



British Council for Chinese Martial Arts Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **5 November 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 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.



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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.

Visitor Visa

The Permitted Paid Engagement visa is available for experts in their professions who have been invited by a UK based organisation or client to come to the UK for up to 1 month to take part in sporting activities. You can find out more about this on 'Permitted Paid Engagement visa' page on the GOV.UK website



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The standard Visitor visa is available for those who want to visit the UK to take part in a specific sports-related event. You can find out more about this on the 'Standard Visitor visa' page on the GOV.Uk website.



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Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts (BCCMA) requirements for the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 5 November 2022.

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 BCCMA.

Review

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

Length of season

Chinese martial arts 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 International Sportsperson	<p>For a Chinese martial arts association to be endorsed as a sponsor, they will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a member of the BCCMA• the request should come from the head of the association or with the written approval of the head of the association to which they belong• have a sufficient database of members or written proof of external sponsorship to pay equivalent wages of a resident worker	
Migrant International Sportsperson	Coaches and Instructors	Governing body endorsements for an individual will be issued if they meet the following criteria: A Coach or Instructor must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrate they have coached at major National and international events references,



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		<p>or have significant advanced technical coaching skills with a coaching certificate higher or equivalent to BCCMA UKCC level 3 coaching, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have a minimum of two years of coaching at international Wushu Federation (IWUF) events or Federations that are registered with the IWUF, and• must have coached at least 2 IWUF recognised international events in the past 12 months, and• hold an appropriate insurance cover to that issued by the BCCMA insurers <p>Additionally, the sponsor must provide evidence of the individual's previous coaching experience - this must demonstrate that the individual is established at an elite international level and have significant advanced technical coaching skills, and that their employment will make a significant contribution to the development of Chinese martial arts and coaching in the UK.</p> <p>The post must have been fairly advertised in the relevant press and on the BCCMA website so that UK citizens have an opportunity to apply. If no suitable UK applicant was forthcoming, the association (sponsor) must endeavour to train a UK citizen to the required standard to fill any subsequent posts; this should be done by utilizing the skills of the migrant Coach or Instructor and BCCMA coaching courses - this has to be proven by producing a syllabus and the teacher training structure to the BCCMA for their approval, which then will be used by the BCCMA to check the progress of candidate coaches.</p> <p>In relation to migrants coming to the UK for periods of less than two weeks, to fulfil one or more coaching engagements, each lasting no more than 5 days,</p>
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	<p>these regulations require that the sponsor supply information on where courses are to be held and the length of the courses.</p> <p>The Coach or Instructor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be paid the equivalent wage that a British worker would receive.• abide by the BCCMA Rules, regulations and constitution• become an instructor member of the BCCMA and attend BCCMA coaching courses to update themselves in current British coaching standards <p>All students being taught will be BCCMA members.</p> <p>Extensions and changes of employment</p> <p>Any sponsor applying for an extension must apply for a new BCCMA endorsement prior to the migrant's current permission expiring and must still meet the above requirements.</p> <p>Migrant workers wishing to change sponsor or employment prior to, or at the end of, their current permission will need a new BCCMA endorsement and still meet the above requirements.</p>
	<p>Absences & 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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Further information

This information is available on the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts website at bccma.com

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

Paniko Evagorou
BCCMA General Secretary

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Email: paniko.evagorou@bccma.com

Information on visas and immigration is available on the [GOV.UK](#) website.

Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for a coach covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for the International Sportsperson route has been refused on the grounds that the 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 British Council for Chinese Martial Arts 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 British Council for Chinese Martial Arts.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts 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 £150.00 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 British Council for Chinese Martial Arts (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative who is a non-executive member of the BCCMA.

c. Power of the Panel

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

A Coach shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal to submit an appeal in writing to the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts. A Coach may only appeal on the basis that the British Council for Chinese Martial Arts have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The British Council for Chinese Martial Arts shall consider the appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the appeal, notify the Coach 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.