



***COLLINGWOOD***

*HOST FAMILY PROGRAM*

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***2019***

# INTRODUCTION

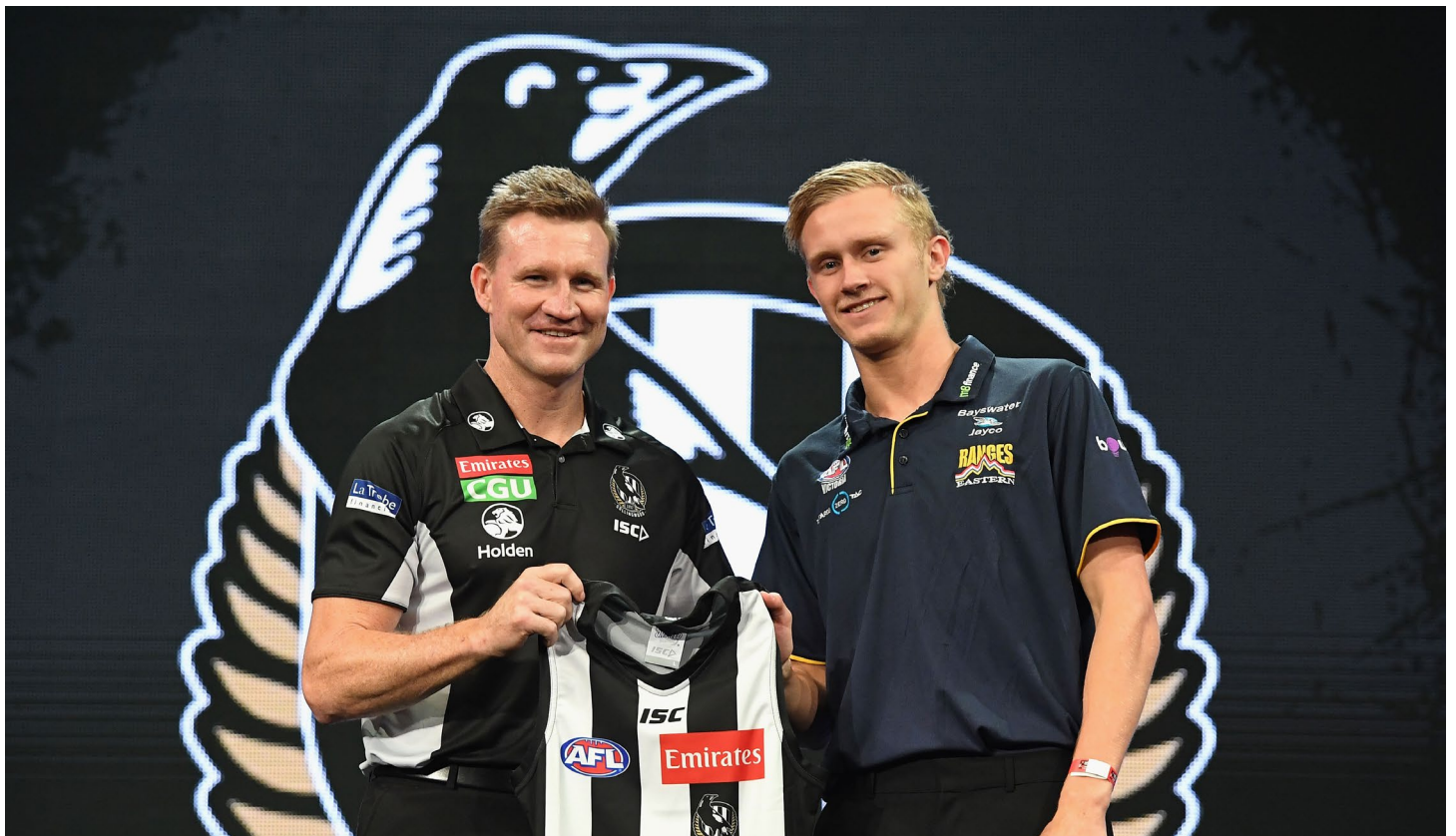
The National & Rookie Drafts, held in November and December each year, see over 100 new players enter the AFL system. These new players, usually aged between 18 and 20 years old, are often required to relocate to new cities to pursue their football careers.

Relocating can sometimes be a daunting process for these young men, especially when a move to the other side of the country, or living in a capital city for the first time, is required.

On top of all the “on field” challenges these players are thrown, they often deal with stress and uncertainty about moving to a new environment and leaving friends and family back home.

At Collingwood, we want to be recognised as the industry leader in the way we assist and develop our players, both on and off the field. It is our duty to provide the highest level of care for our new draftees, to provide stability off the field, and to ensure they are given every possible chance to flourish in their new careers.

Host Families can provide a level of comfort for new draftees and allow a smoother integration to their new life as a professional AFL footballer.





## HOW YOU CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT

- » Provide a living environment where the player feels comfortable and feels included within the family structure
- » Provide the player an opportunity to participate in your family's daily life and activities
- » An understanding that the player has strict training and dietary requirements, and works in a high pressure environment
- » Provide appropriate nutrition for the player in liaison with the club's dietician
- » Maintaining open communication with the club's Player Engagement staff, alerting them to any issues that could affect the player's performance and wellbeing
- » Develop a relationship with the player's family, and provide open communication when required
- » Provide an interest in the player's career progress, both on and off the field. See the person, as well as the athlete, and provide an outlet for conversations and activities "outside of football"

## ***BENEFITS FOR A HOST FAMILY***

- » Help assist the development of a young aspiring athlete in pursuit of their career goals
- » Additional income through renting a spare room in your house
- » Involvement in the club's parents and partners social events and other activities
- » Greater investment and involvement with the club
- » New companionship

## ***THE "IDEAL" FAMILY***

There is no particular "ideal" family that is tailor-made to suit individual athletes. Host families historically have gone in all shapes and sizes:

- » Older/Younger
- » Children/No Children
- » Single parents/Couples
- » Different multicultural or religious backgrounds

***There are a few key attributes that are consistent across all successful host family arrangements:***

- » The player has their own bedroom
- » Comfortable facilities and living arrangements
- » The player is willingly embraced as part of the family
- » Recognition from the family that the player has strict training, dietary and competitive demands



# WHAT HELPS ASSIST A PLAYER

- » Clear expectations and “House Rules”
- » Enough space so they do not feel they are encroaching on the family
- » Their own private space to utilise when needed
- » Someone to cook nutritious meals in line with their dietary requirements, and be willing to teach the player these skills
- » Someone to teach them basic life skills such as washing, cleaning, time management, and organisation.
- » Someone willing to listen, support and offer advice when required
- » Engage in conversation and discussion that is both football, and non-football related
- » An understanding that the player may not necessarily want to “bring their work home with them” and talk about football all the time
- » Respect for their privacy





## **HOST FAMILY EXPECTATIONS**

The player will often prefer their living arrangement to provide structure. It is important to consider the following and ensure both your family, and the player, are clear in their expectations.

- » Clearly communicate family routines and structures. For example, what normally happens in your home on a weekly basis
- » Rules about using your home's facilities (e.g. pool, internet, TV)
- » Meal times and meals that they have to prepare
- » Shopping for food
- » Washing, ironing, cleaning
- » Chores or jobs they are expected to complete
- » Areas of the home they are expected to keep clean and tidy
- » Rules concerning visitors (e.g. friends, partners, other players)
- » Rules concerning noise (e.g. TVs, music, gaming)
- » Your expectations if they are alone in your home for extended periods (e.g. holidays, weekends)
- » Family activities that occur in your home
- » Privacy
- » Car parking
- » Younger children's needs
- » Understanding the player's schedule and expectations





## **SUPPORT FOR HOST FAMILIES**

The following support will be provided to ensure the experience of hosting a player is mutually rewarding and comfortable for both the family and player:

- » A parent introduction and information session to assist you in planning and being prepared for the challenges of being a host family (e.g. expectations, player schedules, recognising potential issues)
- » Liaison with the player's family to gain further insight into the player and receive advice from the player's family
- » An initial 3-5 week trial period from the player's arrival date leading up until the start of the Christmas holiday period
- » Monthly reviews with the club's Player Engagement staff to raise any issues or concerns with the placement. This will provide a chance to outline both positive and negative feedback and exchange any concerns.
- » Continuous support via email and phone via Player Engagement staff - "on call 24/7"
- » Appropriate notification when a player wishes to move (usually, but not always, at the end of their first 12 months)

## **PAYMENT**

TBC - update after new CBA arrangements



*FOREVER*



La Trobe  
financial