



December 17, 2024

Hello Ranger Families,

As many of you may have heard, today the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) issued a new policy regarding player movement as it relates to travel / competitive hockey for U10 and older age groups. The Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) is a member of the OHF and RMHA is a member of the OMHA therefore we are bound to follow all OHF rules / regulations.

Effective in the 2025-26 season, there will no longer be residency restrictions for travel hockey or as it is now known, there will be 'open borders' for U10 and older travel hockey. We are all trying to wrap our heads around this edict and understand what, if any, adverse effects this will have upon our treasured RMHA. It is important to know that there are no changes to our houseleague / recreational hockey programming. We know that RMHA is often the destination of choice for our houseleague players so you can be assured that we will continue to run our houseleague hockey to the best of our ability and with the player-experience at the forefront of all our decisions.

Regarding the travel hockey experience, we recognize that the announcement of open-borders may excite some players or their families and prompt them to move elsewhere, which after today's OHF announcement is now their prerogative. However, your RMHA Board of Directors believes that the hockey experience we offer and have offered for nearly 65yrs is a proven destination for hockey development and success both on and off the ice. We believe in the hockey-family and the hockey-community and have always put those mandates first when planning and building our travel hockey experience.

Open borders may mean the demise of some small-town hockey associations which is an unfortunate by-product of the OHF's decision but it doesn't and will never be a detriment to RMHA. Changes to the hockey landscape have become an ongoing theme over the past 20yrs and RMHA has always continued to grow and prosper because of our belief in what we do and because of the dedication of our coaches and all our volunteers. Moving forward, there will be a lot of chatter and noise associated with open borders but its important to look at everything around you before you make decisions that could adversely affect your hockey experience.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, we're here to help where we can. If we don't have the answers, we'll find them so please don't hesitate to reach out to your Board of Directors. In the meantime, let's continue with this season and have fun! Hopefully you're able to come out and enjoy some of the upcoming International Christmas Tournament Dec 28-30th or the Hockey for Hospice Houseleague tournament Dec 27-29th. Enjoy your season and GO RANGERS!

Anne Marie Schofield

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Marie Schofield".

President Riverside Minor Hockey