



Home Office

T2 Sportsperson caseworker guidance

Version 1.0

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About this guidance

This guidance informs caseworkers how to consider applications to enter, remain or settle in the UK on the Tier 2 Sports person route.

This guidance is designed to be used alongside Appendix T2 Sports person of the Immigration Rules. The rules explain the requirements an applicant must meet to be granted entry clearance or permission to stay on the T2 Sports person route, and this guidance provides additional information on how to consider their application.

Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules contains a list of defined terms in the rules.

Caseworkers may also need to refer to the following sections of the rules, where relevant:

- Part 9: Grounds for Refusal
- Part 10: Police Registration
- Appendix ATAS
- Appendix English Language
- Appendix KOL UK
- Appendix Finance
- Appendix Continuous Residence

Paragraph references in this guidance refer to paragraphs in the Immigration Rules unless otherwise stated.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your manager cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors then email the migration policy unit.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **1.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **1 December 2020**

Changes from last version of this guidance

This is the first version of this document.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Introduction to the T2 Sportsperson route

This page provides an introduction to the T2 Sportsperson route.

This route is for an elite sportsperson or qualified coach who is sponsored to work in a role where they will make a significant contribution to the development of sport at the highest level in the UK and who has a Governing Body Endorsement from the appropriate Sports Governing Body.

A dependent partner and dependent children of a Tier 2 Sportsperson can apply on this route and separate guidance on dependant applications is available.

T2 Sportsperson is a route to settlement.

This route replaces the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) route. Existing Tier 2 (Sportsperson) workers can apply for extensions, changes of employment and settlement under the T2 Sportsperson route.

Requirements

The requirements applicants must meet are split into three parts:

- **Validity requirements** - these outline the minimum criteria that must be met for the application to be fully considered. They ensure, for example, the correct form has been used and the applicant has supplied their identity documents. Applications which do not meet these requirements are invalid and may be rejected.

Main applicant - entry clearance and permission to stay (SP1.1. – SP1.6)

Main applicant - settlement (SP12.1 - SP12.4)

Dependants – entry clearance and permission to stay (SP20.1 - SP20.5)

Dependants - settlement (SP30.1 – SP30.4)

- **Suitability requirements**– these check the suitability of the applicant to be granted any form of permission, not specifically whether they qualify as a T2 Sportsperson. Applicants must not fall for refusal on general grounds or be in breach of immigration laws. Applications which do not meet these requirements should be refused.

Main applicant - entry clearance and permission to stay (SP2.1 - SP2.2)

Main applicant - settlement (SP 13.1 – SP13.2)

Dependants – entry clearance and permission to stay (SP21.1 – SP21.2)

Dependants - settlement (SP31.1 – SP31.2)

- **Eligibility requirements** - these are the main criteria specific to the T2 Sportsperson route. Applications which do not meet these requirements should be refused.

Main applicant - entry clearance and permission to stay (SP3.1 – SP 9.2)

Main applicant - settlement (SP14.1 – SP18.1)

Dependants – entry clearance and permission to stay (SP22.1 – SP27.5)

Dependants - settlement (SP32.1 – SP38.1)

Representatives

If an applicant has a UK based representative, the caseworker must check that the representative is approved to provide immigration advice with either:

- [the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner](#) (OISC) or one of the following designated authorities:
 - the [Law Society](#)
 - the [Law Society of Scotland](#)
 - the [Law Society of Northern Ireland](#)
 - the [General Council of the Bar](#)
 - the [Chartered Institute of Legal Executives](#)
 - the [Faculty of Advocates](#)
 - the [General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland](#)

If the representative does not have the necessary permission to provide immigration advice, the caseworker must direct all communications to the applicant instead.

Requesting more information

If the caseworker is in need of more information, or the clarification of certain details, to be able to consider granting an application, then they should refer to [requesting more information](#). Where possible, the caseworker should try to identify all areas where further information is required so it can be requested at the same time.

Verification checks

The caseworker must conduct verification checks if they have any doubts about whether the supporting documents an applicant has submitted are genuine.

Translating documents

If the documents provided are not in English or Welsh, the applicant must provide a certified [translation](#).

Related content

[Contents](#)

Validity for entry clearance and permission to stay applications

This page tells caseworkers about the validity requirements that an applicant must meet when they apply for entry clearance or permission to stay (previously known as leave to remain) as a T2 Sports person.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the validity requirements for a T2 Sports person as specified in paragraphs SP 1.1. to SP 1.6, they should consider whether to request further information, reject the application, or proceed with the consideration of the application.

Application form

A person applying for entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sports person must apply online on the gov.uk website on the specified form as follows:

- for entry clearance, form "[Tier 2 \(Sports person\) visa](#)"
- for permission to stay, form "[Tier 2 \(Sports person\) leave to remain](#)"

The application

An application for entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sports person must meet all the following requirements:

- any fee and Immigration Health Charge must have been paid
- the applicant must have provided any required biometrics
- the applicant must have provided a passport or other travel document which satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality
- the applicant must have a Certificate of Sponsorship that was issued to them no more than 3 months before the date of application

Application fees and Immigration Health Charge

The caseworker must be satisfied that the applicant has paid the relevant application fees and any Immigration Health Charge (sometimes called the Immigration Health Surcharge or IHS). If these haven't been paid, the caseworker should write to the applicant and request these. Further guidance on the Immigration Health Charge can be found [here](#).

Biometrics and identity documents

The caseworker must be satisfied that where the applicant has provided their biometrics that these are verified against a valid passport or other travel document they have supplied.

Official – sensitive: start of section

The information on this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official – sensitive: end of section

Certificate of Sponsorship

The applicant must have a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS). This is a virtual document (similar to a database record) which is assigned by the sponsor. Sponsors use a secure IT system called the [sponsorship management system](#) (SMS) to assign a certificate of sponsorship.

The reference number for the CoS should be provided in the application. If the applicant has not supplied the reference number, they must provide an explanation. If the caseworker is not satisfied that a CoS has been assigned to the applicant, they may reject the application.

The caseworker must check that the Certificate of Sponsorship was assigned to the applicant no more than 3 months before the date of application. If it was assigned too early, the application may be rejected.

For information on how to check the CoS information, please see the [Sponsor a Tier 2 or 5 worker: guidance for employers](#). (Note that the Certificate of Sponsorship will also need to be viewed when assessing the Eligibility requirements.)

Age of applicant

The applicant must be aged 16 or over on the date of application.

Government or international scholarship agency awards

If the applicant has received an award from a Government or international scholarship agency covering both fees and living costs for study in the UK in the last 12 months, they must provide written consent to the application from that Government or agency. The letter of consent should be on official letter-headed paper or stationery of the organisation(s), bearing the official stamp of that organisation and issued by an authorised official of that organisation. The documents must confirm that the organisation gives the applicant unconditional consent to remain in or re-enter the UK for an unlimited time.

Switching

An applicant who is in the UK cannot apply to switch onto the T2 Sportsperson route if they have, or have last been granted, permission:

- as a Visitor
- as a Short-term Student
- as a Parent of a Child Student
- as a Seasonal Worker
- as a Domestic worker in a private household
- outside the Immigration Rules

EEA and Swiss nationals applying before 1 January 2021

Entry clearance applications made by European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss nationals before free movement ends can be considered as valid, but caseworkers should grant entry clearance beginning no earlier than 1 January 2021.

The caseworker must treat applications for permission to stay before 1 January 2021 from EEA or Swiss nationals as invalid and reject them. In this instance, the caseworker should make the applicant aware of the [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

If an applicant has entered under free movement before 1 January 2021 and applied for permission to stay the caseworker should consider the application.

Irish Citizens

Once free movement ends on 1 January, Irish citizens' status will continue to be protected. As a result, Irish citizens will not be eligible to apply for permission under the Immigration Rules. The caseworker must reject any application for a visa from an Irish citizen as invalid when made at or after 11pm on 31 December, except where they are subject to any of the following:

- a deportation order made under section 5(1) of the Immigration Act 1971
- an exclusion decision, or an exclusion order made under regulation 23(5) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016
- a travel ban implemented under section 8B of the Immigration Act 1971

If an Irish citizen falls within one of the above categories, the caseworker should consider their application in line with the rules in the same way as any other applicant.

Where an Irish citizen chooses to apply before 11pm on 31 December, the caseworker should contact the applicant to explain all of the following:

- they would not be permitted to apply for permission from 1 January onwards
- they will have rights under section 3ZA of the Immigration Act 1971 and do not require permission
- they may want to withdraw their application

The caseworker should contact the CTA Policy Team for further information before they do so. If, despite this, the applicant wishes to proceed, the caseworker must consider their application in the same way as any other applicant.

Suitability for entry clearance and permission to stay applications

This page tells caseworkers about the suitability requirements that an applicant must meet when they apply for entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sports person.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the suitability requirements for a T2 Sports person as specified in paragraphs SP 2.1 and SP 2.2 they must refuse the application.

The caseworker must check:

- that the applicant does not fall for refusal under [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules
- that where the applicant is applying for permission to stay, the applicant is not:
 - in breach of immigration laws, except where [paragraph 39E](#) applies, that period of overstaying will be disregarded
 - on immigration bail

Overstaying

The caseworker must check the applicant is not in breach of immigration laws, except where permitted by the Immigration Rules in respect of periods of overstaying. Full guidance on overstaying is available.

Immigration bail

Any applicant who is in the UK on immigration bail is not suitable for the T2 Sports person route. These individuals do not hold permission to be in the UK.

Related content

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Eligibility for entry clearance and permission to stay applications

This page tells caseworkers about the eligibility requirements that an applicant must meet to be granted either entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sportsperson.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the eligibility requirements for a T2 Sportsperson as specified in paragraphs SP 3.1 to SP 9.2 they must refuse the application.

Entry requirement

A person seeking to come to the UK as a T2 Sportsperson must apply for and obtain entry clearance as a T2 Sportsperson before they arrive in the UK.

Tuberculosis certificate

Where the application is for entry clearance as a T2 Sportsperson, the caseworker must check that the applicant has provided a valid tuberculosis (TB) certificate with their application if they have been residing within a country listed in [Appendix T](#) of the Immigration Rules for the six months immediately preceding the application.

If the applicant has not supplied a valid TB test certificate when they are required to do so, the application should be refused under paragraph SP 3.2.

Further information regarding which applicants are required to obtain a TB certificate before applying and the valid test centres can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>.

Related content

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Points requirement

This page explains how points are scored for T2 Sportspersons.

To be eligible for the T2 Sportsperson route, applicants must score a minimum of 70 points against 3 requirements.

The applicant must score:

- 50 points for a valid [Certificate of Sponsorship](#)
- 10 points for meeting the [English language requirement](#)
- 10 points for meeting the [financial requirement](#)

All points are mandatory. If an applicant scores fewer than 70 points, the caseworker must refuse their application and explain where they have not been awarded points.

Related content

[Contents](#)

[Certificate of Sponsorship](#)

[English language requirement](#)

[Financial requirement](#)

Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) requirements

This requirement is met by having a valid CoS and an endorsement from the relevant Sports Governing Body.

This page tells caseworkers how to assess the Sports Governing Body endorsement requirement and the CoS requirement for T2 Sportsperson, and also how to check that a CoS is valid using the CoS checking system and how to record it on the system.

The caseworker must award 50 points if the applicant meets these requirements.

Sports Governing Body endorsement

Only a [Sports Governing Body approved by the Home Office](#) can give an endorsement.

The Sports Governing Body endorsement that goes with the CoS confirms that:

- the applicant is internationally established as a player or coach at the highest level
- the applicant will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK

These details must be confirmed in a letter from the relevant Sports Governing Body.

This letter must also contain a unique endorsement number. The reference number will begin with an abbreviated form of the governing body (for example RUGU for rugby union).

The caseworker must check this reference number is on the CoS towards the bottom of the CoS, as well as the details in the letter.

The Certificate of Sponsorship must confirm:

- the applicant's name and details of the job and salary and any other remuneration offered to the applicant
- that the worker is being sponsored as a T2 Sportsperson
- that the applicant is qualified to do the job of a T2 Sportsperson
- the applicant has been issued a unique endorsement number from the appropriate Sports Governing Body
- that the applicant will be based in the UK
- that if the application is successful, the applicant will comply with the conditions of their permission

Checking the validity of a CoS

A valid CoS must:

- have been issued by a licensed sponsor that holds a valid T2 Sportsperson sponsor licence
- have been issued by an A-rated sponsor, unless it is an extension application to continue working for the same sponsor as in their last permission
- have a reference number that links to a CoS checking service entry that names the applicant as the migrant
- confirm that the sponsor is sponsoring them on the T2 Sportsperson route on which the migrant has applied
- have the same details as in the applicant's passport
- have been assigned no more than 3 months before the date of application
- have a start date no more than 3 months after the date of application
- not have been used in a previous application which was either granted or refused (but can have been used in a previous application which was rejected as invalid, made void or withdrawn)
- not have been withdrawn by the sponsor or cancelled by the Home Office since it was assigned

How to search the CoS checking system

To access the CoS checking system, the caseworker must use their username and password. To access the search function, they should click 'CoS check'. The CoS checker times out every 30 minutes, so the caseworker may need to log in again after this time.

The caseworker can search the system using the:

- CoS number, by entering it into the relevant screen
- Applicant's details
- Sponsor's details

Searching using the applicant's details

If the caseworker selects this option they can search by:

- passport or travel document number
- family name
- given name
- nationality
- date of birth
- gender

The more information that is provided, the narrower the search will be.

Searching using the sponsor's details

If the caseworker selects this option they can search by:

- sponsor licence number
- sponsor name
- sponsor address
- postcode

When the caseworker checks the CoS, they must:

- find it on the CoS checking system
- check the case type given on the caseworking system, matches the type of CoS issued - this can be found on the top of the CoS
- record it as used in all approval and refusal cases
- not mark it as 'used' if they are rejecting the application as invalid, withdrawing or voiding the application, or the applicant is varying it to another route, because the T2 Sports person decision has not been made and they could use it again

Licensed sponsor

If, while an application on the T2 Sports person route is under consideration, the applicant's sponsor loses its licence, the caseworker **must** inform the applicant of this promptly.

The caseworker must only inform the applicant their sponsor no longer has a licence, not the reasons why. The only exception is if the licence was revoked for reasons directly linked to that particular application, and those reasons therefore have particular relevance to the refusal.

If the sponsor has lost their licence, the caseworker should discuss how to proceed with their manager.

Check the current status of the CoS

Status of CoS on the checking system:	What the caseworker must do:
Assigned	Continue to assess the application.
Suspended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• not decide the case• keep it on hold• contact the sponsor licensing unit (SLU) to find out if they will be re-instating the sponsor or if it will be suspended indefinitely, and what information can be shared with the applicant

Status of CoS on the checking system:	What the caseworker must do:
	If they do not issue a new CoS, the caseworker must refuse the application.
Withdrawn	Refuse the application if the sponsor does not issue another CoS because it is no longer valid.
Used	<p>Check to see if a new CoS has been issued.</p> <p>If not, the caseworker must refuse the application because there is no valid CoS.</p>

Length of the CoS

The length of the CoS will depend on whether the applicant is applying for entry clearance or permission to stay. See the following links for further details:

- [entry clearance](#)
- [permission to stay](#)

Related content

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[Points requirement](#)

Genuine requirement

This page tells caseworkers how to assess the genuineness of an application under the T2 Sportsperson route.

When an applicant applies for entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sportsperson, the caseworker must be satisfied they:

- genuinely intend, and are able, to undertake the role for which they are being sponsored
- do not intend to undertake employment other than in the role for which they are being sponsored, or as otherwise permitted at SP 11.3

To assess this on the balance of probabilities, the caseworker may request after confirming with their manager:

- additional information and evidence, and refuse the application if the information or evidence is not provided (the Home Office must receive any requested documents at the address given in the request, within 10 business days of the date the request is made)
- that an applicant attends an interview and refuse the application if they fail to comply with any such request without providing a reasonable explanation

The caseworker may take into account the applicant's:

- knowledge of the role
- relevant experience relative to skills required to do the role
- knowledge of the sponsor in the UK
- explanation of how they were recruited
- any other relevant information

The caseworker will not need to take these actions for most applicants and will only do so when:

- individual sponsors are assigning unusually large numbers of CoS for Sportsperson relative to their size or for the same type of role
- there are reasonable grounds to believe the applicant will not be working in the role described on the CoS
- intelligence suggests applicants are linked to extremism, terrorism or trafficking

Related content

[Contents](#)

English language requirement

This page tells caseworkers about the English language requirement for T2 Sportsperson.

The caseworker must award 10 points if the applicant meets the English language requirement. For applications for entry clearance and permission to stay, the applicant must have English language skills of at least level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in speaking and listening.

To assess whether the requirement is met, the caseworker should refer to the [English language guidance](#).

Financial requirement

This page explains how to assess the financial requirement (previously known as maintenance) for T2 Sportspersons.

The caseworker must award 10 points if the applicant meets the financial requirement. An applicant can meet the financial requirement in one of three ways:

- they are applying for permission to stay and have been living in the UK with permission for 12 months or longer on the date of application
- their A-rated sponsor has confirmed on the CoS that they will, if necessary, maintain and accommodate the applicant up to the end of the first month of their employment, for an amount of at least £1,270
- they provide evidence showing they have held funds of at least £1,270 for a 28-day period as set out in the financial requirement guidance

Related content

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[Points requirement](#)

Applicants under 18 years of age

This page tells caseworkers about the parental consent requirement for T2 Sportsperson applicants who are aged under 18.

If the applicant is under 18 years of age on the date of application both the applicant's parents, or the parent with sole legal responsibility for the child, or the applicant's legal guardian must confirm, in writing, that they:

- support the application
- give their consent to the applicant's:
 - travel to, and reception arrangements in, the UK (if the application is for entry clearance)
 - living and care arrangements in the UK

Caseworkers should note that under the validity requirements, the applicant must be at least 16 years of age on the date of application.

Related content

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[Age of applicant](#)

Settlement

This section explains how to assess settlement applications on the T2 Sportsperson route. The requirements applicants must meet are split into three parts: validity, suitability and eligibility.

Validity for settlement application

This page tells caseworkers about the validity requirements that an applicant must meet when they apply for settlement (previously known as indefinite leave to remain) as a T2 Sportsperson.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the validity requirements for settlement as specified in paragraphs SP 12.1 to SP 12.4 they should consider whether to request further information, reject the application, or (on a discretionary basis) proceed with the consideration of the application.

When applying for settlement as a T2 Sportsperson, the applicant must:

- apply online on the gov.uk website on the specified form “Settle in the UK in various immigration categories: form [SET\(O\)](#)
- have paid the relevant application fee
- have provided any required biometrics
- have provided a passport or other travel document which satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality
- be in the UK
- have, or have last been granted, permission as a T2 Sportsperson or Tier 2 (Sportsperson) migrant

Related content

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Suitability for settlement application

This page tells caseworkers about the suitability requirements that an applicant must meet when they apply for settlement as a T2 Sports person.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the suitability requirements for settlement as specified in paragraphs SP 13.1 to SP 13.2, they must refuse the application.

The caseworker must check:

- that the applicant does not fall for refusal under [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules
- that where the applicant is applying for permission to stay, the applicant is not:
 - in breach of immigration laws, except where [paragraph 39E](#) applies, that period of overstaying will be disregarded
 - on immigration bail

Overstaying

The caseworker must check the applicant is not in breach of immigration laws, except where permitted by the Immigration Rules in respect of periods of overstaying. Full guidance on overstaying is available.

Immigration bail

Any applicant who is in the UK on immigration bail is not suitable for the T2 Sports person route. These individuals do not hold permission to be in the UK.

Related content

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Eligibility for settlement application

This page tells caseworkers about the eligibility requirements that an applicant must meet to be granted settlement as a T2 Sports person.

If the caseworker is not satisfied that the application meets all the eligibility requirements for a T2 Sports person as specified in paragraphs SP 14.1 to SP 18.1, they must refuse the application.

Sponsor requirement

The sponsor in the applicant's most recent permission must:

- still be approved by the Home Office to sponsor a T2 Sports person
- confirm that:
 - they still require the applicant to work for them for the foreseeable future
 - the applicant is paid, and will be paid for the foreseeable future, at least £35,800 per year

Salary conditions

The salary must be basic pay (excluding overtime), and it must only include allowances where they are part of the guaranteed salary package and would be paid to a local settled worker in similar circumstances.

The salary should not include:

- other allowances and benefits, such as:
 - bonus or incentive pay
 - employer pension contributions
 - travel and subsistence (including travel to and from the applicant's home country)
- the value of any shares the applicant has received as an employee-owner in exchange for some of their UK employment rights

If the applicant is being sponsored to work more than 48 hours a week, only the salary for the first 48 hours a week will be considered towards the salary threshold of £35,800.

If the applicant is currently absent from work for one of the reasons set out in paragraph 9.30.1 or has returned from such an absence within the month before the date of application, the caseworker should base their salary on what they will receive on their return to work as confirmed by the sponsor.

Qualifying period requirement

The applicant must have spent the 5 years before the date of application in the UK with permission on any (or a combination) of the following routes:

- T2 Minister of Religion/Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)
- T2 Sportsperson/Tier 2 T (Sportsperson)
- Skilled Worker/Tier 2 (General)
- Representative of an Overseas Business
- Innovator
- Global Talent
- Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)
- Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent)
- Tier 1 (General)
- Tier 1 (Investor)

Continuous residence requirement

The applicant must meet the continuous residence requirement as specified in Appendix Continuous residence.

Absences from the UK must be considered in line with Appendix Continuous residence. See the guidance on calculating the continuous period for further details.

English language requirement

For applications for settlement, the applicant must have English language skills of at least level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in speaking and listening.

To assess whether the requirement is met, the caseworker should refer to the [English language guidance](#).

Knowledge of Life in the UK

The applicant must meet the Knowledge of Life in the UK requirement as specified in Appendix KOL UK.

Related content

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Grant or refuse

This section tells caseworkers how to grant or refuse an application on the T2 Sportsperson route.

The actions you must take will differ dependant on the type of application under consideration:

- [entry clearance](#)
- [permission to stay](#)
- [settlement](#)

Digital status

EEA nationals making [an application](#) be given digital status or a biometric residence permit if they are granted entry clearance or permission to stay.

Related content

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Grant or refuse entry clearance

This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for entry clearance for a T2 Sports person.

Granting entry clearance

You must grant entry clearance if the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraphs SP1.1 to SP 9.2 of the Immigration Rules.

If the applicant meets the above requirements you must grant entry clearance for the shorter period of either:

- up to 14 days after the period of employment stated on their Certificate of Sponsorship
- 3 years and 1 month

Endorsements

You must use the following endorsements:

- T2 (SPORTSPEOPLE) MIGRANT

The category is 'D'.

If the applicant has stated an intended travel date, entry clearance may be granted with effect from 7 days before this travel date, providing this does not mean granting with effect from more than 14 days after the start date given on the CoS.

Biometric information for entry clearance

Successful applicants for entry clearance are given a [biometric resident permit \(BRP\)](#). If the entry clearance application is successful, they must be given a 30 day visa to allow them to collect their BRP after they have arrived in the UK.

Biometric information

You must check the biometric residence permit (BRP) system before you submit a BRP card production request.

Refuse entry clearance

You must refuse the application if:

- the applicant does not meet all of the requirements of paragraphs SP 1.1 to SP 9.2 of the Immigration Rules
- any of the general grounds for refusal apply

- the applicant is in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying allowed under the Immigration Rules

CID refusal codes

- TR2REP – T2 SW Sports Person LTR Refusal

Rights of appeal and administrative review

If an application for entry clearance or permission to stay is refused on the T2 Sportsperson route, the applicant cannot appeal against the decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an [administrative review](#) under [Appendix AR: Administrative Review](#). Details of how to make an administrative review application must be included in the decision letter.

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[Grant or refuse](#)

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

This page tells Border Force officers how to grant or refuse entry at a UK port for a T2 Sports person.

Granting permission to enter

Before the Border Force officer grants permission to enter, they must be satisfied that:

- the applicant has valid entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK as a T2 Sports person
- there are no reasons to believe the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK or that circumstances have changed since it was issued
- none of the general grounds for refusal in [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules apply

Refusing permission to enter

The Border Force officer must refuse under paragraph 9.14.1. of the Immigration Rules if someone seeks entry as a T2 Sports person without a valid UK entry clearance or permission to stay for this purpose.

The Border Force officer must take into account the applicant's continuing permission if they are considering refusing them after their return from a short absence abroad. The Border Force officer must consider the refusal under paragraph 9.18.1 of the Immigration Rules.

If the applicant is subject to a deportation order, any permission they have been granted is cancelled. The Border Force officer must refuse under paragraph 9.2.1(c) of the Immigration Rules. The Border Force officer must also refer to Border Force operational policy, before they make a decision.

The Border Force officer must also refer to Border Force operational policy, if they are considering a refusal on the grounds of:

- national security
- public policy
- sensitive information
- where the decision may affect relations with another country

Official – sensitive: start of section

The information on this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

On entry refusal codes

- Lack of required non-settlement entry clearance – E4
- Other reasons – Z1

Appeal rights and refusal forms

An applicant who has valid entry clearance (EC) or a biometric residence permit (BRP), which is cancelled at the border will not have a right of appeal against that decision. Where an EC or a BRP is cancelled the applicant may have a right to administrative review of that decision.

Where there is a right to administrative review at the border, the Border Force officer must serve an IS82 No RD AR in UK port cases and at the juxtaposed controls they must - serve an IS82 JUXT AR.

Where the applicant has an EC or BRP and is having their permission cancelled at the border and does not qualify for administrative review, the Border Force officer must serve an IS82 RD no AR in UK port cases and at the juxtaposed controls they must serve the IS82 JUXT No AR.

Where the applicant does not hold an EC or BRP there is no right to administrative review, the Border Force officer must serve the applicant an IS82 No AR RLE in UK port cases, and an IS82 JUXT No AR RLE at the juxtaposed controls.

If the applicant is the subject of an extant deportation order, they do not have a right of appeal before removal. The Border Force officer must serve them with form IS 82A, which they can find on CID.

Related content

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[Grant or refuse](#)

Grant or refuse permission to stay

This page tells caseworkers how to grant or refuse permission to stay as a T2 Sports person.

Grant permission to stay

The caseworker must grant permission to stay if the applicant:

- meets all the applicable requirements of paragraphs SP 1.1 to SP 9.2 of the Immigration Rules
- does not fall for refusal under [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules

If the applicant meets the above requirements, the caseworker must grant permission to stay for the shorter period of either:

- up to 14 days after the period of employment stated on their Certificate of Sponsorship
- 3 years
- the difference between 6 years and the period they have already been granted permission as a T2 Sports person, T2 Minister of Religion or a Skilled Worker (or any combination of these routes)

CID grant code

- TR2GEG – T2 SW General Migrant LTR Grant
- TR2GEP – T2 SW Sports Person LTR Grant.

Biometric information

The caseworker must check the biometric residence permit (BRP) system before they submit a BRP card production request.

Refuse permission to stay

The caseworker should refuse permission to stay if:

- the applicant does not meet all of the applicable requirements of paragraphs SP 1.1 to SP 9.2 of the Immigration Rules
- any of the grounds for refusal in [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules apply
- the applicant is in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying allowed under the Immigration Rules

CID refusal code

- TR2REP – T2 SW Sports Person LTR Refusal

Rights of appeal and administrative review

If an application for permission to stay is refused, the applicant cannot appeal against the decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an administrative review. Details of how to make an administrative review application must be included in the decision letter.

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Grant or refuse settlement

This page tells caseworkers how to grant or refuse settlement applications for T2 Sportspersons.

Grant settlement

The caseworker must grant settlement if the applicant:

- meets the requirements of paragraphs SP12.1 to SP 19.2 of the Immigration Rules
- does not fall for refusal under [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules

CID grant code

If the caseworker grants the applicant they must use the CID code below.

- TR2GSP – 5 years aggregate of pre-PBS and T2 SW Sports Person settlement

Refuse settlement

The caseworker should refuse settlement if the applicant:

- does not meet all of the requirements of paragraphs SP12.1 to SP 19.2 of the Immigration Rules
- falls for refusal under [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#) of the Immigration Rules

CID refusal codes

If the caseworker refuses the applicant they must use the refusal code below.

- TR2RSP – T2 SW Sportsperson ILR refusal

Administrative review

If an application for settlement is refused, the applicant cannot appeal against the decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an [administrative review](#) under [Appendix AR: Administrative Review](#).

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Conditions of permission

This page tells caseworkers about the conditions that an applicant must meet if they are granted entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sports person.

Applicants granted entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sports person are subject to the following conditions:

- they cannot take employment except:
 - working for the sponsor in the job recorded on their certificate of sponsorship (CoS)
 - [supplementary employment](#)
 - [voluntary work](#)
 - working out a contractual notice period for a job the person was lawfully working in on the date of application
 - employment as a sports person for the applicant's national team while their national team is in the UK, playing in British University and College Sport (BUCS) competitions, and temporary engagements as a sports broadcaster providing guest expert commentary on a particular sporting event
- they have no access to public funds
- they must register with the police, if part 10 applies.
- study is permitted subject to the ATAS condition in [Appendix ATAS](#)

Changes of employer and employment

Where a person has permission as a T2 Sports person and they change their employer, caseworkers may cancel their permission, unless any of the exemptions apply in paragraph 9.29.1 of the Immigration Rules.

A person must make a change of employment application if they change employer.

A person does not need to make a change of employment application if:

- their pay increases
- they are moving under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) arrangements due to a takeover, merger or de-merger
- under TUPE (or similar) protection they change jobs, the new job is in the same SOC code and the new salary continues to meet the appropriate rate for the new job as set out in the [codes of practice](#)
- they have been absent for one month or longer for an acceptable reason

If the applicant has been subject to a TUPE transfer, the sponsor licence unit will check the transfer was done correctly. They will update the applicant's CID shell or CRS record with the new sponsors details.

The caseworker must consider a change of employment application in the same way as an initial application.

The applicant must:

- provide a new CoS from their new sponsor
- meet all the points requirements

For more information on the requirements, see entry clearance and extension requirements.

Sports players moving on loan

It is permissible for sports players to move on loan if all of the following apply:

- they have permission as a T2 Sportsperson
- they are sponsored by a sports club
- they are sponsored as a player and are being temporarily loaned to another sports club
- player loans are specifically permitted in rules set down by the relevant sports governing body
- their sponsor has made arrangements with the loan club to enable to the sponsor to continue to meet its sponsor duties
- the player will return to working for the sponsor at the end of the loan

Supplementary employment

In addition to the job specified on the certificate of sponsorship (CoS), the applicant can do extra work if:

- it is either:
 - a job on the Shortage Occupation List in Appendix Shortage Occupation List
 - a job in the same profession and at the same professional level as the work for which the CoS was assigned
- it is no more than 20 hours per week
- it is outside the working hours covered by the CoS
- the person remains working for the sponsor in the job for which the CoS was assigned

If they meet the above requirements the applicant does not need to inform the Home Office before taking extra work.

Voluntary work

The applicant can do voluntary work in any sector. They must not be paid or receive other money for the voluntary work, except reasonable expenses as described in [section 44 of the National Minimum Wage Act](#).

Secondary employment

The applicant can do a second (additional) job that is not in the same profession as the job specified on the CoS and is not supplementary employment (for example, it requires more than 20 hours work a week). They will need a new CoS for this second job and apply for a variation of permission, in addition to the CoS and permission for their existing job. This is because working in the second job is not covered by their existing conditions.

They cannot apply for further permission to stay for the second job until they have started working for their first sponsor. They will need to make a new application which must include a letter saying they want to change their existing permission to stay. The letter must include:

- the applicant's name
- date of birth
- CoS reference number, from the current permission
- confirmation of the date when the current permission expires

If the caseworker approves their secondary employment, they will be varying the applicant's initial permission and the applicant will have 2 sponsors during the period that both CoS are valid. The caseworker must arrange for a new biometric residence permit (BRP) card to be issued. Where the CoS reference number is displayed, the card should now read '2 CoS as Letter'. This indicates that the applicant has secondary employment.

The caseworker must also change the applicant's approval letter to state the primary and secondary sponsors and the employment end dates for each. The caseworker must tell the applicant they must keep the approval letter with their biometric card as proof of their right to work.

Absence from employment

Where a person on the T2 Sportsperson route has been absent from work without pay, or on reduced pay, for more than 4 weeks during any calendar year, the caseworker may cancel their permission, unless the reason for absence or reduction in salary is one of the following:

- statutory maternity leave, paternity leave or parental leave
- statutory adoption leave
- sick leave
- assisting with a national or international humanitarian or environmental crisis, providing their sponsor agreed to the absence for that purpose
- taking part in legally organised industrial action

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Requesting more information

This page tells caseworkers about requesting more information or supporting documents related to T2 Sportsperson applications.

Applicants should provide all the evidence on which they rely to support their application at the outset of the process. However, it is recognised that if an applicant makes an error or omission with the supporting evidence they provide, it may be appropriate for the caseworker to contact the applicant and invite them to provide additional evidence.

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Taking a fair and proportionate approach to the assessment of evidence

The caseworker must review the information on the application form and other available evidence before deciding whether they are satisfied on the balance of probabilities (it is more likely than not) that a requirement is met.

If the applicant provides evidence that is meant to show a requirement is met and the caseworker is not satisfied the evidence is genuine, they should discuss whether to make further checks with a manager.

Official sensitive – start of section

The information on this page has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official sensitive – end of section

Format of evidence

The Immigration Rules no longer set out specific format requirements for most documents. This doesn't mean that format is irrelevant – it will help the caseworker assess if a piece of evidence is genuine and if it provides the information they need to be satisfied the requirement is met. The caseworker must not refuse an application because the evidence is not in a particular format, but may request alternative or additional evidence if they are not satisfied what the applicant (or their sponsor) has provided shows the requirements of the rules are met.

If evidence, such as a bank letter, does not include the information the caseworker would normally expect they should consider whether to take further action to verify it.

Where evidence is missing or inadequate

The applicant will be told what evidence to provide as part of the application process. However, sometimes evidence is missing or inadequate to enable the caseworker to assess whether the financial requirement is met.

If evidence is missing or inadequate, the caseworker does not have to offer the applicant an opportunity to provide different evidence. For example, if the applicant provides bank statements and they do not show the required level of funds or the evidence is not sufficient to satisfy the caseworker, they do not need to check whether the applicant has another bank account that might meet the requirement.

However, the caseworker should consider seeking further information or making verification checks when, for example:

- evidence is missing (for example a missing page from a series) that they believe the applicant has, or could obtain
- evidence is inadequate but could be clarified, for example, if a letter from an official financial sponsor does not include all the information the caseworker would expect

The caseworker should check any discrepancies about information on the certificate of sponsorship (CoS) with the sponsor.

The caseworker may decide to ask for further information from the applicant, sponsor, or issuing institution, or make verification checks in other cases if they think it would help assess whether the requirements are met. If the caseworker is not sure whether this would help, they should discuss this with manager.

When contacting the applicant or sponsor, they should be given 10 UK working days in which to provide a response.

The caseworker does not need to contact the applicant or sponsor if evidence is missing or inadequate, but:

- they do not need the information because they can get it elsewhere, for example, from the CoS
- receiving it would make no difference to their decision (for example because the applicant would still be refused for other reasons)

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Translating documents

This page tells caseworkers when they can accept translated documents for T2 Sportsperson applications.

If a document is not in English or Welsh, the applicant must provide a fully certified translation from a professional translator or translation company that can be independently verified by the Home Office. The translation must include all of the following information:

- confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the document
- the date of translation
- the full name and signature of the translator or an official from the translation company
- the translator or translation company's contact details

If no translation is provided, the caseworker should request one. If, after this, the applicant does not provide a translation, or the caseworker is unable to verify the translation, the document will not be accepted. The caseworker must continue to process the application as if the applicant had not provided the document.

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Dependants of a T2 Sportsperson

This page tells caseworkers which dependants can join a person who comes to the UK on the T2 Sportsperson route.

The following dependants are permitted to come to the UK to join a person granted entry clearance or permission to stay as a T2 Sportsperson provided they meet the requirements of the rules:

- dependent partner
- dependent children

See the guidance for dependants.

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