

# WHEELCHAIR FENCING CARDIFF WORLD CUP 2024 VISA APPLICATION GUIDANCE

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Last Updated: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## 1. SUMMARY

For information on entry to the UK please visit the UK Border Control website:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

A UK Visitor Visa (Standard Visitor) will be required for athletes, officials and support personnel from 'visa national' countries. Visa nationals are those who need a visa for every entry to the United Kingdom (UK).

Individuals can check if they require a UK visa by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Individuals should apply as early as possible. Applications can be made up to three months in advance of the proposed date of travel. To find out how long getting a visa might take in the country you are applying from visit [www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times](http://www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times). (Please note if a nation does not apply for their visas in due time, it cannot be guaranteed that their application will be processed in time and that additional charges may be applied by the UK Government for an express service).

You must apply online for a visit visa at [www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa). After you have applied online, you will need to make an appointment to attend one of our visa application centres. Find your nearest centre at [www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre](http://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre)

For those travelling from the EU, any Brexit information and a tracker are available on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/brexit>

## 2. INVITATION

British Fencing will issue an official invitation to athletes, officials and support personnel from National Federations. Please contact [events@britishfencing.com](mailto:events@britishfencing.com) to obtain a visa invitation.

## 3. TYPES OF VISA

Sportspeople can come to the UK to undertake short-term engagements/work using 3 main routes:

1. Standard visitor
2. Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) visitor
3. T5 (Temporary Worker) Creative or Sporting Worker

For the purposes of participating in the Cardiff World Cup 2024 (including training in advance) a Standard visitor is permitted.

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Standard Visitor visas are usually issued as multiple entry for a duration of 6 months.

### 3.1 STANDARD VISITOR VISA

Under the Visitor Rules, Standard Visitors are permitted to undertake the following sporting activities:

A sports person may:

- a. take part in a sports tournament or sports event as an individual or part of a team;
- b. make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities;
- c. take part in trials provided they are not in front of a paying audience;
- d. take part in short periods of training provided they are not being paid by a UK sporting body;
- e. join an amateur team or club to gain experience in a particular sport if they are an amateur in that sport.

Personal or technical staff of the sports person, or sports officials, may support the above activities and those set out under the Permitted Paid Engagement visitor route, if they are attending the same event as the sports person. Personal or technical staff of the sports person must be employed to work for the sports person outside the UK.

A full list of the permitted activities is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities>. Standard visitors must not receive payment for these activities beyond expenses and prize money.

For current fees please visit <https://www.gov.uk/visa-fees>

## 4. DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR A VISA?

Whether someone needs to apply for a visa to visit the UK depends on their nationality. If someone's nationality is on the list of visa nationals, they will need to apply for a visa before they travel to the UK. The visa national list can be found here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list)

If someone is not listed as a national who does not require a visa to visit the UK, they do not need to apply for a visit visa to participate in UK hosted events. They can apply for entry on arrival in the UK.

If you are not sure if you require a visa for the UK, please check on the UK government website at: [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

### 4.1 ADVICE ON APPLICATIONS

Applications can be made up to three months in advance of the proposed date of travel.

As of September 2023 current processing time is around 2-3 weeks from when an application is received (including biometric information) to when they send the decision to the applicant. Please allow as much time as possible in case of delays or if additional information is required. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the information on their form is accurate. It is possible this process may take longer, depending on the individual.

In many locations, for an additional fee, delegates may be able to use our Priority and Super Priority visa service. The service standards for these products are 5 working days and the end of the next working day respectively.

Full instructions on what you need to do before, during and after applying for a visa, and what to do once they enter the UK can be found at: [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/what-you-need-to-do](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/what-you-need-to-do)

Delegates must apply and pay online for the visa using the link at: [www.gov.uk/apply-ukvisa](https://www.gov.uk/apply-ukvisa).

Delegates will be asked to book a biometric appointment with one of the visa application centres at the end of the online application and pay the visa application fee.

Supporting documents can be self-uploaded before a delegate's appointment at no additional cost. On the day of your appointment delegates must go in person to the chosen Visa Application Centre with their passport, printed application form and any other supporting documents. Assisted scanning at the VAC is available for an additional fee. Delegates will also be required to give their biometrics: digital photograph and fingerprints.

To find details of the nearest visa application centre use this link: [www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-applicationcentre](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-applicationcentre). Read the guidance carefully and apply for visas as early as possible. Applications can be made up to three months in advance of the planned date of travel.

Average processing times at the moment are 2-3 weeks, however, this could take longer depending on individual circumstances.

## 5. LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION

Access UK ( UKVI Online application portal)	<a href="https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk">Select your language (visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)</a>
Visa Waiting Times	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Visa decision waiting times: applications outside the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Visa nationalities	: <a href="https://www.gov.uk">Immigration Rules Appendix Visitor: Visa national list - Immigration Rules - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Visa fees	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">UK visa fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Applying for a standard visit visa	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Guidance on applying for a standard visitor visa</a>
Supporting documents	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Visiting the UK: guide to supporting documents</a>
Visitor rules	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Immigration Rules Appendix V: Visitor</a>
Permitted activities	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Immigration Rules Appendix Visitor: Permitted Activities</a>
Find a Visa Application Centre	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Find a visa application centre - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Do I need a visa	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
EU visitor	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Withdraw application	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Cancel your visa, immigration or citizenship application - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Checking right to work	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Checking a job applicant's right to work - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
TB Testing	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">Tuberculosis tests for visa applicants: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Covid 19 travel restrictions removed	<a href="https://www.gov.uk">All COVID-19 travel restrictions removed in the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Access UK (Online application portal)	<a href="https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk">Select your language (visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)</a>