



## **INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS STAYING WITH HOST FAMILIES**

### **BE A “MEMBER”**

Spend some time every day interacting with family members, especially any children in the household. Families want to know that their efforts in providing you a temporary home are not wasted. You can be a “hero” and positive influence to a young child if you conduct yourself the right way. If you spend some time interacting with these kids, the parents and our organization will notice it. In a tactful way, you should also let them know there are times when you need to rest and “meditate” prior to games.

Plan to help cook, eat, and clean up with the family. They know there will be times when you will want to go out with teammates but there should be ample opportunity to be with your “family”.

### **GIRLFRIENDS**

No one is expected to give up their social lives during baseball season however it is NEVER appropriate for your girlfriend to spend the night with you while at your host family house. Only on the invitation of your host family may an out-of-town guest stay at the host family residence. If granted, sleeping in the same room as your girlfriend will not be allowed (it is disrespectful to your host family and not appropriate for their young children). If you must spend the night together, please obtain your own hotel room (and have the courtesy to notify your host parents).

### **GROUPIES**

Keep in mind that there will be young girls at most every game. A significant number of these girls will be underage. They enjoy watching the players and catching their attention. A good rule-of-thumb is: BE CAREFUL. These girls do not care about your playing career or college plans. A poor decision on your part will place everything you have worked for at risk. You should always be polite when approached but if you have trouble with their persistence, ask your host family or any member of the Board of Directors to “run interference”. As Mom’s and Dad’s....this is what we do!

### **FOOD**

The majority of host families may ask you what kind of food you like. Don’t just say “Oh, anything...”. They are trying to include you as a short-term member of the family. Be specific to give them some direction. They will not ask you to pay for it and are only trying to obtain information for grocery shopping. If you ask for something out of the ordinary, please offer to pay.

## **LAUNDRY**

It is the responsibility of each player to do their own laundry (unless the host family volunteers). You should ask how to operate the washer and dryer. Respect the rest of the family laundry times. Be aware of your uniform needs prior to each game day and plan ahead.

## **CURFEW**

The Joplin Outlaws Board of Directors has established a 1:30 am curfew time. Each player is to be at his host family home by that time. If a host family requests you be in earlier, please respect their wishes however it is NEVER appropriate to extend the time past 1:30 am if your host family doesn't specify OR they give you a later curfew. Always respect the time set by the Outlaws organization. The coaches and General Manager will be checking this periodically throughout the season. We realize there may be infrequent occasions necessitating a later time. Notifications to your coach and host family should be done at these times.

Curfews may seem juvenile to you at first. Professional baseball players also have curfews. Remember...you are here to play baseball and you cannot play your best when up excessively late the night before. Repeated violations of this will be cause to dismiss you from the team and be sent home.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Armed with a season schedule, host families should have some idea of your daily whereabouts. There will be times when you want to go with friends to eat, workout, or take a trip home on off days. Communicating with your host family will help to alleviate the tensions involved in not knowing where our players are. On arrival in Joplin, please swap phone numbers with your host family and ask about their "texting" skills. (We ALL know you have texting skills!)

The best advice we can offer is to stay in touch with your host family. They will appreciate it and it is common courtesy to do so.

## **ROUTINE**

Please have a conversation with your host family regarding your daily routine. This not only includes practice and game days but workouts, sleeping habits, shopping, etc. Keep them in the loop.

You should also learn your host families' routine such as work schedules, sleeping schedules, children's bedtimes, family activities and vacations, etc. This will help to alleviate the stress of learning each other's routines.

## **SLEEPING QUARTERS**

While no reasonable host parent expects you to make your bed each morning, they do expect a little decorum such as picking up your underwear, no spit cups or dirty dishes laying around, no mud-caked cleats in the house, and a bathroom left in such as state that the CDC will not have to be notified!

Ask your host parents what they expect in the way of bed linen changes.

## **ALCOHOL**

It is illegal in the state of Missouri for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase alcohol and we highly discourage anyone under 21 consuming alcohol. If you do plan to imbibe, please discuss this frankly with your host parents and ALWAYS respect their wishes.

It is NEVER appropriate, no matter what the circumstances, to drive a vehicle after drinking alcohol. The Joplin Outlaws assume NO responsibility for this and it will be a cause for dismissal from the team.

The Joplin Outlaws and its Host Family DO want you to have fun and feel like a part of all we stand for while you're here. There may be professional scouts at our games from time to time and they will be watching. Why jeopardize these opportunities with a poor decision?

