



Visiting New Zealand

A GUIDE FOR SPORTSPEOPLE AND
THEIR SUPPORT STAFF





➤ A sporting welcome

Sport is a defining feature of New Zealand life, with most New Zealanders taking an active part in at least one competitive sport at some point in their lives. So when it comes to hosting sports teams from across the globe, we're pretty keen to ensure that things go smoothly for such important visitors.

We've made the process for coming to New Zealand to participate in sports events as simple as possible but we also have to make sure that we are dealing with genuine applicants. There are some requirements that you'll have to meet. We hope you will find this guide helpful and look forward to hosting you in New Zealand soon.

Visitor Visas

New Zealand has a special policy that allows many sports people and their support staff to enter as visitors. There are different visa and permit requirements for visitors to New Zealand that depend on your length of stay and your nationality. If you're from a country that does not require prior visa approval, you can travel visa free to New Zealand and apply for a visitor permit on arrival.

British citizens and other British passport holders who can produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the UK can visit New Zealand for up to six months without a visa.

Australian citizens or holders of a current resident return visa issued by the Commonwealth of Australia do not need a visa.

Visiting New Zealand for up to three months to take part in sporting events

If you are a sportsperson on tour or competing in a tournament, and the country you are from is on the visa free country list, you can travel to New Zealand without a visa and receive a visitor permit on arrival. This also applies to support staff for sportspeople, such as coaches, managers or physiotherapists. Sports people and support staff entering for less than three months from countries that are not on the visa free country list must apply for a visitor visa to enter New Zealand.



Visa free country list

Andorra	Argentina	Austria
Australia	Bahrain	Belgium
Brazil	Brunei	Canada
Chile	Cyprus	Czech Republic
Denmark	Estonia*	Finland
France	Germany	Greece*****
Hong Kong**	Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Israel	Italy
Japan	Korea (South)	Kuwait
Latvia*	Liechtenstein	Lithuania*
Luxembourg	Malaysia	Malta
Mexico	Monaco	Netherlands
Norway	Oman	Poland
Portugal***	Qatar	San Marino
Saudi Arabia	Singapore	Slovak Republic
Slovenia	South Africa	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland	United Arab Emirates
United States of America****	United Kingdom	Uruguay
Vatican City		

- * Visa waiver does not apply to people travelling on an alien's (non-citizen's) passport issued by these countries.
- ** Residents of Hong Kong must be travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National (Overseas) passports to qualify for visa free status.
- *** Portuguese passport holders must also have the right to live permanently in Portugal.
- **** Including residents of US territories.
- ***** Greek passport holders whose passports were issued on and after 1 January 2006. (Greek passports issued before 1 January 2006 are not acceptable for travel after 1 January 2007).

If your country is not on the visa free country list, you must have a visitor visa to enter New Zealand. New Zealand has a special policy for sportspeople and their support staff visiting New Zealand to participate in sporting events from countries that are not on the visa free country list.

You must apply for any visas before leaving your home country and have received your visa before arriving in New Zealand.

Application forms for your visitor visa are available on the Immigration New Zealand website, www.immigration.govt.nz. You can also obtain the application form from Immigration New Zealand offices, or New Zealand Consulates, Embassies or High Commissions.

Who must apply for a work visa or permit?

Some people entering New Zealand for sporting purposes require a work visa or permit. If you fall into one of these categories you should refer to the Work Visa/Permit Guide for more information.

Referees and other tournament officials:

You must complete the Work Visa/Permit Application Form and provide a written invitation or schedule as evidence of your involvement in the event.

Entering New Zealand for a tour or tournament for more than three months:

You must complete the Work Visa/Permit Application Form and provide the same information as outlined on page 6 of this guide.

Taking up a paid position in a New Zealand sports club as a player or coach:

You must complete the Work Visa/Permit Application Form and have a written offer of employment from that club.



➤ Applying for a Visitor Visa to attend sporting events in New Zealand

Application is simple – just download a visitor visa or permit application form from the Immigration New Zealand website www.immigration.govt.nz. Remember, you must apply for a visitor visa if your country is not on the list of visa free countries.

Each completed application form must be submitted to Immigration New Zealand with the following:

- the applicant's current valid passport
- one passport sized photograph
- the appropriate fee
- evidence of accommodation, funds and maintenance in New Zealand or evidence of sponsorship
- evidence of previous overseas travel history
- past and current employment records with a reference letter from current employer
- invitation letter from the sponsoring organisation in New Zealand
- a brief biography which includes an outline of the applicant's involvement in the sport they will engage in during their visit to New Zealand
- confirmed travel itinerary and evidence of onward travel
- Applicants under 20 years of age should also submit a consent letter from both parents.

Athletes must also supply:

- evidence of national and international recognition in the particular sport

- evidence of national and international participation and achievement in the particular sport
- evidence of national and international qualifications in the particular sport

Coaches and support staff must provide:

- details of their support role and how their support functions are essential to the tour
- evidence of their qualifications for their support role
- evidence of previous involvement in support roles for the specified sports team or athletes.

Payment of application fees

You will need to include a fee with your application. Fees may be paid in cash, or by bank or personal cheque, as well as by money order from registered banks, credit cards or EFTPOS. The amount of this fee for your country can be calculated at www.immigration.govt.nz/fees.

Funds for your stay

Sportspeople and their support staff must have sufficient funds or sponsorship for the duration of their stay. This maintenance requirement is assessed at NZ\$400 per month if accommodation is pre-paid or provided by your sponsor and at NZ\$1,000 per month if pre-paid accommodation is not available.

The maintenance requirement can be waived if the New Zealand sponsoring agency confirms that all groups will have sufficient funds and return tickets or that the agency will undertake to pay repatriation costs.



Health requirements

Sportspeople and their support staff are expected to be in good health for the period of their stay in New Zealand.

While in New Zealand, you must not require extensive medical treatment or care, or cause others to become ill. Appropriate health insurance is recommended in case you require hospital or medical treatment.

A visa officer may request you to undergo medical and x-ray examinations if there are any indications that you may not meet the health provisions.

Character requirements

Sportspeople and their support staff must be of good character and not pose a potential security risk.

If you have a criminal conviction or are currently being investigated for an offence, a police certificate will be required along with a personal statement about the incident so that this can be considered for a character waiver. A visa officer may also request you to provide a police certificate if there are indications that you may not meet the character provisions.

Evidence of good faith

All visitor visa or permit applicants are required to be what is legally termed a bona fide, or good faith, visitor to New Zealand.

A bona fide applicant for temporary entry is a person who genuinely intends to stay in New Zealand temporarily for a lawful purpose and in the opinion of a visa or immigration officer is not likely to remain in New Zealand unlawfully, or to breach the

conditions of any permit granted, or to be unable to leave or be removed from New Zealand.

You must show that you genuinely intend to stay temporarily in New Zealand and for a lawful purpose. In assessing this, the visa officer will take into account your personal circumstances including, but not limited to:

- the strength of any family ties in your home country and New Zealand
- the nature of any personal financial, employment or other commitments in your home country and New Zealand
- any circumstances that may discourage you from returning to your home country when any permit expires.

Additional requirements

In some circumstances, a visa officer may request additional information. This may include requests for additional documentation and/or a personal interview.

Meeting all of the mandatory requirements for lodging an application for a temporary visa or permit will not guarantee that a visa or permit will be issued.

Where to lodge your completed visitor visa application

You can lodge your application at an Immigration New Zealand office or a New Zealand Consulate, Embassy or High Commission.

Visit www.immigration.govt.nz for details of the Immigration New Zealand office nearest to you.



Start the process early

All applications take time to process so the earlier you start the better. In some cases, the process will take a few weeks; in other cases, it may take much longer.

Organisers of team travel

Team organisers are encouraged to start the application process well in advance so that there are no last minute delays. Your local Immigration New Zealand office or New Zealand diplomatic post will be happy to assist with visitor visa lodgement requirements and processes.

Team organisers are responsible for ensuring that all applications are lodged at the same time, with all the information required for each visa applicant including valid passports, fees and supporting documents.

You must also provide a brief biography for each applicant which includes an outline of their involvement in the sport they will engage in during their visit to New Zealand, as noted above.

Australian visas

If you intend to visit or transit through Australia as part of your broader travel plans, you will need to obtain an Australian visa.

For further information you should visit the Australian immigration website www.immi.gov.au.

Enjoy your visit

We trust that these guidelines will help you in the planning of your trip and that all proceeds smoothly. To help plan your stay in New Zealand you may like to check out the following websites:

- www.newzealandnow.govt.nz
- www.nzedge.com
- www.newzealand.com

