



**St. Louis Jr. Blues
Billet Handbook
2023-2024**



WELCOME TO BEING A ST. LOUIS JR. BLUES BILLET FAMILY!

On behalf of the St. Louis Jr. Blues organization, we would like to thank you for opening your home up to our player. Your support and understanding in their day-to-day activities is a vital part of our player's experience this season. While the focus here is on hockey development, we strive to make the player's time on our team a productive and memorable experience.

Your role is a diverse one; you serve as a friend, role model, counselor and extended family. While we hope your experience will be rewarding, please realize your role brings with it a great deal of responsibility. Your responsibility is not only to the players, but also to the St. Louis Jr Blues and the Affton Americans Hockey Club.

Coach Ocello and his staff will ask for your assistance in maintaining a consistent, easily-manageable environment for the players outside of the rink. The staff will encourage a team attitude without sacrificing individual character. There will be a difference in individual goals of a high school player versus that of a twenty-year-old and what their outside activities will be. However, they are all brought together as a team, to develop and be as successful as they can in hockey.

It is the purpose of the manual to provide guidelines for you to use and follow in assisting the St. Louis Jr. Blues in having a successful season. Many of the policies and suggestions are from the experience of the host families in various NA3HL cities as well as past billet families for our team.

Our billeting families have had many positive experiences with our players; this handbook explains our policies and procedures so that we can help make this experience as great as possible.

A billet family provides:

- A "home away from home" environment
- Housing and meals for the players
- Influence and guidance for an elite athlete
- A bedroom or private area of the house with access to full bathroom facilities

As a Billet family you will receive:

- A monthly billet fee of \$400 per player
- Free game tickets for home season games for each family member still living at home
- A big brother for any younger children in the home
- The opportunity to forge a lasting relationship with the player

We are always looking for potential billet families and our current families are our best reference! If you know anyone interested in billeting a player this hockey season, please send us a recommendation or have them contact us. We would be more than happy to discuss any aspects of billeting with them and hopefully welcome them to the St. Louis Jr. Blues family.

BILLET FEE

Each player will pay a \$400 billet fee to the billet family by the 15th of each month for each month the player is living with the family (typically, August-March). This monthly fee will be paid directly from the player to the billet family. Should the need arise, team management will assist in collecting billet fees from a player. All checks, though, will be written directly from player to host family.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

All St. Louis Jr. Blues players, coaches and team personnel will represent the organization's high standards both on and off the ice. As official members of the St. Louis Jr. Blues, our players are role models for younger players and youth in the community and we expect them to behave accordingly.

- Girlfriends may visit ONLY if allowed by the host family and must leave at CURFEW. Under NO circumstance are girlfriends allowed to stay overnight at host family's home.
- Use of alcohol or drugs is not allowed and not to be served at any time by host family.
- Students enrolled in high school or college classes are expected to attend class and maintain passing grades in all of their subjects.
- Players must attend scheduled practices and required meetings. If it is necessary to miss a practice or a meeting, permission must be given by the head coach in advance.
- The locker rooms both on the road and at home rinks are to be cleaned.
- Stealing will not be tolerated.
- Hazing, which is the harassing of other players with meaningless, difficult, or humiliating task, is not acceptable.
- Adherence to the dress code is required on game days.
- Players are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.

Academic or Work Involvement

The St. Louis Jr. Blues coaching staff requires that each player be involved in school, work or both. Players who are enrolled in school are expected to attend classes and to maintain passing grades. Players who have graduated from high school will be responsible for registering for college and/or finding a part time job upon arrival to St. Louis.

St. Louis Jr. Blues coaching staff will monitor academic and work performance. Not meeting expectations will prohibit a player from ice time.

Curfew

Experience tells us that no subject is more controversial than this one. No other element of your housing role will be as taxing on your responsibility as the team curfew. We realize that due to the age difference amongst the players, it is tempting to bend the rules when it comes to curfew. Please realize that Coach Ocello establishes curfew guidelines by what is best for the team, not the players. Curfew will be stressed to the players repeatedly throughout the season.

Curfew means:

- The player is home
- Friends and visitors have gone home
- The player is resting and preparing for bed to get the sleep necessary to stay healthy throughout the season

Curfew times are:

- Sunday-Thursday and evenings before all games: 11:00pm (CST)
- Friday-Saturday and after all games: 12:30am (CST)

Any curfew violations should be reported to Coach Ocello immediately. Billet families who allow their players to repeatedly miss curfew without reporting it will be eliminated from the Jr. Blues housing program.

Billet Family Vacation

If the host family has made plans to leave town, the player living in their home will be placed in temporary housing for the duration of the leave of absence. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Billet House Rules

Billeting players are expected to adapt to the activities and expectations of their host family. It is the player's responsibility to help with household duties as designated by the billet.

These duties include, but aren't limited to:

- keeping their rooms clean
- helping with meal preparation and clean up
- snow removal and reasonable lawn care
- any other duties that might arise

Situations of conflict should be brought to the attention of the billet coordinator should a solution not be reached between the billet and the player. It is the responsibility of the hosting billet to report any situations to the Billet Coordinator when a player's action is inappropriate (i.e. violation of curfew, alcohol consumption, disrupting the household, academic issues, etc.) It is the responsibility of the player to report any situation to the Billet Coordinator if they feel as if there are any problems in the billet house that need to be resolved.

Host families are urged to set up and keep house rules regarding chores, laundry, meals, dishes etc. Host families are expected to have discussions with the players regarding the house rules and players are expected to obey all rules.

Discrimination and Harassment

Discrimination or harassment is behavior that compromises the integrity of another person and is detrimental to morale, productivity, or personal well being. This may be presented in actions or remarks relating to sex, race, ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sexual orientation, handicap, or other ways which are intended to be intimidating, humiliating or malicious. Such behavior can have serious repercussions on the team environment, for the individuals involved and those around them.

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated by anyone involved with the St. Louis Jr. Blues hockey team. This includes players, coaches, other team personal and billet family members. All Blues players will treat the community and families with respect.

Dress and Game Night

Dress Code for all games will be: dress shoes, slacks, shirt, and tie. Any change in the above stated dress code and game night procedures will be granted only on the authority of the head coach.

All players not on the roster to play in the game must still attend the game and will need to assist with the game day duties. During the intermission all players must report to the locker room to provide help for the team or coaches.

Diet and Meals

All players are expected to maintain a healthy eating habit and have a well-balanced, high carbohydrate diet. Host families are suggested to have players involved in planning meals and selecting groceries for the home.

Players must notify host families in advance if they will not be at a meal. Players are not to bring unexpected guest to dinner. Players are not to have guests over for meals when the family is not home.

TRANSPORTATION

Most of our players have their own mode of transportation. Discuss parking arrangements at your home, particularly in the winter and snow conditions. Consider your city's parking regulations when you have this discussion (blocking sidewalks, snow removal regulations, etc.) The players will develop car pools to and from games and practices. Billet family cars should not be used by the player unless proper arrangements are made with the host family's insurance company.

END OF THE SEASON

The official season runs from September through March, however, the possibility of playoff games may extend the season through the end of March. The Billet Coordinator will notify all Billet Families of the official date of the end of the season.

Unless other arrangements are agreed upon by all parties, players should vacate their billet home within seven (7) days of the end of the season. Fees associated to extending the stay of the player with their Billet Family are to be worked out between the player and the family.

SUGGESTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR BILLET FAMILIES

Based on many years of experience and feedback from past Billet Families, here are some tips to being a successful Billet Family!

- Communication lies at the heart of a successful billeting experience. Talk to and listen to your player. Be clear about your expectations and try to understand his concerns. The rules of your family are likely different from the rules of his family. Don't let concerns & issues go unaddressed; if you have problems discuss them as soon as possible.
- The team will enforce team guidelines, but you need to enforce your house rules. The players may be big and fast, but they are still young and need guidance.
- The coach will do random curfew checks, but we need your help in enforcing these policies. Players are never allowed to stay out all night. Treat these young men as if they were your own; don't hesitate to enforce your rules.
- Players should eat a wholesome and balanced diet. Meals are important, and we appreciate that you are willing to work with your player to see if he has any special needs or preferences. If possible, a player should eat four (4) hours prior to a game. If you are not present to prepare a meal, arrangements should be made so that the player can eat or prepare a meal for himself.

We greatly appreciate your help. Our job is not just to develop hockey players, but also develop fine young men. These guidelines are not all carved in stone, but we hope they will provide general guidance. Once again, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or problems.

CONTACT INFORMATION

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Billet Coordinator	Kasey Kaiser	314-609-8127	kaseykaiser@live.com
Head Coach	Matt Ocello	636-259-6354	matt.ocello@stljrblues.org
General Manager	Scott Sanderson	314-306-1499	scott.sanderson@stljrblues.org

BILLET HANDBOOK ACCEPTANCE

RESPONSIBLE PARTY	SIGNATURE	DATE
Player		
Player Parent* <i>*If player is under 18, parent or guardian signature is required</i>		
Billet Family		
Billet Coordinator		
Head Coach		

PLAYER INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the attached page and submit it to the St. Louis Jr. Blues Billet Coordinator. The Billet Coordinator will distribute copies to the Billet Family and the Head Coach.

ST. LOUIS JR. BLUES BILLET PLAYER INFORMATION FORM

PLAYER INFORMATION			
Player Name:		Date of Birth:	
Player Cell:		Player Email:	
PARENT INFORMATION			
Parent 1 Name:		Parent 1 Name:	
Parent 1 Phone:		Parent 2 Phone:	
Parent 1 Email:		Parent 2 Email:	
PLAYER MEDICAL INFORMATION			
Known Medical Conditions:			
Current Medications:			
Known Allergies:			
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT THAN PARENT LIST ABOVE)			
Name:		Phone:	Relationship:
Name:		Phone:	Relationship:
PLAYER MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION			
Medical Insurance Company:			
ID #:		Group #:	
PLAYER DENTAL INSURANCE INFORMATION			
Dental Insurance Company:			
ID #:		Group #:	