



This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after **6 January 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](#).

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.
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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 migrant 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.

Length of Endorsement

Governing body endorsements should be issued for a period appropriate to the period of approval for sponsorship, that is:

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|-----------------|---|
| Sponsor: | 4 years |
| 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. |

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.

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the British Speedway Promoters Ltd (BSP) requirements for the International Sportsperson route for the **2025** season. This criteria is effective from **6 January 2025**.

Only the roles listed as part of 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 BSP.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually in December for the forthcoming season. The next review will be in December **2025**.

Length of Season

The competition season runs from March to November.

Requirements

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

Sponsor Requirement

Requests for endorsements will only be issued to a club on the following basis:

- the applicant is a member of the BSP and competes or is intending to compete with BSP approval in British Speedway Leagues
- the applicant has completed and submitted the appropriate application form for a club endorsement
- the applicant meets the terms of the UK Visa & Immigration (UKVI) policy for licenced sponsors and submits the approved sponsor licence confirmation document to the BSP before any migrant endorsements are requested (this is because it can take up to 6 weeks before a sponsor appears on the UKVI licenced sponsor register).

Migrant (Rider) Requirement

Endorsement of migrants will be in line with the UKVI's Rules & Regulations and that migrants eligible for endorsement meet the following criteria:

- are internationally established at the highest level of their sport and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development and operation of their sport in the UK and who intend to base themselves in the UK for the season
- evidenced by finishing position in a BSP recognised National or State Championship (See Appendix 1) or by participating in a Professional Speedway League for 2 seasons, within two years of the endorsement request
- upon the expiry of their Certificate of Sponsorship, a rider returning to the UK must have achieved a Premiership League CMA of 4.00 or a Championship League CMA of 5.00 in order to be eligible for endorsement. Riders must have achieved these averages with a minimum of 20 (twenty) meetings in the previous UK season or have qualified through meeting the National or State Championship or Professional League criteria. (See Appendix 1)
- written confirmation from the licenced sponsor must be provided stating who the migrant is responsible to together with who directs the migrant (licenced sponsor), which should be signed by both the migrant and licenced sponsor, to include the riders assessed earnings for the season and how they are made up i.e. payment per point, vans, mechanics etc. A loan agreement, if appropriate, and BSP contract must be in place and signed by all parties prior to their first professional appearance

Loans

International Sportsperson migrants may only be initially employed by their licenced sponsor, however, if the International Sportsperson (long term) migrant is no longer included in their licenced sponsors 1-7 they may be loaned to another club for inclusion in another 1-7 so long as they are still under contract with their licenced sponsor.

The loan must be approved by the BSP and the migrant can be loaned, provided they will return to their original club at the end of the loan period. If the rider is moving on loan, the licenced sponsor must report this to the Home Office using their sponsorship management system (SMS) account within 10 working days of the move. The licenced sponsor must maintain direction, control and the appropriate records and abide by their duties as per Home Office regulations. Further information can be found under Workers and Temporary Workers: guidance for sponsors: Sponsor an International Sportsperson.

International Sportsperson migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office's supplementary employment regulations, for 20 hours outside your normal working hours with another employer or employers. This work must be either in a job on the Shortage Occupation List, or in the same occupation code as the job you described in your certificate of sponsorship. (please refer to S8 of Workers and Temporary Workers: guidance for sponsors: Part 2: Sponsor a worker – general information), this will allow an International Sportsperson migrant to double up, guest and appear in open meetings.

Extensions

Endorsement of Extension applications will only be considered for riders who currently hold a UK Certificate of Sponsorship under International Sportsperson and are resident in the UK at the time of application and meet the above criteria.

Injuries, Absences and Suspensions

Competitions for which the rider was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating the rider's appearance percentage. Unavailable for selection means the rider was not available to play due to injury or suspension and written evidence supporting this, setting out the games missed and the reason(s), must be provided by the player's National Association or club doctor to BSP.

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 riding 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.

Exclusions from competing due to injury will be a factor that is taken into account when applying the requirements both in initial applications and extensions. Clubs should submit supporting medical evidence in such cases, stipulating the period of injury and the total number of meetings the rider has missed. The evidence should be from the team doctor, or other official medical practitioner, on headed paper, other evidence may be requested on a case by case basis.

Dispute Resolution Process

Should a Licenced Company, Partnership, Sole Trader or Promoter have a difference of opinion as to the rules, they should follow the procedure laid down as follows:

- a) They should first appeal by letter or telephone call to the BSP Office who consults the Rule Book and gives a decision as to clarification of the ruling on the disputed matter. There shall be no right to appeal against a statement of fact and no fee shall be applied by the BSP for this service.
- b) However, if the licenced company, partnership, sole trader or Promoter is dissatisfied with that decision, where a statement of fact cannot be substantiated, s/he would have a right to

appeal to the BSP Directors (via the BSP Office) and would be required to pay a fee of £100.00 for a decision at the next Directors meeting or, if an early or instant decision is required, after a telephone communication with the Directors. If the aggrieved party making the appeal has the appeal upheld by the Directors, then the fee is refunded. If not, it is retained by the BSP.

- c) Should the licenced company, partnership, sole trader or Promoter be dissatisfied with this decision, they have the right to appeal to the General Council, then the following actions must be taken: -
- i) The appeal must be submitted to the BSP Office in WRITING, enclosing the mandatory fee of £200.00.
 - ii) The appeal to the General Council must be made within 28 days of the receipt of the notification of the Code of Conduct fine.
 - iii) The appeal MUST stipulate the time, date and place of the incident to which the Code of Conduct refers.
 - iv) The appeal document must be included in the next General Council agenda papers.
 - v) The General Council may by majority decide: -
 - o Endorse the Board of Directors decision and dismiss the appeal
 - o Increase the Code of Conduct fine
 - o Decrease the Code of Conduct fine
 - o Endorse the appeal by the respondent and eliminate the Code of Conduct fine made by Directors.
 - vi) Any respondent aggrieved by the decision of the General Council has a right to appeal for a TRIBUNAL hearing to the SCB or ACU but will become responsible for meeting the costs of the tribunal hearing at the discretion of the members of the tribunal.
 - vii) The aggrieved parties still have a final right of appeal against an SCB Tribunal hearing to the Courts of the Lane as per existing rules and legislation.

Section 3: Process for Applying for an Endorsement

An initial request must be made to the BSP administration office for a Migrant GBE Application Form providing the riders current email address. An electronic document will be sent to the applicant and the rider for completion in order to maintain accurate records for the UKVI compliance visits.

Breach of the Policy or the UKVI Regulations will render the club liable to a significant Code of Conduct fine. The migrant will not be permitted to compete unless the following documentation is logged and approved by the BSP administration office.

- completed licenced sponsor endorsement application form
- completed BSP sponsor's agreement
- completed migrant endorsement application form
- copy of rider's passport – in particular a copy of their bio data page
- copy of passport front cover
- copy of documents proving the rider meets the qualifying criteria
- copy of entry clearance/residence permit (once the rider has gained entry clearance but before they turn a wheel)

Appendix 1 – Eligibility for endorsement

FIM Speedway Grand Prix – All series competitors excluding reserves and wild cards

FIM Speedway of Nations – All series competitors excluding reserves

FIM Speedway World Cup – All series competitors excluding reserves

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| Argentinian International Championships | Winner |
| Australian Individual Championships | Top 4 |
| All Australian State Championships | Top 4 in each competition |
| Tasmania State Championship | Top 4 |
| Canadian Individual Championships | Winner |
| New Zealand Individual Championships | Winner |
| Russian Individual Championships | Top 4 subject to the lifting of sanctions |
| South African National Championships | Winner |
| AMA National Championship | Top 4 |
| AMA California State Championship | Top 4 |
| AMA FIM American Final | Winner |

Professional League definition – any League competition, outside of the UK, for which the rider has received a performance related payment.

Further information

This information is available on the BSP website at <http://www.britishspeedway.co.uk/homepage>

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

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Wood Street
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Warwickshire CV21 2YX.

Telephone: 01788 560648

Information on visas and immigration is available on the [GOV.UK website](http://www.gov.uk).