



DATE: April 8, 2025

OWHA BULLETIN

RE: Travel to USA and participation with USA teams

At all times, OWHA registered teams require OWHA approval to play non-OWHA teams and these teams must be all be properly registered and approved through their appropriate sanctioning organization. OWHA players, participants and teams have no OWHA approval and are not supported by OWHA and are not covered by Hockey Canada insurance at any time when participating in any non-sanctioned activity.

As reported in the news, the relationship between Canada and the United States has recently been changing on a regular basis. This relationship has an impact on OWHA and hockey programs. At this time, we are not generally restricting participation in games and activities involving USA teams whether in Canada or in the USA but we are advising you that the situation could change if, for example, requirements are imposed or as the general situation warrants or specific situations warrant. Changes may occur on short notice and, therefore; it is important that you manage financial, travel and other arrangements accordingly.

To assist, please note the points:

- 1) OWHA teams and players may only participate in OWHA sanctioned activities.
- 2) OWHA teams require approval regarding games and activities with any USA team, whether in Canada or in the USA.
- 3) OWHA is subject to Hockey Canada rules and requirements.
- 4) OWHA teams and associations must ensure compliance with all relevant rules and regulations.
- 5) Hockey Canada insurance relates only to participation in sanctioned hockey activity; it does not address any other activities or risks.
- 6) Communication with participants and supporters including family members is critical to ensure everyone is aware of the situation.
- 7) Other examples of considerations for teams thinking of participation in the USA include:
 - a. There could be financial risk related to travel plans and arrangements (including without limitation the relative value of the Canadian dollar and the US dollar).
 - b. There could be issues related to border crossing, immigration and/or related documentation.
 - c. There could be possible implications for OWHA participants and supporters including family members relative to the USA positions on gender and on 2SLGBTQI+.
 - d. There could be possible implications for OWHA participants and supporters based, for example, on personal possessions (including phones and other electronic devices) and/or on social media activity.
 - e. There could be differences between States in relation to certain implications of travel to the USA.

Finally, please regularly check the Government of Canada website for updated information on travel to USA: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-states>