

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **17 May 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 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.

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, the Darts Regulation Authority 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.

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the Darts requirements under the International Sportsperson route for the 2024 to 2025 season. These requirements are effective from 17 May 2024.

Only the roles listed in 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 with the Darts Regulation Authority.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, the Darts Regulation Authority 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 darts in the UK.

Review

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

Length of season

The season for darts in general runs year-round.

Requirements

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	Governing body endorsements will only be issued to the Darts Regulation Authority (DRA).

Migrant	Player	Initial and extension applications
		<p>Requests for endorsements will only be issued to Players who are Members of the Professional Darts Players Association and meet one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finished in the top 64 of the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) Order of Merit in 2022 or 2023; or • won a PDC tour card through Q-School in 2022 or 2023; or • won a PDC tour card through finishing first or second on the PDC Challenge Tour in 2022 or 2023. • Won a PDC tour card through finishing first or second on the PDC Development Tour in 2022 or 2023. <p>Requests for endorsements should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter from the Professional Darts Players Association (PDPA) confirming full PDPA membership; and • a letter from the PDC confirming qualification to play on the Pro Tour or in PDC Events; and • a copy of the player's passport. <p>Requests for extension of an endorsement will be considered upon request by the Player supported by re-submission of the relevant documents listed above.</p>

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

For any queries relating to the requirements or the endorsement process and/or to apply for an endorsement please contact the:

Darts Regulation Authority (DRA)

DRA (PDC) contact - Nigel Mawer, Chair of the DRA, 17-19 Station Road West
Oxted, Surrey RH8 9EE
. E-mail: info@thedra.co.uk

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

Dispute Handling Procedures

Where an application for a migrant covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the migrant fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek a review of the application. The sponsor will have 28 days to request a review. In these cases, the Darts Regulation Authority will refer the sponsor's evidence to an independent panel as set out below.

Where possible the sponsor's supporting evidence will be sent to the panel in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision. Sponsors should note that, in respect of any application, there will only be one review panel available and the decision of the Review Panel is final (subject to final appeal). Sponsors should therefore ensure all evidence it wishes to present in support of its application is presented to the panel. If the sponsor has previously made an application that was unsuccessful at panel a further panel cannot be requested for the same migrant during the season unless their status changes and they meet the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

If the initial review is refused, the migrant may request a final appeal as set out at point **d**.

a. The Review

The request for a review may only be made by the sponsor for whom the governing body endorsement has been initially rejected by the Darts Regulation Authority.

A review shall be commenced by the sponsor submitting a notice of appeal within 28 days of the initial decision to the the Darts Regulation Authority and Governance Director. The notice of appeal shall:

- i. set out details of the decision appealed against and, if the whole of the decision is not appealed against, identify that part of it which is appealed against;
- ii. set out in full the grounds of appeal and an appellant shall not be entitled to rely in any ground of appeal not set out in the notice of appeal; and
- iii. be accompanied by a deposit of £100. The panel shall have discretion as to whether the deposit is returned.

The procedure for appeal will be in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and the Review Panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

b. The Review Panel

The Review Panel will be appointed by the Disciplinary Hearings Manager. The appointed Review Panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of the migrant (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of named further representatives.

c. Refusal at Review

An endorsement request at review may be refused if the migrant does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents.

The Darts Regulation Authority will notify the sponsor and the migrant in writing of any endorsement request which is refused at review stage, setting out the reasons for refusal.

d. Final Appeal

The migrant shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal at review stage to submit a final appeal in writing to the Darts Regulation Authority.

PLEASE NOTE: The migrant may only submit a Final Appeal on the basis that the Darts Regulation Authority have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The Darts Regulation Authority shall consider the final appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the final appeal, notify the migrant of its decision.

e. The Decision

The Darts Regulation Authority will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding. There are no other grounds of appeal.

Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson sponsor applications

To apply for a migrant endorsement, the DRA will need to complete and return an application provided by the DVO. They will either approve or not support the application for an endorsement. If an application is successful, they will issue an endorsement containing a unique reference number to be used in respect of this.