

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

NON UK PLAYER INFORMATION GRID (updated May 2013)

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 |
| Spouse/Accompanying Partner | 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 | All | Either | No restrictions |
| Visitor Visa | 5 & below | Amateur | Can only play as an amateur for a club which is 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 |

A Player who is from outside the United Kingdom will be classed as a **Foreign Player** under the RFU competition regulations if they do not meet one of the following criteria:

1. They hold a valid EU Passport
2. They are married to an EU or EEA National

For the purposes of this criterion the following countries are EU or EEA countries:

EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, 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.

3. They are national of a country which has an Association Agreement with the EU (*Kolpak ruling*), listed as follows:

a. 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, 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 and Somalia, although ACP countries, are not signatories to the Cotonou Agreement with the European Community.

b. Other nations:

Algeria, Andorra, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Macedonia, Morocco, Russia, San Marino, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey.