

The Scottish Football Association - Governing Body Endorsement Requirements for Men's Football

**THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
MEN'S FOOTBALL - POINTS BASED SYSTEM
2020/2021 SEASON (1 JANUARY 2021 ONWARDS)**

The rules and criteria set out in this document will apply for the remainder of the 2020/21 season and will be effective from 1 January 2021. The criteria will be reviewed in early 2021 in order that revised criteria can be issued in advance of the summer transfer window before the 2021/22 season.

Please note that an individual's personal and immigration history may be taken into account when their application is being considered.

Please see the Glossary on page 12 for definitions of the terms used in this document.

GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

GBE STATUS

1. A club must obtain a GBE from The Scottish FA before a migrant is permitted to undertake any employment duties for the club (including participation at training and in friendly matches). A migrant can register for a club without a GBE but, in order to play any football, he must have obtained a GBE, been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship by that club and secured leave to remain under Tiers 2 or 5 of the PBS (subject to satisfying any other eligibility requirements of The Scottish FA and any competitions the club participates in).
2. A club can apply for a GBE for a migrant at any time during the Season. In order to apply for a GBE, a club must hold a valid Sponsor's Licence under Tier 2 and/or Tier 5 of the PBS. In order to apply for and obtain a valid Sponsor's Licence, a club must have obtained an endorsement letter for a Sponsor's Licence from The Scottish FA. If a Club's Sponsor's Licence is revoked, any migrant who has obtained a GBE in order to play for/ manage/ coach the Club may have his leave curtailed and may have to make a change in employment application which must be granted before the migrant can undertake any employment duties for the new club.
3. If The Scottish FA grants an application for a GBE for a migrant in accordance with these criteria, the club is permitted to assign a Certificate of Sponsorship to the migrant for the period covered by the GBE. The GBE must be presented to the Home Office when the club applies for entry clearance on behalf of a migrant, which must be done within 3 months of a Certificate of Sponsorship being assigned. Any Certificate of Sponsorship and a copy of the migrant's biometric residence permit must be submitted to The Scottish FA by the club within 3 months of being assigned. Clubs must keep a copy of the relevant page of the migrant's passport evidencing their entitlement to work and contact details for the migrant, which must be provided to The Scottish FA upon request. The club will also have to comply with any other criteria set by the Home Office in order to secure leave to remain under Tier 2 or Tier 5 of the PBS.
4. A GBE under Tier 2 of the PBS will be granted for three years or the length of the migrant's contract (whichever is shorter) and a GBE under Tier 5 of the PBS will be granted for twelve months or the length of the migrant's contract (whichever is shorter). A migrant will not be eligible to play for/ manage/ coach the club beyond the expiry date of the GBE unless the club has applied for and obtained an Extended GBE before the existing GBE has expired in accordance with these criteria and the PBS.

Extensions to or transfers of a GBE

5. Unless the individual is under the Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) - Creative and Sporting category, they must meet the English language requirement of the Immigration Rules.
6. If a club wishes to retain the services of a migrant, they should submit a new application before the work permit or Certificate of Sponsorship expires. If the

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criteria are satisfied, an endorsement will be issued for the period of their contract, up to a maximum of three years. Where the migrant does not satisfy the criteria, The Scottish FA will consult with the other relevant football bodies by email, providing any details put forward by the club in favour of that individual. If it is their unanimous recommendation that the application does not need to be considered by a panel, then the case can be processed without.

7. Migrants may apply to switch to Tier 2 once they have met the English language requirement of the Immigration Rules. For this, the club will need to submit a new application so that they may be issued with a new endorsement and subsequently issue a new Certificate of Sponsorship under Tier 2. The application to switch into Tier 2 may be made in-country.
8. If, at the end of the 12-month period, the migrant has been unable to meet the English language requirement, he will need to return home and obtain entry clearance for a further 12-month period under Tier 5.
9. Where a migrant wishes to switch into Tier 2 for the remainder of their employment and they do not meet the criteria for initial applications, the application will be dealt with by consultation with the relevant football governing bodies in a similar way to extension applications. If approval is not given for the application to be progressed automatically, however, an appeal panel will be required.
10. A club wishing to sign a migrant from another UK club must submit an application to The Scottish FA. If the criteria are satisfied, a governing body endorsement will be issued for a maximum of three years in respect of their employment with the new club.

Temporary Transfers/Loans

11. Loans are only permissible within the Player's current period of approval and should not be used to avoid making extension or change of employment applications.
12. If a Player is moving to another club in the UK on a loan basis, their parent club must notify the Home Office of the fact that they have temporarily moved location. There is no requirement for the loanee club to submit an application to The Scottish FA or for the Player to meet any conditions such as meeting the English language requirement of the Immigration Rules. The loaning club retains overall responsibility for the Player as their employer and sponsor and they are granted permission to move temporarily under the provisions of their current leave, provided that the Certificate of Sponsorship issued by the loaning club is valid for the duration of the loan period. If the loan is later made permanent, the new club will, at this time, have to make a fresh application on behalf of the player. Clubs should note that the change of employment process must be fully completed before the Player can play as a permanent employee of the new club.
13. Where a Player is moving to a club outside the UK on a temporary transfer basis, their parent club must again inform the Home Office of the Player's technical change

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of employment. When the Player returns to their parent club after the loan period, they do not need to be tested again against the entry criteria and may simply resume their employment with their original club (providing their existing leave remains valid beyond the date of their return), on the basis that they have an existing Certificate of Sponsorship and have already met the entry requirements at the beginning of their employment with that club.

14. Any Player joining a Scottish Club on loan from an overseas club (outside the UK) must meet all the requirements of Tier 2 or Tier 5 and therefore an application must be submitted to The Scottish FA. International loan Players are also subject to appeal panels if they do not meet the criteria.
15. GBEs will not be issued in respect of Players who are trialling with a Scottish Club. If a Club wishes to trial a Player, it should contact the Home Office.

APPLICATION PROCESS

16. An administration fee of £100 will be charged for each application for a governing body endorsement.
17. If any information submitted as part of the GBE application process is amended (including the terms and conditions of a migrant's contract):
 - a) before a GBE has granted and before the migrant is registered with The Scottish FA, the club must inform The Scottish FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
 - b) after a GBE has been granted but before the migrant is registered with The Scottish FA, the club must inform The Scottish FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
 - c) after a GBE has been granted and after the migrant is registered, the club must inform the Home Office via the Sponsorship Management System. The Home Office will confirm whether they require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid).

PLAYER'S CRITERIA

18. All Players shall be assessed in accordance with paragraphs 24-33 and Youth Players shall be assessed in accordance with paragraphs 34-40 if they do not achieve the pass mark in paragraph 20.
19. The Scottish FA will grant a GBE if the Player's International Appearances meet the Auto Pass Percentage set out in Table 1 of the criteria.
20. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 19 above, The Scottish FA will grant a GBE if a Player achieves 15 or more points in accordance with paragraphs 24-33 **Error! Reference source not found..**

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21. The Club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application if a Player does not achieve 15 points in accordance with paragraphs 24-33 or, where appropriate, paragraphs 34-40 for Youth Players.
22. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraphs 44-51 shall apply.
23. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 19, 20 or paragraphs 44-51, he will have no further opportunity to apply for a GBE unless his circumstances change and will not be eligible to play for the applicant club.

Player's International Appearances

24. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 1 in respect of the Player's International Appearances.

Table 1					
	Aggregated FIFA World Ranking of the Player's National Association				
Player's International Appearances	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-50	51-200
90-100%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	2
80-89%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	1
70-79%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	0
60-69%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	0
50-59%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	8	0
40-49%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	9	7	0
30-39%	Auto Pass	10	8	6	0
20-29%	10	9	7	0	0
10-19%	9	8	0	0	0
1-9%	8	7	0	0	0

Player's Domestic Minutes

25. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 2 in respect of the Player's Domestic Minutes.

Table 2						
Player's Domestic Minutes	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
90-100%	12	10	8	6	4	2
80-89%	11	9	7	5	3	1
70-79%	10	8	6	4	2	0
60-69%	9	7	5	3	1	0
50-59%	8	6	4	2	0	0
40-49%	7	5	3	1	0	0
30-39%	6	4	2	0	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Player's Continental Minutes

26. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 3 in respect of the Player's Continental Minutes.

Player's Continental Minutes	Band 1 Continental Competition	Band 2 Continental Competition	Band 3 Continental Competition
90-100%	10	5	2
80-89%	9	4	1
70-79%	8	3	0
60-69%	7	2	0
50-59%	6	1	0
40-49%	5	0	0
30-39%	4	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0

Final League Position of Player's Last Club

27. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 4 in respect of the Final League Position of the Player's Last Club, provided (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Last Club for at least one match in its domestic league competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Last Season.

Last Club's Final League Position	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Title winner	6	5	4	3	2	1
Qualified for group stages of a Band 1 Continental Competition	5	4	3	2	1	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 1 Continental Competition	4	3	2	1	0	0
Qualified for group stages of a Band 2 Continental Competition	3	2	1	0	0	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 2 Continental Competition	2	1	0	0	0	0
Mid-table	1	0	0	0	0	0
Relegation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promotion	N/A	1	1	1	1	1

28. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 4.

Continental Progression of Player's Last Club

29. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 5 in respect of the Continental Progression of the Player's Last Club, (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Last Club for at least one match in its domestic

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league competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Last Season.

Table 5			
Continental Progression	Band 1 Continental Competition	Band 2 Continental Competition	Band 3 Continental Competition
Final	10	7	2
Semi-Finals	9	6	1
Quarter-Finals	8	5	0
Round of 16	7	4	0
Round of 32	6	3	0
Group stage	5	2	0
Other	0	0	0

30. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 5.

League Quality of Player's Current Club

31. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 6 in respect of the band of the Player's Current Club, (i) the Player appeared on the matchday squad list for the Player's Last Club for at least one match in its domestic league competition or Continental Competition or (ii) the value of the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes was at least 1%, during the Reference Period.

Table 6	
Band of Player's Current Club	Points
Band 1	12
Band 2	10
Band 3	8
Band 4	6
Band 5	4
Band 6	2

32. If a Player has been loaned to a club in a lower band than his parent club and has made a first team appearance (on the pitch) for his parent club during the Reference Period, he shall be granted the higher of the points he would have been eligible for in accordance with Table 6 if his parent club was the Player's Current Club.

Points Allocated for Investment

33. A Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 7 in respect of the salary paid in relation to league median average

Table 7	
Salary (% above median for relevant league)	Points
50% above median	1
60% above median	2
70% or more above median	3

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YOUTH CRITERIA

Youth International Appearances

34. A Youth Player shall be granted the higher of:
- a) seven points if the value of the Youth Player's Band 1 International Appearances is at least 30%; or
 - b) five points if the value of the Youth Player's Band 2 International Appearances is at least 30%.

Youth - Debut

35. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 8 if he made his first appearance (on the pitch) for the senior team of a club in Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4, Band 5 or Band 6 in its domestic league competition during the Reference Period.

Band	Points
Band 1	6
Band 2	5
Band 3	4
Band 4	3
Band 5	2
Band 6	1

36. For the avoidance of doubt:
- a) a Youth Player shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for under paragraph 25 (*Player's Domestic Minutes*) and paragraph 35; and
 - b) if a Youth Player made his first appearance in more than one band during the Reference Period, he shall only be granted the higher of the points he is eligible for in Table 8.

Youth - Final League Position

37. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 9 in respect of the Player's Last Club, provided that:
- a) the Youth Player is not eligible for any points in accordance with paragraph 27 (*Final League Position of Player's Last Club*); and
 - b) the value of one or more of the following is at least 30%:
 - a. the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes;
 - b. the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes;
 - c. the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes; or
 - d. the Youth Player's B Team Minutes.

Last Club's Final League Position	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Title winner	3	3	2	2	1	1
Qualified for group stages of a Band 1 Continental Competition	3	2	2	1	1	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 1 Continental Competition	2	2	1	1	0	0

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Qualified for group stages of a Band 2 Continental Competition	2	1	1	0	0	0
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 2 Continental Competition	1	1	0	0	0	0
Mid-table	1	0	0	0	0	0
Relegation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promotion	N/A	1	1	1	1	1

Youth - Continental Progression

38. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 10 in respect of the Player's Last Club, provided that:

- a) the Youth Player is not eligible for any points in accordance with paragraph 29 (*Continental Progression*); and
- b) the value of one or more of the following is at least 30%:
 - a. the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes;
 - b. the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes;
 - c. the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes; or
 - d. the Youth Player's B Team Minutes.

Continental Progression	Band 1 Continental Competition	Band 2 Continental Competition	Band 3 Continental Competition
Final	5	4	1
Semi-Finals	5	3	1
Quarter-Finals	4	3	0
Round of 16	4	2	0
Round of 32	3	2	0
Group stage	3	1	0
Other	0	0	0

Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club

39. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 11 in respect of the Player's Current Club, provided that:

- a) The Youth Player is not eligible for any points in accordance with paragraph 31 (*League Quality of Player's Current Club*); and
- b) the value of one or more of the following is at least 30%:
 - a. the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes;
 - b. the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes; or
 - c. the Youth Player's B Team Minutes.

Band of Player's Current Club	Points
Band 1	11
Band 2	9
Band 3	7
Band 4	5
Band 5	4
Band 6	2

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40. A Youth Player shall be granted the number of points set out in Table 12 in respect of the Player's Current Club, provided that:
- a) The Youth Player is not eligible for any points in accordance with paragraph 31 (*League Quality of Player's Current Club*) or 38; and
 - b) the value of the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes is at least 30%.

Band of Player's Current Club	Points
Band 1	9
Band 2	8
Band 3	6
Band 4	5
Band 5	3
Band 6	2

MANAGER'S AND FIRST TEAM COACH'S CRITERIA

41. Governing body endorsements will be available for migrants if they meet the following criteria:
- a) Managers and first team coaches must have overall responsibility for first team selection. Joint or partial responsibility for first team selection does not meet the criteria.
 - b) The Manager or first team coach must:
 - a. hold a UEFA professional licence or equivalent; or
 - b. have managed or coached in a professional league for at least two of the last five years; or
 - c. have managed or coached an international team with a FIFA ranking of 70th or higher within the last five years.
42. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 41 above, the Club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraphs 44-51 shall apply.
43. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 41 or 44-51, he or she will have no further opportunity to apply for a GBE unless his or her circumstances change and will not be eligible to be the Manager for the applicant club.

EXCEPTIONS PANELS

Please note that Exceptions Panels will be available up to and through the Summer Transfer Window in 2021.

44. Where an application does not meet the published criteria, a club may request a panel to consider the player's skills and experience. In these cases, The Scottish FA will refer the club's evidence to an independent panel.

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45. Where possible the club's supporting evidence will be sent to The Scottish FA and other football bodies in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision.
46. The panel will normally consist of representatives from the relevant football bodies together with up to three independent experts. The Scottish FA will endeavour to ensure there are no conflicts of interest between the independent experts and the applicant club. If the applicant club wishes to object to the involvement of any of the independent experts it must do so in writing at least 24 hours before the panel hearing explaining their reasons for the objection.
47. The panel's terms of reference for are:
 - a) to consider whether the player, manager or first team coach is of the highest calibre
 - b) to consider whether the player, manager or first team coach is able to contribute significantly to the development of the game at the top level in Scotland
48. The panel will make a recommendation to The Scottish FA whose decision will then be relayed to the club. The details of the voting will not be disclosed. Each member of the Panel will provide written reasons for their own decision to the Secretary of the Panel. A positive vote is required to approve an application (e.g. 4-2, 5-1 or 6-0)
49. Full terms of reference and roles of the panel members and the club are available to attendees.
50. Clubs should note that, in respect of any application, there will only be one panel available (i.e. a panel and recommendation, followed by a decision). A club should therefore ensure that all evidence it wishes to present in support of its application is presented to the panel.
51. If the Exceptions Panel recommends to The Scottish FA that a GBE be granted, The Scottish FA will consider whether to grant a GBE (but is under no obligation to do so).

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GLOSSARY

Aggregated FIFA World Rankings means the aggregated rankings list for senior men's international teams over the International Reference Period. The Scottish FA will produce the aggregated two-year rankings list on a monthly basis when the FIFA World Rankings are published. These will be made available on request.

Available B Team Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the B Team of the Youth Player's Last Club in the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Youth Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Available B Team Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Youth Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Last Season. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available B Team Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Available Band 1 Youth Internationals means the total number of matches played by the Young Player's National Association during the Reference Period in the Band 1 Youth Internationals the Young Player was eligible to play in, minus the number of matches that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. For the avoidance of doubt, a player who is eligible to play in specific age group matches (for example U17) shall not also be considered to be eligible to play in any older age groups matches unless he has appeared on the matchday squad list for that age group for at least one match during the Reference Period, in which case he shall be considered eligible to play in all matches for that age group from that date onwards until the end of the Reference Period.

Available Band 2 Youth Internationals means the total number of matches played by the Young Player's National Association during the Reference Period in the Band 2 Youth Internationals the Young Player was eligible to play in, minus the number of matches that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. For the avoidance of doubt, a player who is eligible to play in specific age group matches (for example U17) shall not also be considered to be eligible to play in any older age groups matches unless he has appeared on the matchday squad list for that age group for at least one match during the Reference Period, in which case he shall be considered eligible to play in all matches for that age group from that date onwards until the end of the Reference Period.

Available Continental Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club in a Continental Competition during the Reference Period, minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Available Continental Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Reference Period.

Available CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Youth Player's Last Club in the CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores in the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Youth Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Available CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Youth Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Last Season. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available

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CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Available Domestic Cup Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club in a Domestic Cup during the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Available Domestic Cup Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Last Season. For the purposes of paragraph 31 (*League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available Domestic Cup Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Available Domestic Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Player's club in its domestic league competition during the Reference Period, minus the number of minutes that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Available Domestic Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Reference Period.

Available International Matches means the total number of matches played by the Player's National Association in Senior Competitive International Matches during the International Reference Period, minus the number of matches that the Player was Unavailable for Selection. If less than 30% of the matches played by the Player's National Association during the International Reference Period were Senior Competitive International Matches, Available International Matches shall also include International Friendlies.

Available UEFA Youth League Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Youth Player's Last Club in the UEFA Youth League in the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Youth Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Available UEFA Youth League Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Youth Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Last Season. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available UEFA Youth League Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Available Youth Competition Minutes means the total number of minutes (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any injury time or added time) played by the Youth Player's Last Club in Youth Competitions in the Last Season, minus the number of minutes that the Youth Player was Unavailable for Selection. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Available Youth Competition Minutes for each club should be calculated by reference to the period of time the Youth Player was registered (or on loan) for each club during the Last Season. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available Youth Competition Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Auto Pass Percentage means the percentage set out in Table 1 of this criteria.

B Team means a secondary team of a club which plays in a lower domestic professional division within the same league structure as the club's first team.

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Band 1 means the English Premier League, the Bundesliga, La Liga, Serie A and Ligue 1.

Band 1 Continental Competition means the UEFA Champions League and the Copa Libertadores.

Band 1 Youth Internationals means any match played by the Youth Player's National Association in the following tournaments:

- 1) FIFA U20 World Cup Finals;
- 2) FIFA U17 World Cup Finals;
- 3) UEFA U21 European Championships;
- 4) UEFA U19 European Championships;
- 5) UEFA U17 European Championships;
- 6) CONMEBOL U20 South American Youth Football Championship;
- 7) CONMEBOL U17 South American Youth Football Championship;
- 8) CAF U20 African Cup of Nations;
- 9) CAF U17 African Cup of Nations;
- 10) CAF U23 Championship;
- 11) AFC U23 Asia Nations Cup;
- 12) AFC U20 Asia Nations Cup;
- 13) AFC U17 Asia Nations Cup;
- 14) CONCACAF U20 Championship;
- 15) CONCACAF U17 Championship;
- 16) OFC U20 Championship;
- 17) OFC U17 Championship;
- 18) Olympic Games; and
- 19) Toulon Tournament.

Band 2 means the Portuguese Primeira Liga, Eredivisie, Belgian First Division A, the Turkish Super Lig and the English Championship.

Band 2 Continental Competition means the UEFA Europa League and the Copa Sudamerica.

Band 2 Youth Internationals means any match played by the Youth Player's National Association in order to qualify for a Band 1 Youth International or any other competitive match played by the U17 – U23 teams of the Youth Player's National Association.

Band 3 means the Russian Premier League, Campeonato Brasileiro Série A, Primera División of Argentina, Liga MX and the Scottish Premiership.

Band 3 Continental Competition means any continental competition which is not a Band 1 Continental Competition or Band 2 Continental Competition.

Band 4 means the Czech First League, Croatian First Football League, the Swiss Super League, La Liga 2, Bundesliga 2, Ukrainian Premier League, the Greek Superleague, the Colombian Categoría Primera A, the USA's Major League Soccer, the Austrian Football Bundesliga and Ligue 2.

Band 5 means the Serbian SuperLiga, the Danish Superliga, the Polish Ekstraklasa, the Slovenian PrvaLiga, the Chilean Primera División, the Uruguayan Primera División and the Chinese Super League.

Band 6 means all leagues not in Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4 or Band 5.

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Certificate of Sponsorship means a certificate assigned to a Player pursuant to a club's Sponsor's Licence.

CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores means the youth football competition organised by the South American Football Confederation.

Continental Competition means a Band 1 Continental Competition, a Band 2 Continental Competition or a Band 3 Continental Competition.

Continental Progression means the progress made by the Player's Last Club in a Continental Competition in the Last Season.

Current Club means:

- 1) the Player's Last Club, if the application for a GBE is made after the club the Player plays for as at the date of the application has completed its season; or
- 2) the club the Player is playing for as at the date the application is made, if the application for a GBE is made before the club the Player plays for as at the date of the application has completed its season (i.e. mid-season).

Domestic Cup means any domestic cup competition which is open to clubs in the country's top domestic division and provides a route for qualification to a Band 1 Continental Competition or Band 2 Continental Competition.

Exceptions Panel means a panel appointed by The Scottish FA to consider an application for a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 44-51.

Extended GBE means a new GBE applied for by a Club in respect of a Player who has already received a GBE for that Club which is due to expire.

FIFA means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

Final League Position means the final league position of the Player's Last Club at the end of the Last Season. If the Last Season did not finish but a final league table was compiled, the Last Club's league position shall be taken from that final league table.

GBE means Governing Body Endorsement.

International Friendlies means any match played by the National Association's senior team which is not a Senior Competitive International Match.

International Reference Period means:

- 1) the twenty four months prior to the date of the application for a GBE, if the Player is not a Youth Player; or
- 2) the twelve months prior to the date of the application for a GBE, if the Player is a Youth Player.

Last Club means the club the Player played for in the Last Season. If the Player played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Player's Last Club is the club the Player played for at the end of the Last Season.

Last Season means the last full season prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

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Loans means temporary transfers which do not extend beyond the end of the season in which the registration is temporarily transferred.

Manager means any first team manager or first team head coach who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom or Ireland and has not acquired permanent residence in the United Kingdom, been granted pre-settled status or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme or who is not eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (and has until 30 June 2021 to do so).

National Association means a football association that is a member of, and recognised by, FIFA.

PBS means the Home Office Points Based System.

Player means any player who is not a citizen of the United Kingdom or Ireland and has not acquired permanent residence in the United Kingdom, been granted pre-settled status or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme and who is not (and will not become) eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (and who has until 30 June 2021 to do so).

Player's Domestic Cup Minutes means the percentage of Available Domestic Cup Minutes the Player played in. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Last Season, the Player's Domestic Cup Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated. For the purposes of paragraph 31 (*League Quality of Player's Current Club*), Available Domestic Cup Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Player's Domestic Minutes means the percentage of Available Domestic Minutes the Player played in. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Player's Domestic Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated.

Player's Continental Minutes means the percentage of Available Continental Minutes the Player played in. If the Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Player's Continental Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated. If only one of the clubs played in a Continental Competition, the Player's Continental Minutes shall be the percentage the Player played in for that club.

Player's International Appearances means the percentage of Available International Matches the Player played in.

Player's National Association means the National Association the Player plays for, or has declared for, as at the date of the application for a GBE.

Reference Period means the twelve months prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

Scottish Club means a club affiliated to The Scottish FA.

The Scottish FA means The Scottish Football Association

Season means the period commencing on the date of the first match of the The Scottish Professional Football League and ending on the date of the last match of the The Scottish Professional Football League

Senior Competitive International Matches means any match played by the National Association's senior team in the following tournaments:

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- 1) FIFA World Cup Finals;
- 2) FIFA World Cup Qualifying Groups;
- 3) FIFA Confederations Cup; and
- 4) Continental Cup Qualifiers and Finals, including but not limited to:
 - a. UEFA European Championships and Qualifiers;
 - b. UEFA Nations League Groups and Final Stages;
 - c. CAF African Cup of Nations and Qualifiers;
 - d. AFC Asia Nations Cup and Qualifiers;
 - e. CONCACAF Gold Cup;
 - f. CONCACAF Copa Caribe;
 - g. UNCAF Nations Cup;
 - h. CONMEBOL Copa America; and
 - i. OFC Nations Cup.

Sponsor's Licence means a licence obtained from the Home Office under the PBS.

Tier 2 means T2 Sports person.

Tier 5 means T5 (Temporary worker – Creative and Sporting).

Unavailable for Selection means the player was not available to play due to injury, on-field suspension or any other circumstances which would prevent the player from physically entering the field of play. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not be classed as injured (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if he was listed as a substitute in a match and was not used and such matches may not be eligible for exclusion when calculating the Available Minutes (as applicable). In international competitions where players are listed as substitutes regardless of whether or not they are injured, players may be classed as injured (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if sufficient evidence is provided of their injury.

UEFA Youth League means the youth football competition ordered by the Union of European Football Associations.

Youth Competition means a top domestic youth league as defined by the relevant National Association or professional league as appropriate.

Youth Player means a Player who is under 21 as at the date the application for a GBE is made.

Youth Player's Band 1 International Appearances means the percentage of Available Band 1 Youth Internationals the Youth Player played in.

Youth Player's Band 2 International Appearances means the percentage of Available Band 2 Youth Internationals the Youth Player played in.

Youth Player's B Team Minutes means the percentage of Available B Team Minutes the Youth Player played in. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Youth Player's B Team Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated (provided that each club had a B Team). If only one of the clubs had a B Team, the Youth Player's B Team Minutes shall be the percentage the Youth Player played in for that club. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), the Youth Player's B Team Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

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Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes means the percentage of Available CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes the Youth Player played in. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated (provided that each club participated in the CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores). If only one of the clubs participated in the CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores, the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes shall be the percentage the Youth Player played in for that club. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), the Youth Player's CONMEBOL U20 Libertadores Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes means the percentage of Available UEFA Youth League Minutes the Youth Player played in. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated (provided that each club participated in the UEFA Youth League). If only one of the clubs participated in the UEFA Youth League, the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes shall be the percentage the Youth Player played in for that club. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), the Youth Player's UEFA Youth League Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.

Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes means the percentage of Available Youth Competition Minutes the Youth Player played in. If the Youth Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes shall be calculated for each club and an average of those percentages should then be calculated (provided that each club participated in a Youth Competition). If only one of the clubs participated in a Youth Competition, the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes shall be the percentage the Youth Player played in for that club. For the purposes of paragraph 39 (*Youth - League Quality of Player's Current Club*), the Youth Player's Youth Competition Minutes shall be calculated by reference to the Reference Period rather than Last Season.