

Yorkshire Cricket Board

Managed Migration - Briefing Paper 24th January 2009

A Introduction

From 24th November the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has totally changed the pattern of immigration/work permits to the UK

This papers attempts a simple introduction for Cricket Leagues and cricket Clubs - it is guidance and not a definitive document

The process is called Managed Migration and the following have relevance to cricket and are covered in detail below:

Tier 1 Professionals ie Lawyers, doctors , teachers (NOT cricketers or coaches)

Tier 2 Professional Sportsmen - First Class Cricket

Tier 5 Professional sportsmen - cricket clubs

Sports Visitor Visa status

Designated Professional Leagues

Note

1. Working Holidaymaker status and criteria no longer exists
2. Existing commitments have no validity
3. Managed migrant applications and Sports Visitors visas apply for those outside the EEA (European Economic Area)

Latest News (dealt with below)

ECB confirmed on 23rd January on a second verbal agreement with UKBA that :

- 1. Sports Visitors Visa holders CAN play in Designated Professional Leagues**
- 2. Sports Visitors Visa holders may play for a FULL season**

Both of these guidances are different from what was expected in December on earlier advice

Full guidance and all ECB forms are on :

ECB website under Governing Body Endorsements (front page connection)

www.ecb.co.uk/directive-guidelines/sponsor-license

UKBA website is www.ukba.gov.uk

The Yorkshire Cricket Board are happy for this to be communicated to clubs where appropriate but please bear in mind this is a guidance note onlu to help member leagues and clubs and full details are with ECB and the rulings of them and UKBA transcend any guidance in these notes if there is any conflict , Vcl;ubs are remonded League rules and conditions still apply

B Tier 1

This level of entry to the UK is for professional workers only ie Teachers , doctors , lawyers and is NOT for sportspeople or coaches

However those who have migrated under Tier 1 may play cricket but as an amateur only NOT as a professional- to be paid would be against their entry criteria and illegal

C Tier 2

This level of entry is for full time professional sportspeople and applies to First Class County Cricket clubs only

However it is essential to note that Tier 2 players CANNOT transfer categories and therefore CANNOT play club or league cricket

D Tier 5

This is the entry level for club professional cricketers. There are two categories

1. Player/Coach

NB There is no player only category

A Player Coach MUST fulfil the following criteria

- Have played 5 first class matches over the last 24 months (one day IPL games etc do not count)
- Be a UK L2 coach or equivalent status *

The only overseas equivalent recognised status are :

New Zealand Cricket Level 1

Cricket Australia Level 1

South Africa Cricket Level 2 (from Baker Academy only)

The Player/coach must have Child Protection course qualifications (as UK L 2) and must be CRB vetted

Note UK L 1 status is insufficient

* A UK L2 qualification is accepted if the Player/Coach is booked on a UKL2 course in the UK in advance and prior to arrival - the course could be in May [YCB will be putting on 1 or 2 such courses in May - contact Coach Education Manager David Tighe in due course and after Sponsor licence received))) This will include Child Protection, First Aid BUT CRB vetting should be done before arrival- see ECB overseas vetting form on website)

NOTE

A Player/Coach CANNOT be employed by a County Cricket Club

However they can be employed by a County Cricket Board eg YCB on Chance to Shine schemes

2 Coach Only

Coaches with UK L2 or overseas equivalent and CRB vetted may enter under Tier 5

However they CANNOT PLAY cricket

They must be appointed and employed only after open advert and interview procedures and only if there is no suitable UK resident applicant (and the notes on booking on an Y UK L2 course prior to arrival are not applicable in this category)

They can work out of the cricket season

3. Club Sponsor Licence

To apply for a club sponsor licence (see below) a club must be **ONE** of the following

- Clubmark club
- County Board Focus Club
- Chance to Shine Club
- Members of a County Premier League (Oxbridge Yorkshire County Premier League is the

- only one in Yorkshire)
- Members of a ECB Designated Professional League (see F below)

4 Club Actions

1. Club must apply to ECB for Governing Body Endorsement BEFORE contacting UKBA. See forms on ECB website and note there is a £20 charge and no electronic application. Fee must accompany application form
2. The register with UKBA as a club sponsor - once registered apply for Certificate of Sponsorship
3. Apply to ECB (£30 fee and no electronic applications) for individual migrant (ie player/coach) endorsement . Ensure Overseas vetting form and address details are covered
4. Once agreed Club issue certificate of sponsorship to migrant
- 5 . **Migrant** applies for prior entry Clearance (even so actual entry is NOT guaranteed)

E Sports Visitor Visas

These apply only to areas outside the EEA

- Applicants for a sports visitor visa need a genuine invitation (from the club)
- The visitor must apply to the relevant Embassy or High Commission for a visa and will need the invitation and details below as evidence
- Visitors are subject to a six month time limit for their visit
- They must play as an amateur in a predominantly amateur club and league *BUT they can play as an amateur in Designated Professional League*
- *Contrary to previous views they can play for the whole season*
- They must show they have a plan to leave the country and can meet the cost of the return journey
- They must show they can enough money to support themselves during their stay without working and/or are supported for accommodation and living expenses by family/friends
- They must not be paid but can receive board and lodgings and receive reasonable subsistence
- They cannot charge for any services - this means they cannot be paid for casual bar or ground work or coaching by the club (or others) NB They are not working holidaymakers - this category has creased
- They cannot be a student
- They cannot change categories after arrival
- They can bring dependents with them

F Designated Professional Leagues

Leagues may apply from the status of Designated Professional League to ECB with the prior approval of the County Cricket Board. In Yorkshire applications must be made to the Chief Executive, Ian Chappell (see below)

Leagues may apply for a Premier Division or other stated divisions to have this status and not all the league. This allows all clubs in the league or division to have overseas professionals, *Note however that the allowing of Sports Visitor Visa holders to play in a Designated Professional League make less of an issue*

Sports Visitor Visa holders may play in a Designated Professional League and for the

whole season (contrary to previous advice received)

If a league does not go down DPL status then its member clubs who are Focus Clubs , Clubmark Clubs or Chance to Shine Clubs may still do so individually subject to League rules on overseas professionals and players

Leagues may apply for Designated Professional League status to YCB Chief Executive in writing on Headed Notepaper (as e-mail attachment preferable) from the League Chief Executive or Secretary (or other senior officer validated with Ian Chappell). Applicants should state whether it is the whole league or a division they want designated and should include a list of relevant member clubs (just to ease ECB's work when clubs apply for endorsement)

ichappell@ycb-yca.fsnet.co.uk

Leagues who have been waiting for this and reply and apply immediately will be registered with ECB by Wednesday 28th January . Later application it is hoped will be dealt with by 14th February. It is hoped there will be no further applications after this date for 2009 (it will make the timescales for clubs almost impossible)

Fuller information and the relevant forms are at the ECB website under Governing Body Endorsements (front page connection)
www.ecb.co.uk/directive-guidelines/sponsor-license

Ian Chappell
Chief Executive , Yorkshire Cricket Board
ichappell@ycb-yca.fsnet.co.uk