



NON-UK PLAYER VISA/PERMIT ELIGIBILITY GRID AND DEFINITION OF FOREIGN AND NON-FOREIGN PLAYERS

(updated October 2015)

PART 1: VISA/PERMIT ELIGIBILITY GRID

The following table outlines the visa requirements for any non-UK born person wishing to play rugby in England

VISA / PERMIT	LEVEL PERMITTED	PRO / AM STATUS	NOTES
EU Passport Holder	All	Either	No restrictions
Tier 1 (General)	5 & below	Amateur	Prevented from professional sport including as a coach
Tier 2 (Sporting - Rugby Union)	1 & 2 only	Pro	Can only play professional rugby for the club who is the employer holding permit
Tier 2 (General) eg Banking	5 & below	Amateur	Can only take supplementary work in same field as Work Permit is assigned.
Tier 4 (Student Visa)	5 & below	Amateur	Can only play as an amateur for a club which is predominantly amateur
Tier 5 (Sporting)	1 & 2 only	Pro	Can only play professional rugby for the club who is the employer holding permit. Maximum of 12 months.
Tier 5 Youth Mobility (Working Holiday Visa)	5 & below	Amateur	Can only play as an amateur for a club which is predominantly amateur in a league determined as predominantly amateur
Spouse/Accompanying Partner/EEA Dependant	All	Either	There is no restriction upon the work a person married to or accompanying partner can do.
Ancestry Visa	All	Either	No restrictions apart from visa expiry date
Indefinite Leave to Remain/Settlement	All	Either	No restrictions
Visitor Visa	5 & below	Amateur	Can only play as an amateur for a club which is predominantly amateur in a league determined as predominantly amateur
British Servicemen (Army, Navy, RAF)	All	Either	Can play for a professional club on condition that he has written approval from his Commanding Officer

The above information is provided as guidance for player registration and eligibility purposes. If you require immigration guidance you must contact UK Visas and Immigration.

PART 2: DEFINITION OF FOREIGN AND NON-FOREIGN PLAYERS

Note that qualifying as a Non-Foreign Player does not automatically mean that a player can obtain a visa. This only applies once a player has obtained the right to play as set out in the grid in Part 1 above.

Under the RFU Regulations, a **Foreign Player** is a person who does not qualify as a Non-Foreign Player. A Non-Foreign Player is a person who, at the point that he is included in the Match Squad:

- (a) can prove to the satisfaction of the RFU that he is entitled to the rights granted under Title IV, Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) or under the European Economic Area or of a state with which the European Community has entered into an agreement that includes directly effective provisions conferring equivalent rights of non-discrimination against that state's nationals within the European Union (see explanatory note below);

Note: A passport of a member state of the European Community will normally be accepted as evidence that a player is a European Player

- (b) can prove to the satisfaction of the RFU that pursuant to World Rugby Regulation 8.1 he is eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team (as defined in World Rugby regulations) of a Rugby Union in membership of the European Union/European Economic Area; or
- (c) has been selected for the England Senior XV, Next Senior XV or U20 XV or England's National VII.

Explanatory Note: criterion (a): EU/EEA/Association Agreement countries

By way of example only, a player could be classified as a Non-Foreign Player if:

- 1. They hold a valid EU Passport**
- 2. They are married to an EU or EEA National**
- 3. They are a national of a country which has an Association Agreement with the EU (e.g. *Kolpak ruling/Cotonou Agreement*)**

The following countries are EU or EEA countries

EU Member States: *Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.*

EEA Member States: *Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.*

The following countries have an Association Agreement with the EU

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (signatories to the Cotonou Agreement): *Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo Dem. Rep., Congo Rep. of the, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Republic of Chad, Timor-Leste (aka East Timor), Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe (please note that Cuba, although within the ACP group of countries, is not a signatory to the Cotonou Agreement.)*

Other nations: *Algeria, Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Macedonia, Morocco, Russia, San Marino, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey.*

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