

Hyannis Harbor Hawks



2025

Host Family Handbook - - - Information and Guidelines

Housing Coordinator

Joanne Amerault

774-722-2262

housing@harborhawks.org

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns. Text messaging is the best way to reach me as I can answer even while I'm at work.

Welcome to the Hyannis Harbor Hawk family!

Thank you from everyone here at the Harbor Hawks organization! It takes many volunteers to make a season possible and host families are the backbone of it all. You are entrusted with the care and well-being of our players. The importance of providing a safe and comfortable place for our players during their time on the Cape is immeasurable. We are so very fortunate to have families that are willing to share their homes with our players each summer. The generosity of our host families is essential to the success of our team!

Mission Statement

The Hyannis Harbor Hawks Baseball Club is committed to help prepare their players for professional baseball while providing the most enjoyable summer experience possible.

Hyannis Harbor Hawks Contact Directory

President	Dan Johnson	508-776-8719	president@harborhawks.org
General Managers	Nick Johnson	818-419-7700	gm@harborhawks.org
	Mazdak Darvari	339-221-2544	
Team Treasurer	Barbara Scalzi	508-361-0182	

A directory of host families will be emailed to all host families at the start of the season and updated as needed.

Online Information

For team information, Schedules, Rosters and much more

Harbor Hawk/CCBL <https://www.capecodleague.com/hyannis>

Stream games <https://capeleaguetelevision.com/>
YouTube Hyannis Harbor Hawks

Social Media Facebook at Hyannis Harbor Hawks
Instagram at harborhawks

Reporting Date, Season and Playoffs

- Players will begin to report around June 6th to their host families.
- The first team practice is on June 9th. (Subject to change)
- The 2025 regular season will open on Saturday, June 14th and end on Sunday, August 3rd. Playoffs will begin Tuesday, August 5th.
- You can check the CCBL or team websites for a full season schedule.
- Host family gatherings and other important event details will be announced throughout the season as they are developed and approved.

Player Placement

Player placement is a complicated process. Many factors go into placing a player including but not limited to their report date, if they have a vehicle, who needs rides, and allergies. While we will take requests, we cannot guarantee a family a specific player unless he is a player returning for a second year. We will however, make every effort to take into account how many temporary players a family has had, how many pitchers vs. position players, etc. and try to provide balance. As always, we ask for your patience and understanding throughout the season. Many times, a player that wasn't at all what you were "hoping" for turns out to be a friend for life.

Please keep the following important information in mind when you decide to take a player for the summer:

- When you agree to host a player for the summer, you are agreeing to a roster spot on a 30 man team.
- You may have a full-contract player or a temporary player. It is just as likely that a full-contract player be here for only a partial season as it is for a temporary player to end up getting a contract extension and end up staying for the whole season. We understand that this uncertainty can be difficult for families, but we ask for your patience and understanding in this matter and to be prepared to take on a new player if your player leaves as player turnover is common and happens throughout the season.
- Your family must be willing to take the player we choose to place in your home.
- Please try to be available for your player to arrive sometime during the second full week of June. If this is not possible for some reason, please let us know as soon as possible so alternate arrangements can be made.
- We will contact you with information about who your player is and when he will arrive as soon as possible. However, often that is not until a day or two before he is to arrive. The roster is in constant flux for several weeks up to and in reality, throughout the season. We will do our best to keep you informed but assignments can and do change at the last minute.
- It is preferred for you to pick up your player at the bus station. This is a great opportunity to greet and introduce your player to your family. If you cannot pick up your player, please let us know immediately so we can make other arrangements.
- If you have any vacation time planned during the summer, please let us know what arrangements have been made for your player during your absence. If you need assistance with housing your player during vacation please let us know at the beginning of the season so we can make arrangements. **Under no circumstances are players allowed to stay the night alone in your home.**
 - A permission form must be filled out for overnights outside of the host house. This is to help create open communication between all parties involved including the team, and provide accountability for all parties involved. It is important for the team to know where a player is and that they are in a safe situation while outside of the designated host house.
 - Forms are included in this packet and may be acquired from the housing coordinator and general manager.
 - Please note that the stipend will be paid to the family who is providing the coverage as they will be feeding the player as well. This will be based on the number of

nights the player is away from his host home.

- Unexpected things can happen during the summer. If your player leaves early, please be prepared to receive a replacement player. Replacement players often arrive within 24 to 48 hours of the replaced player exiting the team. This can be a stressful time for host families and we are here to help make the transition as smooth as possible.
- In case of a family emergency and you are no longer able to house your player, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make other arrangements for him.
- If your player has questions about practice, games or playing time, he should speak with a member of the coaching staff or the general manager. At no time, should a host parent become involved with the coaching staff or general manager in such matters.
- I always welcome comments and feedback and am available by phone, text and email to help with any issues that may arise. Please feel free to contact me!

Why do players come and go throughout the season:

With so much discussion about players arrival and dismissal dates I wanted to offer some, but certainly not all of the reasons players come and go throughout the season. It is most assuredly the most challenging part of hosting and hopefully transparency from the beginning helps ease some of the challenges we will face during the season. Hosting a player is a fun and rewarding experience so don't let this intimidate you. If you have questions please reach out as I am happy to share my experiences hosting with you.

- College schedules may alter arrival dates
- Schools that do not make the playoffs, players will arrive around the second week of June.
- Players in the College World series may arrive several weeks later.
- Participation in Team USA may delay arrival
- Temporary contracts fill roster spots of players that are arriving later in the season
- Players entering the transfer portal's timeline can be effected on one side or the other of the season
- Pitchers with a pitch count may leave early
- Players drafted in the MLB draft leave early
- Injury can cause player to leave unexpectedly
- Fatigue and wear on a player's body can add to a decision between the player and their school to shorten the season

Minimum hosting requirements include the following:

- A private room (can be shared with other players but not family members)
 - Note: All sleeping areas must meet the Massachusetts fire code which at a minimum, requires tow points of exit, of which one must be a door and the other a window.
 - Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors placed within 10 feet of bedroom doors.
- A closet and/or a chest of drawers to store belongs.
- A bed with linens and pillows.
- Access to a shared or private full bathroom with bath towels.
- Internet access.

- Access to a washer and dryer.
- Food for three meals a day and snacks, plus one prepared meal. (See Meals section for details)
- Ability of the family to accommodate the late-night game schedule, particularly away games.

Room and Board

It is required for all players to pay room and board during their stay on Cape Cod. Failure to pay room and board during their stay can jeopardize their National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility.

- The Hyannis Harbor Hawks Athletic Association is responsible for collecting a player's stipend and distributing them to the host families. Please do not accept any payments from players directly. Host families will receive \$125 per week, per player, to go towards housing expenses and food.
- Payments are disbursed every 2 weeks by check and can be collected at home games or by request, mailed to you.
- If your player has questions regarding their room and board payments please refer them to our treasurer, Barbara Scalzi upon their arrival.
- If a player has been released from the team for any reason they cannot stay with your family beyond a reasonable time, usually 24-48 hours.
- When a player has been released from the team, the stipend paid to you will stop as of the last night your player was housed, but not to accede 48 hours from his release date.
- Stipends for players the remain until the end of the season will be paid up to 48 hours after the last game.

Laundry

It is necessary for players to have access to the washer and dryer. Because they play baseball almost everyday, they usually need to do laundry often. While the team is responsible for the washing of uniforms (See uniforms section for details) players are responsible for washing their practice gear and personal items.

Uniforms

Players are issued two pairs of pants, one away and one home jersey and a red jersey to be worn on Friday home games. These belong to the team and must be returned at the end of the season. Information on arrangements for the return of uniforms will be posted at a later date. Warm up gear and batting practice shirts, hats, socks and belts are theirs to keep and do not have to be returned.

The team uses a laundry service for washing the uniforms. A volunteer (often a fellow player) is in charge of collecting uniforms after each game. Please make sure your player knows who that is and where to drop off uniforms after games. If they do not know, direct them to ask the general manager or member of the coaching staff. We ask that you do not wash uniforms at home as the clay can be difficult to remove and stains can become permanent.

Meals

It is the responsibility of the host family to provide your player with adequate food for 3 meals a day. You are not required to cook all the meals for them, but you must have food available for them to heat up or cook themselves. We ask that you provide one prepared meal per day. Most families find it helpful to ask a player what their favorite foods are, what their dislikes are, and what they like to have on hand to snack on.

Many players are too polite or shy to tell you what they like. I have found personally, that bringing them shopping the first time is a good way to break the ice. I give them the "if you want it, put it in the cart" line. This allows them to pick things out without having to ask about each thing they want and if you are hosting more than one player, a great chance for them to work together.

A few tips and tricks to remember when feeding a college athlete:

- Buy in bulk. BJ's is a great place to shop.
- Protein is a staple in their diet. LOTS of eggs!
- They are working out or playing games 6 to 7 times a week. They burn a lot of calories so they most likely eat more than you may.
- Some cook! Don't be afraid to ask if they have a favorite meal that they may like to help prepare.
- And some don't know how to cook at all. This a great chance to teach them a few basics in the kitchen.
- Set standards to how you want your kitchen kept and let them know the expectations up front. These kids are kind and respectful but are often quiet in the beginning and may be uncomfortable asking, so show them how kitchen appliances work and where everything is kept. Within no time your home will be their home away from home!

Team Meals at Local Restaurants

We are very fortunate to have a host of local restaurants that help show our community's spirit by providing donated meals to the Harbor Hawks. Their hospitality continues to be a warm welcome for visiting players and we are very appreciative of the support. Local restaurants provide dinners after most of our home games whether at their establishment or delivered to the field.

Player attendance at all team meals is mandatory. Players must all wear meal shirts and sit in a team section together. Pictures are taken during these events for social media and promote the team as well as the establishments.

Families and friends may make their own reservations at the restaurant that evening. Out of respect for the restaurants generosity, family and friends may not sit with the players, but by all means, your appearance and support as a player parent, family or friend at the restaurant is appreciated.

Our community's establishments have been providing this amazing experience for the Harbor Hawks players and coaches since 2003!

Curfew

The players' curfew is 12:00AM/midnight every night. Please help us to enforce this policy for the benefit of the team and your family. If a player is not coming in at or around curfew consistently, please bring it to the attention of the housing coordinator. If the problem does not resolve itself, the housing coordinator will involve the general manager and head coach.

While we encourage enforcement of this policy this time should be considered flexible depending on several factors. The listed factors listed below should be an exception to the rule and not a regular occurrence. These may include but are not limited to:

- The time a game ended and buses returned to the home field
- Family members visiting the area
- Player gathering when a teammate is leaving

Each week there is typically one scheduled day off. Because of the limited time off that players receive, it's important that we let them decide how they want to spend this free time. Often their preference is to spend it with their new friends. Because the make-up of our host families differ considerably in terms of the time they retire for the evening, children in the home and their activities, comfort with late arrivals into the home, etc., it is extremely important for host families to sit down with their player and discuss acceptable plans and alternative arrangements for late evening plans a player may have. This could include spending the night at a fellow player's house as to not wake children, dogs or other family members with a late arrival.

On the off day, host families may choose to plan special events with their player such as Red Sox games, trips to the islands or off Cape. This is a great way to get to know them and show them the New England area. Keep in mind, however, that often players like to gather on off days with their new friends and teammates and explore the Cape and surrounding areas together. These few days of bonding are some of the most memorable moments they take home with them after the season closes. As host families, it is up to us to encourage players to have some great Cape experiences while here. Communication and trust go a long way in the host family/player relationship. Discuss and establish a plan ahead of time to avoid miscommunication and/or broken team and house rules.

All past curfew plans must be approved by the housing coordinator and general manager, no exceptions will be made.

Guests and Visitors of Players

Players may not have other players sleep over under any circumstances without prior permission from the housing coordinator, general manager and head coach. Players should get permission from both host families prior to bringing a teammate over for dinner or an off day. Be sensitive to other families trying to bond with their player when inviting other players to join you for dinners or excursions.

We encourage you to only house your player and not their family members but ultimately the decision is yours. Keep in mind, the players all talk to one another, and it can make it difficult for other host families if they do not have the space in their home to take in a player's family. A host family may only house immediate family members.

- **Friends and girlfriends are not allowed to house with a player.**
- **Any visitors coming to a host family's house must be discussed with the host family prior to a visit.**

Players must stay with their host families unless they want to stay with their parents or grandparents when they are in town. This only applies to parents/grandparents. This does not apply to siblings, girlfriends, friends, etc.

Please keep in mind, players are here to play baseball. Personal distractions and imposing on host families can cause a strain on the player, the host family and other players staying with the host family and may present an uncomfortable situation and interfere with the positive dynamics of the entire household.

- A permission form must be filled out for overnights outside of the host house. This is to help create open communication between all parties involved including the team, and provide accountability for all parties involved. It is important for the team to know where a player is and that they are in a safe situation while outside of the designated host house.
- Forms are included in this packet and may be acquired from the housing coordinator and general manager.

Transportation

Players come from all across the country to play for the Cape Cod Baseball League. Because of the distance some must travel they may not have a vehicle. Players are required to provide their own transportation to and from the field whether they drive themselves or get a ride with a teammate. It is not the responsibility of the host family to drive a player to the field, clinics or gym, or to provide a car to the player. Every effort will be made to place at least one player with a vehicle with each host family. In cases where this is not possible a teammate in close proximity will provide them with transportation. No player will be stranded without a ride to and from the field.

Players are expected to contribute gas money to any teammates who provide them with transportation to and from the field and other places.

The team meets at McKeon Park and then travels by bus to all away games. Players are required to ride the bus to and from all away games.

Red Shirt Fridays

As part of an ongoing tradition in the Cape Cod Baseball League, home teams wear special red jerseys at Friday games to honor the men and women who have and continue to serve our country in the military. We encourage our families and fans to also wear red to show their support and solidarity with our troops.

Community Service and Clinics

All players are required to participate in community service during their stay. There are ample opportunities for our players to get out in the community and make a difference. Players participate in community events such as the 4th of July parades in our area, signing events,

library reading programs and the team's youth baseball clinics.

The youth baseball clinics are not only a good source of revenue for the team (which is a nonprofit and run by volunteers) but an excellent opportunity to be involved in our community! Many kids bring their families to games after they have participated in our clinics. It is a chance for our players to leave a positive and lasting mark on our community. Please encourage your player to get involved in our community activities!

Health Club Facilities

Most players will join a gym while on the Cape. Most facilities offer a student discount. Recommendations can be given by the general manager or coaching staff. Often players staying in the same house will join the same gym for travel convenience.

Bat Kids

Children over the age of 10 can be bat kids for the Hyannis Harbor Hawks! If you have a son or daughter that would be interested please reach out to our president, Dan Johnson at president@harborhawks.org

Appropriate Behavior at Games and Events

We encourage all host families to attend games and events and cheer on our team, whether home or away. At McKeon Park we will have a host family preferred seating section in the blue bleachers behind home plate.

Please remember, as a host family of the Hyannis Harbor Hawks you are an important part of the organization. Your behavior while at our home field, away games and community events the team is involved in, is a direct reflection on all of us. We ask that you be considerate of others and give the other team the same respect you would our own players. Refrain from any abusive language towards the opposing team, umpires or other fans.

General Rules

- **Respect:** We expect players and host families to treat each other with the utmost respect while sharing their summer together. While these players are gifted athletes, we expect them to act with a gracious humility and kindness towards their teammates, coaching staff, host families and all members of the Harbor Hawks community. In return host families are expected provide a comfortable and caring home environment for their player. These young men are here to prepare for the next level of their sport. Your home becomes their home away from home during this time. Do not ask your player to do manual labor while staying with you such as lawn mowing, moving furniture, etc. We need to avoid putting them at risk for any injuries that could jeopardize their future playing career.
- **Tabacco:** The Cape Cod Baseball League, along with the NCAA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prohibits the use of any and all tobacco products on the fields and school property. Players caught using or carrying any form of tobacco while on the field or school grounds will be ejected from the game.
- **Alcohol:** The legal drinking age in Massachusetts is 21. Drinking is strictly prohibited

for any player under the age of 21. Under age drinking can lead to dismissal from the team. Players over the age of 21 can drink in moderation and in compliance with the law. Excessive drinking and/or disorderly conduct can lead to dismissal from the team. Host families have the right to prohibit drinking in their home even if a player is over 21, and this should be discussed upon arrival. In accordance with the Cape Cod Baseball league alcohol policy, no alcohol will be allowed at any function involving Harbor Hawk players.

- **Code of Conduct:** Players, coaches and other team personnel shall conduct themselves both on and off the field in accordance with both the Hyannis Harbor Hawks and Cape Cod Baseball League's Codes of Conduct. (I have added below the codes of conduct for both entities, leaving out the disciplinary actions)

Hyannis Harbor Hawk Code of Conduct

Players, coaches and other team personnel shall conduct themselves both on and off the field in a manner so as to encourage good sportsmanship, wholesome recreation and good relationships in the community.

Cape Cod League Baseball Code of Conduct

The Cape Cod Baseball League would like to welcome the group of student-athletes who will be participating this season. We are very proud of the quality of baseball played from year-to-year and even more proud of the manner in which our student-athletes conduct themselves each summer. We have every reason to anticipate that with your participation and cooperation, this season will be our best yet. To that effect, each of you has already received from your team General Manager a handbook outlining what is expected from you during your time with us. In addition to the necessary information about travel arrangements, jobs, host families and commitment to your team for the entire season, it has been made clear to you what kind of behavior is unacceptable and what the team's response will be if you violate those expectations. The purpose of this policy is to advise you what the CCBL expectations are and what due process will be afforded you should any serious violation occur. Conduct detrimental to any franchise's reputation is also conduct detrimental to the Cape Cod Baseball League. Therefore, it is very important for you to know the kind of behavior that will lead to serious disciplinary action from the team and/or the league. You should be aware that both entities may review any issue that arises and take appropriate action. Individual circumstances vary, as do some of the franchise guidelines and policies. However, the CCBL expectations are clear. These will be shared with every team member in June when CCBL officials meet with each franchise.

Communication with Players/Introduction to Your Home

Open and honest communication is imperative to a good experience for both the host family and the players. It is important to discuss and familiarize your player with the areas of discussion on the following check list so that all parties are aware and agree to the team and family rules. After you have addressed each item as it pertains to you and your player, please have you and your player sign appropriately. Please keep the signed check list and turn it in to housing at the end of the season.

Host Family Responsibility Agreement

The Cape Cod Baseball League provides a great opportunity as well as a challenge for the baseball players who arrive each season. The Hyannis Harbor Hawks Athlete Association Board of Directors and the coaching staff are committed to assisting each player achieve their professional and personal goals. These goals would not be attainable without the dedication and support of our host families.

The Harbor Hawks housing handbook outlines your responsibilities along with important information and the expectations of each party within the community, at home and on the field. It is imperative to the success of our program that all parties understand their roles and responsibilities completely.

The Harbor Hawks organization asks for your commitment to housing a player/s for the entirety of the season. Although our players may change throughout the summer, the team maintains a 30 man roster. Our host families are a precious resource and difficult to replace mid-season.

Any vacations you may have planned we ask that you communicate with us at the being of the season so we may make alternate arrangements for that time. We understand emergencies may arise making it difficult to continue to host. With good communication and cooperation we can over come any obstacles we may encounter.

We ask for your understanding that players may be here for a shorter or longer time than expected and be accommodating to these changes as they are common in summer baseball.

Most of all we thank you for opening your home to these incredible athletes. Your generosity opens opportunities for these young men at an elite level. I hope you enjoy your hosting experience as much as I have! By signing below you are committing to your role in the Harbor Hawks community. Welcome aboard!

Therefore, on the behalf of my family, we agree to uphold the standards of a Harbor Hawk host family outlined in the handbook and follow the rules established and set forth by the Hyannis Harbor Hawks Athletic Association, the rules of the NCAA and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Signed and dated by the family representative:

_____ **Date**_____

*An agreement by the family representative to these rules and regulations via email is also considered a valid electronic signature

*Please return to the housing coordinator

Housing Checklist

Your player will have received a copy of this information prior to arrival. Please make sure your player has read through the above information before addressing the checklist.

*This is not an exhaustive list and if there is something you feel needs to be addressed please bring it to my attention

- Your neighborhood:
 - Speed limits
 - Directions to the field from home
 - Children/pets at play or walking, etc
- Family schedule
 - Work
 - Family activities
 - Pets and their schedules/rules
- Player's Schedule
 - Game days
 - Days off
 - Gym routine
- Vacation Plans
 - Scheduled vacations and arrangements for your player
 - Scheduled visits players' families may have
- Tour of the home
- Keys and Alarm systems
- WiFi passwords
- Showers
- Neatness of bedroom
- TV/Streaming services available to them/Video games
- Parking/Transportation
- Trash/Recycling
 - Where it is.
 - What you recycle and where
- How to use appliances
 - Washer/Dryer (how much soap to use in if HE washer)
 - Dish washer (what doesn't go in)
 - Microwave
 - Stove
- Air Conditioning
- Meals
 - Food allergies
 - Food preferences/likes/dislikes
 - Who will prepare meals/ which ones/ what time
 - Snacks/ beverages
- Curfew (refer to Curfew in packet)
- Guests (refer to Guests and Visitors in packet)

- Other areas: Please write out any other reasonable requests or rules here.

If either party is uncomfortable with any part of this agreement, these concerns should be brought to the attention of the housing coordinator immediately so we can work together to find a resolution. As always open and honest communication is key!

Sign below:

As a host parent I promise to provide a comfortable, stable and encouraging environment for my player. I have read and reviewed the above information with my player. We have discussed any questions or concerns that may have arisen and I acknowledge that we are in agreement on all points outlined above.

Host Name

Host Signature

Host Name

Host Signature

As a member of the Hyannis Harbor Hawks I promise to be considerate of my host family and abide by team and CCBL code of conduct during my stay with my host family. I have read and reviewed the above information with my host family. We have discussed any questions or concerns that may have arisen and I acknowledge that we are in agreement on all points outlined above.

Player Name

Player Signature

Acknowledgment of a Stay Outside of the Designated Host House

The purpose of this form is to ensure all parties listed are aware and in agreement that the following player will be temporarily housed at the following establishment and are staying with the responsible party listed below, as it is the responsibility of the club to ensure the well-being and safety of all of its players during their time with the Hyannis Harbor Hawks.

Player Name

Signature

Name of person/s staying with

Contact information of above person/s

Address where player is staying

Date/s player will be there

Name of above responsible party

Signature

By signing I agree to the above arrangements

Host Name

Signature

Housing Coordinator

Signature

General Manager

Signature