



This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson route governing body endorsement requests made on or after the 17 May 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.

**Please note:** The International Sportsperson route replaces T2 Sportsperson and the sporting section of the T5 (Temporary Worker) Creative or Sporting Worker route. The onus is on the applicant to ensure they are compliant with the Immigration Rules in force when they apply for a visa.

**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

## Basketball England governing body endorsement requirements



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	4 years from date of issue.
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 sponsors - Sponsor an International Sportsperson guidance](#) has more information on this.



## Section 2: Requirements

This page explains Basketball England requirements under the International Sportsperson route.

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

The endorsements apply to England, Scotland, and Wales.

### **Consultation**

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation between Basketball England, Basketball Scotland, Basketball Wales, the British Basketball League, the Women's British Basketball League.

### **Review**

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

### **Length of season**

The season for basketball runs from mid to late September to late April/ early May.

### **Requirements**

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

Category	Requirement	
Sponsor	<p>Governing body endorsements from Basketball England will only be issued for clubs participating in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Basketball League (BBL)</li> <li>• Basketball England Division 1 Men</li> <li>• Women's British Basketball League (WBBL)</li> </ul>	
Migrant	Players	<p><b>Players graduating from the USA and Canada</b></p> <p>First time players, including new players (previously played in the UK but outside of the 18 months) from USA &amp; Canada and players coming to the UK who have graduated from the USA and Canada must have completed at least 4 years eligibility in the college system (this can include up to 2</p>



Category	Requirement
	<p>years at junior college), having played in either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) division 1, 2 or 3</li> <li>• National Athletic Inter Schools Association</li> <li>• Canadian Universities – U Sport</li> </ul> <p>Some players take 5 years to complete their 4 years college education due to taking a year out known as red-shirting. Players will not be penalised for following this option.</p> <p>The playing record should confirm that the player has made a significant contribution to the game. In the previous 2 seasons the player must have played in at least 75% of games they were eligible to play in, in each of the last two seasons, which includes conference and tournament games.</p> <p><b>International players</b></p> <p>Clubs applying for a governing body endorsement for an international player will need to demonstrate, that the player has played in at least 75% of their senior national team’s available games for a playing nation ranked in the top 50 in the world in the previous 2 seasons as measured by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Available international games include friendly fixtures, FIBA Continental, World and Olympic Championships unless it can be proved that they were not available for those games.</p> <p><b>Top domestic professional league players</b></p> <p>Players who have played for a professional league team that have competed in either of the following competitions:</p>



Category	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FIBA Euro league</li> <li>• Euro Cup</li> <li>• NBA G-League</li> <li>• FIBA Champions League</li> <li>• FIBA African Champions league</li> <li>• FIBA South American Championship</li> <li>• FIBA Europe Cup</li> <li>• NBA</li> <li>• WNBA</li> <li>• Professional Leagues in Europe</li> </ul> <p>within the last 2 seasons are eligible for endorsement. They must have played in at least 75% of games they were eligible to play in, which includes conference and tournament games.</p> <p>For Professional Leagues in Europe, the federation the league is based within, must be ranked in the top 50 in the world in the previous 2 seasons as measured by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). The professional league must be affiliated with their home federation and FIBA.</p> <p><b>Players performing community coaching/promotional work</b></p> <p>Players who are required to carry out some coaching duties as part of their contract should hold the UKCC or BE Level 2 Coaching Award before undertaking any coaching duties for a club. If a club applies to employ a player who does not hold the UKCC or BE Level 2 Coaching Award but satisfies all the player criteria, a governing body endorsement may be issued, on the condition that once they enter the UK they will achieve the UKCC or BE Level 2 Coaching Award within the first playing season. Once the individual has attained the award they will be able to undertake coaching duties.</p>



Category	Requirement
	<p>Governing body endorsements will not be issued for individuals solely to complete a coaching qualification.</p> <p><b>Extensions: players returning</b></p> <p>Where an overseas player is returning for another season to either BBL, WBBL or Basketball England’s Division One Men after playing in the UK during the previous season, the UK club have to demonstrate that they played at least 75% of their previous UK team's competitive games where they were available for selection.</p> <p>The definition of the term ‘available’ is when the selection of the team was undertaken the player was not injured or suspended.</p> <p><b>Change of employment</b></p> <p>If a player is transferred from one team to another during a season, the new club must obtain a new governing body endorsement before assigning a new certificate of sponsorship (CoS). The new player cannot play until they have been granted new permission to stay (leave to remain) in the UK. The UK club have to demonstrate that they played at least 75% of their previous UK team's competitive games where they were available for selection.</p> <p>The definition of the term ‘available’ is when the selection of the team was undertaken the player was not injured or suspended.</p> <p><b>Replacement of players</b></p> <p>Where a club wishes to replace a player, such as due to injury, they should apply for a governing body endorsement for the new player. If the injured player is still able to</p>



Category	Requirement	
		<p>play they may do so whilst the replacement endorsement is being considered.</p> <p><b>Students that have studied overseas and played in overseas college systems</b></p> <p>Students require a governing body endorsement under the International Sportsperson route if they wish to play for a professional or semi-professional club.</p>
	<b>Head Coach</b>	<p>Governing body endorsements will be issued for the post of head coach only.</p> <p>Coaches should hold the Basketball England (BE) Level 3 Coaching Award or its equivalent. They can also hold if from Scotland or Wales UKCC Coaching level 3 certificate or equivalent. If a club applies to employ a coach who does not hold the BE Level 3 Coaching Award/UKCC Coaching Level 3 or its equivalent but satisfies all other aspects of the criteria, a governing body endorsement may be issued on condition that once they enter the UK they will normally achieve the BE Level 3 Coaching Award within the first playing season.</p> <p>Clubs should provide evidence of the individual's previous coaching experience. A coach must have been in a Head Coach or Assistant Coach position for a Senior Professional Team, competing in a professional league, recognised by FIBA or in the US College System, in NCAA1, NCAA2 or NAIA or a National Team (ranked in top 50 FIBA World Ranking) in the last two seasons. Evidence to show a recruitment search has been undertaken should be provided. This should include the advertisement to be placed on the Basketball England Website, plus copies of other advertisement of the role and details of responses - see the full <a href="#">policy guidance</a></p>



Category	Requirement	
		<p>on sponsoring a worker for more information.</p> <p>Where clubs are applying for renewal of a governing body endorsement, the coach must have achieved a BE Level 3 Coaching Award. Clubs do not need to supply details of a recruitment search for coaches returning to the UK.</p>
<p><b>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</b></p> <p>Games for which the applicant was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating the applicant's appearance percentage – where applicable. Unavailable for selection means the applicant 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 player's National Association or club doctor to Basketball 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 [Basketball England](https://www.basketballengland.co.uk) website.

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

Gail Richards  
Senior Delivery Manager Game

Telephone: 03006001170  
Email: [Gail.Richards@basketballengland.co.uk](mailto:Gail.Richards@basketballengland.co.uk)



## Basketball England governing body endorsement requirements



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

### Endorsement Decision

An endorsement request may be accepted only where a Player or Head Coach meets the criteria Section 2 Requirements Basketball England will notify the sponsor in writing of any endorsement request which is refused setting out the reasons for refusal.

An endorsement request will be refused if the Player or Head Coach does not meet the Section 2 Requirements as set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents.

### Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for either a player to play in a team or a coach to coach a team in one of the leagues covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sports person has been refused on the grounds that the player or coach fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek an appeal of the decision. The sponsor will have 28 days to request an appeal. In these cases, Basketball England will refer the sponsor's evidence to an independent appeal panel as set out below.

The sponsor's supporting evidence will be sent to the appeal 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 panel available and the decision of the panel is final. Sponsors should therefore ensure that 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 appeal panel a further panel cannot be requested for the same player or Head coach during the season unless his status changes and he meets the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

#### **a. The Review**

The request for an appeal may only be made by the sponsor for whom the governing body endorsement has been initially rejected by Basketball England.

An appeal shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with Basketball England Integrity Team, a notice of appeal within 28 days of the decision appealed against. The notice of appeal shall:



## Basketball England governing body endorsement requirements

- 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. acknowledge the sole ground of appeal applicable in this process; that being incorrect application of the endorsement criteria;
- iii. be accompanied by a deposit of £250. 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 Panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

### **b. The Panel**

The panel will be appointed by the Basketball England's Discipline Officer. The appointed panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of Basketball England (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and a further independent member.

### **c. Power of the Panel**

The appeal panel will be convened, and will take into consideration the initial application, the appeal submission, and any reasoning and response provided by Basketball England. The sponsor will be notified of the appeal panel's decision within seven working days of the appeal panel meeting to make their decision.

### **d. The Decision**

The panel will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding.



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

#### **How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson sponsor licence applications**

Clubs eligible for an International Sportsperson sponsor licence governing body endorsement should use the application form in [Annex A](#).

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 club to be granted a sponsor licence. It is not Basketball England who will grant a sponsor licence.

#### **How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson migrant applications**

Once a club 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 club wishes to employ needs to be assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship. However, before a club can assign a Certificate of Sponsorship to a sportsperson, they will also have to obtain an endorsement from Basketball England for all applications made for individual sportspeople and coaches.

International Sportsperson Long Term Stay (Exceeding 12 months) clubs should use either:

[Annex C](#): International Sportsperson Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Player)

[Annex D](#): International Sportsperson Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)

Where a sponsor is seeking endorsement for a minor aged 16 or 17, written parental permission must be provided alongside their application. The sponsor must also have appropriate safeguarding arrangements, policies and procedures in place in line with the NSPCC Safeguarding and Child Protection standards in England and Wales [and Child First, Standards for Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport in Scotland](#).

).



## International Sportsperson Route Sponsor Route Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

This form should be used to apply to Basketball England for a governing body endorsement of an application for a sponsor licence under the International Sportsperson Route category of the Home Office points-based system.

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

Required start date of sponsor endorsement application:	
Name of club:	
Address:	
Contact name and position:	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email	
Date of application	
Signature	

**Supporting evidence required:** None

**Please send this form to:**

**Basketball England**

NSC

Gate 13

Eithad Campus

Rowsley St

Manchester

M11 3FF

The information on this form and any additional supporting document may be disclosed to the Home Office in the event that they investigate Basketball England and the processes and procedures used for governing body endorsements.





## Annex C: International Sportsperson Route

### Governing Body Endorsement Application Form - Player

This form should be used to apply to Basketball England for a governing body endorsement of an application for a migrant under the International Sportsperson Route category of the Home Office points-based system.

**Please return this completed form to:**  
**Basketball England, Governing Body Endorsements,**  
**NSC, Gate 13, Etihad Campus, Rowsley St. Manchester. M11 3FF**

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

Full name of player	
DoB	
Nationality	
Current address	
Employment start date	
Employment end date	
Address migrant employed at	
Job title	
Salary (where appropriate)	
Name of club	
Sponsor endorsement ref	
Contact name and position	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email	
Date of application	
Signature	

**Supporting evidence and or additional documents required:**

- player statistics/profile
- signed player contract

The information on this form and any additional support document may be disclosed to the Home Office in the event that they investigate Basketball England and the processes and procedures used for governing body endorsements.



Please indicate which of the following criteria are met:  
(all that are applicable)

**Returning players**

i. Did the player play in at least 75% of games available to the team in the relevant league (BBL, WBBL or Division One Men) finishing not more than 18 months ago?

- Yes - this therefore meets the governing body endorsement requirements.
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

**First time players, including new players (previously played in the UK but outside of the 18 months) from USA & Canada and players coming to the UK who have graduated from the USA and Canada**

i. Did the player complete 4 years eligibility in the college system in one of the following?

NCAA I		NCAA II		NCAA III		NAIA		CU - USport	
--------	--	---------	--	----------	--	------	--	-------------	--

- Yes - (proceed to ii)
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

ii. Did the player complete his/her final year of college not more than 18 months ago?

- Yes - (proceed to iii)
- No (proceed to iv)

iii. Did the player play in at least 75% of games in each of their final two years of college?

- Yes - this therefore meets the governing body endorsement requirements.
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

iv. Did the player play for a professional league side finishing not more than 18 months ago?

- Yes - (proceed to v)
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

v. Did the player play in at least 75% of games available to him/her for that side?

- Yes - this therefore meets the governing body endorsement requirements.
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

**First time players who did not attend US College:**

i. Did the player play for a professional league side finishing not more than 18 months ago?

- Yes - (proceed to ii)
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

ii. Did the player play in at least 75% of games available to him/her for that side?

- Yes - (proceed to iii)
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

## Basketball England governing body endorsement requirements



iii. Did the player play in at least 75% of his/her Senior National Team available international games (including friendly fixtures, FIBA Continental, World and Olympic Championships) within the past two seasons?

- Yes - this therefore meets the governing body endorsement requirements.
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements

### First time players straight from a top domestic professional league

i. Did the player play for a professional league team that played in either of the following; Euro league, Euro Cup, NBA, WNBA, FIBA African Championship League, FIBA South America Championship, NBA G-League, WNBA G League or a Professional European League, finishing not more than 18 months ago?

- Yes - (proceed to ii)
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

ii. Did the player play in at least 75% of games available to him/her for that side?

- Yes - this therefore meets the governing body endorsement requirements.
- No - this therefore does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.





## Annex D: International Sportsperson Route

### Governing Body Endorsement Application Form – Head Coach

This form should be used to apply to Basketball England for a governing body endorsement of an application for a migrant under the International Sportsperson category of the Home Office points-based system.

Please return this completed form to:

**Basketball England, Governing Body Endorsements**  
NSC, Gate 13, Etihad Campus, Rowsley St, Manchester, M11 3FF

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

Full name of Head Coach	
DoB	
Nationality	
Current address	
Employment start date	
Employment end date	
Address migrant employed at	
Job title	
Salary (where appropriate)	
Name of club	
Sponsor endorsement ref	
Contact name and position	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email	
Date of application	
Signature	

**Supporting evidence and or additional documents required:**

- coach profile
- evidence of coaching qualification and/or a coaching licence if issued by another federation.
- signed contract

The information on this form and any additional support document may be disclosed to the Home Office in the event that they investigate Basketball England and the processes and procedures used for governing body endorsements.



Please indicate which of the following criteria are met:  
(all that are applicable)

#### Returning coach

Where clubs are applying for renewal of a governing body endorsement, the coach must have achieved an BE Level 3 Coaching Award or UKCC Level 3 Coach Award. Clubs do not need to supply details of a recruitment search for coaches returning to the United Kingdom.

- Yes - this meets the governing body endorsement requirements.  
 No - this does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

#### First time coaches

Coaches should hold the Basketball England (BE) Level 3 Coaching Award, UKCC Level 3 Coaching Award or its equivalent. If a club applies to employ a coach who does not hold the BE Level 3 Coaching Award or its equivalent but satisfies all other aspects of the criteria, a governing body endorsement may be issued on condition that once they enter the United Kingdom they will normally achieve the UKCC Level 3 Coaching Award or BE Level 3 Coaching Award within the first playing season

- Yes - this meets the governing body endorsement requirements.  
 No - this does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

Clubs should provide evidence of the coach's previous coaching experience. A coach must have been in either a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach position in the last two seasons, for a senior professional team, competing in a professional league, recognised by FIBA or in the US College System, in NCAA1, NCAA2 or NAIA or a Senior National Team (ranked in the Top 50 World ranking by FIBA)

1. Evidence to show a recruitment search has been undertaken and should be provided. This must include a copy of an advertisement and must have been advertised in the UK and on the Basketball England website, details of all responses must be included. - see the sponsor for more information.

- Yes - this meets the governing body endorsement requirements.  
 No - this does not meet the governing body endorsement requirements.

