



This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after the **30 November 2021**.

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.

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; and
- 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 SGB](#) 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 SGB](#) 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 of the [Tiers 2 and 5: guidance for sponsors](#) has more information on this.

Section 2: Requirements

These pages explain the British Wheel of Yoga requirements for the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from **30 November 2021**.

These requirements are applicable to the UK.

Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation between the British Wheel of Yoga (BWY) and a range of independent yoga teachers and yoga organisations.

Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in September 2022.

Length of season

Yoga runs throughout the year.

Requirements

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

Category	Requirement	
Sponsor International Sportsperson	Requests for endorsements will only be issued to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BWY• BWY accredited organisations• non BWY accredited organisations that have been operating for a minimum of 2 years and have a membership base	
Migrant International Sportsperson	Yogi/Yoga Teacher	Tutors will be required to evidence a minimum of 10 years experience of teaching and where possible will have a recognised yoga teaching qualification at the equivalent of UK Level 4 or above, including a demonstrable knowledge of human anatomy from a recognised accredited school. The ability to communicate effectively in English, in writing and orally, is essential. Additional evidence to demonstrate that a tutor is recognised internationally will be required in support of an application. Evidence which is

Category	Requirement
	<p data-bbox="735 226 1027 259">acceptable will include:</p> <ul data-bbox="783 293 1374 1128" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="783 293 1374 416">• international publication of a recognised text book(s) on yoga or specific aspects of yoga practice <li data-bbox="783 450 1374 651">• evidence including dates of teaching at international events (other than the tutor’s country of birth or current residence), such as press coverage, reviews and the event programme <li data-bbox="783 685 1374 887">• evidence of patronage and/or a clear lineage to an internationally recognised yoga organisation/school which offers formal qualifications in yoga and related studies <li data-bbox="783 920 1374 1128">• being the founder of, or a yoga elder of, an internationally recognised yoga tradition or style which has been commonly adopted internationally and/or has a quantifiable membership base <p data-bbox="735 1234 900 1267">Suspensions</p> <p data-bbox="735 1301 1374 1503">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 data-bbox="735 1536 1374 1827">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>

Further information

This information is available on the [British Wheel of Yoga](#) website.

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

British Wheel of Yoga
25 Jermyn Street
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7RU

Telephone: 01529 306851

Email: office@bwy.org.uk

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

Section 3: Dispute Handling Procedures

Where an application for a Yogi/ Yoga Teacher covered by the requirements for a governing body endorsement as set out for International Sportsperson has been refused on the grounds that the Yogi/ Yoga Teacher fails to meet the published requirements, the sponsor may seek a review of the application. The sponsor will have 28 days to request a review. In these cases, British Wheel of Yoga 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 review panel available and the decision of the Review Panel is final (subject to final appeal). Sponsors should therefore ensure 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 Yogi/ Yoga Teacher during the season unless their status changes and they meet the requirements whereby a new application can be submitted.

If the initial review is refused, the Yogi/ Yoga Teacher may request a final appeal as set out at point **d**.

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 Wheel of Yoga.

A review shall be commenced by the sponsor submitting a notice of appeal within 28 days of the initial decision to the British Wheel of Yoga and Governance Director. 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 £125. 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 Review Panel shall be comprised as detailed below.

b. The Review Panel

The Review Panel will be appointed by the Disciplinary Hearings Manager. The appointed Review Panel shall consist of: an independent chairman, one representative of Yogi/ Yoga Teacher (who has not been involved in the initial decision) and one representative of named further representatives.

a. Refusal at Review

An endorsement request at review may be refused if the Yogi/ Yoga Teacher does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents.

British Wheel of Yoga will notify the sponsor and Yogi/ Yoga Teacher in writing of any endorsement request which is refused at review stage, setting out the reasons for refusal.

b. Final Appeal

Yogi/ Yoga Teacher shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal at review stage to submit a final appeal in writing to British Wheel of Yoga.

PLEASE NOTE: Yogi/ Yoga Teacher may only submit a Final Appeal on the basis that British Wheel of Yoga have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

British Wheel of Yoga shall consider the final appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the final appeal, notify the Yogi/ Yoga Teacher of its decision.

c. The Decision

British Wheel of Yoga will make a decision using the above criteria which shall be final and binding. There are no other grounds of appeal.