



## Thinking Sports Migration

*Part of the culture of the New England region is our love of sports and supporting our local teams in competitions that run throughout the year.*

**A**n exciting prospect for clubs and sporting teams is the engagement of overseas players to participate for a season and play in the local and regional competitions. Alternatively, organisers of the local competitions or a sports carnival may want to invite an international sporting team or players to come to Australia and play against the local teams to broaden their experiences in international match plays. As part of the Australian migration framework, there are a number of visas which may assist in bringing a professional sports person or sports team into Australia, and it is appropriate to ensure that you apply for the correct visa.

Temporary Activity Visa (subclass 408)

The Temporary Activity Visa allows applicants to come to Australia to take part in an approved special program for a short period of time, in many cases up to twelve (12) months. There are a number of sub-categories of the Temporary Activity Visa, such as religious works, entertainment activities, and other social and cultural activities. The general requirements of all streams of the Temporary Activity Visa are that you must be sponsored by the organising body; have an agreement in place to perform the specific activities; and, not work outside the specified activities. Paid employment of a visa holder is limited to work specified in a written agreement between the sponsor and the visa holder as approved by the Department of Home Affairs in granting the visa. It is important that both the Applicant and the sponsor are aware of the requirements and conditions of the Visa, as not complying with the conditions could result in the Applicant having their Visa cancelled.

### Sporting Activities Stream

The sporting activities stream of the Temporary Activities Visa allows a player,

coach, instructor or adjudicator to come to Australia and work with an Australian sporting team or conduct training with a sports organisation. This visa allows an Applicant to stay in Australia for up to two (2) years, and they are entitled to bring members of their family unit with them for the duration of their Visa. In order to obtain the Visa, you must have a sponsor or supporter who is willing to offer you a position with their organisation for the duration of the Visa. As part of the Sporting Activities Stream, it is also necessary that you have a contract and letter of support from a peak sporting body setting out the terms of your engagement with the sporting organisation.

Other Social and Cultural Activity Stream

When a sporting body is looking at inviting an international sports team to visit Australia and compete in an organised sporting event or carnival, the Other Social and Cultural Activity Stream may be appropriate. This stream of the Temporary Activity Visa allows the Applicant to take part in a community-based event such as a sports carnival or exhibition matches as part of a team and stay in Australia for up to three (3) months. You are unable to work whilst in Australia if you hold this Visa but can participate in the event which you have been invited to attend. This stream also covers additional support staff such as medics, physiotherapists and officials.

Applying for any visa can be a complex and stressful process. Seeking professional advice from a registered Migration Agent can ensure that you have the necessary advice to make the correct decision and ensure that your application will satisfy departmental requirements.

**Talk to us, you'll be inspired!**

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