

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after **1 September 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 Immigration Rules for the International Sportsperson route can be found at [Appendix International Sportsperson](#).

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 relevant **sports 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 relevant **approved sports governing body** for their sport before you assign the certificate of sponsorship.

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

An **approved sports governing body** is one specified in [Appendix Sports Governing Bodies](#) of the Immigration Rules. Each 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.

Sports 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
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

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

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 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 1 September 2025.

Only the roles listed are eligible for endorsement.

These requirements are only applicable to England and Wales.

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. 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 2025 criteria for governing body endorsements for cricket.

The criteria for Coach Only, and Player Only for the PCC Game, the Women's Domestic Structure and The Hundred were reviewed through public consultation and the relevant ECB Cricket working groups, as well as the Professional Game Committee which has representatives from Professional County clubs, the MCC and the Professional Cricketers' Association. Other interested parties were also involved in the consultation.

The criteria will be reviewed on an annual basis through appropriate ECB committees which have representatives from the professional clubs, the Professional Cricketers' Association, Women's Cricket 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 the Professional Game Department via the Domestic Cricket Operations team at the ECB from 31 January 2026 and by no later than 31 May 2026. The relevant ECB Cricket working groups will submit the criteria to be formally ratified by the ECB Professional Game Committee and ECB Board to the Home Office for approval in July 2026.

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

The criteria for Coach-Player and Coach Only (Non-FCC) were reviewed through public consultation and the relevant ECB Cricket working groups, as well as the Recreational Game Committee which represents leagues across England and Wales.

The criteria for Coach-Player & Coach Only (Non-FCC) will be reviewed through public consultation as well as by the Recreational Game Committee.

Clubs who wish to propose changes for the review process to consider must submit those proposals to the Non-First Class Cricket Department via the Domestic Cricket Operations team at the ECB from 31 January 2026 and by no later than 31 May 2026. The Recreational Game Committee will submit criteria to the Home Office for approval in July 2026.

Length of season

The season for cricket in general runs from April to the end of September.

Requirements

The tables below show the endorsement requirements for sponsors and migrants.

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	Governing body endorsements for a sponsor license will only be issued for the following bodies: • Professional County Cricket Clubs (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) – as recognised by ECB • Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) • England and Wales Cricket Board • The Hundred Competition Teams – as recognised by ECB

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

	• County Cricket Boards and Women's Domestic Structure Tier 3 – as recognised by ECB • Non-First Class Cricket Clubs – affiliated to ECB, are “Safe Hands” compliant and meet at least one of the following criteria: they are Clubmark accredited or in the 2026 season they will be participating in one of the top 2 divisions of a league recognised by the ECB as a Premier League
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	Professional County Cricket (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) – Full-Time Coach Only (Long Term)	Initial Application In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • demonstrate that the individual is either qualified to UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) 3 /ECB Advanced Coach standard or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Advanced Coach (UKCC 3) standard coaching qualification as confirmed by the ECB. Notwithstanding this qualification requirement, the individual will also be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB that they have completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding Modules of the ECB Core Coach course and have completed and passed the ECB Health & Safety Assessment and that their certificates of completion for these courses are valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • demonstrate that the individual has satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches; and The individual for whom the endorsement is for, confirms that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agrees to meet the standards that the document outlines and • demonstrate that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to UKCC 3/ ECB Advanced Coach level 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 Wisden Cricketer Magazine, County Club/Board Website or ECB Website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		For the avoidance of doubt the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) , National Counties Cricket Association, Non-First Class Cricket Club, County Cricket Board or The Hundred team as applicable. Governing body endorsements would normally be issued to coaches for the length of the contract period up to 3 years Extensions Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements in respect of future seasons after 2026 should be made in the same way as an initial application would be made. It will be assessed against the criteria for the relevant season to which the extension applies.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	Professional County Cricket (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) / The Hundred Player Only (Short Term)	Initial Applications In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet one of the following criteria: - the cricketer must have played a minimum of one Test Match during the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the Governing Body Endorsement application or 5 Test Matches during the 60 months immediately prior to the date of the Governing Body Endorsement application provided that the country represented by the cricketer was on each occasion a Full Member of the ICC (Full Members are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe as well as the ECB); and which were approved and recorded by the ICC as authorised Test Matches or - during the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application the cricketer must have played in at least fifteen One Day Internationals and/or International Twenty20 matches for his/her country or, in the case of a cricketer seeking endorsement to participate in a Women's Domestic Structure Team twelve One Day Internationals and/or International Twenty20 matches (provided that the country represented by the cricketer was on each occasion a Full Member of the ICC) which were approved and recorded as authorised matches by the ICC; or - the cricketer must be currently centrally contracted to the Cricket Board of the cricketer's home country and in the current or most recent Test Match or One Day International or International Twenty20 team squad provided that the home country represented by the cricketer was a Full Member of the ICC or
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		• During the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application the cricketer must have played in a minimum of 20 – Twenty20 matches in an ICC Full member country or, • During the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application the cricketer must have played in a minimum of 10 – First Class (red ball) matches in an ICC Full member country or • The cricketer was granted a Player Only governing body endorsement in either 2023 and 2024 or 2024 and 2025. A certificate of sponsorship with a governing body endorsement under the International Sportsperson (short term) Player Only does not permit the player under any circumstances to: • be taken on, engaged or employed by a National Counties Cricket team or Non-First Class Cricket Club • register for, or participate in, matches played by Non-First Class Cricket Clubs or National Counties Cricket team For Players in the country on a governing body endorsement for a Professional Cricket County – inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2 team, who will be taken on loan to a Hundred team, no further endorsement will be required. Players must return to the original Professional Cricket County team at the end of the Hundred competition. Persons who have a work permit or permission to play under the points-based system for previous seasons will need to reapply and satisfy the criteria for the 2026 season. If the player has a contract for other subsequent seasons then they will need to reapply for each new season and satisfy the relevant criteria for that season in question.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	Professional County Cricket (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) Full-Time Coach Only (Short Term)	Initial Application In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • demonstrate that the individual is either qualified to UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) 3 or ECB Advanced Coach standard or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Advanced Coach (UKCC 3) standard coaching qualification as confirmed by the ECB. Notwithstanding this qualification requirement, the individual will also be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB that they have completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding Modules of the ECB Core Coach course and have completed and passed the ECB Health & Safety Assessment and that their certificates of completion for these courses are valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • demonstrate that the individual has satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches; and • the individual for whom the endorsement is for, confirms that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agrees to meet the standards that the document outlines; and • demonstrate that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to ECB Advanced Coach level 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 Wisden Cricketer Magazine, County Club/Board Website or ECB Website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified residents
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		For the avoidance of doubt, the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2), National Counties Cricket Association, Non-First Class Cricket Club, County Cricket Board or The Hundred team as applicable. It is expected that Professional Cricket Counties (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2), and The Hundred teams are unlikely to appoint and employ a full-time coach with no, or limited coaching experience. Under these circumstances governing body endorsements would normally be issued to coaches for the length of the contract period up to 12 months. Extensions Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements in respect of future seasons after 2026 should be made in the same way as an initial application would be made. It will be assessed against the criteria for the relevant season to which the extension applies.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	Non-First Class Cricket - Coach-Player Only (Short Term)	In order to obtain the governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • the individual must have played a minimum of 5: ○ First Class* and/or ○ ODI and/or ○ International T20 and/or ○ Test and/or ○ U19 World Cup cricket matches in the previous 24 months, or, the individual must have played in a minimum of 20 Twenty 20 matches in an ICC Full member country during the 24 months immediately prior to the date of the governing body endorsement application; and <i>*Note: the definition of First Class cricket matches will be that set down by the International Cricket Council in its regulations. However, only matches of 3 or more days' duration will be considered as First Class for the purpose of determining whether the 5 First Class matches criterion is satisfied</i> • the individual must have attained the relevant coaching qualification standard. Notwithstanding this qualification requirement, if this is the first governing body endorsement application in respect of the Coach-Player, the individual must, within 6 weeks of arriving in the UK either: ○ complete the relevant ECB Safeguarding Modules of the ECB Core Coach course and complete and pass the ECB Health & Safety Assessment if they have already attained the relevant coaching qualification standard, or
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		○ have at least commenced, if not completed, an ECB Foundation Coach or ECB Core Coach Course if they do not meet the relevant coaching qualification standard at the time of their application. The individual will be required to provide evidence that they have booked to undertake these courses with a course provider recognised by the ECB. Failure to complete and (in the case of the ECB Foundation Coach and ECB Core Coach Course and ECB Health & Safety Assessment) pass these courses will result in future endorsements not being granted. Where a Coach-Player has previously been in the UK pursuant to a governing body endorsement issued by the ECB, they will be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB that they have either (a) completed and passed the ECB Foundation or ECB Core Coach course or (b) completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding Modules of the ECB Core Coach course and have completed and passed the ECB Health & Safety Assessment, and that their certificates of completion for these courses are valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • submit a club coaching plan, detailing when and which days the individual will be coaching; and • the individual for whom the endorsement is for, confirms that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agrees to meet the standards that the document outlines; and • the individual must have satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches; and
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		- evidence is provided that the individual's salary meets the minimum requirement. In order to meet the relevant coaching qualification standard the individual must show they have: - attained a qualification of at least ECB Foundation or ECB Core Coach standard under the structured ECB National Coaching Scheme before undertaking any coaching duties for a club based in the UK; or - obtained a non-UK coaching qualification that is of an equivalent or higher standard to the ECB Core Coach standard. If the individual does not hold a recognised coaching qualification and has not been endorsed by the ECB previously, it is still possible for an endorsement to be issued providing that there is evidence in writing, from a course provider recognised by the ECB, confirming that a place on a course has been booked and a fee collected to undertake, complete and pass an ECB coaching course to at least ECB Foundation or Core Coach level by the end of the relevant season. If the individual fails to complete and pass the course before leaving the UK, future endorsements will not be granted until it is proven that an ECB Core Coach level or overseas equivalent coaching course has been completed and passed. Once the ECB Foundation or ECB Core Coach standard or equivalent has been achieved coaching duties can be undertaken, but not before. Those applicants that only need to undertake the relevant ECB Safeguarding modules Children of the ECB Core Coach course and the ECB Health & Safety Assessment cannot undertake coaching duties until those courses have been completed and (in the case of the Health & Safety Assessment) passed.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		It will not be necessary for coach-players already awarded the previous ECB Level II / UKCC2 qualification to be re-accredited, as this qualification is of an appropriate level.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		However, coach-players who have only attained the previous ECB Level I qualification will need to complete the ECB Foundation or ECB Core Coach course to attain the appropriate level before undertaking any coaching duties. In order to gain the maximum benefit from migrant coach- players, the Home Office will allow coach-players with the appropriate coaching qualifications to undertake coaching duties on a wider scale e.g. under the auspices of the local county cricket board. The ECB also offers an ECB Coach Support course. This only qualifies an individual to assist a qualified coach and is therefore an insufficient level to meet the governing body endorsement requirements. For the 2026 season on, migrant applications will also require sponsors to confirm and provide evidence that they continue to meet the sponsor endorsement requirements as laid out in this document. A certificate of sponsorship with a governing body endorsement as a Coach-Player Only does not permit the player-coach under any circumstances to: • be taken on, engaged or employed by a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2 and 2nd XI teams), , a Hundred team or a National Counties Cricket Team register for, or participate in, any matches or training sessions at a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2 and 2nd XI) , National Counties cricket team or Hundred team at any level.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	Non-First Class Cricket – Coach Only (Short Term)	In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • demonstrate that the individual is either qualified to ECB Foundation Course or ECB Core Coach standard or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the ECB Core Coach standard coaching qualification as confirmed by the ECB. Notwithstanding this qualification requirement, the individual will also be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB that they have completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding Modules of the ECB Core Coach Course and have completed and passed the ECB Health & Safety Assessment and that their certificates of completion for these courses are valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • demonstrate that there are no suitable resident workers who are qualified to ECB Foundation or ECB Core Coach level 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 Wisden Cricketer Magazine, County Club/Board Website or ECB Website which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers; and • submit a club coaching plan, detailing when and which days the individual will be coaching and • demonstrate that the individual has satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches; and • confirm that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agree to meet the standards that the document outlines.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		For the 2026 season on, migrant applications will also require sponsors to confirm and provide evidence that they continue to meet the sponsor endorsement requirements as laid out in this document. A certificate of sponsorship with a governing body endorsement as a Coach Only within the Non-First Class environment does not permit the Non-First Class Coach under any circumstances to: • be engaged in any playing or coaching activity for the MCC, the ECB, Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & tier 2 and 2ndXI) , National County Cricket teams County Cricket Boards or a Hundred team. • register for, or participate in any cricket matches played by Non-First Class Cricket Clubs. Extensions and out of season coaching For the avoidance of doubt, governing body endorsements of the International Sportsperson (short Term) for coach-players and coaches, are issued by the ECB until the end of the current season. Applications for out of season coaching where the coaching is part of a nationally recognised initiative and extensions to governing body endorsements which will fall into a future season after 2026, should be made in the same way as an initial application would be made. It will be assessed against the criteria for the relevant season to which the extension/ out of season coaching applies.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Migrant International Sportsperson	The Hundred- Full -Time Coach Only (Long Term)	Initial Application It is expected that the Hundred Teams will not appoint full-time coaches with no coaching or relevant playing experience. For those that do not hold a recognised coaching qualification, but who can demonstrate a proven track record of relevant coaching and/or playing experience, a governing body endorsement would be issued to coaches for the length of the contract or up to a maximum period of 3 years. This should be used for coaches on a contract length between 12 months plus 1 day and 3 years. In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • the individual will be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB, that they have completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding modules of the ECB Core Coach course and that their certification of completion is valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • the individual for whom the endorsement is for, confirms that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agrees to meet the standards that the document outlines and • demonstrate that the individual has satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches. For coaches in the country on a Governing Body Endorsement for a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) who will be taken on loan to a Hundred team, no further endorsement will be required. Coaches must return to the Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) at the end of the Hundred tournament.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		For the avoidance of doubt, the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier2 and 2nd XI), National Counties Cricket Association, Non-First Class Cricket Club, County Cricket Board or The Hundred team as applicable. Extensions Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements in respect of future seasons after 2026 should be made in the same way as an initial application would be made. It will be assessed against the criteria for the relevant season to which the extension applies.
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Migrant International Sportsperson	The Hundred- Full-Time Coach Only (Short Term)	Initial Application It is expected that the Hundred Teams will not wish to appoint full-time coaches with no coaching or relevant playing experience. For those that do not hold a recognised coaching qualification, but who can demonstrate a proven track record of relevant coaching and/or playing experience, a governing body endorsement would be issued to coaches for the length of the contract or up to a maximum period of 12 months. This should be used for coaches on a contract of 12 months or less. In order to obtain a governing body endorsement the individual must meet all of the following requirements: • the individual will be required to provide evidence in writing from a course provider recognised by the ECB, that they have completed the relevant ECB Safeguarding modules of the ECB Core Coach course and that their certificate of completion is valid until at least the expiry date of their proposed governing body endorsement; and • the individual for whom the endorsement is for, confirms that they have read and understood the ECB Coaches Code of Conduct and agrees to meet the standards that the document outlines and • demonstrate that the individual has satisfied the ECB vetting process for coaches; For coaches in the country on a Governing Body Endorsement for a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) who will be taken on loan to a Hundred team, no further endorsement will be required. Coaches must return to the Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) at the end of the Hundred tournament.
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England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

		Extensions Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements in respect of future seasons after 2026 should be made in the same way as an initial application would be made. It will be assessed against the criteria for the relevant season to which the extension applies. For the avoidance of doubt, the coach may not register for, nor participate in, matches played by a Professional Cricket County (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2 and 2nd XI), National Counties Cricket Association, Non-First Class Cricket Club, County Cricket Board or The Hundred team as applicable.
Injuries, Absences, and Suspensions The appearance requirements in this criteria have been drafted at a level which takes into account the fact an individual may have been unavailable for selection during the relevant time periods for a variety of reasons (for example due to injury; a period of maternity or paternity leave; serious illness or any legitimate medical reasons; 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 pursuant to (or recognised under) the applicable Codes, Rules and Regulations of the ECB or the ICC.		

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

Further information

This information is available on the ECB website at:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/regulations/overseas>

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

ECB Governing Body Endorsements

England and Wales Cricket Board

Lord's Cricket Ground

London

NW8 8QZ

Email: managedmigration@ecb.co.uk

Information on visas and immigration is available on the GOV.UK website

Governing Body Endorsement Appeals Procedure

Scope of appeal procedure

1.1 This document sets out the ECB's procedure for appeals by a cricket club or other applicable employer (each a Club) against the decision of the ECB not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement (GBE) for a sponsor licence in respect of the Club or any given individual migrant (the Migrant).

1.2 All such GBE decisions by the ECB (each a GBE Decision) are made pursuant to the ECB's published GBE procedure (as amended by the ECB from time to time and agreed by the Home Office and specifically through the ECB's application of the relevant criteria which forms the substantive element of that procedure and which must be satisfied for the ECB to be able to grant a GBE (the Criteria).

1.3 This Appeal Procedure has been adopted as of midnight 1 September 2023, supersedes any other appeal procedure published by the ECB, forms the entire agreement between the ECB, each Club and each relevant Migrant (together the Parties) as to how the ECB's GBE Decisions may be challenged and shall remain in place until superseded or amended by the ECB from time to time.

1.4 The Parties agree to submit any dispute concerning any matter connected with or arising out of a GBE Decision for resolution pursuant to this Appeal Procedure.

1.5 The Parties shall treat all decisions made pursuant to this Appeal Procedure as final and binding upon them.

Sole ground of appeal

2.1 The sole ground of appeal shall be that there has been a failure by the ECB to correctly apply the relevant Criteria in making a GBE Decision.

2.2 No other grounds of appeal or other challenges in relation to a GBE Decision, including but not limited to any challenge to the form or substance of any or all of the Criteria, can legitimately be made pursuant to this Appeal Procedure.

Notice of appeal

3.1 This Appeal Procedure is commenced when a Club affected by a GBE decision (the Appellant) submits a written appeal (the Notice of Appeal) to the ECB's Head of Regulations, England & Wales Cricket Board, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ within 14 days of the contested GBE Decision being issued by the ECB to the Club, together with a non-refundable appeal fee of £125.

3.2 The Notice of Appeal must include full details of the basis of the appeal including the precise manner in which the Appellant alleges that the Criteria have not been correctly applied, together with any supporting documentary evidence.

Initial evaluation

4.1 Upon receiving a Notice of Appeal, the ECB's Head of Regulations shall within 7 days acknowledge receipt to the Appellant and then arrange for an initial judgment on the validity of the appeal to be made by a panel consisting of two members of the ECB Cricket Discipline Commission (the Evaluation Committee). The Evaluation Committee shall not include any person who was involved in any way in making the original GBE decision.

4.2 The Evaluation Committee shall determine whether the Notice of Appeal is valid and whether the Appellant's complaint should be referred to and considered by a sole arbitrator in accordance with section 5 below, having regard to the following three issues:

- a) whether the Notice of Appeal has been served in time;

- b) whether the Notice of Appeal is based on the sole applicable ground of appeal set out at section 2 above; and
 - c) whether the Notice of Appeal discloses a prima facie case that the appeal is, on the balance of probabilities, likely to succeed
- (each a Condition).

4.3 If all three Conditions are satisfied in the majority opinion of the Evaluation Committee, it shall confirm that the Appellant's appeal should be referred to a sole arbitrator in accordance with section 5.

4.4 If any one or more of the three Conditions are not satisfied in the majority opinion of the Evaluation Committee, the Notice of Appeal shall be dismissed and no further action shall be taken by any Party. The Appellant and the Migrant shall accept this decision as final and binding on them.

4.5 The decision of the Evaluation Committee, and where the Evaluation Committee does not remit the matter to the sole arbitrator the reasons for their decision, shall be provided in writing to the Appellant as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case normally within 28 days after the receipt by the ECB's Head of Regulations of the Notice of Appeal.

Arbitration

5.1 In the event that the Evaluation Committee decides to refer an Appellant's appeal for a decision by a sole arbitrator in accordance with paragraph 4.3, it shall be referred to Sport Resolutions (UK) for final and binding arbitration by a sole arbitrator in accordance with the Appeal Arbitration Procedure set out in Sport Resolutions (UK)'s Arbitration Rules, save as amended by the provisions of this Appeal Procedure (the Arbitration).

5.2 The sole arbitrator shall be appointed by the Executive Director of Sport Resolutions (UK), unless otherwise agreed in writing by all the Parties.

5.3 The Parties agree that the Arbitration shall be conducted without any hearing, on the basis of written submissions only, unless otherwise agreed in writing by all the Parties.

5.4 The sole arbitrator shall be entitled to order one Party to pay another Party's legal and other costs, subject to a cap of £2,000 (including VAT).

5.5 The Parties agree that the reasons for the sole arbitrator's decision shall remain confidential.

Remedies

6.1 The sole arbitrator shall have the power, in making his/her written decision, either to affirm or to reverse the ECB's GBE Decision. In the event that the sole arbitrator reverses the ECB's GBE Decision, he/she shall also direct the ECB to grant a GBE to the Appellant in its own capacity as a sponsor and/or in respect of the relevant Migrant (as applicable) and the ECB shall comply with such direction.

Section 3: process for applying for an endorsement

How to apply for Governing Body Endorsements for Sponsor Licences for Clubs and Teams

Professional Cricket Counties (inc. Tier 1 & Tier 2) Counties, the Marylebone Cricket Club, and the England & Wales Cricket Board should use:

Annex 1: Sponsor Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

County Cricket Boards and Women's Domestic Structure Tier 3 should use:

Annex 2: Sponsor Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

Non-First Class Cricket Clubs should use:

Annex 3: Sponsor Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

The Hundred teams should use:

Annex 10: Sponsor Licence Governing Body Endorsement Application Form

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 cricket club to be granted a Sponsor Licence. It is not the England and Wales Cricket Board that will grant a Sponsor Licence to a club.

There is an administration fee of £24 for each Governing Body Endorsement for Sponsor Licences. Application fees must be paid as soon as the application is sent.

How to apply for Governing Body Endorsements for International Sportsperson migrant applications

Once a cricket club/ team has obtained their 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/ team wish to employ needs to be offered a Certificate of Sponsorship by the club/ team. However, before a club/ team can issue a Certificate of Sponsorship to a sportsperson, they will also have to obtain an endorsement from the England and Wales Cricket Board for all applications made for individual sports people and coaches.

The purpose of an endorsement for a migrant is to confirm that they are an internationally established sportsperson at the highest level, will make a significant contribution to the development of his/her sport at the

highest level in the UK. The issue of a Certificate of Sponsorship authorises the migrant to apply for entry clearance but does not mean that their application will succeed. The Home Office will make the final decision about who is allowed to come here. The migrant will need to obtain sufficient points and their personal or immigration history will be considered as part of the entry clearance application.

Professional Cricket Counties (Inc Tier 1 & Tier 2) the Marylebone Cricket Club and the England & Wales Cricket Board should use:

- *Annex 4: International Sportsperson (short Term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Player Only); or*
- *Annex 5: International Sportsperson (long term), max of 3 years Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach); or*
- *Annex 6: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach).*

County Cricket Boards and Women's Domestic Structure Tier 3 should use:

- *Annex 5: International Sportsperson (long term), max of 3 years Sportsperson Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)*
- *Annex 6: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)*

Non-First-Class Cricket Clubs should use:

- *Annex 7: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach-Player)*

England and Wales Cricket Board Governing Body Endorsement requirements

- *Annex 8: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)*

The Hundred Teams should use:

- *Annex 11: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Player Only)*
- *Annex 12: International Sportsperson (long term), max of 3 years Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)*
- *Annex 13: International Sportsperson (short term), less than 12 months Migrant Governing Body Endorsement Application Form (Coach)*

There is an administration fee of £35 for each Governing Body Endorsement for Migrant applications. Application fees must be paid as soon as the application is sent.

Annex 9 should be used to assist with evidence submissions in all applications.