

UKBA Recognised Entry Mechanisms to the UK

The following is outline guidance regarding the various recognised mechanisms for entry in the UK it is absolutely not definitive advice on immigration. If clubs or individuals wish advice on immigration issues they should either contact an OISC registered Immigration Advisor or the UK Border Agency.

If a “player-coach” is being employed (paid) by a club to play and coach cricket then the only entry mechanism into the UK is via the Points Based System

Points based system - Tier 5, criteria for endorsement of migrant player-coach:

- Employing Club must become an official sponsor through UKBA with ECB GBE
- Have played at least 5 first class matches in the last 24 months
- Have a min of a UKCC2 coaching qualification or overseas equivalent (Australian Level 1/ New Zealand Level 1 or South African Bakers Academy Level 2)
- Are being paid by the club as an overseas player-coach at the min salary level as set by UKBA (min £800 pcm)
- Are cleared to work with vulnerable groups (Overseas Vetting Form and Police Check)

If a “coach only” is being employed (paid) by a club to coach then the only entry mechanism into the UK is via the Points Based System

Points based system - Tier 5, criteria for endorsement of migrant coach:

- Employing Club must become an official sponsor through UKBA with ECB GBE
- Have a min of a UKCC2 coaching qualification or overseas equivalent (Australian Level 1/ New Zealand Level 1 or South African Bakers Academy Level 2)
- Evidence that the job has been advertised in a Nationally recognised medium such as Wisden Cricketer magazine
- Are cleared to work with vulnerable groups (Overseas Vetting Form and Police Check)

If a person wishes to play for a club and is not being paid, the following are some of the options that are available:

Sports Visitor Visa Criteria:

This is our current understanding of the criteria. We are awaiting written confirmation of Sports Visitor Visas for Cricket from UKBA. The following is outline guidance, it is absolutely not definitive advice on immigration. If clubs or individuals wish advice on immigration issues they should either contact an OISC registered Immigration Advisor or the UK Border Agency.

For those who;

- only want to visit the United Kingdom for up to six months ;
- are playing at amateur level in their home country and for the club in the UK but not for a club that is part of a professional league; (a professional league in terms of Cricket is the First Class Game)
- are a visa national (for non-visa national, permission to come as a sports visitor for up to six months is not needed);
- plan to leave the United Kingdom at the end of the visit;
- have enough money to support and accommodate themselves without working, help from public funds or will be supported and accommodated by relatives or friends;
- do not intend to charge members of the public for services provided or goods received;
- do not intend to study;
- can meet the cost of the return or onward journey

Youth Mobility Scheme:

- Only applies to people from Australia, Canada, Japan, & New Zealand ;
- Replaces the old working holiday (maker?) visa;
- Is Part of Tier 5 but the applicant's Government acts as the Sponsor

Participants:

- Must be aged between 18-30 when applying;
- Are able to undertake paid work but NOT as a sports person or coach (they can undertake these duties as unpaid voluntary work) ;
- Need to have £1600 in available funds when applying ;
- Must never have been in the UK under the old working holiday visa route before;
- Can only use the scheme once - not for repeat visits in future seasons

Please Note:

Non visa Nationals such as Australia, NZ, Canada etc do not require a visa to enter the UK if they are here for less than 6 months as a visitor only. They cannot undertake paid work whilst here.

However, please note that UKBA have advised the ECB that they should still apply for the Sports Visitor Visa if their primary reason for wishing to visit the UK is to play cricket.

Tier 5 of the UKBA Points Based System

Step by Step Guide;

For clubs wishing to “employ” the services of an overseas player-coach, under the new UKBA criteria they must become official UKBA Sponsor, hold a Sponsor Licence and issue Certificates of Sponsorship for every overseas person they wish to employ.

The process for being able to issue Certificates of Sponsorship is as follows:

