

BF GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Last Updated: 23 October 2023

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **24 October 2023**.

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 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.

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.

BF Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

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	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, British Fencing 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.

BF Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the British Fencing requirements under the International Sportsperson route. These requirements are effective from 24 October 2023.

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 between British Fencing and have considered the requirements of England Fencing, Northern Ireland Fencing Union, Scottish Fencing and Welsh Fencing (the “Home Countries”).

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, British Fencing 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 fencing in the UK.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in September 2024.

Length of season

Fencing runs throughout the year.

Requirements

The table below shows the endorsement requirements for sponsors and migrants

Category	Requirements	
Sponsor	Governing body endorsement requests will only be accepted from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• British Fencing• Fencing Clubs that are members of British Fencing• a Home Country that has signed a Home Country Agreement with British Fencing• an association affiliated to British Fencing (a full list of affiliated associations is available from British Fencing)	
Migrant	Coach	Initial application Requests for endorsements will only be issued to Coaches who meet all the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a minimum of 3 years technical coaching experience• an understanding of competition rules / format together with effective coaching methods for progressing fencers through an effective training programme• once approved, becomes a full member of British Fencing and successfully completes the British Fencing Coach registration

BF Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

		<p>process for coaches within 3 months of arrival and maintains that registration throughout the duration of their endorsement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• must provide the equivalent of a Disclosure and barring service check. <p>And at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coached at a World or Continental Level (Zonal, World Championship or Olympic Games)• Provide evidence of coaching athletes to deliver highly creditable international results at Cadet, Junior, U23 or Senior level• Have completed coach education and qualifications to a performance level in a country that provides a structured national coach training program which delivers Olympic medal success in the relevant disciplines (within the last 2 full Olympic cycles) AND coached regional or national squads within that country. <p>Extension applications Endorsement requests for extension applications are available to Migrants.</p> <p>A governing body endorsement for an extension will only be allowed where the total period for the endorsement would not exceed 6 years (i.e. the initial period for the endorsement and the period of the extension combined).</p> <p>If an extension period is required or there are changes to the above details a new governing body endorsement will be required. The issue of this governing body endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued as each endorsement will be considered against requirements and information at the time of the request.</p> <p>A governing body endorsement request for an extension application have the following additional requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the coach has been a member of British Fencing throughout their time in the UK• they have successfully registered as a coach with British Fencing and maintained their registration for the period of the initial endorsement
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BF Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

Injuries, Absences 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 www.britishfencing.com

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

The Chief Executive Officer

British Fencing

1 Baron's Gate

33-35 Rothschild Road

London W4 5HT

Telephone: 0208 7423032

Email: headoffice@britishfencing.com

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

Dispute handling procedures

[BF Complaints Policy](#)

Section 3: process for applying for an endorsement

How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson

The application process for all British Fencing endorsements can be found in the British Fencing Procedures for governing body endorsements which are available from British Fencing HQ or on the British Fencing website.

British Fencing is committed to providing equal opportunities for all and is committed to following best practice in the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults. For further information please consult: www.britishfencing.com

We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to receive clear, understandable information from British Fencing. If you require this in an alternative format please contact BF HQ.