



CWMHA Non-Resident and Border-Resident Policy

Purpose:

This policy establishes limits and approval processes for Non-Resident and Border-Resident players to:

- Align with Township user-group representation guidelines
- Prioritize opportunities for Centre Wellington resident players
- Support team viability and appropriate player development
- Ensure consistent and transparent decision-making

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will be applied:

Resident – defined as a player with residence inside the Centre Wellington Township Boundary, recognized by the township as individuals who reside, operate and pay taxes to the Township.
Examples: Fergus, Elora, Belwood

Border-Resident – defined as a player with residence inside the Classic OMHA and Right-of-Choice boundaries of Centre Wellington, but outside the Centre Wellington Township Boundary. Right of Choice rules as noted in 3.3D and 3.4B of the OMHA Manual of Operations, prior to 2025-26 Open Borders season will be used to determine geographic designation. (See Appendix A)
Examples: Arthur, Ariss, Alma

Non-Resident – defined as a player with residence outside the Centre Wellington Township Boundary, and outside the Classic OMHA and Right-of-Choice boundaries of Centre Wellington.
Examples: Guelph, Kitchener, Ottawa

The CWMHA Registrar will verify and advise of residency classification and will seek Executive approval/clarification of understanding where needed.

Application of Policy:

1. Verifying Residency

- Proof of residency must be provided at registration.
- The Registrar is the only authority to confirm residency status, in consultation with the Executive.
- Coaches must verify residency before offering a roster position to anyone outside of the Township.
- Residency information will only be shared with the player's immediate guardians and coaches.
- Registration and tryout fees are non-refundable if residency is not confirmed in advance.

2. Special Circumstances

- The association may approve exceptions for additional players at any age level in the following circumstances:
 - **Team Viability:** If an A/AA or B/BB team cannot be rostered without additional NRPs at any age. In order to be considered viable, the team must have a minimum number of 11 players from the Centre Wellington traditional OMHA border (resident and border-resident players) before NRPs are requested and added.
 - **Goaltender Requirements:** If a suitable goaltender is not available from resident players.
 - **Player Development:** If adding an NRP or Border Player enhances team competitiveness and drives overall player development within the association, allowing more players to play at their appropriate level.
 - **Other:** Other extenuating circumstances to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3. Approval Process and Special Permission to Exceed Limits

- Coaches or team representatives may submit a request in writing to the Rep Director to request additional NRP or Border Players, outlining the special circumstances in their request for special permission to exceed the NRP or Border Player limits.
- Recommendations will be given by the elected Rep Director to the CWMHA Executive.
- The Executive will review requests for additional NRP or Border Players based on player availability and long-term association goals.
- Decisions will be made in the best interest of all players within the association, and additional NRP players cannot be offered roster spots or signed without written board approval.

4. Non-Resident Player Limits

	Non-Resident Player Limit
U10 AA	2
U10 B	0
U11 AA	2
U11 B	0
U12 AA	4
U12 B	0
U13 AA	4
U13 B	0
U14 AA	4
U14 BB	0
U15 AA	4
U15 BB	0
U16 A	3
U16 BB	0
U18 A	3
U18 BB	0

- **B/BB-level teams** may only offer roster positions to NRPs with prior written board approval, after following the **Approval Process and Special Permissions** noted within this document.
- **Local League and MD** registration should strive to align with Township’s guidelines for user group representation, and no NRP players should enter the CWMHA local league program who reside outside of our Classic OMHA border. Players from the Classic Right of Choice areas would remain eligible to register for MD and Local League where no such option exists in their home centre.

5. Compliance & Review

- This policy may be reviewed annually to align with league regulations, Township requirements and association needs.
- The CWMHA board reserves the right to amend the policy as necessary, including but not limited to correcting errors and omissions.
- The limits and groups named in this document are subject to change upon annual review.

6. Compliments, Complaints & Questions

- To seek more information or clarification on the CWMHA Non-Resident and Border-Resident Policy please reach out to the Rep Director, or President as noted on the association website contact page.

Appendix A

Excerpt from OMHA Manual of Operations 2024 **(Pre-Open Border)**

3.3 Residential Qualifications

d) The Home Centre for a player who is resident in an area which does not have a minor hockey organization will be the nearest Centre to his residence, by well-traveled road, which has an OMHA team entered in any division or sub-division for which he is eligible to register and play in residence restrictive programs.

3.4 Right of Choice

b) With respect to Regulation 3.3d) for players resident in areas where there is no defined Centre or Shared Area, a player shall be given a choice of Home Centre when the difference in distance from or to his residence, over well traveled roads, always measuring by the shortest possible route to the two (2) or more Centres concerned does not exceed eight (8) km, but will not be permitted to bypass a Centre to play for another Centre in the same general direction. The difference in distance shall always be determined by using the distance to the closest Centre for such calculation. The measurement shall always be from the main entrance of his residence to a location within such Centre(s) as designated with the OMHA.