

Lawn Tennis Association governing body endorsement requirements

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **14 June 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.

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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.

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Section 2: Requirements

This page explains Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 14 June 2022.

Only the roles listed 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 LTA.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in March 2023.

Length of season

The season for lawn tennis runs all year round.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor International Sportsperson	<p>The LTA may act as sponsor in its own right or may issue an endorsement to Tennis Scotland and Tennis Wales. In addition, the LTA will consider applications for a governing body endorsement for a International Sportsperson sponsor licence if the tennis venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is an LTA registered tennis venue; or• has an LTA grant funded programme or such other high-performance programme as the LTA may have in place from time to time. <p>Applications for endorsements will not be considered and endorsements will not be issued if any of the above criteria is not met.</p> <p>Venue Registration</p>

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Category	Requirement	
	<p>Venue Registration is the LTA's recognition that a registered tennis venue has achieved certain minimum standards and best practice.</p> <p>This status confirms that the LTA supports a venue's tennis programme, policies and procedures, and venue management. To qualify the venue must be registered to the LTA. The 'LTA venue support' page has more information on this.</p>	
<p>Migrant</p> <p>International Sportsperson</p>	<p>Full time coach</p>	<p>If a sponsor licence holder wishes to apply for a governing body endorsement to employ a coach, the coach will have to satisfy all of the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they must have successfully completed a formally assessed tennis coaching qualification that is deemed equivalent to the LTA Level 3 Coach Award, or an award that is equivalent to and recognised by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), or, based on coaching track record at ATP / WTA or ITF level deemed by the LTA Head of Performance Coach Education Development to comply with the required competencies of these coaching awards; and • they are an internationally established coach and will contribute significantly to the game in the UK; they will need to demonstrate this in one of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lead coach for a minimum period of one year to one or more tennis players in the top 500 WTA/ATP rankings for a

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Category	Requirement	
		<p>minimum period of 6 months during the period that the migrant coach was acting as their lead coach; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ team captain to official Tennis Europe and/or ITF international teams for a minimum period of one year, for example the Tennis Europe Winter or Summer Cup for Juniors, and the Davis Cup or Billie Jean King Cup for Professional Players. ● a satisfactory DBS check, or equivalent criminal records check for their home country; such checks may subsequently need to be carried out in the UK; the LTA shall determine in its sole and absolute discretion whether such checks are satisfactory. <p>To demonstrate that they meet the criteria the migrant coach will need to supply copies of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a CV outlining employment history and achievements ● certificates of coaching qualifications or Continued Professional Development achieved ● documentation to confirm a satisfactory DBS check, or criminal records check ● copies of their passport

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Category	Requirement	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 2 employment references; one of which must be from their current or most recent employer, confirming their relevant experience <p>The migrant coach must have a current LTA Coach Accreditation prior to undertaking any coaching in the UK.</p> <p>If the tennis venue wishes to sponsor the migrant coach under the International Sportsperson route then the tennis venue will need to provide evidence that the job has been advertised for 28 days in the most appropriate advertising medium, for example, via the LTA, Sport England, British Sports Council or UK Sport Websites, which provides the best way of reaching suitably qualified resident workers. This process is essential to confirm that there are no suitable resident workers in the UK who also meet the above criteria and can also do the job.</p> <p>Extensions and changes of employment</p> <p>Where the sponsor licence holder wishes to extend the employment of a coach a new governing body endorsement should be applied for in line with the initial requirements, as described above.</p>
<p>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</p> <p>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.</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</p>		

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Category	Requirement
	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 the LTA website (<http://www.lta.org.uk>).

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

Legal Team
The Lawn Tennis Association
The National Tennis Centre
100 Priory Lane
Roehampton
London SW15 5JQ

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8487 7000

Email: Info@LTA.org.uk

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

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Dispute handling procedures

Review Process

The only remedy in the event that a governing body endorsement is refused is the review process as set out below in this policy.

A request for a review may only be made by a sponsor for whom the governing body endorsement has been initially rejected by the LTA.

Where an application has been refused on the grounds that the sponsor and/or migrant sportsperson or coach does not meet the requirements, the sponsor may request a review of this decision.

The sponsor will have 14 days to submit their request for a review beginning on the date on which the refusal decision is given by the LTA

Any request for a review must be sent to the LTA Performance Director.

The review panel will be constituted by the Performance Director (or another senior member of the LTA Performance Team) and the LTA's Head of Legal (or another senior member of the LTA Legal team who was not involved in the original decision).

Any request for a review must set out details of the decision that the sponsor wishes to be reviewed or, if the sponsor does not wish to review the whole decision, the sponsor must identify which part of the decision that it wishes be reviewed.

The only grounds for review are one or both of the following:

- (i) A failure by the LTA to follow this policy in determining the application (i.e. there has been a procedural defect); and/or
- (ii) The application decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

Any request for a review must, at the time it is made, set out:

- which (one, or both) of the above grounds the sponsor wishes to rely on; and
- full details, including supporting evidence and documentation, setting out the specific basis on which the review is sought and evidencing the ground(s) on which the sponsor is relying.

The sponsor shall not be entitled to rely on any ground, factual information or evidence which is not set out in the request for a review.

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A sponsor must therefore ensure that all evidence and information it wishes to present in support of its application is presented at the time the request for a review is made.

The Review

The Performance Director will convene a hearing which can be carried out on the telephone. In such circumstances, the sponsor will be provided with details of the format of the hearing and the identity of the review panel, and the particular issues that will be addressed.

Power of the Panel

As set out above, the review panel shall have the authority to determine if:

- There has been a failure by the LTA to follow this policy (i.e. there has been a procedural defect); or
- The decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

The Decision

The review panel will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding. There shall be no right to appeal the decision of the review panel following the review process.

Further Information

For more information please contact the LTA Legal Team using the Contact Us form on the LTA's website: <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>.

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Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement

How to apply for the LTA's governing body endorsement to become an International Sportsperson sponsor

A sponsor can apply to the LTA for a governing body endorsement using the form in [Annex 1](#).

If an application is successful, the LTA will issue an endorsement in the format attached at [Annex 2](#).

The governing body endorsement for a sponsor under the International Sportsperson route shall be granted for a maximum of 4 years.

Applications for extensions of governing body endorsements must be made in the same way as the original application, as outlined in [Annex 1](#).

All potential sponsors should note that the purpose of an endorsement for a prospective sponsor is to confirm to UKVI officials processing sponsor applications that the application is from a bona fide tennis venue that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople/coaches.

UKVI has additional criteria that a tennis venue or Tennis Scotland/Tennis Wales must satisfy before a sponsor licence will be granted to the sponsor. It is not the LTA who will grant a sponsor licence.

There is an administration fee of £20.00 for each governing body endorsement for a sponsor licence. Cheques must be forwarded with the completed original application form in [Annex 1](#), made payable to 'LTA Operations Limited'.

The LTA's governing body endorsement requirements for migrant coaches

If a sponsor wishes to apply for the LTA's governing body endorsement to employ a full-time coach they must apply to the LTA using the form in [Annex 4](#).

Documentary evidence must be included with this application to confirm that the migrant coach satisfies the minimum criteria.

Applications will be jointly considered by a panel consisting of at least 2 of the following:

- LTA Head of Coach Development
- a senior representative from the LTA Performance Team

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- a lawyer from the LTA Legal Team

There is an administration fee of £20.00 for each governing body endorsement in support of a sponsor licence application. Cheques must be included with the completed application form made payable to 'LTA Operations Limited'.

The LTA shall determine whether a coach is suitable for a governing body endorsement. If the application is successful, the LTA will issue an endorsement in the format attached at [Annex 5](#).

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Annex 1: International Sportsperson governing body endorsement application - sponsor licence

This form should be used to apply to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for a governing body endorsement in support of an application for a licence to sponsor migrants under the International Sportsperson route.

Please complete all sections below:

Name of sponsor:	
Address:	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Contact name & job title	
Contact email address	
Signature	
Date of application	

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Please tick the applicable boxes below:

- we are Tennis Scotland
- we are Tennis Wales
- we are a registered tennis venue
- we have an LTA grant funded programme or such other high performance programme as the LTA may have in place from time to time
- we wish to apply to UKVI for a licence to sponsor migrants under the International Sportsperson route
- we enclose a cheque for £20.00 made payable to 'LTA Operations Limited'

The issue of this LTA (governing body for tennis) endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the LTA at the time of the request.

Please forward the original form with the cheque payment to:

Legal Team
The Lawn Tennis Association
The National Tennis Centre
100 Priory Lane
Roehampton
London SW15 5JQ.

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the LTA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 2: Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) governing body endorsement - sponsor licence

Type	LTA sponsor licence endorsement
Endorsement reference number	
Endorsement issue to (Sponsor full name)	
Sponsor address	
Start date of endorsement	
End date of endorsement	
LTA endorsement issued by	Legal Team The Lawn Tennis Association The National Tennis Centre 100 Priory Lane Roehampton London SW15 5JQ

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Signed	(on behalf of The Lawn Tennis Association)
Date endorsement issued	

The International Sportsperson route is for coaches who are internationally established at the highest level, whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of the sport of tennis in the UK and who intends to base themselves in the UK.

The issue of this LTA (governing body for tennis) endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the LTA at the time of the request.

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the LTA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 3: International Sportsperson governing body endorsement application - coach only

This form should be used to apply to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for a governing body endorsement of an application for a coach under the International Sportsperson route.

Please complete all sections of the form unless otherwise indicated:

Full name of coach	
Address of coach	
Nationality	
Job title of coach	
Period of employment the endorsement is issued for	
Proposed salary	
Name of sponsor	
Supplementary employment section	

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Sponsor licence number	
Telephone number	
Contact name & job title	
Contact email address	
Signature	
Date of application	

Please tick the applicable boxes below:

- we are a licensed sponsor under the International Sportsperson route
- we enclose a cheque for £20.00 made payable to 'LTA Operations Limited'

We also enclose the following documents as evidence that the migrant coach meets the following criteria:

- they must have successfully completed a formally assessed tennis coaching qualification that is deemed equivalent to the LTA Level 3 Coach Award, or an award that is equivalent to and recognised by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), or, based on coaching track record at ATP / WTA or ITF level deemed by the LTA Head of Performance Coach Education to comply with the required competencies of these coaching awards; and
- they are an internationally established coach and will contribute significantly to the game in the UK; they will need to demonstrate this in one of the following areas:
 - lead coach for a minimum period of one year to one or more tennis players in the top 500 WTA/ATP rankings for a minimum period of 6 months during the period that the migrant coach was acting as their lead coach; or

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- team captain to official Tennis Europe and/or ITF international teams for a minimum period of one year, for example the Tennis Europe Winter or Summer Cup for Juniors, and the Davis Cup or Billie Jean King Cup for Professional Players.
- a CV outlining employment history and achievements
- certificates of coaching qualifications or Continued Professional Development achieved
- documentation to confirm a satisfactory DBS check, or equivalent criminal records check from their home country
- copies of their passport
- at least 2 employment references; one of which must be from their current or most recent employer, confirming their relevant experience

Please tick the box below if applicable:

- evidence that the job has been advertised in the most appropriate medium. This information must only be provided if you intend to apply to UKVI to sponsor the coach under the International Sportsperson route

Please forward the original form with the cheque payment to:

LTA Legal Team
The Lawn Tennis Association
The National Tennis Centre
100 Priory Lane
Roehampton
London
SW15 5JQ

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the LTA's processes and procedures.

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Annex 4: LTA endorsement - International Sportsperson route – coach only

Endorsement reference number	
Endorsement issue to (Sponsor full name)	
Sponsor address	
Endorsement issued for (Migrant full name)	
Address of migrant	
Job title	
Proposed Salary	
Period of employment the endorsement is issued for	

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LTA endorsement issued by	The Lawn Tennis Association The National Tennis Centre 100 Priory Lane Roehampton London SW15 5JQ
Signed	(on behalf of The Lawn Tennis Association)
Date endorsement issued	

The issue of this LTA (governing body for tennis) endorsement does not guarantee that subsequent endorsements will be issued, each endorsement will be considered against requirements and the information provided to the LTA at the time of the request.

The information on this form may be disclosed to UKVI in the event that they investigate the LTA's processes and procedures.