

Managed Migration in Club Cricket – 2018 season update

28 February 2018.

Dear Club,

As part of our continuing correspondence with you on the subject of Managed Migration I felt it important to remind you of the conversations we have had with the Home Office.

In terms of Policy, as advised in November, the criteria used in 2017 remains unaltered and that is important for you to be aware that the payment of a players' airfare and/or use of an agent to promote the availability of players in the higher levels of cricket is likely to increase the prospect of the Home Office considering the player to be a professional and, as a consequence, the risk of their player being deemed ineligible. The Home Office has recently updated the definitions of a Professional sportsperson

An "Amateur" is a person who engages in a sport or creative activity solely for personal enjoyment and who is not seeking to derive a living from the activity. This also includes a person playing or coaching in a charity game.

A "Professional Sportsperson", is someone, whether paid or unpaid, who :

is providing services as a sportsperson, playing or coaching in any capacity, at a professional or semi-professional level of sport; or

being a person who currently derives, who has in the past derived or who the Secretary of State has reason to believe is seeking in the future to derive, a living from playing or coaching, is providing services as a sportsperson or coach at any level of sport, unless they are doing so as an "Amateur" in a charity game.

In the definitions of "Amateur" and "Professional Sportsperson", "derive a living", "paid" or similar references include payments made in kind.

This summer, ECB will again audit accredited Premier League's in-line with the Home Office Policy and be looking carefully into players registered at clubs in Designated Professional Leagues.

As you will recall, last year having reviewed levels of compliance with Home Office policy across a number of clubs, ECB identified a number of clubs that appeared to breach of the policy. These clubs were written to with a warning as to future conduct.

ECB and the Home Office are continuing to work collaboratively with other sports on revising current Policy and Guidance for implementation for the 2019 cricket season and currently we remain on course for being able to share more precise details by autumn 2018.

- For the 2018 season it is expected that less players will be able to gain access to UK using the incorrect visa due to changes in Entry Clearance operations.
- Clubs found to be in breach of the Visa regulations could be subject to the higher level of sanctions available for breaching the policy.

It is essential for clubs to comply with the published Visa policy and clubs receiving non-EEA migrants must abide by these rules.

Note:- The ECB is not registered to give advice on immigration. Information on aspects of immigration policy and law can be found on the **[Home Office website](#)**.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction#intro6>

If you have any questions on the above, **[click here to email](#)**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'P Bedford', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Bedford
National Participation Manager (Leagues and Competitions)