

Your Decision to House a Honkers Ball Player

These are some thoughts you need to consider when Hosting a Honker for the summer. We are not looking for written answers, just asking you to review.

Some families look at this experience as a way to give back to the community, others a way to cope with the empty nest syndrome and yet others dream of going to the major leagues (just like the minor leaguers).

Whatever drives your decision...there are some things you need to consider/think about:

These are in no particular order – there are some questions to ask yourself and your family and some thoughts on the ‘experience’...

- The impact on you and your family!
- Ask yourself ... why am I (or my family) doing this?
- Are you willing to share your home with someone who doesn't look like you?
- Your expectations from the player(s) who shares your home
- Do you have a private room for them? What are the accommodations – be specific!!
- Communication is the key to a successful experience – family meetings, checking in with one another is always a good way to ensure there are no issues
- Your house rules...Are the rules for a player the same as your own kids? Different? How so?
- Young children will have to understand that the player is not there for their entertainment or play mate. They are working young men, just happen to work in baseball – which requires long hours. Help your children understand this and the experience will be a positive one.
- Will you expect them to keep their room clean? Will you allow eating and/or drinking in their room?
- Careful consideration of adopting a player(s) should be made if you have young girls' (ages 10 – 17) in your home.
- Know that your home expenses (e.g. electricity/water) will increase during the season. Do not think that because you have the air conditioner running that they won't open the windows!!! Or leave lights, the TV or fans on etc.
- Transportation – do you expect them to provide their own? Or are you willing to be the “chauffeur”? Will you let them use your car?
- Phone usage...time limit? Will you accept late phone calls? How late is late? Most players today have cell phones but if they've used up all their minutes, this may be a concern.
- Will they have kitchen privileges? Will you be upset if they don't want to share family meals with you? Will you cook for them? Who buys the food?
- In most cases you will be providing bed linen and towels for their use. Will you wash/change their sheets or expect them to do so?
- Will you allow them to use your washer and dryer?
- Will you allow girlfriends to come over? Stay over? Sleep in the same bedroom? What if they are engaged?

· The player(s) will be coming home late at night (e.g. 2am)...does this bother you? Will it upset your schedule? Will you give them a key to your home or leave the door open?

· The player(s) like to be alone at times...will you and your family members understand/respect this? They may or may not open up – will you be okay with this?

· Will you have a problem leaving them alone in your house?

· Will you have a problem if they bring friends into your home?

· Will you have a problem if they don't come home? Or don't call you to tell you they won't be home?

· Baseball is their job – and some days are good, others are bad. They are not out there “playing”, they are working and need support. Help teach your friends this, too – so they will understand. Respect them and don't tell them how to do their job (that's what coaches are for!)

· Know going in that there is no guarantee that they will be with you the entire season. It could be a few weeks, months or the entire season...baseball changes quickly, you need to be able to as well.

· Know also that they may or may not keep in contact with you after they leave. You are providing a service (opening your home) – while you open your heart as well, the player(s) may not feel the same way. There is no guarantee of a life long relationship – if it happens, cherish it!

· While you are not their parent, you may be called upon to help guide them in a particular situation...but don't get in their business unless asked. Will this be difficult for you?

· His family may come for a visit – and he may chose to stay with them in a nearby hotel – will you be okay with this? You may choose to offer your home while they visit. Don't be offended if they chose not to stay with you.

· Your values and the values of the player(s) may be different – work together to make it a positive experience for everyone.

· It is YOUR home.... Remember this - the player is there for a short period of time in your lifetime. You, your family and friends are there forever! Don't compromise your values because you think there may be a benefit in the future! Stay true to you