



# International Student Support

## **“Professional sportsperson”**

### **UKVI restrictions on participation in sporting activities**

Many immigration categories contain a condition of stay which prohibits the individual from undertaking activities in the UK as a 'professional sportsperson'.

The Home Office has recently amended the “professional sportsperson” definition and clarified the activities that may fall within this prohibition. Individuals who are in the UK in an immigration category which includes a condition of stay restricting them from performing work as a professional sportsperson will need to ensure that they do not perform any of the activities contained in the new definition of ‘professional sportsperson’.

If the Home Office finds that a breach of a condition of stay has occurred, this can potentially lead to the curtailment of leave (this means your visa would be shortened or cancelled) and removal from the UK.

### **Immigration categories affected by the restriction**

The following are some of the immigration categories that restrict the individual from performing activities contained in the definition of a professional sportsperson:

- Tier 4 student
- Tier 2 worker
- Tier 1 Investor
- Tier 1 Exceptional Talent
- Tier 1 Entrepreneur (and the new Start up and Innovator visas replacing it)
- Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme
- Dependants of any of the above

This leaflet is produced by:

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## Professional sportspeople

Under Tier 4 (and the other immigration categories listed above), you are not permitted to work as a professional sportsperson or coach. If you are a professional sportsperson (for example, you play or coach at a professional or semi-professional level), **you are restricted to only playing or coaching as an amateur in a charity event** whilst in the UK on a Tier 4 visa. The [UKCISA website](#) identifies who would be classed as being a professional sportsperson or coach. Please contact the [International Student Support Service](#) in the first instance if you need further advice about this.

Professional sporting or coaching can be carried out by a person who holds a visa under Tier 2 (Sportsperson) or Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting). If you need further information about these visas, please contact the [International Student Support Service](#).

## Amateur sports activities

Students who are not semi-professional or professional sportspeople or coaches are also restricted from participating in certain sporting activities as follows:

### Permitted activities

- Undertaking sports-related courses
- Playing sport in NTU teams, including competing in events organised by British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS), the national governing body for Higher Education (HE) sport in the UK
- Coach and take on committee roles within BUCS clubs and NTU sports clubs
- Playing sport and competing in events that are wholly amateur
- Playing or coaching as an amateur in a charity event
- Undertaking a work placement that involves coaching an amateur team or coaching with local schools and colleges
- Officiate in any sports league

### Activities that are not permitted

- Undertaking a work placement, or other part time job that involves filling a vacancy or providing professional coaching services (paid or unpaid)
- Competing in semi-professional or professional sport

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- Undertaking a work placement, or other part time job that involves filling a vacancy or providing professional coaching services (paid or unpaid)
- Competing in semi-professional or professional sport.

If you have any questions about your eligibility to participate in any sporting activities whilst you are in the UK, please email [int.support@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:int.support@ntu.ac.uk). If you would like further information about the sports opportunities available to students at NTU, please contact [NTU Sport](#).