



Visa options for Sporting Events

Visa information

While this fact sheet provides an outline of the most common visa options for those travelling to Australia to participate in a sporting event, please note there are many visa options available for visiting Australia.

The appropriate visa will depend, amongst other things, on your intended length of stay in Australia, your role in the event and whether you are participating in a professional or amateur competition.

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia (other than New Zealand passport holders who will normally be granted a Special Category visa on arrival, provided they meet health and character requirements; and permanent residents of Norfolk Island who may be granted a Permanent Resident of Norfolk Island visa on arrival).

Visa options

Amateur sports people

There are a number of visa options for amateur sports people and their support staff (including, but not restricted to, the coaches, trainers, team officials and team managers). The following information will help you identify the most appropriate visa option.

Eligible passport holders who are travelling to Australia to participate in an event of up to three months on an amateur basis can apply free of charge for an eVisitor (Subclass 651) visa. A list of eVisitor eligible passports can be found on page 2. An Amateur sports person can be defined as a person who competes mainly on a recreational basis and not to derive an income from their sport.

Amateur sports people can also apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (Subclass 601) (ETA) visa (if eligible) or a Visitor visa (Subclass 600) in the Tourist stream to participate in an event of up to 3 months. ETA applications lodged via the ETA website (see <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>) attract a service fee of AUD\$20 while travel agencies, airlines or specialist service providers may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA. Subclass 600 visa applications attract a Visa Application Charge of AUD\$130.

Alternatively, amateur sports people (and their support staff) who have been invited by an Australian organisation to participate in an event for up to 3 months can apply for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400) and be eligible for exemption from paying the Visa Application Charge (VAC).

Professional sports people

There are two visa options for professional sports people and their support staff (including, but not restricted to, the coaches, trainers, team officials and team managers). The following information will help you identify the most appropriate visa option.

Professional sports people who are going to be in Australia for less than 3 months can apply for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400). Professional sports people intending to undertake ongoing sporting activities and who will be in Australia for longer than 3 months, will need to apply for the Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 401) in the Sport stream. Please note, to be eligible for the Subclass 401 visa in the Sport stream you must be sponsored and nominated by a sporting organisation lawfully operating in Australia.

Further details about each of the visa options referred to above are provided on pages 4 and 5.

Media/Broadcasters

Journalists, correspondents, reporters and other media staff covering short-term sporting events where the production will not be broadcast in Australia may be eligible for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400). More information on this visa can be found at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/400.aspx>

Journalists, correspondents, reporters or other media staff taking part in film, television or other productions that will be broadcast in Australia will need to apply for the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (Subclass 420).

More information on this visa can be found at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/420.aspx>

Online applications

eVisitor

European Union (EU) passport holders, and some other European passport holders, are eligible to apply individually online for an eVisitor (Subclass 651) visa to travel to and enter Australia.

eVisitor eligible countries

Andorra	France	Lithuania	Republic of San Marino
Austria	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovak Republic
Belgium	Greece	Malta	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Monaco	Spain
Cyprus Croatia	Iceland	The Netherlands	Sweden
Czech Republic	Ireland	Norway	Switzerland
Denmark	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom – British Citizen
Estonia	Latvia	Portugal	Vatican City
Finland	Liechtenstein	Romania	

A separate online eVisitor (Tourist stream) application is required for each family member who holds a passport from an eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia, including children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport. Applications for eVisitor visas are free.

Further information on the eVisitor visa including how to apply online can be found on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisitor/>

Electronic Travel Authority

Passport holders from a number of countries are also eligible to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (Subclass 601) to travel to and enter Australia.

ETA eligible countries

Passport holders from the following countries are eligible to apply for an ETA through a travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or Australian visa office outside Australia:

Andorra	Malaysia
Austria	Malta
Belgium	Monaco
Brunei Darussalam	The Netherlands
Canada	Norway
Denmark	Portugal
Finland	Republic of San Marino
France	Singapore
Germany	South Korea
Greece	Spain
Hong Kong (SAR)*	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Ireland	Taiwan**
Italy	United Kingdom - British Citizen
Japan	United Kingdom - British National (Overseas)
Liechtenstein	United States of America
Luxembourg	Vatican City

* A Hong Kong Document of Identity (HKDI) cannot be used to apply for an ETA. Residents of Hong Kong require a citizen passport to apply for this visa.

** Holders of Taiwan passports in Taiwan can apply through an approved ETA travel agent in Taiwan. Holders of Taiwan passports outside Taiwan should approach their closest Australian visa office.

Travel agencies, airlines or specialist service providers may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

Passport holders from the following countries can also apply for an ETA online through the ETA website. See: <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

Brunei Darussalam	Malaysia
Canada	Singapore
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region) *	South Korea
Japan	United States of America

* A Hong Kong Document of Identity (HKDI) cannot be used to apply for an ETA. Residents of Hong Kong require a citizen passport to apply for this visa.

There is no visa application charge for ETA applications lodged online but a service fee of AUD\$20 is charged for use of the ETA website.

Further information on the ETA (Business Stream) can be found on the website.

See: <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

Each family member who holds a passport from an ETA eligible country and wants to travel with you to Australia must apply for their own ETA. This includes children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport. The most appropriate ETA for accompanying family members is the ETA (Tourist Stream) (Subclass 601).

Further information on the ETA (Tourist Stream) can be found on the website.

See: <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

Visitor visa (Subclass 600)

Passport holders not eligible for an eVisitor or an ETA can apply for the Visitor visa (Subclass 600).

o Passport holders from a number of countries are eligible to apply online.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/600.aspx>

o If you are not eligible to apply online, you should use Form 1419 Application for a Visitor visa - Tourist stream

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1419.pdf>

o To obtain the application document checklist for a Visitor visa (Subclass 600) – Tourist stream

See: http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/_pdf/600-document-checklist.pdf


o To find the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

More information on this visa is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/600/applicants.htm>

Note: If you are being paid for participating in the event you should apply for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400) (see information below).



Each family member who holds a passport and wants to travel with you to Australia must apply for their own visa. This includes children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport. The most appropriate visa for accompanying family members is the Visitor visa (Subclass 600) Tourist stream.

Further information on the Visitor (Tourist Stream) can be found on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/visitor/600/applicants.htm>

Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400)

If you are entering Australia to participate in a short-term, non-ongoing sporting event or events you may apply for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400). This may be granted for up to 3 months if the department agrees you need to stay for that time. You must arrive in Australia within 3 months from the date the visa is granted. The period granted commences from your first entry into Australia on this visa.

- o Passport holders from a number of countries are eligible to apply online.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Services/Pages/temporary-work-short-stay-activity-online-application.aspx>

If you are not eligible to apply online, you should use Form 1400 Application for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400).

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1400.pdf>

- o To obtain the application document checklist for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 400).

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Documents/400-document-checklist.pdf>

- o To find the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Locations/Pages/our-offices.aspx>

More information on this visa is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/400.aspx>

The visa application can also include family members wanting to travel with you to Australia such as your partner and dependent children. An additional application charge may need to be paid for each additional visa applicant included in the visa application.

Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 401) – Sport stream

If you are entering Australia to participate in an ongoing sporting activity (in excess of 3 months) you will need to apply for the Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 401) in the Sport stream. To be eligible for this visa you will need to be sponsored and nominated by an Australian organisation, government agency or foreign government agency that administers or promotes sport or sporting events. More information on this visa is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/401.aspx>

- o For Form 1401 Application for a Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa



See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1401.pdf>

- o To obtain the application document checklist for a Temporary Work (Long Stay Activity) visa (Subclass 401)

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/401.aspx>

Please note: sponsorship and nomination applications must be lodged with the department before a Subclass 401 visa application can be made.

- o To find the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Locations/Pages/our-offices.aspx>

The visa application can also include family members wanting to travel with you to Australia such as your partner and dependent children. An additional application charge may need to be paid for each additional visa applicant included in the visa application.

Things to consider before lodging an application

Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

Health requirements

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks.

The department will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances.

Information on which health checks may apply to you is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements/>

Character requirements

As part of the visa application assessment process the onus is on you to satisfy the character requirements set out in Section 501 of the Migration Act 1958. Further information on the character requirement is available on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website.


See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm>

If you are unsure whether you satisfy the character requirement because of prior criminal convictions you should lodge a paper-based application at the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least four months prior to the event start date.

Contact information for Australian visa offices is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

Travel sanctions



For information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Nationals of these countries may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. See: http://www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc_sanctions/index.html

Biometrics Program

Biometrics will need to be collected at an Australian Visa Application Centre for people lodging a visa application from the countries listed at the department's website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/offshore/countries.htm>

If you lodge your application online, the Department will advise you in writing if you need to provide your biometrics.

Invitation and registration to attend the event

Although this is a separate process to lodging your visa application, when assessing whether you meet the criteria for the grant of a visa the department may take into account whether you are registered, or were invited, to attend the event.

Confirmation of registration, or a copy of your letter of invitation, should accompany paper-based visa applications. Alternatively, after submitting the online Subclass 400 visa application, you should upload the relevant documents.

For online Subclass 600 applications, information about documents that need to be attached will be provided as part of the application process.

Cut-off date for lodging applications

All visitors should apply for a visa at 2 months prior to the intended date of departure, and 4 months prior for people with character or health concerns.

Obligations of visa holders

On arrival at Australia's border you must identify yourself, present your travel documents, and complete an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC). The IPC requires visitors to declare their health status and any prior criminal convictions.


If you do not meet immigration clearance requirements, you may be refused entry to Australia.

More information on immigration clearance processes at Australia's borders is available on the website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm>

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. When you receive your Australian visa you are issued with a visa grant notice that explains the conditions of the visa including period of validity and entry requirements. You are advised to carry this visa grant notice for your own reference.

If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled.



If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you become an unlawful non-citizen. Unlawful non-citizens are liable to be detained and removed from Australia.

[Need help?](#)

More information is available on the IECN website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/event-organisers-participants/>