

## School Sport NT Accommodation Guidelines

1. **Billeting is the preferred accommodation option by School Sport NT and School Sport Australia for students who participate in Exchanges and Championships.**

Our rationale is based on the fact that school sport is “an education program through the medium of sport”. The billeting process maximises a range of learning opportunity, and unless one of the following is approved by School Sport NT, students will be placed with a family provided by the Cluster.

This process ensures Cluster team officials include students in all required activities, and that all students are given appropriate information.

A comprehensive Billeting Information Booklet is given to all students and families outlining expectations etc.

2. **Privately Arranged Billets:** In some cases students have family (eg Grandparents) or family friends living in the city/town where the Exchange/Championship is being hosted. It is possible to be billeted with them as a *privately arranged billet* providing the private family is aware of its responsibilities and the team officials know of this arrangement before billet requests have been allocated.

Should this be arranged it becomes the private billeting family’s responsibility to ensure that students are at venues/functions etc at times set by team officials or organisers. Cluster team officials are to ensure the private billet family has all appropriate information.

3. **Staying with Parents:** An increasing number of parents are now travelling to support their children in school sport events, and some choose to have their children stay with them. Should a parent now wish to pursue this type of accommodation for their child, they are required to obtain the relevant billet exemption from School Sport NT. The request must be in writing and will then be considered by School Sport NT Management Board.

Should permission be given, it then becomes the parent’s responsibility to ensure that their child is at all team activities at the times designated by the Manager.

Activities within the “Player Agreements” include:

- Scheduled games (including warm up/down times),
- Skill lessons,
- Mix and Match activities,
- Team social activities,
- Opening and closing ceremonies,
- Other activities determined by the coach and manager – a typical activity could be to remain as a team to observe a particular match.

A parent/guardian agreement form must be completed agreeing to the above conditions and signed by the parent/guardian.

The host cluster is expected to provide billets for all billet requests. The use of privately arranged billets is encouraged by both host and travelling clusters of billeting.

For a number of reasons, sometimes the preferred option of billeting is not viable and so alternative arrangements and therefore guidelines to accommodate these variations, need to be in place to ensure a fair, equitable and enjoyable learning experience for all students and team officials.

### **Variation 1:**

Travelling Cluster teams choosing not to accept the billeting option at an event for various reasons will be responsible for choosing their own type of accommodation and meeting those costs incurred. School Sport NT may assist with daily transport to and from the venue.

Some of the following reasons have been offered for not billeting in the past, and have been accepted and endorsed by School Sport NT.

- Students and officials travelling for the first time from remote communities
- Students with limited English and experience away from home
- Students with specific family links to a boarding school
- Students with particular cultural needs unable to be met through the usual billeting process
- Parents of children from a community who will only allow their students to travel away for the first trip if they are camped together
- Students/teachers travelling from their home and using our program as only one educational component of their trip and the living/staying together as another part of their educational experience

History has shown us that the same teams tend to use the same options and it works for them. All students recognize that if they make the interstate team, then billeting is the preferred option.

### **Variation 2:**

When School Sport NT requests that an event will need to have a camping component rather than the billeting option, the following will apply. (This may be because of location, availability of sufficient billets, and type of event).

- a) School Sport NT, along with the host cluster, will decide an all-inclusive budget (this will include, meals, transport to and from, entertainment, facilities) and a "camping levy" will be set for all participants.
- b) Competing cluster teams will need to be cognisant of the gender balance when camping.
- c) Sufficient notice must be given to all participating teams prior to selection of team officials, so as to ensure all successful team officials are aware of their responsibility.
- d) The host cluster will provide, prior to the event, a program of after hours activities, which will provide maximum opportunities for students which will provide information on the variation of supervision required by team officials. This may include rostered respite, movies, disco, cultural activities, videos, games nights, etc.

### **Variation 3:**

If a Cluster team request to be billeted, and 1 week prior to the teams departure the host Cluster is unable to provide the required number of billets, the host Cluster will notify the Executive Officer and the visiting team. After this notification, the following will apply.

#### **The host cluster will provide:**

- Accommodation at a school or other appropriate (as endorsed by School Sport NT) facility
- Gym mats to sleep on
- Access to shower and toilet facilities
- Respite for relief for team officials for at least 1 night at mealtime
- Respite relief for at least 1 other night for a minimum of 2 hours (suggested 7 – 9pm)
- All breakfasts at the host costs (this is to be a minimum of toast & spreads/cereal and milk, fruit juice/milk/milo)
- One of the evening meals at the host's cost (this may be cooked, barbi, takeaway or go out. It may be combined with respite time)
- Cooking facilities as reasonably requested by the visiting team
- Information regarding the bus routes & timetables for ease of transport after hours at visiting teams own cost
- Television, videos & CD playing facilities
- All utensils – plates, mugs, cutlery
- Tea and coffee and their facilities for adults only

#### **The visiting team will provide:**

- Pillow/sheets/sleeping bag if needed
- Provide 24 hour supervision at all other times other than specified previously for the host Cluster
- Lunches as per normal-Exchanges provide lunches and Championships provide canteens
- All other evening meals at visiting team costs
- Own videos, CD's etc.
- Own toiletries/towel

#### **Joint responsibilities:**

- Sleeping area vacated at agreed times
- Daytime storage area available if needed
- Shower/toilet facilities left clean & tidy after daily use
- Facilities/opportunities for washing uniforms
- Access to emergency phone

#### **School Sport NT:**

Will provide bussing to and from the event.