



## MANAGED MIGRATION UPDATE

The system is now in operation and as expected we have encountered a number of problems, but these are slowly being resolved.

The notes below are intended to give clubs assistance in understanding the regime that is now being introduced.

### Accountability

The new system seeks to move the accountability for the movement of migrant workers and visitors from the UKBA (the United Kingdom Border Agency) to those who seek to employ the migrants, and in the case of sports people to the national governing body of the sport.

Therefore in the case of cricket, it is the clubs that seek to bring in overseas players and ECB who are the bodies accountable to the UKBA.

**Clubs are in the main unincorporated bodies, and as such it is the Chairman and Club Committee who will be held accountable should they get it wrong.**

### Sponsorship

Clubs seeking to bring into the country a professional cricketer must first seek the permission of UKBA, and obtain a “Sponsors Licence”. The licence can be applied for on line, but will need to be accompanied by a letter of support from ECB.

**Do not apply for a licence until you have the letter of support from ECB**

The online application is time limited so it is important to get the necessary paperwork together before applying.

### Certificate of Sponsorship

This is the document that will enable a player to apply for a Visa. The certificate itself is not a guarantee of entry – it simply confirms that a job exists for the player, and that the player meets the necessary criteria.

### Visas

Visas are issued by the Immigration Officer in the nearest British Office to the players residence, and must be obtained prior to travel. The Immigration Officer has the power to grant or deny entry.

Under the new system the Visa will contain bio-metric details to ensure proper identification of the holder.

### Sports Visa

There has been much talk and speculation as to whether “Sports Visas” will be available to cricketers, and we have now received an indication that they may be made available, but at the moment we await written confirmation. If that confirmation is received “Sports Visas” will be available to “amateur” cricketers wishing to enter the country to play in a “pre-dominantly amateur team”. The Visa will permit the player to receive “reasonable” expenses whilst in this country, but the holder must show that they have sufficient resources to maintain themselves, and be in possession of a return ticket.

The Visa will cost £65, but will only be available to those citizens of what are considered to be “low risk” countries. In the case of “Sports Visa” holders the accountable body will be the government of their country.

#### Youth Mobility Scheme

The Youth Mobility Scheme replaces the old Working Holidaymaker permit, but like the old Working Holidaymaker Permit it will not be acceptable for cricketers. It is intended for holidaymakers; persons coming to this country specifically to play sport are not considered genuine holidaymakers therefore the Scheme does not apply.

#### Finally

**Clubs should not employ anyone who does not have the legal right to be in the country, or have the legal right to work for them.** Remember under the new regulations it is the Chairman and Committee who are legally and personally responsible.

Neil Edwards  
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