

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **23 November 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 Immigration Rules for the International Sportsperson route can be found at [Appendix International Sportsperson](#).

**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 Sports Governing Bodies](#) 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 Sports Governing Bodies](#) 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 legislation and the principles of the points-based system as detailed on the [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 of the [Workers and Temporary Workers: guidance for 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, Badminton England 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.

## **Section 2: Requirements**

This page explains Badminton England requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 23 November 2023.

Only the roles listed in this criteria are eligible for endorsement.

These requirements are applicable to England.

### **Consultation**

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with Badminton England.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, Badminton England 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 badminton in the UK.

### **Review**

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in March 2024.

### **Length of season**

The season for badminton runs from August to July although depending on the nature of the role this may not be affected by the length of the season

### **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 will be issued for the following bodies recognised by Badminton England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badminton England</li> <li>• Badminton England Performance Training Hubs</li> <li>• National Badminton League (NBL) teams</li> </ul>	
<b>Migrant</b>	<b>Sparring Partner</b>	<p>Governing body endorsements will be available for migrants who are seeking employment in Member/ Partner Organisations as a sparring partner if individuals meet the following requirements.</p>

Category	Requirement	
		<p>During the 48 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application the sparring partner must have been part of a national squad in a playing nation ranked in the top twelve in the world for a minimum of six months collectively during the period as measured by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Team Rankings or who is currently ranked in the top 50 in the world as measured by the BWF Player Rankings (Senior).</p>
	<b>Coach</b>	<p>Governing body endorsement will be available to full-time coaches if they meet the following requirements:</p> <p><b>International Sportsperson</b></p> <p>The individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. is qualified to UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) Level 3 standard or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the UKCC Level 3 standard coaching qualification as confirmed by Badminton England; or</li> <li>ii. holds an undergraduate degree or masters in sport science or a related discipline; or</li> <li>iii. has been employed as a Performance Manager for at least five years in a top league or national association; or</li> <li>iv. has five years' experience in similar elite sports;</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <p>Has at least three years experience working with a national squad ranked in the top 12 in the world as measured by the BWF Team Rankings (Senior) or has a proven track record working with elite players in delivering</p>

Category	Requirement	
		World, Olympic and/or BWF Super Series medals.
	<b>National Badminton League (NBL) player</b>	During the 48 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application, the NBL player must have been ranked within the top 100 in the world for at least six months collectively during the period, as measured by the BWF Player Rankings (Senior).
<b>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</b>  <p>Matches or games for which the applicant was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating any appearance percentage. Unavailable for selection means the applicant was not available to play due to injury or suspension and written evidence supporting this, setting out the games missed and the reason(s), must be provided by the applicant's National Association or club doctor to Badminton England 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 Badminton England website at [www.badmintonengland.co.uk](http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk)

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

Badminton England Governing Body Endorsements  
National Badminton Centre  
Milton Keynes

Bucks

MK8 9LA

Telephone: 01908 268400

Email: [enquiries@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@badmintonengland.co.uk)

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

## **Dispute Handling Procedures**

Where an application for an applicant covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sports person has been refused on the grounds that the applicant fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek a review of the application. The sponsor will have 28 days to request a review. In these cases, Badminton England will refer the sponsor's evidence to an independent panel as set out below.

Where possible the sponsor's supporting evidence will be sent to the panel in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision. Sponsors should note that, in respect of any application, there will only be one review panel available, and the decision of the Review Panel is final (subject to final appeal). Sponsors should therefore ensure all evidence it wishes to present in support of its application is presented to the panel. If the sponsor has previously made an application that was unsuccessful at panel a further panel cannot be requested for the same applicant during the season unless their status changes and they meet the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

If the initial review is refused, the applicant may request a final appeal as set out at point d.

### **a. The Review**

The request for a review may only be made by the sponsor for whom the governing body endorsement has been initially rejected by Badminton England.

A review shall be commenced by the sponsor submitting a notice of appeal within 28 days of the initial decision to the Badminton England Disciplinary Officer. The notice of appeal shall:

- i. set out details of the decision appealed against and, if the whole of the decision is not appealed against, identify that part of it which is appealed against;
- ii. set out in full the grounds of appeal and an appellant shall not be entitled to rely in any ground of appeal not set out in the notice of appeal; and
- iii. be accompanied by a deposit of £100. The panel shall have discretion as to whether the deposit is returned.

The procedure for appeal will be in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and the Review Panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

### **b. The Review Panel**

The Review Panel will be appointed by the Disciplinary Officer. The appointed Review Panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of

Badminton England (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of named further representatives.

### **c. Refusal at Review**

An endorsement request at review may be refused if the applicant does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents.

Badminton England will notify the sponsor and the applicant in writing of any endorsement request which is refused at review stage, setting out the reasons for refusal.

### **d. Final Appeal**

The applicant shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal at review stage to submit a final appeal in writing to Badminton England.

PLEASE NOTE: The applicant may only submit a Final Appeal on the basis that Badminton England have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

Badminton England shall consider the final appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the final appeal, notify the applicant of its decision.

### **e. The Decision**

Badminton England will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding. There are no other grounds of appeal.



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

#### **How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson (ISP) route**

Member/ Partner Organisations applying for a sponsor licence endorsement should use the Application form in **Annex A**.

Member/Partner Organisations applying for a migrant endorsement should use the application form in **Annex B**.

All potential sponsors should note that the purpose of an endorsement for a prospective sponsor is to confirm to the Home Office officials processing sponsor applications that the application is from a bona fide sports club or equivalent that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople. The Home Office has additional criteria for sponsors that must be met in order for a Member/ Partner Organisation to be granted a sponsor license. It is not Badminton England who will grant a sponsor license.

Once a Member/ Partner Organisation has obtained its sponsor licence from the Home Office, the sponsor will be able to apply for Certificates of Sponsorship, which it will allocate to migrants coming here to work for it. Each migrant that a Member/ Partner Organisation wishes to employ needs to be assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship.

However, before a Member/ Partner Organisation can assign a Certificate of Sponsorship to a sportsperson, they will also have to obtain an endorsement from Badminton England for all applications made for individual sportspeople and coaches.

There is an administration fee of £100 for each governing body endorsement for sponsor licenses and migrant visa applications. Cheques must be included with applications, made payable to Badminton England.

## **Annex A - Sponsor Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application Form**

This form should be used to apply to Badminton England for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a Sponsor Licence under the Home Office Points Based System for Managed Migration

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

**Name of Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Contact Name and Position:**

**Telephone Number:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Signature:**

**Date of Application:**

**Supporting Evidence Required:**

An administration fee of £100 is required

Please send this form to: FAO Chief Executive via  
[suestorey@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:suestorey@badmintonengland.co.uk)

The information on this form may be disclosed to the Home Office in the event that they investigate the Badminton England processes and procedures

## **Annex B - Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form**

This form should be used to apply to Badminton England Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a migrant under International Sportsperson Route of the Home Office Points Based System.

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

**Full Name of Player/Coach:**

Short (12 months or less) or Long Term (Application (Exceeding 12 Months) [please delete as appropriate]

**Address:**

**Name of Organisation:**

**Sponsor Licence Number:**

**Contact Name and Position:**

**Telephone Number:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Signature:**

**Date of Application:**

An administration fee of £100 is required

Please send this form along with supporting evidence that the Player/Coach meets the criteria for endorsement to:

FAO Chief Executive via [suestorey@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:suestorey@badmintonengland.co.uk)

The information on this form may be disclosed to the Home Office in the event that they investigate the Badminton England processes and procedures.