



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **26 March 2022**.

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](#).

Please note: The International Sportsperson route replaces T2 Sportsperson and the sporting section of the T5 (Temporary Worker) Creative or Sporting Worker route. The onus is on the applicant to ensure they are compliant with the Immigration Rules in force when they apply for a visa.

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.



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

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:

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.



Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the Table Tennis England requirements under the International Sportsperson route for the 2022 to 2023 season. These criteria are effective from 26 March 2022.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation between Table Tennis England and the national governing bodies (NGBs) of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually in March of each year.

Length of season

The season for table tennis runs from 1 August to 31 July.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement	
Sponsor International Sportsperson	Club	Only affiliated clubs or schools of the NGBs of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be eligible to be issued with a governing body endorsement.
	Governing body	Only a senior member of staff from a home nation governing body (Head Coach, Performance Director or CEO) will be eligible to be issued with an endorsement.
Migrant International Sportsperson	Player	A player must have a World Table Tennis ranking of 150 or better at the date of the application of endorsement of a Certificate of Sponsorship. Official International Table Tennis Federation Rankings are shown and can be assessed on their website at: https://www.ittf.com/rankings/ or

		<p>https://worldtabletennis.com/rankings</p> <p>Note: Unless they have an appropriate qualification (see coach and coach/player below) an individual who has been issued with a governing body endorsement as a player may assist at coaching sessions only if accompanied by a properly qualified coach.</p> <p>Coach</p> <p>A coach is required to have gained a UKCC Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Table Tennis or above or an equivalent qualification which also includes awareness of Health and Safety and First Aid qualifications and an awareness of child welfare issues and a relevant police check from their country of origin. Attendance at a Safeguarding and protecting children course is required to practice once in the UK. A coach must have at least 3 years international coaching experience or 2 years coaching experience if they have coached at a regional level in China.</p> <p>For further details of coach awards see: tabletennisengland.co.uk/coaching/</p> <p>Player/Coaches</p> <p>A player/coach must meet the playing criteria as above and is required to have gained a UKCC Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Table Tennis or above or an equivalent qualification which also includes awareness of Health and Safety and First Aid qualifications and an awareness of child welfare issues and a relevant police check from their country of origin. Attendance at a Safeguarding and protecting children course is required to practice once in the UK. A player/coach must also have played international table tennis for a minimum of 3 years and be on the world ranking list unless they have played for a regional team in China.</p>
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	Practice Partners	<p>For further details of coach awards see: tabletennisengland.co.uk/coaching/</p> <p>A practice partner must have proven experience as a practice partner at an International level. They must also demonstrate an awareness of Health and Safety and have a current First Aid qualification and an awareness of child welfare issues and a relevant police check from their country of origin. Attendance at a Safeguarding and protecting children course is required to practice once in the UK.</p> <p>A practice partner must also have played international table tennis for a minimum of 3 years, or be 150 or higher on the current world ranking list or have played for a regional team in China.</p> <p>Note If an individual does not meet the relevant criteria the NGB will, in exceptional cases, issue an endorsement if the individual's experience is of an appropriate level. Each NGB has set up a small group to consider requests for endorsement.</p> <p>If a club applies to employ a coach who does not hold the UKCC Level 3 Coaching Award or its equivalent but satisfies all other aspects of the criteria, however, a governing body endorsement may be issued on condition that once they enter the UK they will normally achieve the UKCC Level 3 Coaching Award within the first playing season.</p>
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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



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

offence and/ or a doping offence and/ or another misconduct offence.

Further information

This information is available on the NGBs websites at:

www.tabletennisengland.co.uk

www.tabletennisscotland.com

www.ttaw.co.uk

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

a) Applications from clubs affiliated to Table Tennis England

Table Tennis England
Bradwell Road
Loughton Lodge
Milton Keynes
MK8 9LA

Tel: 01908 208860

E-Mail: help@tabletennisengland.co.uk

b) Applications from clubs affiliated to Table Tennis Scotland

Richard Yule
Chief Operating Officer
Table Tennis Scotland
Caledonia House,
1 Redheughs Rigg
South Gyle,
Edinburgh,
EH12 9DQ

TEL: 0131-317-8077

Email: richard.yule@tabletennisscotland.co.uk

c) Applications from clubs affiliated to Table Tennis Association of Wales



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

Rhian Pearce
Chief Executive Officer
Sport Wales National Centre,
Sophia Gardens,
Cardiff,
CF11 9SW

Tel: 02920 334999

E-Mail: rhian.pearce@tabletennis.wales

Once the appropriate home country has approved the application, this will be sent to the English Table Tennis Association for endorsement

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

Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for either a Player, Coach or Practice Partner, covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the player or coach fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek a review of the application. The sponsor will have 28 days to request such a review. In these cases, Table Tennis England 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 panel available and the decision of the panel is final. Sponsors should therefore ensure that 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 player during the season unless his status changes and he meets the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

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 Table Tennis England.



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the Table Tennis England and Head of Operations & Governance, a notice of appeal within 28 days of the decision appealed against. 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 £50. 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 Panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

b. The Panel

The panel will be appointed by the Disciplinary Committee Chair. The appointed panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of Table Tennis England (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of the Board of Appeals

c. Power of the Panel

An endorsement request may be refused if the individual does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents. Table Tennis England will notify an individual in writing of any endorsement request which is refused setting out the reasons for refusal.

An individual shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal to submit an appeal in writing to Table Tennis England. An individual may only appeal on the basis that Table Tennis England have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

Table Tennis England shall consider the appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the appeal, notify the individual of its decision.

d. The Decision



Table Tennis England Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

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