



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

This guidance is to be used for all Tier 2 and Tier 5 governing body endorsement requests made on or after the 10 April 2019.

Section 1: overview of governing body endorsements for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories of the points-based system

This page provides a brief explanation of what endorsement requirements apply in respect of the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories of the points-based system.

The Tier 2 (Sportsperson) category is for elite sportspeople and coaches who are internationally established at the highest level and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK, and who will base themselves in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting category is for sportspeople (and their entourage where appropriate) and coaches (who must be suitably qualified to fulfil the role in question) who are internationally established at the highest level in their sport, and/or will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport in the UK; and the post cannot be filled by a suitable settled worker.

The application process explained: migrants applying to come to the UK under either of the sporting categories above need to be sponsored by an organisation that has a sponsor licence under Tier 2 (Sportsperson) or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting.

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 leave to enter or remain 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 M](#) of the Immigration Rules. Such a governing body must be recognised by one of the home country sports councils



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

such as Sport England, and will have been approved by the Home Office before being included in [Appendix M](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Approved governing bodies will work within the Home Office '[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 or the tier under which the migrant's application is being made, that is:

Type of application	Tier	Length of endorsement
Sponsor	Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	4 years from date of issue
Migrant	Tier 2 (Sportsperson)	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.
Sponsor	Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	For the length of the contract or up to a maximum of 12 months, whichever is the shorter period.

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 category, 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 leave to remain. Leave to remain must be granted before the migrant can start work with the new employer.



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

Supplementary Employment

Tier 2 and Tier 5 migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office supplementary employment regulations. The 'Supplementary employment' section of the [Tiers 2 and 5: guidance for sponsors](#) has more information on this.



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) requirements for sailing, windsurfing and powerboating under the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories. The requirements are effective from 10 April 2019.

These requirements are applicable to the UK.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the RYA, RYA Scotland, RYA Northern Ireland and RYA Cymru Wales.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed biennially. The next review will be in March 2021.

Length of season

The main sailing season in the UK runs from March to September; however those working for the RYA and affiliated organisations may be involved in training, competition and international events taking place throughout the year.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement
Sponsor Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	Requests for endorsements will only be accepted from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RYA• RYA Scotland• RYA Northern Ireland• RYA Cymru Wales• organisations affiliated to the RYA whose objectives include managing teams or coaching competitors at international level Organisations will be required to provide satisfactory evidence of their constitution, rules or articles of association, their employment policies or coach contracts, policies relating to



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

Category	Requirement	
	safety, equality and safeguarding (where applicable), codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures.	
Migrant Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	Coach	<p>Governing body endorsements will be available to individuals if they meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the individual is either qualified to RYA Racing Coach Level 3 or holds a non-UK qualification that is at least equivalent to the RYA Coach Level 3 qualification as confirmed by RYAhas at least 3 years' experience working with world class athleteshas a proven track record working with elite athletes in delivering World and Olympic medals <p>The sponsor must provide evidence of the individual's previous coaching experience at World Class level, and detail how their employment will make a significant contribution to the development of athletes and podium success along with a copy of the individuals CV.</p> <p>The individual must be able to communicate effectively in English - both written and spoken.</p>
	Non Coaching Managerial	<p>Governing body endorsement requests for the following non-coaching managerial roles, will be considered on a case by case basis if, in the RYA's view, the role will make a</p>



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

Category	Requirement
	<p>significant contribution to the development of the sport at the highest level in the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• performance director• programme manager• team manager <p>Applicants for managerial roles will need to satisfy the requirements set out under the coaching role above and demonstrate all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• must be able to demonstrate that they have worked for at least 2 years in a non managerial role• current and comprehensive knowledge of sailboat racing at all levels, specifically Olympic, Paralympic and Pathway Classes• understanding of international sailing competition• understanding of the demands of international level sailors <p>Endorsement requests should include a statement explaining why it is appropriate not to fill the post with a UK or EEA citizen or other settled worker.</p>

Further information

This information is available on the [RYA](#) website.

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

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

Page 6 of 8

RYA

Version April -2019



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

Section 3: Endorsement Requests and Decisions

Endorsement requests will be considered by a panel comprising the RYA Chief Executive, Director of Racing and Finance Director.

Records of all endorsement decisions will be maintained by the Finance Director and made available to the Home Office on request.

Section 4: Dispute handling procedures

Where an application for a governing body endorsement as set out for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) & Tier 5 (Temporary Worker-Creative and Sporting) has been refused on the grounds that the individual fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek a review of the application. The sponsor will have 14 days to request such a review. In these cases the RYA 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 individual during a calendar year unless their status changes and the individual meets the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

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 RYA.

A review shall be commenced by the appellant lodging with the RYA Finance Director, a notice of appeal within 14 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 on any grounds of appeal not set out in the notice of appeal.

The review will be referred to a panel consisting of at least three non-executive directors of the RYA Board whose decision will be final.



Royal Yachting Association (RYA) governing body endorsement requirements

The Decision

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