



# **British Rowing Governing Body Endorsement Criteria 2025-2026**

**March 2025**

**TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT**

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after 4 March 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 **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.

### 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, British Rowing 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 Rowing requirements for the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 4 March 2025.

Only the roles listed in this criteria are eligible for endorsement.

These requirements are applicable to the UK.

### Consultation

British Rowing, UK Sport, Scottish Rowing, and Welsh Rowing have been consulted in drawing up the endorsement requirements. The criteria apply to extensions and changes of employment and initial applications.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, British Rowing 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 rowing in the UK.

### Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be due in February 2026.

### Length of season

Rowing is a year-round activity.

### Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor	<p>Governing body endorsements will only be considered from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• British Rowing</li><li>• Scottish Rowing</li><li>• Welsh Rowing</li><li>• Clubs and Organisations affiliated with these bodies.</li></ul> <p>Clubs and Organisations will be required to demonstrate that they meet the core requirements of their National Governing Body including Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding and Water Safety and can provide evidence that they have in place appropriate Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.</p>

Migrant	Coach	<p>Coaches must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a minimum of 3 years coaching experience at International Level (Including taking crews to at least one of a World Championship, Paralympic or Olympic Games).</li> <li>or</li> <li>• provide evidence of delivering finalists (top 6) at World Level (Junior, Under 23 or Senior).</li> </ul> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to communicate effectively in English (in writing and orally) is essential. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unless the individual is seeking permission under International Sportsperson for a period of 12 months or fewer, they must meet the English language requirement of the Immigration Rules</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Individuals must hold National Coaching qualifications to a minimum standard of UKCC Level 2, or equivalent competencies for those countries that do not have a coaching award scheme.</li> </ul>
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## 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: <https://www.britishrowing.org/jobs> (select Overseas Recruitment).

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

HR Manager  
British Rowing  
6 Lower Mall  
London  
W6 9DJ

Telephone: 07586 123 538

Email: [hr@britishrowing.org](mailto:hr@britishrowing.org)

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

## **Dispute Handling Procedures**

Where an application for 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 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 British Rowing 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 review 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 review panel available and the decision of the review 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 before a review panel a further panel cannot be requested for the same player during the season unless their status changes and they meet 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 British Rowing.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with British Rowing's Deputy Director of Legal and Governance, 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 £25. The panel shall have discretion as to whether the deposit is returned.

The procedure for review will be in accordance with these Dispute Handling procedures and the panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

## **b. The Panel**

The panel will be appointed by the HR Manager. The appointed panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of British Rowing (who was not involved in the initial decision) and one representative of the British Rowing Board.

## **c. Power of the Panel**

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

## **d. The Decision**

The review panel will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding.