



# Visa options for amateur sports persons (and supporters)

## Overview

This fact sheet is a general guide to the most common visa options for amateur sports persons and supporters travelling to Australia to participate in sporting events.

The information contained in this fact sheet is current as at **16 February 2017**. Australian migration law may change after this time resulting in a change in visa options. Please check the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s website for further information: [www.border.gov.au/](http://www.border.gov.au/)

New Zealand citizens should refer to the Department’s website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/444-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/444-)

## Visa Options

<b>Visitor visa</b>  Visitor visas: - ETA (subclass 601) or - eVisitor (subclass 651) or - <b>Visitor visa (subclass 600)</b>	<b>Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408)</b>  Activity type: <i>Invited for other social/cultural activity</i>	<b>Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408)</b>  Activity type: <i>Entertainment activities</i>	<b>Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Amateur sports persons.</li> <li>■ Persons who support amateur players or teams on a genuine unpaid volunteer basis (for example: a coach, team official, or referee).</li> <li>■ Spectators and family members of amateur sports persons.</li> </ul>	<p><i>You should consider your eligibility for a Visitor visa, before applying for a Temporary Activity visa.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Persons who have been invited by an Australian organisation to participate in a short-term sporting event of up to three months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Journalists and other media personnel travelling to Australia to cover the event – where the production <u>is</u> intended for Australian audiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Journalists and other media personnel travelling to Australia to cover the event – where the production <u>is not</u> intended for Australian audiences.</li> <li>■ Persons who are otherwise working at the event (such as event project managers and specialised construction workers).</li> </ul>

## Amateur sports persons (including supporters and spectators)

### Visitor visa

An amateur sports person is defined as a person who does not derive their main income from their sport. If you are an amateur sports person or a person that supports an amateur player or team on a genuine unpaid volunteer basis (for example: a coach, team official, or referee), you may be eligible for one of the following Visitor visas:

- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (subclass 601)
- eVisitor (subclass 651)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the tourist stream.

You must not be paid for participating in the event, or for supporting an amateur player or team. However, you may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses such as accommodation and meals. Amateur players may generally receive small amounts of prize money for their participation in the event. Spectators and family members of amateur players may also be eligible for a Visitor visa.

Further information about the specific requirements of Visitor visas is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Apply/Visitor](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Apply/Visitor)

## Amateur sports persons (including supporters)

### Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) - *Invited for other social/cultural activity*

*You should consider your eligibility for a Visitor visa, before applying for a Temporary Activity visa.*

If you have been invited by an Australian organisation to participate in a short-term sporting event of up to three months, you may be eligible for the Temporary Activity visa as an 'Invited Participant'. This visa allows for persons who are invited for stays up to 3 months by an organisation operating in Australia to participate in a specific cultural or social event or events, including sporting events.

If you apply from outside Australia and intend to stay in Australia for three months or less, you do not need to be sponsored for this visa. However, you must provide a letter of invitation from the individual or organisation in Australia responsible for the event, which identifies:

- you (as the visa applicant) and any family members travelling with you
- the event/s, activity or work you will be involved
- the duties in relation to event/s, activity or work you will be involved
- the date/s, location/s of the event/s activity or work.

To apply for a Temporary Activity visa you must make an online visa application through ImmiAccount. If you do not already have an ImmiAccount, you will need to create one. To login to ImmiAccount or to create an account refer to the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/immiaccount](http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount)

To apply for this visa as an 'Invited Participant', please select the following Activity type: *Invited for other social/cultural activity* on page 2 of the online application form.

Entertainment activities	Select the activity that the applicant has been invited to undertake during their proposed stay.
Sporting activities	
Religious work	
Research activities	
Special programmes	
Exchange arrangements	
<b>Invited for other social/cultural activity</b>	
Australian government endorsed events	
Superyacht crew	
Domestic work for executives	

Activity type

Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Activity visa is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-)

## Media personnel (where the production is intended for Australian audiences)

### Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) - Activity type: *Entertainment activities*

The Temporary Activity visa (Activity type: *Entertainment activities*) also allows journalists and other media personnel, seeking to take part in a production intended for Australian audiences, to travel to Australia to cover events.

To apply for a Temporary Activity visa you must make an online visa application through ImmiAccount. If you do not already have an ImmiAccount, you will need to create one. To login to ImmiAccount, or to create an account, refer to the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/immiaccount](http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount).

To apply for this visa, please select the following Activity type: *Entertainment activities* on page 2 of the online application form.

<b>Entertainment activities</b>	Select the activity that the applicant has been invited to undertake during their proposed stay.
Sporting activities	
Religious work	
Research activities	
Special programmes	
Exchange arrangements	
Invited for other social/cultural activity	
Australian government endorsed events	
Superyacht crew	
Domestic work for executives	

Activity type

Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-)

## Highly Specialised Workers (including media personnel\*)

### Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400)

If you intend to work at the event in a role other than those listed above, you may be eligible for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa. This visa allows you to undertake highly specialised, short-term work, for example: as an installer, construction worker, or site supervisor – where you have specialist skills or proprietary knowledge required for the event.

\* The Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa also allows journalists and other media personnel, who will not be taking part in a production intended for Australian audiences, to travel to Australia to cover events.

In general, the visa provides for up to three months stay, however up to six months may be allowed in limited circumstances.

To apply for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa, you must make an online visa application through ImmiAccount. If you do not already have an ImmiAccount, you will need to create one. To login to ImmiAccount, or to create an account, refer to the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/immiaccount](http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount)

Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400) is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-)

## Visa lists and processing times

A list of visas is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing)

When lodging your visa application, you will need to allow time for the application to be processed, taking into account the date you are intending to travel to Australia. Information about visa processing times is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards](http://www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards)