

Big Train Baseball Host Family Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: Big Train players usually work jobs (often at Big Train camp) during the day, and play games at night. Therefore, their needs are relatively simple: a private room, access to a bathroom and a laundry room (they'll need to use showers and laundry facilities daily), breakfast food in the morning, 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 in July, and don't 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.

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 don't have pet allergies?

A: We ask about allergies and whether host families have pets, and try to make sure that allergic players aren't housed with animals they can't be around.

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

A: We have not had many problems with placements. Big Train players appreciate host families' hospitality, and generally behave as guests in your home. If there is a minor problem, 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 don't want to get late-night phone calls!

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

Q: I'm 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 Big Train players are extremely busy. Most of them work daily, and 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. At the beginning of the season, we supply host families with a contract. Although we do ask players and families to sign that form, it really is a forum for families and players to frankly and honestly discuss the details and rules of a player's stay with that family.