

Tennis & Rackets Association governing body endorsement requirements

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **16 April 2024**.

Section 1: Overview of governing body endorsements for the International Sportsperson route of the points-based system

This page provides a brief explanation of what endorsement requirements apply in respect of the International Sportsperson route of the points-based system. The Immigration Rules for the International Sportsperson route can be found at [Appendix International Sportsperson](#).

The International Sportsperson route is for elite sportspeople and coaches who:

- are internationally established and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK
- who will base themselves in the UK
- will be filling a post that cannot be filled by a suitable British citizen or person who has a right to enter or stay in the UK without restriction.

The application process explained: migrants applying to come to the UK under the International Sportsperson route need to be sponsored by an organisation that has an International Sportsperson sponsor licence.

If you wish to sponsor such migrants, you must have a sponsor licence. Before you apply to the Home Office for a licence you must be endorsed by the **approved governing body** for your sport. This endorsement confirms to the Home Office that the application for a licence is from a genuine sports club (or equivalent) that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople. Once licensed, you can assign certificates of sponsorship to a sportsperson or coach with a job offer that allows them to apply for entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK. Each individual must also have a personal endorsement from the **approved governing body** for their sport before you assign the certificate of sponsorship.

An **approved governing body** is one specified in [Appendix Sports Governing Bodies](#) of the Immigration Rules. Such a governing body must be recognised by one of the home country sports councils such as Sport England, and will have been approved by the Home Office before being included in [Appendix Sports Governing Bodies](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Approved governing bodies will work within the Home Office's '[Code of practice for sports governing bodies](#)' and must comply with any immigration regulations, UK legislation and the principles of the points-based system as detailed on the [GOV.UK](#) website.

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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.

Compliance with the Code of Practice for Sports Governing Bodies

In reviewing this criteria, the Tennis & Rackets Association confirm we have reread the Code and agree to our roles and responsibilities as set out within. We confirm we have acted in full compliance with the principles of the Code during this annual review.

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Section 2: Requirements

This page explains Tennis & Rackets Association (T&RA) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 16 April 2024.

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

These requirements are applicable to England, Scotland and Wales.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the T&RA.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, the T&RA confirm that full consultation has been carried out, this includes any organisation that could be interpreted as an interested party, such as clubs, bodies, or player associations related to Real Tennis and Rackets in the UK.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in March 2025.

Length of season

The season for both Real Tennis and Rackets runs from August to July.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	<p>The T&RA may act as sponsor in its own right or may issue an endorsement to Real Tennis and Rackets venues. The T&RA will consider applications for a governing body endorsement for an International Sportsperson sponsor licence if a club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is an affiliated Real Tennis or Rackets venue; or• has a T&RA grant funded programme or such other high performance programme as the T&RA may have in place from time to time

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Category	Requirement	
	<p>Applications for endorsements will not be considered and endorsements will not be issued if either of the above criteria is not met.</p> <p>Affiliated Venue is the T&RA's recognition that a Real Tennis or Rackets venue has achieved certain minimum standards and best practice. This status confirms that the T&RA supports a venue's Real Tennis or Rackets programme, policies and procedures, and venue management. To qualify, the venue must be affiliated to the T&RA.</p>	
Migrant	Full time professional	<p>If a sponsor licence holder wishes to apply for a governing body endorsement to employ a professional, they will have to satisfy the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the professional must have successfully completed a Level 2 (or equivalent) coaching qualification; or a minimum of 15 days formal coaching qualifications, including an assessment with their own National Governing Body and/or internationally recognised provider of professional training • they are an internationally established professional (ranked in the world top 30 in either Tennis or Rackets; or those with a handicap better than 15 in Tennis and those with more than 1900 ranking points in Rackets) and will contribute significantly to the game in the UK; • the professional must have worked as a professional for a minimum period of six months in either sport

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Category	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a satisfactory DBS check, or equivalent criminal records check in their home country; such checks may subsequently need to be carried out in the UK; the T&RA shall determine in its sole and absolute discretion whether such checks are satisfactory <p>To demonstrate that they meet the criteria the migrant coach will need to supply copies of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a CV outlining employment history and achievements • certificates of coaching qualifications or Investing in Professionals level achieved • documentation to confirm a satisfactory DBS check, or criminal records check • copies of their passport • at least two employment references; one of which must be from their current or most recent employer, confirming their relevant experience <p>The migrant Professional must be an accredited professional prior to undertaking any coaching in the UK.</p> <p>If the Real Tennis or Rackets venue wishes to sponsor the migrant coach under the International Sportsperson route then the venue will need to provide evidence that the job has been advertised for four weeks in the most appropriate advertising medium; T&RA, International Real Tennis Professionals' Association (IRTPA) or UK Sport Websites,</p>

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Category	Requirement	
		<p>which provides the best way of reaching qualified resident professionals. This process is essential to confirm that there are no suitable resident workers in the UK who also meet the above criteria and can do the job.</p> <p>Extensions and changes of employment</p> <p>Where the sponsor licence holder wishes to extend the employment a new governing body endorsement should be applied for in line with the initial requirements, as described above.</p>
<p>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</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 [Tennis & Rackets Association](#) website. For any queries relating to the requirements or the endorsement process please contact:

The Chief Executive
The Tennis & Rackets Association
Palliser Road
LONDON
W14 9EQ

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7 835 6960
Email: executive@tennisandrackets.com

Information on visas and immigration is available on the gov.uk website.

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Dispute handling procedures

a. Review Process

A request for a review may only be made by a sponsor for whom the governing body endorsement has been initially rejected by the T&RA.

Where an application has been refused on the grounds that the sponsor and/or migrant sportsperson or coach does not meet the requirements, the sponsor may request a review of this decision.

The sponsor will have 14 days to appeal beginning on the date on which the refusal decision is given by the T&RA.

Any appeal must be sent to the T&RA Chief Executive who will refer such request to the Chairman of the T&RA's Appeal Panel (AP).

Any appeal must set out details of the decision that the sponsor wishes the AP to review or, if the sponsor does not wish to review the whole decision, the sponsor must identify which part of the decision that it wishes to be reviewed.

Any appeal must set out the full grounds on which the sponsor wishes to rely and the sponsor shall not be entitled to rely on any grounds not set out in the request for a review. The sponsor should submit all supporting evidence to the AP in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision.

b. The Review

The Chairman of the AP will convene a hearing, which can be carried out on the telephone. In such circumstances, the sponsor will be provided with details of the format of the hearing, the terms of reference and the identity of the AP and the particular issues that will be addressed.

c. Power of the Panel

The AP shall have the authority to determine if:

- There has been a failure by the T&RA to follow policy; or
- The decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

d. The Decision

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

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Further Information

For more information please contact the T&RA Chief Executive on 0207 835 6937.

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Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement

How to apply for the T&RA's governing body endorsement to become an International Sportsperson sponsor

A sponsor can apply to the T&RA for a governing body endorsement using the form in [Annex 1](#). If an application is successful, the T&RA will issue an endorsement in the format attached at [Annex 2](#).

The governing body endorsement for a sponsor under International Sportsperson shall be granted for a maximum of 4 years.

Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements must be made in the same way as the original application, as outlined in [Annex 1](#).

All potential sponsors should note that the purpose of an endorsement for a prospective sponsor is to confirm to UKVI officials processing sponsor applications that the application is from a bona fide Real Tennis or Rackets venue that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople/professionals.

UKVI has additional criteria that a Real Tennis or Rackets venue must satisfy before a sponsor licence will be granted to the sponsor. It is not the T&RA who will grant a sponsor licence.

The T&RA's governing body endorsement requirements for migrant professionals

If a sponsor wishes to apply for the T&RA's governing body endorsement to employ a full-time professional, they must apply to the T&RA using the form in [Annex 3](#).

Documentary evidence must be included with this application to confirm that the migrant coach satisfies the minimum criteria.

Applications will be considered by a panel consisting of at least two of the following:

- a T&RA Trustee
- a senior Real Tennis or Rackets professional (as appropriate)
- the T&RA Chief Executive/Chairman

The T&RA shall determine whether a professional is suitable for a governing body endorsement. If the application is successful, the T&RA will issue an endorsement in the format attached at [Annex 4](#).

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Annex 1: International Sportsperson governing body endorsement application - sponsor licence

This form should be used to apply to the Tennis & Rackets Association (T&RA) for a governing body endorsement in support of an application for a **licence to sponsor migrants under the International Sportsperson categories**.

Please complete all sections below:

Name of sponsor:	
Address:	
Telephone number	
Contact name & job title	
Contact email address	
Signature	
Date of application	

Please tick the applicable boxes below:

- we are an affiliated Real Tennis or Rackets venue
- we have a T&RA grant funded programme

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- we wish to apply to UKVI for a licence to sponsor migrants under the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) category
- we wish to apply to UKVI for a licence to sponsor migrants under the Tier 5 (Temporary worker) Creative and Sporting category

The issue of this T&RA endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the T&RA at the time of the request.

Please forward the original form to:

The Chief Executive
The Tennis & Rackets Association
Palliser Road
LONDON
W14 9EQ

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the T&RA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 2: Tennis & Rackets Association (T&RA) governing body endorsement - sponsor licence

Tier	
Type	T&RA sponsor licence endorsement
Endorsement reference number	
Endorsement issue to (Sponsor full name)	
Sponsor address	
Start date of endorsement	
End date of endorsement	
T&RA endorsement issued by	The Chief Executive The Tennis & Rackets Association Palliser Road LONDON W14 9EQ

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Signed	(on behalf of The Tennis & Rackets Association)
Date endorsement issued	

The International Sportsperson route is the single, streamlined route for sportspeople entering the UK.

The issue of this T&RA endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the T&RA at the time of the request.

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the T&RA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 3: International Sportsperson sponsor licence governing body endorsement application - professional

This form should be used to apply to the Tennis & Rackets Association (T&RA) for a governing body endorsement of an application for a professional under the International Sportsperson categories.

Please complete all sections of the form unless otherwise indicated:

Full name of professional	
Address of professional	
Nationality	
Job title of professional	
Period of employment the endorsement is issued for	
Proposed salary	
Name of sponsor	
Supplementary employment section	

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Sponsor licence number	
Telephone number	
Contact name & job title	
Contact email address	
Signature	
Date of application	

Please tick the applicable boxes below:

- we are a licensed sponsor under the International Sportsperson and we wish to apply to UKVI to sponsor the above migrant professional under the International Sportsperson category
- we enclose a colour photo copy of the migrant professional passport (photo page - confirming name and nationality) which has been countersigned and dated by the Real Tennis or Rackets venue administrator

We also enclose the following documents and/or evidence that the migrant professional meets the following criteria:

- a qualification at Level 2 (or equivalent) or above in coaching
- an internationally established professional who will contribute significantly to the game in England or Scotland
- lead coaching professional to one or more top junior players for a total of more than two years
- a satisfactory DBS check, or equivalent criminal records check in their home country
- a CV outlining employment history and achievements
- certificates of coaching qualifications achieved

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- copies of their passport
- at least two employment references, one of which must be from their current or most recent employer, confirming their relevant experience

Please tick the box below if applicable:

- evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate medium.

Please forward the original form with the cheque payment to:

The Chief Executive
The Tennis & Rackets Association
Palliser Road
LONDON
W14 9EQ

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the T&RA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 4: T&RA endorsement - International Sportsperson migrant

Tier endorsement issued under	
Type (i.e. sportsperson or coach)	
Endorsement reference number	
Endorsement issue to (Sponsor full name)	
Sponsor address	
Endorsement issued for (Migrant full name)	
Address of migrant	
Job title	

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Proposed Salary	
Period of employment the endorsement is issued for	
T&RA endorsement issued by	The Chief Executive The Tennis & Rackets Association Palliser Road LONDON W14 9EQ
Signed	(on behalf of The Tennis & Rackets Association)
Date endorsement issued	

The issue of this T&RA endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the T&RA at the time of the request.

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the T&RA's processes and procedures.