



Auto-Cycle Union Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **7 September 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



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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 Auto-Cycle Union Ltd (ACU) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. This criteria is effective from 7 September 2022.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the ACU following consultation with motor clubs affiliated to the ACU and sponsors. The requirements are only applicable to Great Britain.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually, the next review will be November 2023.

Length of season

The season for motor sport typically runs from 1 January to 31 December.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement	
Sponsor International Sportsperson	Governing body endorsements will be typically, but not limited to, a Manufacturer, Team or Championship Organiser. They must be known to the Auto Cycling Union, and be currently trading in motor sport or the motor sport industry.	
Migrant International Sportsperson	Rider	<p>In order to be issued a governing body endorsement, the rider will have to satisfy at least two of the following minimum requirements as set out in the bullet points below:</p> <p>The rider must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be classed as Elite by obtaining a National Licence with a track record of excellence in the previous 3 Seasons with a minimum of two podium finishes



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		<p>at International/World Championship events; and/ or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a competitor nominated by the President, Sport Chairman, or General Secretary of a relevant Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) recognised National Sporting Body as they have the racing knowledge of the individual; and/ or • hold a licence that is deemed equivalent to the ACU National Licence and recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) and have supporting evidence from their Federation that the rider can compete at the very highest level in motorcycle racing; and/ or • have been selected for a National team at the following events within the past two seasons, and/ or has the following experience within the past two seasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIM Championship, World Championships, or Continental Championships <p>The rider must derive a living from their sport.</p> <p>The sponsor and the individual must provide evidence of the individual's previous racing experience and detail how their employment will make a significant contribution to the success of the sponsors team along with a copy of the individuals CV.</p>
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		<p>The individual's sponsor must be able to supply a copy of the proposed contract for scrutiny.</p> <p>The individual's sponsor is required to evidence the training, experience and skill set of the applicant in relation to the specific appointment and to provide reasonable assurance that the appointment is unlikely to dispel local labour.</p>
<p>Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</p> <p>Races for which the individual was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating the individuals appearance percentage. Unavailable for selection means the individuals was not available to race due to injury or suspension and written evidence supporting this, setting out the events missed and the reason(s), must be provided by the individuals National Association or club doctor to the Auto-Cycle Union for consideration.</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>		

Further information

This information is available on the ACU website at www.acu.org

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

Neil Doctor
General Secretary



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

Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for either a racer to race in a team or a coach to coach a team in one of the leagues covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the racer 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, the Auto Cycle Union 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 the Auto Cycle Union.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the Auto Cycle Union and Governance Director, a notice of appeal within 28 days of the decision appealed against. The notice of appeal shall:



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- 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 £500.00. 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 Hearings Manager. The appointed panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of the Auto Cycle Union (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of The Panel of Adjudicators.

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. The Auto Cycle Union 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 the Auto Cycle Union. An individual may only appeal on the basis that the Auto Cycle Union have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The Auto Cycle Union 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

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



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Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement

How to apply for governing body endorsements for International Sportsperson sponsor applications

To cover the cost of processing an application, including verification of qualifications and evaluation of international coaching experience, there will be a charge of £100 + VAT per endorsement application, payable by the club at time of application.