



Host Family Meeting

May 14, 2018

5:30pm-Bismarck Municipal Ballpark

Season Tickets & Perks

As a Host Family, your immediate household receives season tickets with the team at no cost. NWL league rules allow all season ticket holders, including host families, a free General Admission Ticket at all NWL ballparks. Please see below for package options and perks

- 2 full season reserved tickets in the bleacher Host Family Section
- 4 half season reserved tickets in the bleacher Host Family Section
- Each family will receive a Larks Host Family Gold Card for 25% off Larks merchandise AND concession stand items with valid ID (limit 1 per family, and it includes beer). Exclusions apply to sales items and concession items with promotions.
- Keep the 2 full season or 4 half season general admission tickets (\$864 value) and receive 2 free meal coupons for **one time** use to the tailgate area
- Each host family member to receive a 2018 host family t-shirt or woman's tank top (sizing needed by April 1st)
- FREE Admission to any NWL ballpark all season
- FREE subscription to NWL streaming service-catch all home and away games online or via mobile app

Want to upgrade your seating package? See below for options:

- (2) Larks 28 game package bleacher seats OR (4) Larks 14 game package bleacher seats- includes all you can eat ballpark food, soda, water for only \$225. Also, receive 5 FREE gifts, including jersey, hat, and bobble head.
- (2) Larks 28 game package OR (4) Larks 14 game package, but **box seats**-includes all you can eat ballpark food, soda, water for only \$450. Also, receive 5 FREE gifts including jersey, hat and bobble head.

- If a host family ever needs to switch out tickets, they need to let the Larks Office know in advance as box seats may NOT be available due to sellout
- These seats will be assigned as close to the Larks dugout as possible

Additional Events/Activities:

- The Larks will host a themed potluck after every Sunday home game (6 total for the season). We ask the host families to provide a dish to share for the team and their host families. This is one of the favorites of players, as there is nothing like home cooking during the season. It also provides an opportunity to meet the other host families and their players along with the Larks front office (see below for further information)
- Host Family Appreciation Day-Come and be recognized, as we certainly could not do it without you! Host Family Day will be held at the Larks home game on July 29th prior to the game

Expectations

1. Provide player(s) with their own room and bed.
2. At a minimum, provide a place for players to do laundry.
3. Have basic food available for your player. For example, breakfast cereal, milk, bread, sandwich items, grab and go items such as granola bars, fruit snacks, frozen pizza etc.
4. Provide your player(s) with clear expectations and house rules from the beginning. If problems arise, communicate with your host family coordinator.
5. Have fun! Interact with your player! Get to know them. Our players and families usually develop life long bonds.

Player Arrivals

Many times players will drive their own vehicles to town each summer. Other times, players will fly into town. We ask that you coordinate with your player on how they are getting to town and be available to pick them up from the airport if this is the case. If there is absolutely no way for you to pick up your player, please contact your host family coordinator and we look to coordinate something to make sure this is taken care of.

Alcohol

Many of our players are under the age of 21. Because of this and in an effort to be clear and direct, our organization **does not** allow Host Families to provide alcohol to players regardless of age. Players above the age of 21 are legally able to drink alcohol and purchase on their own.

Issues

99% of the time, our families have an extremely positive experience with their players. If an issue does arise, we ask that you communicate this to your player immediately to give them a chance to correct any issue. If issues continue to arise or an issue requires immediate attention, please contact our front office, email John Bollinger, team General Manager, or communicate with the Host Family Coordinator.

Out of Town

If you plan to be out of town and have concerns with leaving your player alone with your household, please contact the Host Family Coordinator so a plan may be put in place while you are away.

Pot Lucks

Each year, we designate a day of the week for Host Family Pot Lucks for our families to get together to enjoy, talk with players and staff and celebrate a win (hopefully). All we ask is that you provide a dish that our players can enjoy. Anything to break up the pizzas, and fast food that sometimes they receive. You are NEVER required to do so, only partake if you like. We will provide food as well on these nights.

Temporary Players

Every year we bring in temporary players that will fill in for full time players until they arrive. These players are guaranteed 10 days to play with us and can only be considered temporary players until July 1 when they must be either released or made into a full time contract player. These players are meant to hold the spot for our full time players that might be playing in the College World Series. Because of this, we ask that you are willing to house a temporary player in your home until your designated full time player arrives. Many times these things are found out last minute so we ask that you work with us as we find these things out.

Other “Stuff”

- Our Host Families are our top fans. Because of this, we value your opinions. We encourage you to inform us on issues, ways to improve as well as what fans like.
- Our offices are always open to discuss anything that you have on your mind, so please feel free to stop by at any time.
- As you know, households change, people move, rosters increase, etc. Therefore, we always seem to be looking for 1-2 host families each year. We encourage you to invite friends and family members to jump on board and join us in the tremendous program

Contacts

Erin Green, Host Family Coordinator

eringreengrom@yahoo.com

Cell-612-327-5879

John Bollinger, General Manager
bismarckbaseballisback@gmail.com
Office-701-595-7522
Cell- 314-740-1375

HOST FAMILY/PLAYER GUIDELINES/ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Host Families will be expected to provide:

- A clean, safe, smoke-free and pleasant environment, including a bedroom for the player staying with them.
- Reasonable use of bathroom and laundry facilities
- Meals or food available for breakfast, lunch and supper (when team is in town)

Players will be expected to:

- Keep their room in a clean and orderly fashion. Players will be held responsible for any household damages they cause
- Provide their own health and personal care items
- Be appreciative, courteous, helpful and pleasant to their hosts
- Minimize the noise level of activities, including comings and goings, so as not to unduly disturb their host family
- Pay for their own expenses out of their own money (charge long distance calls to a pre-purchased calling card or use a cell phone)

All host family/player relationships substantially differ from player to player. Each player should sit down upon meeting their host family as the designated meeting set by the organization to discuss the following issues:

1. Arrangements regarding food needs other than the meals the host family chooses to provide player
2. How to handle late night arrivals from games (IE use of back doors, late night showers, etc.)
3. Guidelines relating to having friends or family members over to host family's home, including friends spending the night (also guidelines on female guests) and meals for guests. Some host families do not mind this, while others do
4. Laundry usage
5. Particular rules for times when the host family is out of town
6. For players legally of age to drink (21 and over), guidelines regarding alcohol in the host family home
7. Any other issue of importance to either the player or the host family

***** If the host or player is not happy with the living arrangements, or if there is any dispute, please contact the Host Family Coordinator so that she can handle any issues.*****

Host families take a player into their homes over the course of ten weeks during the season. Players arrive during the last week of May and generally stay through the second week of August, at the latest. We ask that you provide breakfast and/or lunch items daily as the Team provides all players with a pre-game meal before all home and away games.

The ideal numbers of players per host family is two, although one is great as well. All of our players provide their own transportation. We are looking for host families willing to commit to the entire season. Be aware that players will often return very late from games (as late as midnight). Keep in mind these will be college students between the ages of 18-21.

These players are rising stars who all have ambitions to play Major League Baseball. You, as a host family, will play a big part in their success in Bismarck and in their careers as baseball players. The better the 'home' environment, the better the player's experience and performance. Players are recruited through their college baseball coaches, and all of them have agreed to maintain impeccable moral standards, abide by NCAA guidelines, and be a role model for our fans. If any player's actions, on or off the field, are not congruent with the Northwood League's standards, we will ask them to pack their bags and return home. We believe that living in a family's home is a privilege that the players should respect and appreciate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are we expected to provide the player as a host family?

A: Their needs are relatively simple: a private room, access to a bathroom and a laundry room (they will need to use showers and laundry facilities), food or meals, a place to park a car, and a family to cheer them on.

Q: Will the player have a car? If not, will we be expected to drive him places?

A: About two-thirds of the players have their own car. Players who do not have cars are strategically housed close to players who do have cars, so their teammates can give them rides. We do not expect host families to drive our players around.

Q: We would like to host a player, but we are leaving town for vacation for two weeks, and do not feel comfortable leaving the player alone in our home. Is it possible to still participate?

A: We would prefer not to have players move once they have settled in with a family. However, there are times when host families are going on vacation at separate times, and they share a player that way. If we can match you with another family in this way, it might be possible for you to host this summer. Or if two families have vacations planned they can cover for each other by taking in their player during the vacation and then the other family can reciprocate.

Q: My son is a catcher. We would love to have a catcher stay with us. Is it possible to request a certain position player?

A: Because of the sometimes complicated logistics of placing players with allergies into pet-free families, locating players with and without cars close to each other, and placing returning players with their old

families, it is not always possible to honor these types of requests, but we will do our best to make it happen if at all possible.

Q: We have three cats. Do you make sure that players do not have pet allergies?

A: We ask about allergies and whether host families have pets, and try to make sure that allergic players are not housed with animals they cannot be around.

Q: What happens if there is a problem with the placement?

A: We have not had many problems with placements. Team players appreciate host families' hospitality, and generally behave as guests in your home. If there are any problems, we ask that you contact the host family coordinator, who will work to try to resolve it with the player. If the problem is major, we will remove him immediately.

Q: Will players be using our phones? We do not want to get late-night phone calls!

A: Players bring their cell phones and use them exclusively for their phone calls.

Q: I am really hoping that we can host a player who will help our son with his baseball skills. Is this possible?

A: All host family situations are unique, and your player and your son could certainly have that kind of relationship. However, you should keep in mind that Team players are extremely busy. They play 5 or more games a week. Some players do not interact as much with their host family as others do.

Q: What rules are there about drinking and using drugs?

A: Drugs are strictly forbidden, as is underage drinking, although some players are over 21 and can legally drink. However, even if your player is over 21, feel free to establish your home as a no-drinking zone, and please do not give underage players alcohol.

In past years, host family/player relationships differed substantially from player to player. We are asking that each host family sit down with their player within a few days of his arrival to discuss the following issues:

- Handling food/meals – many players fix their own breakfast and lunch but need food available. If the team is off the player is included in family mealtime. If the team is home discuss the best way to be sure player has a meal for suppertime (some like to eat before the game—others after). Discuss and find what works best for family and player. Some families cook late after the game for players and others take them out to eat while others prefer the player stop and get supper.
- How to handle late night arrivals (e.g., use of back doors, limitations on late-night showers, etc.). Because of the players' schedules, a curfew is not really workable. However, it is important that player arrivals and departures are handled in such a way that the host family isn't disturbed;

- Guidelines relating to having friends (girls also) over to the host family's home, including friends spending the night. This may be something that some host families won't mind, while others won't allow;
- Particular rules for times when the host family is away;
- For players of legal age to drink, guidelines regarding alcohol in the host family home.
- Any other issue of importance to either the player or the host family (i.e., reasons for hosting, enjoy getting to know the players and would like them to be involved in family activities when their schedule permits)