

Additional Information for Clubs – June 2024

Contents:

- Home Office Professional Sportsperson definition.
- List of coaching qualifications accepted as suitable equivalents for the purposes of Governing Body Endorsements
- Overseas Police checks
- Responsibility of Cricket Clubs
- Supplementary work
- Home Office links

Please Note: This document has been drafted by the ECB with the sole purpose of providing guidance to our stakeholders. Any sections relating to immigration should not be interpreted as official Home Office guidance. The ECB are not registered immigration officials therefore if you require official guidance please refer to the published pages on GOV.UK

Anyone wishing to use the services of a player and or coach, from outside the United Kingdom, must ensure that all immigration conditions are adhered to.

Home Office Definition of a Professional Sportsperson:

Note - There is only one definition which applies to all sports, not all points will apply to Cricket.

“Professional Sportsperson” means a person who is one or more of the following:

- (a) currently providing services as a sportsperson, or is playing or coaching in any capacity, at a professional or semi-professional level of sport (whether paid or unpaid); or
- (b) currently receiving payment, including payment in kind, for playing or coaching, and that payment covers all, or the majority of, their costs for travelling to, and living in, the UK, or has received such payment within the previous 4 years; or
- (c) currently registered to a professional or semi-professional sports team or has been so registered within the previous 4 years (this includes all academy and development team age groups); or
- (d) has represented their nation or national team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17s upwards; or
- (e) has represented their state or regional team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17s upwards; or

- (f) has an established international reputation in their chosen field of sport; or
- (g) engages an agent or representative, with the aim of finding opportunities as a sportsperson, and/or developing a current or future career as a sportsperson, or has engaged such an agent in the last 12 months; or
- (h) is providing services as a sportsperson or coach, unless they are doing so as an “Amateur” in a charity event; or
- (i) is providing services as a sportsperson or coach, unless they are doing so as a Student who is studying a course at degree level or above at a higher education provider and playing or coaching sport as an Amateur or as part of a work placement that is undertaken as an integral and assessed part of their course.

Note: In cricket players who have represented their state or regional team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17s upwards will be captured under criterion (c).

For further guidance please refer to Home Office website

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

List of coaching qualifications accepted as suitable equivalents for the purposes of Governing Body Endorsements:

New Zealand Level 1 Development Coaching – Level 2 – High Performance

Cricket Australia Level 1, Community Coach - Level 2 Representative Coach - Level 3 High Performance

South African L2 (Bakers Academy) - South African Level 1 (please note that the SA Level 1 Bakers Academy is not suitable).

Police Checks from Overseas:

The following is guidance on the types of Overseas checks that we will accept as part of the Overseas vetting process.

Australia – Federal Police check

South Africa – South African Police Service check (SAPS)

New Zealand – Ministry of Justice check

West Indies – Police Headquarters check

Sri Lanka – Police Headquarters in Colombo (application form can be found in Additional Information)

Pakistan – Police Clearance certificate

India – Police Clearance certificate

Zimbabwe – Republic Police Clearance

Namibia & Tanzania – Government check on watermarked letterhead (original required)

U.S.A – State Police check (this will need to be stamped & notarised)

All checks must be:

- Clear and readable (photocopies are acceptable)
- MUST cover entire life, from birth to date
- MUST be on official letterhead with stamp (stamp to be in English)
- MUST be signed by official
- Must be date stamped
- MUST be Issued within the 3 months prior to date of receipt of GBE application (older checks will not be processed and a new clearance asked for)

Responsibilities of Cricket Clubs:

For cricket clubs to bring in sports people and coaches into the UK from outside the EU, they must be a licensed sponsor and agree to comply with certain duties and remain compliant at all times. To become a licensed sponsor, cricket clubs must obtain from their Home Office approved sport governing body, the England and Wales Cricket Board, a Governing Body Endorsement.

As well as obtaining a Governing Body Endorsement for their sponsor licence, cricket clubs must also obtain a Governing Body Endorsement for each individual coach-player and coach only.

In accordance with current sponsor guidance for the International Sportsperson Visa (ISP), when a cricket club assigns a certificate of sponsorship to a sports person, the certificate of sponsorship can only be assigned for the period covered by the Governing Body Endorsement.

For ISP, Governing Body Endorsements for coach-player and coach only are issued by the ECB for a maximum of 12 months only and in the first instance to end of the current season (30th September).

Sponsor guidance for employers, including International Sportsperson, sponsor duties and compliance, and other general guides:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sponsorship-information-for-employers-and-educators>

Supplementary work for International Sportsperson Visa Holders (ISP):

Sponsored Migrants are permitted to undertake “Supplementary Employment” provided it meets the following criteria:

- It must be within the same profession and at the same level*
- The player remains working for the Sponsor from whom the Certificate of Sponsorship was originally issued.
- The other employment does not exceed 20 hours per week.
- The supplementary work must be outside the applicant's normal working hours that the original certificate of sponsorship was issued for.

For full details of the definition of supplementary employment please see the guidance on the Home Office website, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

*The second club doesn't necessarily have to be a registered sponsor; however, they must be at the same professional level. If the primary sponsor is an ISP club playing in the Recreational Game the second club CANNOT be either a First Class County Club/ Regional Partner/ Hundred Team or a recreational club which does not meet the requirements for ISP endorsement.

As these migrants are considered professional players, any cricket they play will be considered as employment, regardless of whether or not they are being paid by the second club.

Home Office Links:

International Sportsperson Visa:

International Sportsperson visa general guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/sportsperson-visa>

Appendix International Sportsperson of the Immigration Rules:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-international-sportsperson>

International Sportsperson caseworker guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-sportsperson-caseworker-guidance>

Sponsor guidance for employers, including International Sportsperson, sponsor duties and compliance, and other general guides:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sponsorship-information-for-employers-and-educators>

Appendix Sports Governing Bodies of the Immigration Rules:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-sports-governing-bodies>

The Code of Practice for Sports Governing Bodies:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsorship-sporting-code-of-practice>

General:

For the definitions of 'Amateur' and 'Professional sportsperson', the Introduction of the Immigration Rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>