

**IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL - POINTS BASED SYSTEM
2024 SEASON**

The rules and criteria set out in this document will apply for the 2024 season and will be effective from 12 February 2024. The criteria will be reviewed across the 2024 season in order that revised criteria can be issued in advance of the 2025 season.

The length of the season for the women's game runs from 1 March 2024 to 31 October 2024.

For any queries regarding these criteria or the application process, please contact the Competitions and Player Status Department at the Irish FA – registrations@irishfa.com or on (028) 90669 458.

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

Consideration will be given to the following when applying the criteria: injury; a period of maternity or paternity leave; serious illness or any legitimate medical reasons; suspension; international duty; bereavement; or family crisis.

In order to obtain the GBE, the individual must not be subject to a provisional suspension or any unexpired period of ineligibility from playing and/ or coaching activities in any jurisdiction as a result of being charged with or found guilty of a corruption offence and/ or a doping offence and/ or another misconduct.

Clubs are reminded the onus is on them to ensure they are acting legally within the Immigration Rules and they must ensure any individual they wish to employ holds the right to work in the UK. Further information regarding a sponsor's duties can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sponsorship-information-for-employers-and-educators>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide>

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 IFA 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/ manage any football, she must have obtained a GBE, been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship by that club and secured permission to stay under the International Sportsperson route (ISP) of the PBS (subject to satisfying any other eligibility requirements of the IFA 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 ISP 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 IFA. If a Club's Sponsor's Licence is revoked, any migrant who has obtained a GBE in order to play for/ manage the Club may have his permission 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 IFA 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 IFA 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 IFA upon request. The club will also have to comply with any other criteria set by the Home Office in order to secure permission to stay under ISP of the PBS.
4. A GBE under ISP of the PBS will be granted for three years or the length of the migrant's contract (whichever is shorter). A migrant will not be eligible to play for/ manage 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. If a migrant is applying under ISP (long term), they must meet the English language requirement of the Immigration Rules.
6. If a Club wishes to retain the services of a migrant beyond the period of their IFA Governing Body Endorsement, the Club must send a new application before the migrant's permission to stay expires. If the 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 IFA will consult with the other relevant football bodies by email, providing any details put forward by the Club in favour of

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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. If the football bodies do not unanimously agree to the renewal then the Club may request that it be considered by a panel.
8. A Club wishing to sign a migrant who has been granted an IFA Governing Body Endorsement through another Club must send a new application for a governing body endorsement to the IFA. If the criteria are satisfied, an IFA Governing Body Endorsement will be issued for a maximum of three (3) years in respect of their employment with the new Club. If the criteria are not satisfied, the IFA will consult with the relevant football bodies by email, providing any details put forward by the Club in favour of the migrant, such as their appearance record for that Club and details of how far they meet the criteria. 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. If any party expresses concern about the application, an appeal panel will be required.
9. If a migrant is intending to change employer, their new employer must request a new IFA Governing Body Endorsement. The endorsement can be issued for the length of the contract or to the maximum period permitted within the category, whichever is the shorter. The new employer must assign a new certificate of sponsorship to the migrant to allow them to apply to the Home Office for new permission to stay. Permission to stay must be granted before the migrant can start work with the new employer.
10. The club must inform the Home Office within 10 days if a Player:
 - a) does not turn up for employment;
 - b) is absent for more than 10 working days without permission;
 - c) has his contract terminated during the period that a GBE is effective;
 - d) is no longer sponsored by the club for any other reason; or
 - e) experiences significant changes in his circumstances (such as a change in job title, salary or location of employment).
11. The club must also inform the Home Office if there is a change of circumstances at the club within 20 working days. A change in circumstances might include changes of name, address or contact details, changes in structure (including mergers, takeovers and de-mergers), changes in financial circumstances (such as administration, receivership, company voluntary arrangement, debt arrangement scheme, liquidation or sequestration).

Temporary Transfers/Loans

12. Loans are only permissible within the migrant's current period of approval and should not be used to avoid making extension or change of employment applications.

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13. If a Player is loaned from a domestic Club to another domestic Club (a "Domestic Loan"), no GBE application will be required by the loanee club.
14. If a migrant on a Certificate of Sponsorship is moving to another Club, (either in the UK or abroad) on a loan basis, the migrant's parent Club must notify the Home Office of the temporary transfer and the change of location via the sponsor management system.
15. For the duration of the loan period, the loaning Club retains overall responsibility for the Player as his employer and sponsor and the Player is granted permission to move temporarily under the provisions of his current permission, provided that the Certificate of Sponsorship assigned by the loaning Club is valid for the duration of the loan period. This means that where the loan is to another Club within Northern Ireland, neither the parent Club nor the loaning Club has to send a new application for a governing body endorsement to the IFA. Where the loan is to a Club within another Home Association, the Player will have to satisfy that Home Association's governing body endorsement process.
16. When the Player returns to their parent Club after the loan period, the Player does not need to be assessed again against the entry criteria and may simply resume their employment with their original Club (provided that their IFA Governing Body Endorsement remains valid beyond the date of their return), on the basis that the Player has an existing Certificate of Sponsorship and has already met the entry requirements at the beginning of their employment with that Club.
17. Any Player joining a Club in Northern Ireland on loan from an overseas Club (outside the UK) must meet all the requirements of ISP and therefore an application must be submitted to the IFA. International loan Players are also subject to appeal panels if they do not meet the criteria.
18. GBEs will not be issued in respect of Players who are trialling with a Club in Northern Ireland. If a Club wishes to trial a Player, it should contact the Home Office.

APPLICATION PROCESS

19. An administration fee of £100 will be charged for each application for an IFA Governing Body Endorsement.
20. A club must submit an application for a GBE to the IFA Player Registrations Department (registrations@irishfa.com) along with any evidence in support of the application, including but not limited to:
 - a) A duly complete application form (Separate forms for Players and Managers are available to clubs on request).
 - b) If the Player is not already registered for the Club, an application for registration of said Player in accordance with IFA Rules and/or Regulations.

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- c) Written evidence to support any claim made by the applicant club that a Player was Unavailable for Selection for a particular match, including the reason(s).
 - d) Written evidence to support any claim made by the applicant club that a Youth Player has significant potential and is of sufficient quality to enhance the development of the game in Northern Ireland and justify the Exceptions Panel recommending that a GBE be awarded (where appropriate, in accordance with paragraph 31).
 - e) If a Manager, written and any other evidence to support any application.
21. Migrants applying to come to the UK under the International Sportsperson route need to be sponsored by an organisation that has a sponsor licence under ISP.
22. An organisation wishing to sponsor such migrants must have a sponsor licence. Before applying to the Home Office for a license an organisation must be endorsed by the IFA. This endorsement confirms to the Home Office that the application for a licence is from a genuine football club (or equivalent) that has a legitimate requirement to bring migrants to the UK as sportspeople. Once licensed, an organisation can assign certificates of sponsorship to a sportsperson or coach with a job offer that allows them to apply for entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK. Each individual must also have a personal endorsement from the IFA before an organisation assigns the certificate of sponsorship.
23. The IFA will work within the Home Office code of practice for sports governing bodies and must comply with any immigration regulations, UK legislation and the principles of the Points Based System as detailed on the GOV.UK website.
24. If a Club prematurely ceases to employ a migrant who has a certificate of sponsorship, the Club must inform the Home Office.
25. Where a club wishes to make significant changes to the terms and conditions of the migrant's contract, for instance to improve their salary or length of contract part-way through the approved period, the club should notify the Home Office of this via the sponsor management system.
26. If a new application is required and the endorsement requirements are not met, the club must submit a summary of the player's domestic club appearances over the previous 12 months as well as any other information which the club deems to be relevant to its application. The IFA will at that stage consult with Relevant Interested Parties by email and in doing so will provide any details put forward by the club in support of the application. When considering the application and deciding whether the application should be granted, the IFA and the Relevant Interested Parties shall consider the information put forward by the club as well as any other information which they deem to be relevant in their absolute discretion which indicates whether the migrant remains of sufficient quality to be awarded a governing body endorsement. If a majority of the IFA and the Relevant Interested Parties recommend that a governing body endorsement should be granted, a governing

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body endorsement will be issued. If a majority recommendation for approval is not given, a governing body endorsement will not be granted.

PLAYER'S CRITERIA

27. All Players shall be assessed in accordance with paragraphs 37-46 if they do not achieve the pass mark in paragraph 29.
28. The IFA will grant a GBE if the Player's International Appearances meet the Auto Pass Percentage set out in Table 1 of the criteria.
29. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 28 above, the IFA will grant a GBE if a Player achieves 24 or more points in accordance with paragraphs 37-46
30. The Club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application in the following circumstances only:
 - a) A Player achieves between 18-23 points in accordance with paragraphs 37-46
 - b) A player was Unavailable for Selection for the full International Reference Period and the Club can evidence that exceptional circumstances prevented the Player from achieving 24 points.
31. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraphs 49-58 shall apply.
32. If a Player is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 28, 29 or paragraphs 49-58, she 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.

Calculations

33. If a Player has played for two (or more) clubs during the Reference Period, or a Player is or has been a Free Agent during the Reference Period, the Player's Continental Minutes, Player's Domestic Cup Minutes and Player's Domestic Minutes (each, the "**Minutes**") will be calculated in accordance with paragraphs 34-36 below.
34. For each of the Minutes criteria, the applicant club should calculate a weighted average as follows:
 - a) Calculate the number of days during the Reference Period the Player has been registered for each/any club or no club (as appropriate).
 - b) Calculate the percentage of the overall Reference Period that each of those periods of time represents.
 - c) Calculate the percentage of Minutes played as a proportion of the total Available Continental Minutes, Available Domestic Cup Minutes or Available Domestic Minutes (respectively).

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- d) Multiply each of the numbers at (b) by their corresponding number at (c).
- e) Add each of the numbers at (d) to find the weighted average value for the Minutes.

35. 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.

36. If the calculation of a Player's International Appearances, Player's Domestic Minutes, Player's Domestic Cup Minutes or Player's Continental Minutes (or any other percentage) results in:

- a) a decimal number of .5 or higher, the number will be rounded up to the next whole number; or
- b) a decimal number of lower than .5, the number will be rounded down to the next whole number.

Player's International Appearances

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

Table 1₁					
Aggregated FIFA Women's World Ranking of the Player's National Association					
Player's International Appearances	1-5	6-10	11-20	21-40	41+
90-100%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	1
80-89%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	0
70-79%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	2	0
60-69%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	3	1	0
50-59%	Auto Pass	4	2	0	0
40-49%	5	3	1	0	0
30-39%	4	2	0	0	0
20-29%	3	1	0	0	0
10-19%	2	0	0	0	0
1-9%	1	0	0	0	0

₁ Please note that all capitalised terms in these tables are defined at the beginning of this document and should be used for the purpose of determining whether or not a Player has met the criteria.

Player's Domestic Minutes

38. 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
90-100%	10	5
80-89%	9	4
70-79%	8	3
60-69%	7	2
50-59%	6	1
40-49%	5	0
30-39%	4	0
20-29%	0	0
10-19%	0	0
1-9%	0	0

Player's Continental Minutes

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

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

Final League Position of Player's Last Club

40. 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 or Band 2
Title winner / Band 1 Continental Competition Winner	10
Qualified for group stages of a Band 1 Continental Competition / play-off stages of a Band 1 League Competition	8
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 1 Continental Competition / group stages of a Band 2 Continental Competition	6
Qualified for qualifiers of a Band 2 Continental Competition	4
Mid Table	2
Relegation	0
Promotion	2

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

Continental Progression of Player's Last Club

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

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

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

League Quality of Player's Current Club

44. 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.

Band of Player's Current Club	Points
Band 1	10
Band 2	5

45. 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, she shall be granted the higher of the points she would have been eligible for in accordance with Table 6 if his parent club was the Player's Current Club.

MANAGER'S AND FIRST TEAM COACH'S CRITERIA

46. 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;
 - b. have managed or coached in a professional league for at least two of the last five years;
 - c. have managed or coached an international team with a FIFA ranking of 70th or higher within the last five years.
47. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 47 above, the Club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraphs 49-58 shall apply.
48. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 47 or 49-58, she will have no further opportunity to apply for a GBE unless her circumstances change and will not be eligible to be the Manager for the applicant club.

EXCEPTIONS PANELS

49. Where an application does not meet the published criteria, a club may request a panel to consider the migrant's skills and experience. In these cases, the IFA will refer the club's evidence to an independent panel.
50. Where possible the club's supporting evidence will be sent to the IFA and other football bodies in advance for their consideration in order to allow an informed decision.

51. The panel will normally consist of representatives from the relevant football bodies together with up to three independent experts. The IFA 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.
52. 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 Northern Ireland
53. The panel will make a recommendation to the IFA 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)
54. Full terms of reference and roles of the panel members and the club are available to attendees.
55. 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.
56. In the case of a Player, the Exceptions Panel shall only recommend to the IFA that a GBE be granted if the player is an elite sportsperson who is internationally established and can make a significant contribution to the development of the game at its highest level in Northern Ireland.
57. In the case of a Manager, the Exceptions Panel shall only recommend to the IFA that a GBE be granted if the Manager is an elite sports coach who is internationally established and can make a significant contribution to the development of the game at its highest level in Northern Ireland.
58. If the Exceptions Panel recommends to the IFA that a GBE be granted, the IFA will consider whether to grant a GBE (but is under no obligation to do so).

GLOSSARY

Aggregated FIFA Women's World Rankings means the aggregated rankings list for senior women's international teams over the International Reference Period. The IFA 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 www.irishfa.com.

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 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 44 (*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.

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.

Band 1 means the English Women's Super League, Australian W-League, French Feminine Division 1, Italian Femminile Serie A, German Frauen Bundesliga, National Women's Soccer League, Spanish Women's Primera Division, Swedish Damallsvenskan, Norwegian Toppserien and the Danish Elitedivisionen.

Band 1 Continental Competition means the UEFA Women's Champions League and the Copa Libertadores Femenina.

Band 2 means all senior domestic leagues not in Band 1.

Band 2 Continental Competition means all continental competitions which are not Band 1 Continental Competitions.

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

Continental Competition means a Band 1 Continental Competition or a Band 2 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).

If the Player is a Free Agent, the Player's Current Club is the club the Player played in the half of the season immediately before the date the application is made. If the Player is a Free Agent and was not registered for any club in the half of the season immediately before the date the application is made, they shall not be granted any points for the criteria which adopt this definition

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 IFA to consider an application for a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 49-58.

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.

The IFA means The Irish Football Association.

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 the twenty four months prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

ISP means the International Sportsperson route.

ISP (long term) means an application for a period of stay exceeding 12 months.

ISP (short term) means an application for a period of stay of 12 months or less.

Club in Northern Ireland means a club affiliated to the IFA.

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.

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 44 (*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.

Season means from March to October. This may vary slightly from season to season depending on the arrangement of the first and last matches.

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

- 1) FIFA Women's World Cup Finals and Qualifying Groups;
- 2) UEFA Women's Championships and Qualifiers;
- 3) African Championship for Women and Qualifiers;
- 4) Asian Women's Championships and Qualifiers;
- 5) CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup;
- 6) CONMEBOL Women's Championships and Qualifiers;
- 7) Olympic Football Tournament Women's Finals;
- 8) OFC; and
- 9) Olympic Qualifying (Asia, Africa and CONCACAF).

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

Unavailable for Selection means the Player was not available to play due to injury, a period of automatic suspension arising from a sending-off or accumulation of cautions, or any other circumstances, including pregnancy or maternity leave (provided the combined period does not exceed 18 months), which would legitimately prevent the player from physically entering the field of play but which shall not include any other period of suspension imposed by the player's national association, UEFA, FIFA or the World Anti-Doping Agency or the Player's club not being obliged to release the Player for a Senior Competitive International Match or an International Friendly (as the match falls outside the FIFA international match calendar). For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not be classed as injured or otherwise unavailable (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if she was listed as a substitute in a match and was not used. 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 or otherwise unavailable (and therefore Unavailable for Selection) if sufficient evidence is provided to support this.

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