

Newfields>>

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark grey sleeveless jersey with 'WA' in white letters, is smiling and holding a white volleyball. She is standing in a gymnasium with other people in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle.

Sports Visa Applications

2023

Having worked more than 15 years in UK sport immigration, the team at Newfields has the knowledge and experience to deliver visa solutions quickly and cost-effectively.

No other UK law firm acts for as many sporting organisations.

Our approach involves coordinating with clubs, governing bodies, agents, athletes and family members.

The International Sportsperson visa summarised>>

The International Sportsperson visa (ISP) has replaced the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting) visas.

The ISP is made up of the following of the following subcategories:

- **Short-term ISP:** under 12 months
- **Long-term ISP:** over 12 months, with an English language requirement met by:
 - Sitting a qualifying test (which adds 3-5 weeks to the visa process) or
 - Being a citizen of an English-speaking country (which includes Australia, NZ, Canada, USA and many of the Caribbean Islands)

For either option, a sporting governing body endorsement (GBE) is required.

Getting athletes to the UK>>

Priority services overseas are suspended resulting in delays of up to 3 months to process ISP visas.

For our latest insights on this and help for sports people, watch our video, with Partner Glyn Lloyd, here: bit.ly/NEWFIELDSPVISASPORTS22 or click on the image below:



Option 1 – Premium

Who does this apply to?

- For players/coaches only.
 - It excludes most African nations, Zimbabwe, Fiji, and Russia. The full exemption list is [here](#).
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Arrival into the UK:

- The sportsperson enters the UK under the Work Engagement route (for free) which enables employment covering a 28-day period.
- Ensure you have a GBE and Certificate of Sponsorship ready for the ISP process.

Post-arrival:

- The sportsperson switches into the ISP visa from within the UK.
- Allow two weeks from the online visa submission to attend a biometrics appointment.
- From the biometric appointment date, the visa will be issued within 2 working days (super priority), 10 working days (priority) or 8 weeks (standard).
- Employment is permitted whilst the visa is being processed.
- The sportsperson should not leave the UK until the visa has been processed.
- On the approval of the ISP, any family should apply for a visa under Option 2 (listed overleaf).



Option 2 – Standard

Who does this apply to?

- Sportspersons not eligible under Option 1 because of their nationality; and/or
- Sportspersons plus any family members who are all applying together; and/or
- Family member(s) applying once the ISP is issued to the sportsperson under Option 1.

The Process:

- Applications are submitted overseas and applicants attend a visa centre appointment
- Passports are submitted at the visa centre meaning travel outside the country of application is not normally permitted unless we pay for a passport-return service.
- The passport-return service enables applicants who are not exempt nationals to travel to the UK as visitors whilst their applications overseas are processed. The passports must be couriered back to the visa centre once a visa decision has been reached. The visa centre will insert the visa into the passport and return the document to a secure local address overseas. The passport (plus visas) must then be couriered back to the UK. The visa holders must quickly leave the UK and return to have the new visa stamped and activated by Border Force.
- Applications will take up to 3 months.



Option 3 – Hybrid

(involving an application submitted in France)

Who does this apply to?

- A Sports person who is eligible under Option 1 and/or
- A Sports person plus any family members who are all applying together
- It excludes most African nations, Zimbabwe, Fiji, and Russia. The full exemption list is [here](#).

The Process :

- Applications are submitted in France and applicants attend a visa centre appointment in Paris.
- Passports are submitted and we pay for a passport-return service (see above).

On arrival to the UK:

- The sports person enters the UK under the Work Engagement route (Option 1 above).
- The family enter the UK as visitors.
- The passports must be couriered back to the visa centre in Paris once a visa decision has been reached. The visa centre will insert the visa into the passport and return the document to a secure address in France. Alternatively, any passports (plus visas) can be collected in person by the applicant or a representative. The visa holders must ensure the new visas are stamped and activated by Border Force within 3 months of issue.
- Applications will take up to 2 months



Sportspeople extending their UK visas >>

For sportspeople extending their visas from within the UK, the following timeframe will apply:

- Allow two weeks from the online visa submission to attend a biometrics appointment.
- From the biometric appointment date, the visa will be issued within 2 working days (super priority), 10 working days (priority) or 8 weeks (standard).
- Employment is permitted whilst the visa is being processed.
- The sportsperson should not leave the UK until the visa has been processed.
- The sportsperson cannot be employed by any new club until the ISP has been approved.



How we can help >>

We provide end-to-end support on the process, and we will set out all the visa options including risks, opportunities, and pricing. We work collaboratively with the governing body, club, sportsperson and family member, and we will:

- Access the Sponsor Management System and assign Certificates of Sponsorship
- Draft the visa application
- Prepare any supporting document templates tailored to the application
- Review and advise in relation to the applicant's supporting documents
- Submit the application on the applicant's behalf
- Support the application with legal representations
- Book the applicant a biometric appointment
- Upload all supporting documents to the Home Office on the applicant's behalf
- Respond to any queries raised throughout the matter on the applicant's behalf
- Provide a secure address to which the Home Office can send any correspondence including any mail and the Biometrics Residence Permit on the approval of the application
- Advise the applicant and club of any matters arising from the decision of the application, including the steps they can take towards any future application
- Undertake any of the above matters for the worker's family

If you would like more information about the UK Visa process for sportspeople our fees or to get in touch with Newfields, please call us on +44 (0)292 169 0049 or email info@newfieldslaw.com

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We're here to help

Belong with Newfields,
immigration specialists for sport

Contact us



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