

June 2024

The ECB are not in a position to provide confirmation, written or otherwise, of an individual's immigration status or registration category.

This document has been drafted by the ECB with the sole purpose of providing guidance to our stakeholders. Any section relating to immigration should not be interpreted as official Home Office guidance as the ECB are not registered immigration officials. If you require official guidance please refer to the published pages on GOV.UK

It is the legal responsibility of the club to ensure that all checks possible have been completed for any individual of whom they wish to utilise the services, paid or unpaid, who is not a settled resident.

It is also the legal responsibility of the individual wishing to come to the UK to fully understand the immigration rules surrounding their entry mechanism and what they can and cannot do whilst in the UK.

The following has been designed as a guide and in most cases, when considering your query, it should be broken down into two separate elements – immigration first, then cricket eligibility regulations.

Immigration rules are not gender specific and apply equally to both the mens and womens game.

Once you have ascertained that an individual can come to the UK and play/ coach cricket, then you can move on to assess what category of registration the individual would satisfy if required.

#### **Step 1: Immigration Assessment:**

a) Can a person play on the visa they have?

In most cases this will depend on the Amateur or Professional assessment below. Refer to 1b, then look at the visa overview guidance document, on the following link <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/regulations/overseas>

b) Is the player classed as an Amateur or Professional?

This will largely depend on what level of cricket they have played within the last 4 years, or if they have used an agent or been paid. It will also depend on the level at which they are intending to play here.

The Home Office definition of a professional sportsperson can be found via the following link. If they meet one of the criteria then they will be classed as a Professional Sportsperson for immigration purposes.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction>

Please note that being classed as a professional sportsperson does not mean that there is an entry mechanism available to them to play sport here, paid or unpaid. For example, a person may meet the professional sportsperson definition, therefore would typically require an International Sportsperson Visa to play cricket here, but they do not meet the playing threshold in order to be granted a Governing Body Endorsement. In those situations, the person cannot come to the UK to play cricket here, even on an unpaid basis.

Can those with Asylum Seeker status play cricket at our club?

Immigration rules surrounding asylum seekers are complex and sensitive. As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, the Home Office have confirmed that those in the country with an open Asylum case, and would meet the Home Office definition of a Professional Sportsperson, can partake in recreational sport. This is on the basis that the participation is amateur and does not amount to (unpaid) work and there are not people buying tickets in order to watch. This means that they can only play for fun and recreational purposes, but cannot be provided any benefits in kind, such as travel expenses to and from matches, board, lodgings etc.

If the outcome from Step 1 has concluded that the individual can play cricket here, then move onto step 2 to ascertain registration eligibility.

## Step 2: Registration Eligibility assessment:

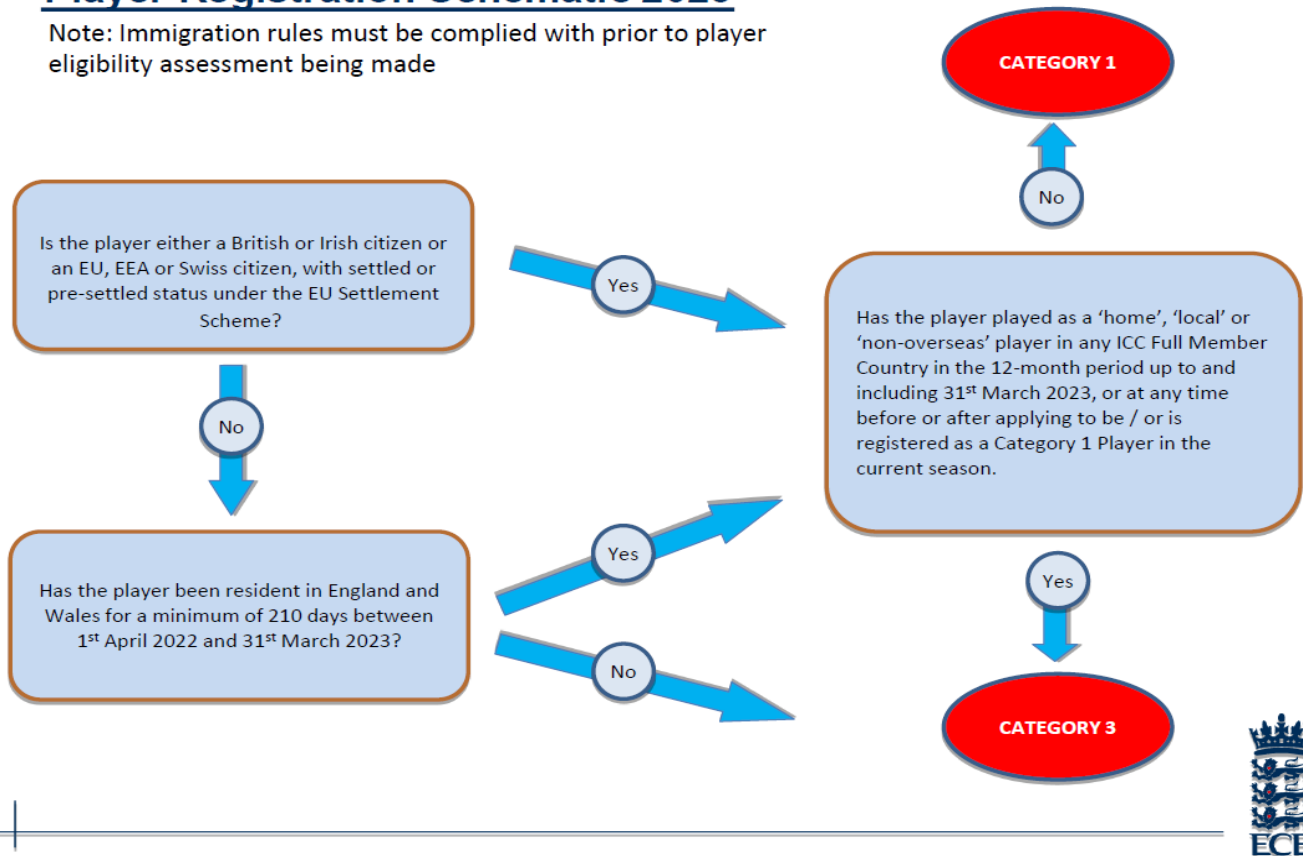
a) Can the player be registered as a Cat 1?

Each League will adopt their own registration rules, please check with your League, the registration category of a player.

A number of Leagues including the ECB Premier Leagues have adopted the following principles for the registration category of a player.

### Player Registration Schematic 2023

Note: Immigration rules must be complied with prior to player eligibility assessment being made



For ECB Club Cup Competition matches the following shall apply:

There shall be no limit on the number of Category 1 qualified cricketers which a club is permitted to play for which purposes:

A cricketer is Category 1 qualified if: (i) they are a British citizen and were born in England or Wales; or (ii) they have been resident in England and Wales since 1 April 2022 for a minimum of 210 days between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

Any player who has played in any overseas cricket league as a 'home', 'local' or 'non-overseas' player in that overseas league in the 12-month period up to and including 31 March 2023 will not be permitted to play as a Category 1 player in any ECB Club Cup Competition match in the current season.

A club is permitted to play a maximum of one Category 3 player in all ECB Club Cup Competition matches.