

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after **8 August 2025**.

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	Endorsements for sponsors will not have an end date. They will be valid for as long as the sponsor continues to hold a valid sponsor licence.
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 British Boxing Board of Control 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 British Boxing Board of Control requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 8 August 2025.

Only the roles listed as part of 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 British Boxing Board of Control, who has consulted with General Secretary, Robert W. Smith.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, the British Boxing Board of Control confirm that full consultation has been carried out, this includes any organisation that could be interpreted as an interested party, such as bodies or associations related to boxing in the UK.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in July 2026.

Length of season

Boxing typically runs throughout the year, there is no natural start or end to the season.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	Governing body endorsements will be considered from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoters• Managers
Migrant Boxer	Initial applications In order for a migrant endorsement to be awarded, in addition to the Boxer currently being listed on the International Boxing Organisation's Computerised Boxing Ranking list for each weight category (within the top 50 for

Category	Requirement
	<p>male boxers and within the top 30 for female boxers) at the time of requesting the endorsement, they must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have represented their Country at International level, either in the Olympics, Commonwealth, World, European or Pan American Championships within the last 24 months prior to request for endorsement; or • The Boxer must be licensed by an International Commission recognised by the British Boxing Board of Control. See Appendix A for full list <p>Extension Applications</p> <p>In order for a migrant endorsement to be awarded for an extension or change of employment application, the Boxer must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to meet the initial application requirements; and • have taken part in at least two contests in the 12-month period prior to the request for an extension. • Not to be subject to any disciplinary matters at the time of application for extension
<p>Migrant Trainer/Second</p>	<p>Initial applications</p> <p>In order for a migrant endorsement to be awarded, the Individual must meet all of the requirements listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trainer must be licensed by an International Federation / Commission recognised by the British Boxing Board of Control for a minimum of 2 years (see Appendix A for full list); and • The Trainer must provide written documentation from their licensed International Federation / Commission detailing at least one Boxer they have trained who has competed in a Championship contest within the last 12 months at the time of requesting the endorsement.

Category	Requirement
	<p data-bbox="576 297 935 333">Extension Applications</p> <p data-bbox="576 371 1428 479">In order for a migrant endorsement to be awarded for an extension or change of employment application, the Trainer must have :-</p> <ul data-bbox="627 521 1428 741" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="627 521 1428 629">• at least one Boxer who has taken part in at least one Championship contest in the 12-month period prior to the request for an extension. <li data-bbox="627 669 1428 741">• Not to be subject to any disciplinary matters at the time of application for extension
<p data-bbox="236 853 799 889">Injuries, Absences and Suspensions</p> <p data-bbox="236 938 1417 1187">Events for which the applicant was unavailable for selection are to be excluded when calculating any applicant appearance percentage. Unavailable for selection means the applicant was not available to participate due to injury or suspension and written evidence supporting this, setting out the games missed and the reason(s), must be provided by the applicant National Association or club doctor to British Boxing Board of Control for consideration.</p> <p data-bbox="236 1234 1350 1355">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 data-bbox="236 1402 1422 1606">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>	
<p data-bbox="236 1653 1422 1724">The British Boxing Board of Control will not endorse applications from individuals where it is considered the application is an attempt to circumvent the requirements.</p> <p data-bbox="236 1765 1422 1872">All requests for endorsement must be accompanied with: a fully completed Boxer's application form (see www.bbbofc.com); and a copy of the applicant's full boxing record.</p>	

Further information

This information is available on the British Boxing Board of Control website at www.bbbofc.com

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

British Boxing Board of Control
11 St Andrews Crescent
Cardiff
CF10 3DB

Telephone number: 02920 367 000

Email address: office@bbbofc.com

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

Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for a boxer to engage in sporting activities covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the individual 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 British Boxing Board of Control 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 individual 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 British Boxing Board of Control.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the British Boxing Board of Control 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 £250.00. The panel shall have discretion as to whether the deposit is returned.

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

b. The Panel

The panel will be appointed by the General Secretary. The appointed panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, and one representative of the British Boxing Board of Control (who has not been involved in the initial decision).

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 British Boxing Board of Control 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 British Boxing Board of Control. An individual may only appeal on the basis that the British Boxing Board of Control have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The British Boxing Board of Control 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 only using the above criteria which shall be final and binding. There are no other grounds of appeal.

Appendix A

Full list of International Commissions recognised by the British Boxing Board of Control

Afghanistan	Ecuador	Kyrgyzstan
Albania	Egypt	Latvia
Algeria	El Salvador	Lebanon
Andorra	Estonia	Lesotho
Angola	Ethiopia	Liberia
Antigua & Barbuda	Fiji	Liechtenstein
Argentina	Finland	Lithuania
Armenia	France	Luxembourg
Australia	Gabon	Macedonia
Austria	Gambia	Madagascar
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Malawi
Bahamas	Germany	Malaysia
Bahrain	Ghana	Maldives
Barbados	Greece	Mali
Belarus	Grenada	Malta
Belgium	Guatemala	Mauritania
Benin	Guinea	Mauritius
Bolivia	Guyana	Mexico
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Haiti	Moldova
Botswana	Honduras	Monaco
Brazil	Hungary	Mongolia
Bulgaria	Iceland	Montenegro
Cameroon	India	Morocco
Canada	Indonesia	Mozambique
Chile	Iran	Namibia
China	Iraq	Netherlands
Colombia	Ireland	New Zealand
Congo	Israel	Nicaragua
Congo (DRC)	Italy	Nigeria
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Norway
Côte d'Ivoire	Japan	Oman
Croatia	Jordan	Pakistan
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Panama
Czech Republic	Kenya	Papua New Guinea
Denmark	Korea, South	Paraguay
Dominican Republic	Kuwait	Peru

Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Saint Kitts & Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent & the
Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey

Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United States of America **
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

** United States Athletic Commissions

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	Nevada
Arkansas	New Hampshire
California	New Jersey
Colorado	New Mexico
Connecticut	New York
Delaware	North Carolina
Florida	North Dakota
Georgia	Ohio
Hawaii	Oklahoma
Idaho	Oregon
Illinois	Pennsylvania
Indiana	Rhode Island
Iowa	South Carolina
Kansas	South Dakota
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maine	Utah
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	Virginia
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	West Virginia
Mississippi	Wisconsin
Missouri	Wyoming

List of Sanctioning Bodies recognised by the British Boxing Board of Control

WBO - World Boxing Organisation

WBC - World Boxing Council

WBA - World Boxing Association

IBF - International Boxing Federation

IBO - International Boxing Organisation

EBU - European Boxing Union

CBC - Commonwealth Boxing Council