

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **27 April 2024**.

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 **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.

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.

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) Governing Body Endorsement Requirements

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.

Compliance with the Code of Practice for Sports Governing Bodies

In reviewing this criteria, WPBSA 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 World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 27 April 2024.

Only the roles listed are eligible for endorsement.

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

Consultation

The WPBSA in adopting these governing body endorsement requirements has consulted the following organisations who are recognised by their respective home country sports council:

- the English Partnership for Snooker and Billiards
- the Northern Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association
- Scottish Snooker Limited
- the Welsh Billiards & Snooker Association

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

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in April 2025.

Length of season

The season for snooker in general runs from 1 June to the 31 May the following year.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement	
Sponsor	Sponsor endorsements will only be issued to the WPBSA who operate the World Snooker Tour.	
Migrant	Snooker Player	Migrant endorsements will be issued to professional members of the WPBSA for

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) Governing Body
Endorsement Requirements

Category	Requirement
	<p>initial and extension applications to players who meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finish in the top 64 of the Prize Money Rankings after that seasons World Championship • qualified for a 2 year tour card for the next season but have not already qualified for that season • Top 4 players from WST one year ranking list up to World Championship (not already qualified) • Top 2-4 players from China Tour Events • Q School - Tour Card Winners • Asia-Oceania Q School – Tour Card Winners • Q Tour – Tour Card Winners • World Snooker Federation – World Amateur Champions and/or Runners Up • World Women’s Snooker Qualifiers – World Women’s Championship and or ranked 1 to 4 in World Women’s ranking list. • EBSA – European Championship Winners* • Pan American Championship – Winner* • Asia Pacific Championship – Winner* • Africa Snooker Championship – Winner* • Invitational Tour Cards – For players who have contributed to the sport for a substantial period of time. • Seeded players competing on the WPBSA Q Tour – seeds are taken from the WST Q School order of merit. <p>*If the winner declines to take up their tour card then the Runner Up may be awarded an endorsement.</p> <p>Subject to meeting the requirements above, endorsements will only be issued once the</p>

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) Governing Body
Endorsement Requirements

Category	Requirement
	WPBSA has received a letter of accreditation from the player's national association and a copy of the player's passport.
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 offence and/or a doping offence and/or another misconduct offence.	

Further information

This information is available on the WPBSA website at www.wpbsa.com/members.

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

Chris Hornby
World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association Ltd
75 Whiteladies Road
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 2NT

Telephone: 0117 3178200
Email: info@wpbsa.com

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

Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for a Snooker Player covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the Snooker Player 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 WPBSA 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 WPBSA.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the WPBSA and Governance Director, 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 £500. 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 WPBSA (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of named further representatives.

c. Power of the Panel

An endorsement request may be refused if the Snooker Player does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents. The WPBSA will notify a Snooker Player in writing of any endorsement request which is refused setting out the reasons for refusal.

A Snooker Player shall have 21 days from the date of the written refusal to submit an appeal in writing to the WPBSA. A Snooker Player may only appeal on the basis that the WPBSA have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The WPBSA shall consider the appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 21 working days of the receipt of the appeal, notify the Snooker Player 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.