Proof that these requirements have been met must be received by the team's billet coordinator prior to the player moving in with the family. 28 | USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook Revised 12/31/2024
- Adherence to the limitations on one-on-one interactions between an adult Billet and a Minor Athlete should be practiced whenever possible but may not always be practical in all situations in a billet household. For instance, such interactions may be unavoidable in "common" areas of the household such as living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms. However, there shall be no one-on-one interactions between the adult Billet and a Minor Athlete in any "private" areas of a billet home, including any bedroom, bathroom, or any other similar "private" area. The billet athlete's parent/ legal guardian must provide written consent annually prior to the Minor Athlete moving into the billet home that addresses any such one-on-one interactions. That written consent must be kept with the billet coordinator for the duration of the consent.
- It is strongly recommended that all billet families be two-parent homes. Single parent billet families may be acceptable if there are two players billeting in the home and the organization or team takes additional reasonable steps to regularly monitor the billeting arrangement and its compliance with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies.
- The Member Program or team shall have a mandatory curfew for all billeted players. The host family may have an earlier curfew.

- Players must agree to comply with the house rules of the billet families, including curfews, chores/ cleaning, telephone usage, etc. Complaints about unusual rules shall be addressed with the Member Program/team billet coordinator.
- Players shall not stay overnight at any other home except with the permission of the player's parents and advance notification to the billet family and Member Program or team billet coordinator.
- Players are not to drive billet family vehicles without automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, and documentation and approval of the billet family.
- The Member Program's/team's billeting policy shall include requirements that, annually and prior to the placement of the player in the billet home, the billeted player must take the course titled "SafeSport for Youth Athletes (Ages 13-17)" and that player's parents/legal guardians must take the course titled "Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sports," both offered free of charge by the Center. The billeted player is not required to take this training if the player is already required to take the Core SafeSport Training as described in Section II.
- The policy shall also require that the parent/guardian of the billeted player provide the required written consents for transportation by the adults in the host family.
- The policy shall also require that the billet family maintain appropriate homeowner's/renter's insurance.
- Players living with a billet family shall be permitted to make regular check-in phone calls to parents. Team personnel and billets shall allow for any unscheduled check-in phone calls between the player and parents.
- The billet coordinator should schedule monthly calls with the billet parents and the billeted player's parents/legal guardians and/or monthly visits to each billet home.