



English Lacrosse Association governing body endorsement criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **3 December 2021**.

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.

International Sportsperson (long term) is defined as an application for a period of stay exceeding 12 months.

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.



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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:

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.



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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 the English Lacrosse Association's (also known as England Lacrosse (EL)) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 3 December 2021.

These requirements are applicable to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Consultation

The criteria for International Sportsperson coaches will be reviewed on an annual basis through the appropriate England Lacrosse committees and Board. Clubs that wish to propose changes to the review process for consideration must submit these proposals to EL by 1 January and no later than 31 March. EL will submit criteria to be formally ratified by the EL Board for submission to the Home Office for approval in September.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be November 2022.

Length of season

The season for Lacrosse in general runs from September to April, although activity can take place outside of these times.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor International Sportsperson	Governing body endorsements for a Lacrosse sponsor license will only be issued to EL or affiliated members participating in: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EL Premier Division League2. Super League3. National Lacrosse League4. University BUCS Division 1 League



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Category	Requirement	
<p>Migrant</p> <p>International Sportsperson</p>	<p>Head Coach</p>	<p>A governing body endorsement will only be issued if the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants must have completed four years' eligibility in their college system or played at representative international level for their country. 2. If the applicant participated at College, they must have played in at least 50% of the games in their final season of eligibility. 3. If the applicant participated at international level, they must provide a letter from the National Governing body of lacrosse for that country as evidence. 4. Appropriate statistics for the overseas national's latest season should be supplied as evidence of the agreed standard. The overseas national should be a 'current' coach or player (i.e. having played or coached within 12 months of the date of the application). 5. Evidence must be provided of the overseas national's ability to coach or of a qualification in coaching. If a coaching certificate cannot be provided, evidence should be either a college education certificate, which incorporates an element of coaching or instruction, or alternatively, proof from their college or other reputable coaching or teaching organisation of the coaching level the overseas national attained.



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Category	Requirement
	<p>6. A copy of the overseas national's health and safety qualification must be supplied. [International Sportsperson (long term) only] - if the individual needs to obtain the relevant first aid qualification, we can issue a governing body endorsement conditional on them achieving it. The individual would not be able to coach until their qualification had been verified by EL.</p> <p>7. Recommendations received by e-mail are acceptable provided EL can verify them.</p> <p>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 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.</p>



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For further information relating to the requirements or the endorsement process please contact:

EL Endorsement Immigration Licence
English Lacrosse Association
Regional Arena & National Squash Centre
Rowsley Street
Manchester M11 3FF

Email: info@englandlacrosse.co.uk
Telephone: 0161 974 7757

Information on visas and immigration is available on the GOV.UK website at www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas

Dispute handling procedures

Should a sponsor wish to appeal against a decision by England Lacrosse not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement for either an individual migrant or for a sponsor license will be dealt with by the EL independent appeals committee:

If a sponsor wishes to instigate an appeal pursuant to this Procedure, the sponsor must submit to the Chief Executive of England Lacrosse a written request for an appeal ("the Appeal") containing the following details:

(a) the name and address of the sponsor (and of the nominated body representative); and

(b) a brief statement stating the grounds that the sponsor wishes to use to appeal the England Lacrosse decision

The applicable grounds for appeal are limited to a "strong arguable case" that either:

- i. Relevant information was ignored or not considered by England Lacrosse; or
- ii. The endorsement application process was tainted by unreasonable bias or conflict of interests; or
- iii. The provisions of the England Lacrosse Governing Body Endorsement procedure were not adhered to; or
- iv. England Lacrosse exceeded its jurisdiction; or



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- v. The findings of England Lacrosse were irrational or otherwise exhibited an error of general law

This request for appeal must be submitted within twenty-eight (28) days of the notification of the original England Lacrosse decision not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement and include an Appeal Fee of £100.

England Lacrosse will acknowledge the Appeal in writing with the request that full written evidence in support of the Appeal must be submitted to EL Independent appeals committee within 10 days of the written notification for the Appeal to proceed.

The Independent Appeals Committee

The IAC will be appointed by the England Lacrosse CEO. The appointed committee will consist of: an independent chair, one representative of the EL (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of the lacrosse community (who is in good standing with EL).

The Power of the IAC

The IAC shall have the power to:

Consider appeals in relation to an endorsement under International Sportsperson.

The Decision

The IAC will make decisions using the criteria set out in 'Dispute Handlings Procedures' which shall be final and binding. There are no other grounds of appeal.