

This guidance is to be used for all Tier 2 and Tier 5 governing body endorsement requests made on or after the 6 October 2016.

## **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, coaches and performance analysts 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), coaches and performance analysts 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.

**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 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](https://www.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.
Migrant	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.

## 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

Tier 2 and Tier 5 migrants are eligible to undertake supplementary employment under the Home Office supplementary employment regulations. The [Tier 2 & 5 Guidance for Sponsors](#) has more information on supplementary employment.

## Section 2: Requirements

This page explains the Darts requirements under the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting categories for the 2016 to 2017 season. These requirements are effective from 6 October 2016.

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

### Consultation

The following requirements have been agreed by the Home Office following consultation between the British Darts Organisation and the Darts Regulation Authority.

### Review

The requirements will be reviewed annually. The next review will be in October 2017.

### Length of season

The season for darts in general runs year round.

### Requirements

Category	Requirement	
<b>Sponsor</b> Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	Governing body endorsements will only be issued to the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• British Darts Organisation (BDO) ; and</li><li>• Darts Regulation Authority (DRA)</li></ul>	
<b>Migrant</b> Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and/or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting	Player	<b>Initial and extension applications</b> Requests for endorsements will only be issued to Players who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• finished in the top 64 of the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) Order of Merit in 2016 or 2017;</li><li>• won a PDC tour card through Q-School in 2016 or 2017; <b>or</b></li><li>• won a PDC tour card through finishing first or second</li></ul>

		<p>on the PDC Challenge Tour in 2016 or 2017.</p> <p>Requests for endorsements should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a letter from the Professional Darts Players Association (PDPA) confirming full PDPA membership; <b>and</b></li> <li>• a letter from the PDC confirming entry on to the Pro Tour; and a copy of the player's passport.</li> </ul>
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## Further information

For any queries relating to the requirements or the endorsement process and/or to apply for an endorsement please contact the:

Darts Visa Organisation (DVO)

BDO contact – Sue Williams, Chairman, British Darts Organisation, Unit 4 Glan-y-Llyn Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Taffs Well, Cardiff, CF15 7JD. E-mail: [sue.getty@bdodarts.com](mailto:sue.getty@bdodarts.com)

DRA (PDC) contact - Nigel Mawer, Chair of the DRA, 58 St Marys Crescent, Hendon, London NW4 4LH. E-mail: [info@thedra.co.uk](mailto:info@thedra.co.uk)

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

## Dispute handling procedures

An endorsement request may be refused if the Player does not meet the relevant criteria set out in this document or fails to provide the mandatory documents. The DVO will notify a Player in writing of any endorsement request which is refused setting out the reasons for refusal.

A Player shall have 7 days from the date of the written refusal to submit an appeal in writing to the DVO. A player may only appeal on the basis that the DVO have not applied the endorsement criteria correctly.

The DVO shall consider the appeal and any evidence submitted in support and shall, within 7 working days of the receipt of the appeal, notify the Player of its decision. The DVO's decision will be final.

## **Section 3: Process for applying for an endorsement**

### **How to apply for governing body endorsements for Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) Creative and Sporting sponsor applications**

The BDO and DRA need to apply to the DVO (as set out above) for a sponsor endorsement in order to apply to UKVI for a sponsor licence.

To apply for a migrant endorsement, the BDO and DRA will need to complete and return an application provided by the DVO. They will either approve or not support the application for an endorsement. If an application is successful they will issue an endorsement containing a unique reference number to be used in respect of this.