

# Fresno Monsters Hockey Team

## Billet Family Handbook 2011-2012



# Conduct and Expectations

## I. Billet Family Stipend/Benefits

- A) **Payment:** Families who host a player will be paid a stipend of \$250.00 per month per player (or \$8.66 per day) by the Fresno Monsters office, not from the player directly.
- B) **Season Tickets:** Two season tickets per billeted player will be provided to each family for admission to all Fresno Monsters home games.
- C) **Discounted Merchandise:** 10% discount on Fresno Monsters merchandise.
- D) **Other Benefits:** Billet families may receive other various gifts and benefits from time to time related to the Fresno Monsters Hockey Team.

## II. What the Billet Family Provides

- A) **Room:** Billet families provide a private bedroom for the player. Players should not be housed in a room with younger members of the billet family. The billet home should be clean and organized.
- B) **Board:** Basic meals and general toiletries including shampoo, toothpaste, soap, etc. are provided for the players by the billet family.
- C) **Monitoring of Behavior:** Billet families assist the Fresno Monsters management by ensuring that each player complies with the Fresno Monsters rules and regulations. In addition, billet families may impose additional rules to fit their lifestyle.

## III. Things the Billet Family Does 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 in an erratic schedule. Players must eat what is considered to be a reasonable menu and should conform to the meal schedule of the billet family as best as possible.
- B) **Non-Essential Items:** The purchase of non-essential items by the players is not the financial responsibility of the billet families. Players must purchase things like cologne, magazines, medications, etc. on their own.
- C) **Transportation:** Players are required to provide their own transportation. However, if a billet family chooses to provide transportation, it is highly recommended that the player is not allowed to drive a billet family vehicle. If a player is allowed to drive a billet family vehicle, the family should verify insurance coverage for the player with their insurance agency in advance.
- D) **Long Distance Telephone:** Players are prohibited from using the billet family telephone for long distance calls. Each player must utilize a personal cell phone or provide a calling card if using a billet family phone for long distance purposes.
- E) **Electronics:** Billet families are not required to place televisions, telephones, stereos, computers, or any other electronic equipment in the player's room. If the family has a television in that room and wishes to leave it there for the player's use, that is acceptable. However, it is not required.

#### IV. Housing

A) **Arrival:** Each year players will arrive in mid-August/early September at a date dependent upon the preseason practice required to prepare for the game schedule. This also allows sufficient time for high school and college student enrollment. Billet compensation begins for the first full month of the player's residency.

B) **Breaks:** The breaks are dependent on the NAHL or WSHL game schedule and usually only allow players to return to their parents' home once or twice during the season, usually in late December for the holidays.

C) **Billet Family Absences:** Players shall not be left alone without adult supervision overnight. If a billet family has vacation plans that will result in an overnight absence, the please contact the billet coordinator to place the player in temporary housing until the billet family returns.

D) **Female Visitors:** Girlfriends or female companions shall not be permitted to stay overnight in the billet home when visiting a player. Players shall not be allowed to reside with girlfriends or female companions at other homes or other accommodations.

E) **Departure:** Housing continues through the end of the season which may last through April. Some high school or college students may request housing through the end of the school year. Agreement to house a player for that extended time will be verified with the billet family before they take a student player into their home. Compensation for families after the end of the season must be agreed upon between the player's parents and the billet family. The Monsters will not collect or disburse funds for periods outside the hockey season.

#### V. Billet Family Changes

A) **Roster Changes:** The Fresno Monsters roster may change throughout the year due to player trades, cuts, injury, or other unforeseen circumstances. In those cases, the player will be removed from the billet family home within 48 hours of notification of the roster change. The billet family will be notified of any changes by the Monsters office, who will discuss the possibility of housing a replacement player in the home.

B) **Billet Family Requests:** The Fresno Monsters management puts great effort into placing players in the homes of families with which they will be compatible. 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 a player and his billet family are simply not compatible by no fault of the individuals themselves. In addition, there are situations where the billet family's lifestyle may have an unexpected change. At those times, the billet family may simply contact the billet coordinator and the Monsters office to remove the player from their home and/or arrange a player change.

#### VI. Billet Family Information

A) **Background Checks:** The Fresno Monsters are required to conduct background checks on all adults living in a billet family home. The adults will be asked to fill out a screening release form. That information is then compared with a government database to ensure that the players are placed in a safe environment. All information obtained during this process will remain strictly confidential between the Fresno Monsters management and the adults within the billet family home. No additional information or effort beyond completion of the screening release form is required on the part of the billet family to finalize the background check.

B) **Family Information:** In order to place the most compatible player with each billet family, both the player and the billet family submit information forms to the Monsters office. As player selections are made, the forms are compared to find the player most suitable for each billet family home. In most cases, the players will come from compatible situations which results in limited adjustment for the players and the families.

## VII. Drug and Alcohol Use

- A) No illicit drugs may be provided to or used around any player.
- B) No prescription drugs may be provided to any player unless prescribed by a doctor.
- C) No alcohol may be provided to any player.

## VIII. General Conduct and Consequences

A) Billet families should provide each player with a positive experience during the player's stay in Fresno. In the event there are issues that arise regarding a person other than the player that affects the player or living situation, please contact the billet coordinator or the Monsters office immediately. Please do not discuss such matters with the players or other billet families.

B) Behavior deemed inappropriate and/or in violation of this conduct and expectations agreement will be subject to review by the Monsters' general manager and/or head coach and subject to appropriate discipline up to and including losing billet home status.

## IX. Miscellaneous Information

A) **High School Age Students:** If the Fresno Monsters take a high school age student, we are required by the school district to have the billet family take guardianship of that player during the season. The guardianship is simply for entry into school only and does not subject the family to any legal liability.

B) **Curfew Calls:** All players are required to call the assistant coach before curfew every evening. Those calls are required to be made from the billet family home telephone. If you do not have a home telephone, please indicate the phone from which the call will be made. Any requested change in curfew must be approved by the head coach, assistant coach, or billet coordinator. Billet families shall be notified by the billet coordinator or coach of any curfew changes.

C) **Reference Checks:** The Fresno Monsters do request character references for all players before they are selected for the team. From this process, in most cases we are able to determine the behavior of the player in advance. No player, who is deemed to be a behavior risk, is rostered with the team. If at any time a player is determined to have a behavior problem, he is immediately released from the team and removed from the billet home.

D) **Discussion Items for the Billet Family and Player:** Each house will have different arrangements for the player. Some will provide bed linens while others will not. Some provide access to a family computer while others do not. Parking arrangements will also vary for each residence. Some families have specific meal times while others are more sporadic. Families and players should discuss these types of issues before the player's arrival.

E) **Communication:** In addition to keeping communications open between you and your player and between you and the Monsters organization, talking with the player's parents is vital. Continual contact and communication with your player's parents is highly encouraged.

### **X. Player/Billet Family Introductions**

Information about the player will be provided to the billet family prior to his arrival. This usually occurs approximately 1 to 2 weeks before his arrival but can vary throughout the season. The player and family are encouraged to talk by phone or communicate via email to discuss arrival times and other issues (for example, some players may question whether they need their own linens or if those are provided by the family. Others may want to know if a television is in their room or if you feel it would be appropriate for them to bring one, etc.)

### **XI. Applying to House a Player**

Families interested in housing a player or players for the upcoming season should call the Monster office at 559-445-8142 or email [jjohnson@fresnomonsters.com](mailto:jjohnson@fresnomonsters.com). We ask that all interested families fill out a billet application form and fax, email, mail, or hand deliver it to our office.

We hope that by providing this billet package to you, the rules of conduct expected from the billet and the players both at the arena and off the ice will be clearly outlined. The information in this package is provided in an effort to make the billet experience a positive one while you provide the rich, nurturing environment for the players of our club.

Billet families are also expected to behave in a way that is conducive to promoting a positive and moral example. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this package or issues surrounding the billeting process, don't hesitate to contact the billet coordinator or the Monsters office.

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Fresno Monsters Office: 559-445-8142  
Physical Address: 700 M Street | Fresno, CA 93721  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25249 | Fresno, CA 93729

Jay Johnson, Billet Coordinator/WSHL Assistant Coach: 559-824-7825

Eric Ballard, GM/NAHL Head Coach: 970-481-3742

Andy Maher, NAHL Assistant Coach: 320-224-5243

Bryce Dale, WSHL Head Coach: 559-352-0905

Player(s) Phone Numbers:

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Player(s) Parents' Phone Numbers:

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