

UK ATHLETICS (UKA) GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

This guidance is to be used for all Tier 2 and Tier 5 governing body endorsement requests made on or after the 10 April 2019.

Section 1: Overview of governing body endorsements for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories of the points-based system

This page provides a brief explanation of what endorsement requirements apply in respect of the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories of the points-based system.

The Tier 2 (Sportsperson) category is for elite sportspeople and coaches who are internationally established at the highest level and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK, and who will base themselves in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting category is for sportspeople (and their entourage where appropriate) and coaches (who must be suitably qualified to fulfil the role in question) who are internationally established at the highest level in their sport, and/or will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The application process explained: migrants applying to come to the UK under either of the sporting categories above need to be sponsored by an organisation that has a sponsor licence under Tier 2 (Sportsperson) or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting.

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 leave to enter or remain 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.

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An **approved governing body** is one specified in [Appendix M](#) 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 M](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Approved governing bodies will work within the Home Office '[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 or the tier under which the migrant's application is being made, that is:

Type of application	Tier	Length of endorsement
Sponsor	Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	4 years from date of issue
Migrant	Tier 2 (Sportsperson)	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.
Sponsor	Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	For the length of the contract or up to a maximum of 12 months, whichever is the shorter period.

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 category, 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 leave to remain. Leave to remain must be granted before the migrant can start work with the new employer.

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Supplementary employment

Tier 2 and Tier 5 migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office supplementary employment regulations. The ‘Supplementary employment’ section of the [Tiers 2 and 5: guidance for sponsors](#) has more information on this.

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the UK Athletics (UKA) requirements for the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories. The requirements are effective from 10 April 2019.

These requirements are applicable to the UK.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the UKA and the Home Countries, including England Athletics, Welsh Athletics, Scottish Athletics and Northern Ireland Athletics.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed biennially. The next review will be in April 2021.

Length of season

The season for athletics runs from January to December on an annual basis. There are several seasons for athletics during the year i.e. indoor season, outdoor season and cross-country season. The indoor season is normally in the first quarter of the calendar year. The outdoor season normally spans spring, summer and autumn. The cross-country season normally runs throughout the winter months. Due to the global nature of the international sport the competitions are spread throughout the year. Therefore, there is no natural start or end to the athletics season.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	Governing body endorsements will be available for the following bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Athletics; • England Athletics; • Scottish Athletics; • Welsh Athletics; • Northern Ireland Athletics.

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Category	Requirement	
<p>Migrant</p> <p>Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting</p>	<p>Coach</p>	<p>Governing body endorsements will be available to salaried coaches if the individual meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is either qualified to UKA Event Specialist standard or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the UKA Event Specialist standard coaching qualification as confirmed by UKA; • has at least 3 years experience working with world class athletes; • has a proven track record working with elite athletes in delivering World and Olympic medals. <p>The sponsor must provide evidence of the individual's previous coaching experience at World Class level, and detail how their employment will make a significant contribution to the development of GB athletes and podium success.</p> <p>Injury and Suspension:</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>

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Further information

This information is available on the UKA website at www.uka.org.uk

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

UK Athletics Human Resources Department
Athletics House
Alexander Stadium
Walsall Road
Perry Bar
Birmingham
B42 2BE

Telephone: 0121 713 8400

Email: hr@uka.org.uk

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

Dispute handling procedure

UKA will consider any complaint regarding its decisions in relation to the issue, non-issue, or dispute of applications for endorsement providing they are made in writing to the Head of HR and Welfare within 7 days of the notification of the decision.

The correspondence should clearly detail the nature and grounds of the appeal and should include, where appropriate, other relevant documentation. The complaint will be referred to an internal Dispute Resolution Panel, consisting of three members of staff appointed by the Head of HR and Welfare. The panel will review all the relevant information regarding the case, before making a decision.

If there is any new relevant information submitted that could have a bearing on the outcome of the application, then UKA will liaise with the Home Office for consideration and input. The Head of HR and Welfare will then inform the internal Dispute Resolution Panel of the Home Office response. Following due consideration of all the information, the individual will be notified of the decision of the internal Dispute Resolution Panel. This decision ends the process, as there is no further appeal.