

Responsibilities of Cricket Clubs

For cricket clubs to bring in sports people and coaches into the UK from outside the EU, they must be a licensed sponsor and agree to comply with certain duties and remain compliant at all times. To become a licensed sponsor, cricket clubs must obtain from their UKBA recognised sport governing body, the England and Wales Cricket Board, a Governing Body Endorsement.

As well as obtaining a Governing Body Endorsement for their sponsor licence, cricket clubs must also obtain a Governing Body Endorsement for individual players and coaches.

In accordance with current sponsor guidance for Tier 2 and Tier 5 Sports, when a cricket club assigns a certificate of sponsorship to a sports person, the certificate of sponsorship can only be assigned for the period covered by the Governing Body Endorsement. Certificates issued in excess of the Governing Body Endorsement will be in breach of their sponsorship duties and as a consequence their licence is liable to be revoked.

For Tier 2 Sports, Governing Body Endorsements are issued by the ECB for a maximum 12 months only for players. Governing Body Endorsements for coaches will normally be issued for the length of the contract period up to a maximum of 3 years.

For Tier 5 Sporting, Governing Body Endorsements for player-coaches and coaches are issued by the ECB for a maximum of 12 months only.

Endorsements for migrants are required for each Certificate of Sponsorship to be issued.

Further details on Governing Body Endorsement requirements for Cricket can be found in the ECB's code of practice.

A sponsor's behaviour and compliance with their duties once they have been licensed will continue to be monitored. Visits to cricket clubs on the sponsor register can be made with prior agreement or by an unannounced visit by a UKBA Visiting Officer. Where it is considered that a sponsor has not been complying with its duties and where the requirements of the ECB's code of practice has not been adhered to, the licence may be withdrawn or the cricket club downgraded to a B-rating. In all cases, cricket clubs will be given the opportunity to explain its case before any action is taken.