

# **Immigration Rules**

## **Relating to Overseas Sportspersons**

Cricket Ireland

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This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement (GBE) requests made on or after the 12 December 2023

## Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the 12 December 2023

### **Section 1: Overview of governing body endorsements for the International Sportsperson route of the points-based system**

This page provides a brief explanation of what endorsement requirements apply in respect of the International Sportsperson route of the points-based system.

**The International Sportsperson route** is for elite sportspeople and coaches who:

- are internationally established and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK
- who will base themselves in the UK
- will be filling a post that cannot be filled by a suitable British citizen or person who has a right to enter or stay in the UK without restriction.

**The application process explained:** migrants applying to come to the UK under the International Sportsperson route need to be sponsored by an organisation that has an International Sportsperson sponsor licence .

If you wish to sponsor such migrants, you must have a sponsor licence. Before you apply to the Home Office for a licence you must be endorsed by the **approved governing body** for your sport. This endorsement confirms to the Home Office that the application for a licence is from a genuine sports club (or equivalent) that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople. Once licensed, you can assign certificates of sponsorship to a sportsperson or coach with a job offer that allows them to apply for entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK. Each individual must also have a personal endorsement from the **approved governing body** for their sport before you assign the certificate of sponsorship.

An **approved governing body** is one specified in [Appendix SGB](#) of the Immigration Rules. Such a governing body must be recognised by one of the home country sports councils such as Sport England, and will have been approved by the Home Office before being included in [Appendix SGB](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Approved governing bodies will work within the Home Office's '[Code of practice for sports governing bodies](#)' and must comply with any immigration regulations, UK

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legislation and the principles of the points-based system as detailed on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

### Length of endorsement

Governing body endorsements should be issued for a period appropriate to the period of approval for sponsorship, that is:

Type of application	Length of endorsement
<b>Sponsor</b>	4 years from date of issue.
<b>Migrant</b>	For an initial maximum period of 3 years, with a further extension of a maximum period of 3 years. If the contract is for fewer than 3 years, it will be issued for the length of the contract.

### Change of employment

If a migrant is intending to change employer, their new employer must request a new governing body endorsement. The endorsement can be issued for the length of the contract or to the maximum period permitted within the route, whichever is the shorter. The new employer must assign a new certificate of sponsorship to the migrant to allow them to apply to the Home Office for new permission to stay. Permission to stay must be granted before the migrant can start work with the new employer.

### Salary

The salary should be agreed as part of the contract between the migrant and the sponsor. This and the other conditions of employment should be at least equal to those normally given to a resident worker for the type of work undertaken.

### Supplementary employment

International Sportsperson migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office supplementary employment regulations. The 'Supplementary employment' section [Workers and Temporary Workers: guidance for](#)

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[sponsors - Sponsor an International Sportsperson guidance](#) has more information on this.

### **Compliance with the Code of Practice for Sports Governing Bodies**

In reviewing this criteria, Cricket Ireland confirm we have reread the Code and agree to our roles and responsibilities as set out within. We confirm we have acted in full compliance with the principles of the Code during this annual review.

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### **Section 2: Requirements**

This page explains Cricket Ireland's requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 6 December 2022.

Only the roles listed as part of this criteria are eligible for endorsement.

These requirements are applicable to Northern Ireland.

#### **Consultation and Review**

The governing body endorsement criteria within this document apply only to the 2023 season and will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review date will be October 2024.

Details of the process for review and the method by which clubs may propose changes in these criteria are set out in the separate Cricket Ireland document entitled 'Review Process for Governing Body Endorsements Criteria' in [Annex H](#).

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, Cricket Ireland confirm that full consultation has been carried out, this includes any organisation that could be interpreted as an interested party, such as clubs, bodies, or player associations related to cricket in the UK.

#### **Length of season**

The season for cricket in general runs from April to the end of September.

#### **Requirements**

The table below shows the endorsement requirements for sponsors and migrants.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<p>Governing body endorsements for a sponsor licence will only be issued to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricket Ireland</li> <li>• Inter-Provincial Series Teams / Super Series Teams</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3-day Championship (IPC)</li> <li>○ 50-over Cup (IP50 / SS50)</li> <li>○ 20-over Trophy (IP20 / SS50)</li> <li>● Northern (NCU) and North-West (NWCU) Mens Premier League Clubs / any NCU or NWCU Womens Premier League Clubs</li> </ul> <p>In order to obtain an endorsement, the club must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a letter of Accreditation from the Provincial Union supporting a club that wishes to apply for a sponsor licence to employ an overseas player or coach (migrant worker) as defined by the Home Office</li> <li>● before issuing a statement of clearance in respect of a prospective employing club, Cricket Ireland will require a formal confirmation from the Provincial Union of which that club is an affiliated member, to the effect that the applicant club is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a properly constituted and fully paid up member of the Union</li> <li>○ fully compliant with all current undertakings as a member of that Union, including Child Protection, Anti Doping and Health and Safety legislative requirements</li> <li>○ not currently in breach of, or under investigation concerning, any employment or business practices that might cause Union endorsement to be withheld at this time</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If a club is relegated from the Premier League in either the NCU or NWCU and therefore not in the Premier League for a season(s), then the club would only be able to bring in an overseas player to carry out a permitted activity under the UK's Visitor rules until they returned to the Premier League and they can bring in an overseas player using the International Sportsperson visa for a period of 12 months or less. The onus is on the applicant and the relevant club to ensure the appropriate permission is sought, and that they are compliant with the relevant visa conditions.</p>
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<p><b>Migrant</b></p>	<p><b>First Class Cricket</b></p> <p><b>Full Time Coach Only</b></p>	<p>If a licensed International Sports person sponsor wishes to apply for a governing body endorsement to employ a full-time coach they will have to satisfy the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the individual must either be qualified to English Cricket Board (ECB) Level 3 or equivalent, or hold a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Level 3 or UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 3 qualification as confirmed by the ECB</li> <li>• the migrant will need to obtain certification from a basic first aid course and a child safeguarding module (both in date for 3 years) and a Police Check (in date for 1 year) as approved by Cricket Ireland</li> <li>• that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to UKCC Level 3 or ECB Level 3 available to do the job. The sponsor will need to provide evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate national medium, such as the Cricket Ireland website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by the cricket club or Cricket Ireland. If these requirements are satisfied, a governing body endorsement would normally be issued to coaches for the length of the contract period.</p>
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## Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

<p><b>Migrant</b></p>	<p><b>Non First Class Cricket</b></p> <p><b>Coach/Player only</b></p>	<p>Governing body endorsements will be available for migrants who are seeking employment at non-first-class cricket clubs as a ‘Coach Player’ only for the 2024 season. ‘Coach Player’ governing body endorsements will be required by all applicants for the 2024 season.</p> <p>The issuing of the governing body endorsement will enable a club to assign a Certificate of Sponsorship, however the issue of a Certificate of Sponsorship only authorises the migrant to apply for entry clearance or leave to remain but does <b>not</b> mean that their application will succeed. The Home Office will make the final decision about who is allowed to come and stay in the UK. The migrant will need to obtain sufficient points, and their personal or immigration history will be considered as part of their application for entry clearance or leave to remain.</p> <p>In order to obtain a governing body endorsement, the migrant must meet <b>ALL</b> of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The individual must have, in the previous 36 months, played a minimum of five:</li> <li>• First class and/or</li> <li>• ODI and/or</li> <li>• International T20 cricket and/or</li> <li>• U19 World Cup cricket</li> </ul> <p>(The definition of first class cricket matches will be set down by the ICC in their regulations. However, only matches of three or more days duration will be considered as first class for the purpose of determining whether the five first class matches criterion is satisfied)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must have attained the <b>relevant coaching qualification</b> standard as below (the qualification</li> </ul>
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		<p>must be in date)</p> <p>It will still be necessary for the player/coach to be able to show that they are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• qualified to English Cricket Board (ECB) Level 2, UKCC Level 2 or equivalent, or</li> <li>• holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Level 2 or UKCC Level 2 qualification as confirmed by the ECB.</li> </ul> <p>The Coach Player will further need to obtain certification from a basic first aid course and a child safeguarding module (both in date for 3 years) and a Police Check (in date for 1 year) as approved by Cricket Ireland.</p> <p>It will not be necessary for a coach/player already awarded the previous ECB Level 2 qualification to be re-accredited as this qualification is of an appropriate level.</p> <p>In order to gain the maximum benefit from a Player Coach, the governing body endorsement allows the Player Coach with the appropriate coaching qualifications to undertake coaching duties on a wider scale for example, under the auspices of Provincial Unions.</p>
<b>Migrant</b>	<b>Non First Class Cricket Coach Only</b>	<p>If a cricket club wishes to apply for a governing body endorsement to employ a full-time coach they will have to satisfy the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the individual must either be qualified to ECB Level 2 or historical equivalent, UKCC Level 2 or holds a non-UK Coaching qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Level 2 or UKCC Level 2 standard coaching qualification as confirmed by the ECB. The individual will further need to obtain</li> </ul>

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		<p>certification from a basic first aid course and a child safeguarding module (both in date for 3 years) and a Police Check (in date for 1 year) as approved by Cricket Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to ECB Level 2 or UKCC Level 2 available to do the job. The club will need to provide evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate national medium, such as, Cricket Ireland website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by the cricket club, Provincial Union or Cricket Ireland.</p> <p><b>Out of season coaching</b></p> <p>If a cricket club wishes to employ a coach or player/coach outside the cricket season, where coaching is part of a nationally recognised initiative, they will have to satisfy the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to UKCC Level 2 available to do the job. The club will need to provide evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate national medium, such as, Cricket Ireland website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers</li> <li>provide proof that the individual has attained the relevant coaching qualification standard as below</li> </ul> <p>It will still be necessary for the player/coach to be able to show that they are either qualified to ECB Level 2, UKCC Level 2, or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Level 2/UKCC Level 2 coaching qualification as confirmed by the ECB. The player/coach</p>
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		<p>will further need to obtain certification from a basic first aid course and a child safeguarding module (both in date for 3 years) as approved by Cricket Ireland.</p>
<p><b>Participation eligibility</b></p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, individuals issued a GBE by Cricket Ireland may only participate in the capacity in which they are endorsed. Coaches are unable to play, in any competitive game (league or cup), within any of the leagues or cups organised by Cricket Ireland or any of the regional associations in which their sponsor club participates, including for their sponsor club. In order to both coach and play, an individual must apply for a GBE as a Player Coach.</p>		
<p><b>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</b></p> <p>Where relevant, matches for which an individual was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating the individual's appearance percentage. Unavailable for selection means the individual was not available to participate due to injury or suspension and written evidence supporting this, setting out the games missed and the reason(s), must be provided by the individual's National Association or club doctor to Cricket Ireland for consideration.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to the following when applying the criteria: injury; a period of maternity or paternity leave; serious illness or any legitimate medical reasons; suspension; international duty; bereavement; or family crisis.</p> <p>In order to obtain the governing body endorsement, the individual must not be subject to a provisional suspension or any unexpired period of ineligibility from playing and/ or coaching activities in any jurisdiction as a result of being charged with or found guilty of a corruption offence and/ or a doping offence and/or another misconduct offence.</p>		

### Further information

This information is available on the [Cricket Ireland](https://www.cricketireland.com) website.

For any queries relating to the requirements or the endorsement process please contact:



## Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Governing Body Endorsements  
Cricket Ireland  
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Co Dublin  
K36 YH61  
Ireland

Telephone: 00353 1 8947914  
Email: [eimear.hubble@cricketireland.ie](mailto:eimear.hubble@cricketireland.ie)

Information on visas and immigration is available on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website

### **Appeals Procedure**

Appeals against a Cricket Ireland decision to not issue a governing body endorsement under these criteria for an individual migrant will be dealt with by Just Sport Ireland. The separate Cricket Ireland document 'Governing Body Endorsement Appeals Procedure' in [Annex G](#) details how to submit an appeal in relation to a governing body endorsement decision and the applicable fees.



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## **Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement**

### **How to apply for a Governing Body Endorsement in support of a International Sportsperson (Long Term) and/or a International Sportsperson (Short Term) sponsor licence**

Cricket Ireland should use [Annex A](#): Migrant sponsor licence governing body endorsement application form.

Other cricket clubs should use [Annex B](#): Migrant Club sponsor licence governing body endorsement application form.

### **How to apply for a Governing Body Endorsement in support of an International Sportsperson (Long Term) and/or an International Sportsperson (Short Term)**

Cricket Ireland should use [Annex C](#): Migrant governing body endorsement application form full time coach only

Other cricket clubs should use [Annex D](#): Migrant governing body endorsement application form non first class cricket Coach/Player or

[Annex E](#): Migrant governing body endorsement application form full time coach only.

[Annex F](#) should be used to assist with evidence submissions in all applications.