

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: OVERVIEW OF VISA OPTIONS

The information below has been compiled in conjunction with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to aid participants based abroad who intend to compete in Britain. This document is intended primarily to help foreign based jockeys and the trainers/owners who intend to book them. This document should be considered alongside information already available on the BHA website [here](#).

DISCLAIMER

Please note: The information below is correct at the time of writing but is subject to change. This document has been created for reference only and does not constitute official Home Office guidance. Please see the relevant GOV.UK pages for up-to-date information.

- Home Office officials cannot provide immigration advice nor comment on individual cases.
- If an individual / organisation requires immigration advice, they should seek the advice of an OISC registered immigration adviser: <https://www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser>

VISA PROVISIONS

Visitor

- The Visitor route is for a person who wants to visit the UK for a short, temporary period, (usually for up to 6 months), for purposes such as tourism, visiting friends or family, as well as enabling sportspeople to enter and partake in activities relevant to their particular sport.
- The Visitor route allows any sporting individual to come to the UK. The UK's domestic rules specifically allows sportspeople (and their technical staff) from non-visa national countries to perform in the UK without requiring a visa. This means that not only can they come to the UK and take part in sports events, but they can take part in trials and training, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities for up to six months visa-free under the **standard Visitor route if they are not receiving payment from a UK source other than prize money or expenses.**
- The Immigration Rules are clear with regards to payment for visitors. It is expressly prohibited under V4.6 - the Visitor must not receive payment from a UK source for any activities undertaken in the UK. It should be noted that **riding fees are considered payment from a UK source.**
- **There are, however, limited and specific occasions when payment is allowed**, such visitors being allowed to claim reasonable expenses to cover the cost of their travel and subsistence, or those visitors **utilising PPE (see below)** provisions such as sportspeople coming to carry out an activity directly relating to their profession.

Permitted Paid Engagements (PPE)

- **Payment via a UK source however is permissible under Permitted Paid Engagements (PPE)** which have now been incorporated into the Standard Visitor route due to recent legislative changes. Therefore, Standard visitors *can* undertake [PPE](#)

activities, such as those of professional sportspersons (including being paid a riding fee) for 30 days after arrival into the UK and where they have been invited by a sporting organisation, agent or broadcaster based in the UK. There is no requirement for PPE visitors to hold an additional visa (beyond what would be normally required for a visitor), however the PPE must be arranged prior to individuals and groups travelling to the UK

- **For jockeys wishing to utilise a PPE, an invitation must be secured prior to being booked for any ride. Unless otherwise requested, the invitation does not need to be sent to the BHA as standard** and the onus remains on the jockey to ensure they have the correct visa and documentation in place to enter the country and undertake any sporting activities.
- The Visitor route allows all applicants to enter on multiple occasions and PPE can potentially be used on every separate visit. When a visitor leaves the Common Travel Area (The UK, Ireland, The Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey) their permission to be in the UK will lapse. This means that when they return to the UK they will have a new period of permission to be in the UK, which will usually last for 6 months.
- As ever, applications for visit visas or for entry as a visitor at the UK border, will be considered against Appendix V: Visitor of the Immigration Rules and on a case by case basis by relevant decision makers.

Visitor GOV.UK pages

The Immigration Rules for the Visitor route – Appendix V: Visitor:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities>

The Immigration Rules for Permitted Activities – Appendix Visitor: Permitted Activities:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities>

The Visitor route GOV.UK page – Visit for a paid engagement or event:

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event>

Visit caseworker guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>

The International Sportsperson (ISP) visa

- The ISP visa is for elite sportspeople and qualified coaches who intend to live and work in the UK.
- Applicants must be sponsored by a Home Office registered sponsor and endorsed by the relevant Home Office-approved sports governing body (SGB).
 - Endorsements are issued according to a set of Governing Body Endorsement (GBE) criteria produced by SGBs in consultation with the Home Office. Endorsements confirm the applicant is elite, internationally established and can

make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at its highest level in the UK. For information on the specific requirements for their sport, applicants should contact the relevant SGB.

- The visa can last for up to three years and can be extended for up to three more years at a time, providing all requirements are still met.
- Applicants applying to stay for longer than 12 months must meet an English language requirement.
- After 5 years, applicants may be able to settle in the UK if they had at least one grant of ISP permission that lasted longer than 12 months.

ISP visa holders can:

- work for their sponsor in the job described in their certificate of sponsorship
- do a [second job](#) in certain circumstances
- play for their national team in the UK
- work as a sports broadcaster
- do voluntary work
- study as long as it does not interfere with the job they are sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- bring [their partner and children with them as their 'dependants'](#), if they're eligible

ISP visa holders cannot:

- get [public funds](#)
- start or run a business
- apply for a second job until they have started working for their sponsor

ISP GOV.UK pages:

The Immigration Rules for the International Sportsperson route – Appendix International Sportsperson:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-international-sportsperson>

The Immigration Rules listing Home Office approved sports governing bodies – Appendix Sports Governing Bodies:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-sports-governing-bodies>

The International Sportsperson GOV.UK page:

<https://www.gov.uk/sportsperson-visa>

The sponsor guidance – including the page 'sponsor an International Sportsperson':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sponsorship-information-for-employers-and-educators>