This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **16 November 2022**.

# 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.

**International Sportsperson (long term)** is defined as a period of stay exceeding 12 months.

**International Sportsperson (short term)** is defined as a period of stay of 12 months or less.

**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](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-m-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 SGB](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-m-sports-governing-bodies) of the Immigration Rules.

Approved governing bodies will work within the Home Office’s [‘Code of practice for sports governing bodies](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257342/sportingcodeofpractice.pdf)’ and must comply with any immigration regulations, UK legislation and the principles of the points-based system as detailed on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas) 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/workers-and-temporary-workers-guidance-for-sponsors-sponsor-a-sportsperson-or-sporting-worker) has more information on this.

# Section 2: Requirements

This page explains BaseballSoftball*UK* (BSUK) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 16 November 2022.

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

These requirements are applicable to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

 **Consultation**

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK), who has consulted with the development agency for baseball and softball in the UK along with the British Baseball Federation (BBF) and British Softball Federation (BSF).

**Review**

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in October 2023.

**Length of season**

The season for baseball and softball runs throughout the year.

**Requirements**

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

| **Category** | **Requirement** |
| --- | --- |
| **Sponsor** | Governing body endorsements will only be accepted from:* BSUK
* British Baseball Federation (BBF)
* British Softball Federation (BSF)
 |
| **Migrant** | **Coach**  | Governing body endorsements for an individual will be issued if they meet the following criteria:* applicants must hold a coaching qualification at, or equivalent to BSUK level 3, BSUK will carry out an assessment to determine this
* BSUK must be provided with written details of the terms and conditions of employment of the proposed post and evidence that such terms are comparable to those a UK applicant would be offered for the same or a similar post
* BSUK must be provided with a CV containing two references, as well as supporting documentation that evidences:
	+ the applicant has coached at US High School level (or equivalent) or above (for at least 2 years), or held a position within National Teams in another nations programmes (WBSC ranked top 20);
	+ the applicant’s qualifications align with the requirements as set out in this criteria.
* applicants should have a minimum of 3 years technical coaching experience at World Level and
* provide evidence of delivering finalists at World Level (Senior) and have coached within the last 2 years. arrangements judged suitable by BSUK must be in place for a disclosure and barring (DBS) check and other welfare checks of the applicant’s suitability where relevant
* arrangements judged suitable by BSUK must be in place to ensure the applicant will receive training equivalent to that at BSUK Level 3 in Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk before commencing work with children or adults at risk
* confirmation must be given by the sponsor that the wider requirements of UK law will be met in connection with the employment of the migrant
 |
| **Absences, Injuries and Suspensions**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 BaseballSoftball*UK* website at [www.baseballsoftballuk.com](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com)

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

John Boyd

CEO

BaseballSoftball*UK*

Home Plate

Farnham Park National Baseball and Softball Complex

Beaconsfield Road

Farnham Royal

SL2 3BP

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7453 7055

Email: john.boyd@bsuk.com

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

**Dispute handling procedures**

Any challenge to a decision of BSUK under this policy must be made under BSUK’s points based immigration system appeal policy, attached as [Appendix E](#_Appendix_E_–)**.** No other challenge to any decision will be entertained.

# Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement

**How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson (long term and short term)**

Member/Partner Organisations eligible for International Sportsperson (Long Term) sponsor licence governing body endorsement should use the Application Form: [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A_–).

Member / Partner Organisations eligible for International Sportsperson (Short Term) sponsor licence governing body endorsement should use the Application Form: [Appendix B.](#_Appendix_B_–)

Please note the requirements for Long term and Short term applications are the same

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 for a Member / Partner Organisation to be granted a sponsor licence. It is not BSUK who will grant a sponsor licence.

There is an administration fee of £50 for each governing body endorsement for sponsor licences.

**How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson (long and short term) applications**

Once a Member / Partner Organisation has obtained a 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. 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 BSUK for all applications made for individual sportspeople and coaches.

Long Term applications from Member / Partner Organisations should use [Appendix C](#_Appendix_C_–): International Sportsperson (Long term) Governing Body Endorsement Application Form.

Short Term applications from Member / Partner Organisations should use [Appendix D](#_Appendix_D_–): International Sportsperson (short term) Governing Body Endorsement Application Form.

There is an administration fee of £50 for each governing body endorsement for migrant applications.

You should read and complete the appropriate appendices and send to BSUK

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Appendix A](#_Appendix_A_–) | International Sportsperson (Long term) Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application |
| [Appendix B](#_Appendix_B_–) | International Sportsperson (Short Term) Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application |
| [Appendix C](#_Appendix_C_–) | International Sportsperson (Long term) Individual Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form |
| [Appendix D](#_Appendix_D_–) | International Sportsperson (Short term) Individual Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form |
| [Appendix E](#_Appendix_E_–) | BSUK’s Points Based Immigration System Appeal Policy. |

## Appendix A – International Sportsperson (Long term) Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application

This form should be used to apply to BaseballSoftball*UK* for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a Sponsor Licence under International Sportsperson sub-section of the Home Office points-based system for Managed Migration.

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

Name of International Sportsperson Member / Partner Organisation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of International Sportsperson Member / Partner Organisation |  |
| Address |  |
| Contact Name and Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile number |  |
| Email |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date of application |  |

**Supporting Evidence Required:** None

Payment of £50 to BaseballSoftball*UK* made by transfer to sort code: 20-41-41, account no: 63326241

**Please send this form to:**

BaseballSoftball*UK* Governing Body Endorsements

Home Plate, Farnham Park National Baseball and Softball Complex, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal SL2 3BP

**OR Email:** endorsements@bsuk.com

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

**Appendix B – International Sportsperson (Short term) Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application**

This form should be used to apply to BaseballSoftball*UK* for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application for a Sponsor Licence under International Sportsperson (Short term) sub-section of the Home Office point-based system for Managed Migration

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

Name of International Sportsperson Member / Partner Organisation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of International Sportsperson Member / Partner Organisation |  |
| Address |  |
| Contact Name and Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile number |  |
| Email |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date of application |  |

**Supporting Evidence Required:** None

Payment of £50 to BaseballSoftball*UK* made by transfer to sort code: 20-41-41, account no: 63326241

**Please send this form to:**

BaseballSoftball*UK* Governing Body Endorsements

Home Plate, Farnham Park National Baseball and Softball Complex, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal SL2 3BP

**OR Email:** endorsements@bsuk.com

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

## Appendix C – International Sportsperson (Long term) Individual Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

This form should be used to apply to BaseballSoftball*UK* for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application of an application for a migrant under International Sportsperson (long term) of the Home Office points-based system.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name of applicant |  |
| Address |  |
| Name of Member / Partner Organisation |  |
| BSUK Sponsor Licence Number |  |
| Member / Partner Contact Name and Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile number |  |
| Email |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date of application |  |

Please provide evidence below to meet the criteria, either:

BSUK Level 3 Coaching Certificate (please provide evidence of date and details of the course and copy of certificate)

**OR**

Non-UK qualification and written confirmation from BSUK that this qualification is of an equivalent or higher standard to BSUK Level 3 CC (please provide evidence of date and details of the course and copy of certificate)

**OR**

Curriculum Vitae, outlining coaching roles held and relevant experience, to include appropriate references, at least one from a person within a recognised National Baseball and/or Softball Organisation.

**AND**

Evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate medium.

Payment of £50 to BaseballSoftball*UK* made by transfer to sort code: 20-41-41, account no: 63326241

**Please send this form to:**

BaseballSoftball*UK* Governing Body Endorsements

Home Plate Farnham Park National Baseball And Softball Complex, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal SL23BP.

**OR Email:** endorsements@bsuk.com

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

## Appendix D – International Sportsperson (Short Term) Individual Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

This form should be used to apply to BaseballSoftball*UK* for a Governing Body Endorsement of an application of an application for a migrant under International Sportsperson (Short Term) of the Home Office points-based system.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name of applicant |  |
| Address |  |
| Name of Member / Partner Organisation |  |
| BSUK Sponsor Licence Number |  |
| Member / Partner Contact Name and Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile number |  |
| Email |  |
| Signature |  |
| Date of application |  |

Please provide evidence below to meet the criteria, either:

BSUK Level 3 Coaching Certificate (please provide evidence of date and details of the course and copy of certificate)

**OR**

Non-UK qualification and written confirmation from BSUK that this qualification is of an equivalent or higher standard to BSUK Level 3 CC (please provide evidence of date and details of the course and copy of certificate)

**OR**

Curriculum Vitae, outlining coaching roles held and relevant experience, to include appropriate references, at least one from a person within a recognised National Baseball and/or Softball Organisation.

**AND**

Evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate medium.

Payment of £50 to BaseballSoftball*UK* made by transfer to sort code: 20-41-41, account no: 63326241

**Please send this form to:**

BaseballSoftball*UK* Governing Body Endorsements

Home Plate, Farnham Park National Baseball and Softball Complex, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal SL2 3BP

**OR Email:** endorsements@bsuk.com

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

## Appendix E – BSUK’s points-based System Immigration Appeal Policy

Any appeal by a Member / Partner Organisation against the decision of BaseballSoftball*UK* (BSUK) 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: Sport Resolutions [www.sportresolutions.co.uk](http://www.sportresolutions.co.uk).

If a Member / Partner Organisation wishes to instigate an appeal pursuant to this Procedure, the Member / Partner Organisation must submit to the CEO of BSUK a written request for an appeal (“the Appeal”) containing the following details:

1. the name and address of the Member / Partner Organisation (and of the nominated body representative); and
2. a brief statement stating the grounds that the Member / Partner Organisation wish to use to appeal the BSUK decision.

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

1. relevant information was ignored or not considered by BSUK, **or**
2. the endorsement application process was tainted by unreasonable bias or conflicts of interest; **or**
3. the provisions of the BSUK Governing Body Endorsement were not adhered to; **or**
4. BSUK exceeded its jurisdiction; **or**
5. The findings of BSUK were irrational or otherwise exhibited an error of general law.

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

This request for appeal must be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the notification of the original BSUK decision not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement and include the relevant Appeal Fee (£125, cheque made payable to Sports Resolutions).

BSUK will acknowledge the Appeal in writing with the request that full written evidence in support of the Appeal must be submitted to Sports Resolutions within ten (10) 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 BSUK and the Member / Partner Organisation who sought the appeal.