

## GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

This guidance is to be used for all International Sportsperson governing body endorsement requests made on or after **11 December 2024**.

### **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.

## GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

### 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   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sponsor</b>      | 4 years from date of issue.   |
| <b>Migrant</b>      | 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, GB Taekwondo 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.

## GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

### **Section 2: Requirements**

This page explains GB Taekwondo requirements under the International Sportsperson route. The requirements are effective from 11 December 2024.

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

These requirements are applicable to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### **Consultation**

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation with the GB Taekwondo, who consulted with British Taekwondo.

Prior to contacting the Home Office during the annual review of this criteria, GB Taekwondo 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 taekwondo in the UK.

#### **Review**

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in November 2025.

#### **Length of season**

Taekwondo typically runs throughout the year, there is no natural start or end to the season.

#### **Requirements**

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

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Requirement</b>   |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Sponsor</b>  | Governing body endorsements will only be accepted from GB Taekwondo. |

GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

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|-----------------------|--|
| <p><b>Migrant</b></p> | <p><b>Coach</b></p> <p>A governing body endorsement will be issued to salaried staff only if both the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be able to demonstrate they have a proven record of medal success. This can be achieved by providing evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ having achieved 5 or more medals in the past 8 years at Senior Competition level, either at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ World Taekwondo GP series events;</li> <li>▪ European Championships; or</li> <li>▪ World Championships; or</li> <li>▪ Olympic Games.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>or</b></li> <li>○ delivering top 4 finalists in the last 5 years at Senior World Class level at events endorsed by the World Taekwondo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• have coached elite athletes for at least the previous 3 years</li> </ul> <p><b>NB:</b> If the individual is applying for an International Sportsperson visa for a period exceeding 12 months, at visa application stage they must meet the English language requirement at ISP 8.1. and 8.2. of the Immigration Rules as per Appendix International Sportsperson:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-international-sportsperson">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-international-sportsperson</a></p> |
|-----------------------|--|

**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.

## GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

### **Further information**

This information is available on the GB Taekwondo website at  
[www.gbtaekwondo.co.uk](http://www.gbtaekwondo.co.uk)

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](http://GOV.UK) website.

## GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement Criteria

### **Dispute handling procedures**

Any appeals against decisions will be referred to the CEO of GB Taekwondo. Any appeal by a Franchise Organisation against the decision of GB Taekwondo not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement for either an individual migrant or for a sponsor license will be dealt with by the independent dispute resolution service for sport: Sport Resolutions.

If a Franchise Organisation wishes to instigate an appeal pursuant to this Procedure, the Franchise Organisation must submit to the Chief Executive of GB Taekwondo a written request for an appeal (“the Appeal”) containing the following details: (a) the name and address of the Franchise Organisation (and of the nominated body representative); and (b) a brief statement stating the grounds that the Franchise Organisation wish to use to appeal the GB Taekwondo decision.

The applicable grounds for appeal are limited to a “strong arguable case” that either:

- i. relevant information was ignored or not considered by GB Taekwondo;
- ii. the endorsement application process was tainted by unreasonable bias or conflict of interests;
- iii. the provisions of the GB Taekwondo Governing Body Endorsement procedure were not adhered to;
- iv. GB Taekwondo exceeded its jurisdiction; or the findings of GB Taekwondo were irrational or otherwise exhibited an error of general law.

This request for appeal must be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the notification of the original GB Taekwondo decision not to provide a Governing Body Endorsement and include the relevant Appeal Fee (£125, cheque made payable to Sport Resolutions).

GB Taekwondo will acknowledge the Appeal in writing with the request that full written evidence in support of the Appeal must be submitted to Sport Resolutions within 10 days for the Appeal to proceed. The Appeal will be undertaken by a sole arbitrator, based on written submissions only, and will be final and binding on GB Taekwondo and the club who sought the Appeal. Save as provided in this clause the process to be followed is as contained in the Sport Resolutions arbitration rule.