

Home Office Immigration Rules for Cricket Overview Updated September 2021



The following table is provided as general overview only. The ECB are not registered immigration officials therefore if you require specific immigration guidance you will need to contact UK Visas and Immigration. Anyone wishing to use the services of a player and or coach, from outside the United Kingdom, must ensure that the visa/entry mechanism allows them to play and/or coach.

Please note that these immigration routes do not define the registration category of a player - please refer to the relevant set of player registration regulations, either at www.ecb.co.uk or at local League level.									
Immigration entry route	Immigration provisions allow involvement in cricket at First Class or Non-First Class Level (As designated by ECB)	Immigration provisions allow involvement in sport at Professional/ Amateur Status (As designated by Home Office)	Can the holder play cricket	Can the holder Coach (if suitably qualified and vetted)	Can the holder be paid to Play	Can the holder be paid to Coach	Immigration provisions allow involvement with a County Cricket Academy	Route to Residency / Settlement & Ultimately British Citizenship **	Notes
British passport holder who is also a British Citizen (see note)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Those classed as British Overseas Territories Citizens, British Overseas citizens, British protected persons, British subjects (under the British Nationality Act 1981) may not hold full British Citizenship. This will need to be checked before assuming they are a British Citizen.
Irish Citizen	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This does not apply to dependants of Irish Citizens, unless they themselves have been granted Irish Citizenship
EU citizen with EU Settlement Status (Pre Settled / Settled)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
EU citizen (Visitor - without EU Settlement Status)	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
NEW from Oct 2021: International Sportsperson Visa (Short Term - Non First Class Player/ Coach)	Non First Class only	Professional only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Can only play/coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment"
T5 (Creative & Sporting -Non First Class) Player/Coach- will no longer be available after October 2021	Non First Class only	Professional only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Can only play/coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment"
NEW from Oct 2021: International Sportsperson Visa (Short Term - Non First Class Coach Only)	Non First Class only	Professional only	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Can only coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment" No playing paid or unpaid.
T5 (Creative & Sporting -Non First Class) Coach Only - will no longer be available after October 2021	Non First Class only	Professional only	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Can only coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment" No playing paid or unpaid.
T5 (Youth Mobility Scheme)	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league. Can act as a coaching assistant (if suitably qualified and vetted) under direct supervision of a qualified coach. Can seek employment but not as a sports person or coach.
Leave to Remain - (does not include Points Based System Dependents)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Indefinite Leave to Remain (Settlement)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ancestry Visa	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Standard Visitor Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Non Visa National (now includes EU citizens who are visiting the UK)	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	A non-visa national can travel to the UK for a visit of up to 6 months without obtaining a visa before travelling. They must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league. A list of countries who require a visa to travel here can be found on https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list
Student Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Child Student Visa (4-17 year olds)	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Graduate Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	Generally no, see Home Office website for exceptions	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Global Talent Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Start-Up Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Generally no, see Home Office website for more details	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Health & Care Worker Visa	Non First Class only	Amateur only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Skilled Worker Route	none	none	no	no	no	no	no	Yes	Replaces Tier 2 General
NEW from Oct 2021: International Sportsperson Visa (Long term - Coach Only)	First Class Only	Professional only	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Replaces Sports person Visa T2 (Sport Coach Only)
Sports person Visa T2 (Sport Coach only endorsement) - will no longer be available from October 2021	First Class Only	Professional only	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Replaces Tier 2 Coach Only
Immigration Routes open prior to 31st January 2021 - An individual may have a valid visa which was issued prior to the 31st January 2021. In these instances, the immigration provisions which were in place when the visa was granted will remain true for the duration of the visa.									
Tier 1 (General Entrepreneur/ Exceptional Talent/ Graduate Entrepreneur/ Investors)	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Generally yes, see Home Office website for more details & criteria	Prevented from Professional sport at any level including as a Coach
Tier 2 (General/ ICT/MOR)	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Prevented from Professional sport at any level including as a Coach
Tier 4 (General)	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office.

Notes:
 *Supplementary Employment (Home Office definition) - an additional job in the same profession and at the same professional level as the work for which your Certificate of Sponsorship was assigned; and
 No more than 20 hours per week; and
 Outside of the normal working hours for which your Certificate of Sponsorship was assigned.
 In addition, you must continue to work for your sponsor in the job recorded on your Certificate of Sponsorship.

** Exact details of time required for each stage of the process should be researched on the Home Office website.

Professional Sports person (Home Office) -

- A "Professional Sports person", is someone, whether paid or unpaid, who:
1. is currently providing services as a sports person, playing or coaching in any capacity, at a professional or semi-professional level of sport;
 2. is currently receiving payment, including payment in kind, for playing or coaching that is covering all, or the majority of, their costs for travelling to, and living in the UK, or who has done so within the previous four years;
 3. is currently registered to a professional or semi-professional sports team, or who has been so registered within the previous four years. This includes all academy and development team age groups;
 4. has represented their nation or national team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17's upwards;
 5. has represented their represented their state or regional team within the previous two years, including all youth and development age groups from under 17's upwards;
 6. has an established international reputation in their chosen field of sport;
 7. engages an agent or representative, with the aim of finding opportunities as a sports person, and/or developing a current or future career as a sports person, or has engaged such an agent in the last 12 months; and/or
 8. is providing services as a sports person or coach at any level of sport, unless they are doing so as an "Amateur" in a charity event."