

Immigration Rules

Relating to Overseas Sportspeople

Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park

Kinsealy

Co Dublin

K36 YH61, Ireland

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportspeople governing body endorsement (GBE) requests made on or after 19 November 2025

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after 19 November 2025

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

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

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
Sponsor	Endorsements for sponsors will not have an end date. They will be valid for as long as the sponsor continues to hold a valid sponsor licence.
Migrant	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](#)

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

[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.

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains Cricket Ireland's requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 19 November 2025.

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 2026 season and will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review date will be October 2026.

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.

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	Governing body endorsements for a sponsor licence will only be issued to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cricket Ireland• Inter-Provincial Series Teams / Super Series Teams<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 3-day Championship (IPC)

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50-over Cup (IP50 / SS50) ○ 20-over Trophy (IP20 / SS50) • Northern (NCU) and North-West (NWCU) Mens Premier League Clubs / any NCU or NWCU Women's Premier League Clubs <p>In order to obtain an endorsement, the club must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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"> ○ a properly constituted and fully paid up member of the Union ○ fully compliant with all current undertakings as a member of that Union, including Child Protection, Anti Doping and Health and Safety legislative requirements ○ 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 <p>Note: 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>
--	---

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Migrant	First Class Cricket Full Time Coach Only	<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"> 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 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 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 <p>Note: 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>
Migrant	Non First Class Cricket Coach/Player	<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 2026 season. 'Coach Player' governing body endorsements will be required by all applicants for the 2026 season.</p>

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

	only	<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 not 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 ALL of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual must have, in the previous 36 months, played a minimum of five: • First class and/or • ODI and/or • International T20 cricket • U19 World Cup cricket • Or • A minimum of twenty T20s in an ICC Full Member country in the past 36 months. <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"> • must have attained the relevant coaching qualification standard as below (the qualification must be in date) <p>It will still be necessary for the player/coach to be able to</p>
--	------	--

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

		<p>show that they are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> qualified to English Cricket Board (ECB) Level 2, UKCC Level 2 or equivalent, or 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. <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>
Migrant	Non First Class Cricket Coach Only	<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"> 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 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

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Note: the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by the cricket club, Provincial Union or Cricket Ireland.</p> <p>Out of season coaching</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"> 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 provide proof that the individual has attained the relevant coaching qualification standard as below <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 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>
--	--	---

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Participation eligibility

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.

Injuries, Absences and Suspensions

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.

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.

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.

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:

Governing Body Endorsements
Cricket Ireland
Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park
Kinsealy
Co Dublin
K36 YH61

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Ireland

Telephone: 00353 1 8947914

Email: 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.

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

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.

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex A: Migrant sponsor licence governing body endorsement application

This form should be used to apply to Cricket Ireland for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a sponsor licence under the International Sportsperson (Long Term) category of the points-based system.

Please complete all sections of the form below unless otherwise indicated:

Name of Club:

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Contact Name and position:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

Signature: Date of application:

Supporting Evidence Required: None



Please send this form to:

Governing Body Endorsements Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park,

Kinsealy,

Co Dublin, K36 YH61

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex B: Club: Migrant sponsor licence governing body endorsement application

This form should be used to apply to Cricket Ireland for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a sponsor licence under the International Sportsperson (Short Term) category of the points-based system.

Please complete all sections of the form below unless otherwise indicated:

Name of Club:

Union Name:

Club Contact Name and position:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:.....

Contact Name and position:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Email:

Signature: Date of application:

Once the above information is filled in by the club, please send to your Provincial Union who confirms the following:

- ☐ A properly constituted and fully paid up member of the Union.
- ☐ Fully compliant with all current undertakings as a member of that Union, including Child Protection, Anti-Doping and Health and Safety legislative requirements.

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

- ☐ 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.

Provincial Union Signature:

Date:

The Provincial Union then sends this form to:

Governing Body Endorsements

Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park,

Kinsealy,

Co Dublin, K36 YH61

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex C: Migrant Governing Body Endorsement application – full time coach only

This form should be used to apply to Cricket Ireland for a governing body endorsement of an application for a migrant under International Sportsperson (Long Term) category of the points-based system.

Please complete all sections of the form below unless otherwise indicated:

Full name of coach:

Name of club:

Club contact name and position:

CI sponsor licence number:

Address:

.....

.....

Post code:

Telephone number:

Fax number:

Email:

Please provide evidence as stated below to meet the criteria, either:

- ☐ UKCC 3 or ECB Level 3 (please provide evidence of date and details of course and copy of certificate). A copy of First Aid, Child Protection (both in date for 3 years) and Police Check (in date for 1 year): **Or**
- ☐ Non – UK coaching qualification and written confirmation from the ECB that this qualification is of an equivalent or higher standard to the ECB or UKCC 3 (please provide evidence of date and details of course and copy of certificate) A copy of First Aid, Child Protection and Police Check which must all be in date.

And

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

- ☐ evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate national medium, such as Cricket Ireland website

☐

Signature:

Date of application:

Please send this form to:

Governing Body Endorsements

Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park,

Kinsealy,

Co Dublin, K36 YH61

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex D: Club: Migrant Governing Body Endorsement application – non first class cricket coach/player only

This form should be used to apply to Cricket Ireland for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a migrant under International Sportsperson (Short Term) category of the points-based system.

Please complete all sections of the form below unless otherwise indicated:

Full name of coach:

Name of club:

Club contact name and position:

CI sponsor licence number:

Address:

.....

.....

Post code:

Telephone number:

Fax number:

Email:

Please provide evidence as stated below to meet the criteria:

Evidence within the last 36 months, played a minimum of five:

- ☐ First class and/or ODI and/or International T20 cricket / U19 World Cup cricket
- ☐ A minimum of twenty T20s in an ICC Full Member country in the past 36 months.
 - ☐ (please provide evidence of date and details of matches see Annex F)
- ☐ UKCC 2 or ECB Level 2 (please provide evidence of date and details of course and copy of certificate) A copy of First Aid, Child Protection (both in date for 3 years) and Police Check (in date for 1 year).

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Clubs must ensure that any player/coach who needs to gain/update their Child Protection and/or First Aid qualifications must do so as soon as possible upon their arrival and forward the relevant certs to the union. **Please note, failure to do so, may result in future applications for overseas players/coaches being turned down.**

Signature:

Date of application:

Please send this form to:

Governing Body Endorsements

Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park,

Kinsealy,

Co Dublin, K36 YH61

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex E: Club: Migrant Governing Body Endorsement application form – full time coach only

This form should be used to apply to Cricket Ireland for a governing body endorsement of an application for a migrant under the International Sportsperson (Short Term) category of the points-based system.

Please complete all sections of the form below unless otherwise indicated:

Full name of coach:

Name of club:

Club contact name and position:

CI sponsor licence number:

Address:

.....

.....

Post code:

Telephone number:

Fax number:

Email:

Please provide evidence as stated below to meet the criteria:

- ☐ Either UKCC 2 or ECB Level 2 (please provide evidence of date and details of course and copy of certificate) A copy of First Aid, Child Protection (both in date for 3 years) and Police Check (in date for 1 year).
- ☐ evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate national medium, such as Cricket Ireland website

Signature:



Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Date of application:

Please send this form to:

Governing Body Endorsements

Cricket Ireland

Unit 15C Kinsealy Business Park,

Kinsealy, Clonshaugh

Dublin 17



Version 18 November 2025

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex F: details of matches played

Name of Player:

Date	Teams	Type of match/competition (for example Test match, ODI etc)	Status (for example First Class, List A etc)	Jurisdiction (for example ICC, Cricket South Africa)

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex G: governing body endorsement appeals procedure

Any appeal by a club against the decision of Cricket Ireland not to provide a governing body endorsement for either an individual migrant or for a sponsor licence will be dealt with by the independent dispute resolution service for sport: Just Sport Ireland.

If a club wishes to instigate an appeal pursuant to this Procedure, the club must submit to Cricket Ireland a written request for an appeal ("the Appeal") containing the following details:

Please note: Only the sponsor concerned may seek a review of the application on the basis that Cricket Ireland has not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

- a) the name and address of the Club (and of the nominated club representative);
- b) a brief statement stating the grounds that the club wishes to use to appeal the Cricket Ireland decision.

The applicable grounds for appeal are limited to a 'strong arguable case' that either:

- i. relevant information was ignored or not considered by Cricket Ireland;
- ii. the endorsement application process was tainted by unreasonable bias or conflict of interests;
- iii. the provisions of the Cricket Ireland governing body endorsement procedure were not adhered to;
- iv. Cricket Ireland exceeded its jurisdiction;
- v. the findings of Cricket Ireland were irrational or otherwise exhibited an error of general law

There are no other grounds for appeal. This request for appeal must be submitted within 14 days of the notification of the original Cricket Ireland decision not to provide a governing body endorsement and include the relevant Appeal Fee (Cheque for €250 made payable to 'Just Sport Ireland').

Cricket Ireland will acknowledge the Appeal in writing with the request that full written evidence in support of the Appeal must be submitted to Just Sport Ireland within 14 days for the Appeal to proceed.

The Appeal will be undertaken by a sole arbitrator, based on written submissions only, and will be final and binding on Cricket Ireland and the club who sought the Appeal.

Cricket Ireland Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

Annex H: review process for governing body endorsements criteria

The governing body endorsement criteria apply only to the 2026 season and will be reviewed on an annual basis. Details of the process for review and the method by which clubs may propose changes in these criteria are set out below.

The 2026 season criteria were determined by a process of consultation based upon the original ECB Work Permit Criteria that had been in operation across the game for a number of years. The criteria for International Sportsperson (Long Term)) were reviewed through the ECB Board which has representatives from First-Class and non-First-Class clubs and Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The Professional Cricketers Association and other interested parties are aware of the proposed criteria. The criteria for International Sportsperson (Short Term) were reviewed through the ECB Recreational Cricket Group and the League Cricket Conference which represents over 70 leagues across England and Wales. Cricket Ireland subscribes to the criteria.

The criteria for International Sportsperson (Long Term) will be reviewed on an annual basis through appropriate ECB committees and Board which has representatives from the professional clubs, the Professional Cricketers Association and other interested parties such as the MCC. Clubs who wish to propose changes for the review process to consider must submit those proposals to Cricket Ireland no later than Monday 13 June 2026.

The criteria for International Sportsperson (Short Term) will be reviewed by Cricket Ireland. Clubs who wish to propose changes for the review process to consider must submit those proposals to Cricket Ireland no later than Monday 15 June 2026. Cricket Ireland will submit the criteria to be formally ratified by the ECB Board.

The Home Office will contact Cricket Ireland annually to open the review process. The next review will be in October 2026.