

**The Football Association – Governing Body Endorsement Requirements for Women’s Team Manager**

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
WOMEN’S TEAM MANAGER – POINTS BASED SYSTEM  
2020/2021 SEASON (1 JANUARY 2021 ONWARDS)**

The rules and criteria set out in this document will apply for the remainder of the 2020/21 season and will be effective from 1 January 2021. The criteria will be reviewed in early 2021 in order that revised criteria can be issued (if necessary) in respect of the 2020/21 season.

For any queries regarding these criteria or the application process, please contact Freddie Carter (Player Status Department) at [Freddie.Carter@thefa.com](mailto:Freddie.Carter@thefa.com) (or [registrations@thefa.com](mailto:registrations@thefa.com)) or on 0844 980 8200 # 4818.

Please note that this guidance should be reviewed in conjunction with the relevant advice issued by the Home Office. The FA is not registered to give advice on immigration routes or processes or to advise on an individual’s immigration status and clubs should fully apprise themselves of their duties and responsibilities as sponsors. Information on aspects of immigration policy and law can be found on the Home Office website at [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration). You may also wish to seek advice from an Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) registered advisor or someone who is appropriately qualified but otherwise exempt from such a registration requirement, for example, a qualified solicitor. The UK Visas and Immigration Centre can be contacted on 0300 123 2241.

Clubs are advised to allow sufficient time for entry clearance or leave to remain to be granted. The time taken may vary depending upon where the Manager is making his or her application from. A guide to visa processing times is available on the Home Office website at: [www.gov.uk/visa-processingtimes](http://www.gov.uk/visa-processingtimes).

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

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### GLOSSARY

**Aggregated FIFA Women’s World Rankings** means the [FIFA](#) Women’s World Rankings for senior women’s international teams aggregated across the preceding two year period and published by The FA.

**Certificate of Sponsorship** means a certificate assigned to a Manager pursuant to a club’s Sponsor’s Licence.

**Exceptions Panel** means a panel appointed by The FA to consider an application for a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 19 to 26.

**Existing Manager** means a first team manager or first team head coach of a football club who has Overall Responsibility.

**Extended GBE** means a new GBE applied for by a Club in respect of a Manager who has already received a GBE for that Club which is due to expire.

**GBE** means Governing Body Endorsement.

**Home Association** means The Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales and The Irish Football Association.

**Managed** means has been a first team manager or first team head coach and, in that role, had Overall Responsibility.

**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 and who is not (and will not become) eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (and has until 30 June 2021 to do so).

**Overall Responsibility** means ultimate responsibility and decision making authority for the first team and first team selection. For the avoidance of doubt, Overall Responsibility does not mean sole responsibility for the first team and first team selection. A Manager can have Overall Responsibility even where he or she is advised or assisted by others (for example, assistant managers or assistant first team coaches).

**PBS** means the Home Office Points Based System.

**Prescribed Time** means (a) a cumulative total of at least 36 months or (b) a consecutive total of at least 24 months within the Reference Period.

**Reference Period** means the five year period immediately prior to the date of the application for a GBE.

**Relevant Interested Parties** means a representative of (i) the league in which the Manager works or will work if the application for a GBE is successful, and (ii) the League Managers Association.

**Season** means the period commencing on the date of the first match of the FA Women’s Super League or FA Women’s Championship and ending on the date of the last match of the FA Women’s Super League or FA Women’s Championship.

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

**Stakeholders** means The FA, The FA Women’s Super League, The FA Women’s Championship and The League Managers Association.

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**The FA** means the Football Association.

**Top League** means 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, and the Swedish Damallsvenskan.

### **GOVERNING BODY ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **GBE STATUS**

1. Before a Manager is permitted to undertake any employment duties for the club, the club must have obtained a GBE in respect of the Manager and the Manager must have been assigned a Certificate of Sponsorship by that club and secured leave to remain under Tiers 2 or 5 of the PBS.
2. A club can apply for a GBE for a Manager at any time during the Season. In order to apply for a GBE, a club must hold a valid Sponsor’s Licence under Tier 2 and/or Tier 5 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 FA. If a Club’s Sponsor’s Licence is revoked, any Manager who has obtained a GBE in order to play for the Club may have his or her leave curtailed and may have to make a change in employment application which must be granted before the Manager can undertake any employment duties for the new club.
3. Clubs in the FA Women’s Super League or FA Women’s Championship are eligible for a Sponsor’s Licence. Clubs in other leagues within the women’s football pyramid are not permitted to employ Managers unless:
  - a) The Manager has obtained a visa outside the GBE system which permits them to play football (on such terms as they in fact play); and
  - b) The Manager’s employment by the club complies with the terms and conditions of their visa and any relevant immigration law, including the Immigration Rules (or any successor legislation).
4. If The FA grants an application for a GBE for a Manager in accordance with these criteria, the club is permitted to assign a Certificate of Sponsorship to the Manager 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 Manager, which must be done within three months of a Certificate of Sponsorship being assigned. Any Certificate of Sponsorship and a copy of the Manager’s biometric residence permit must be submitted to The FA by the club within three months of being assigned. Clubs must keep a copy of the relevant page of the Manager’s passport evidencing their entitlement to work and contact details for the Manager, which must be provided to The FA upon request. The club will also have to comply with any other criteria set by the Home Office in order to secure leave to remain under Tier 2 or Tier 5 of the PBS.
5. A GBE under Tier 2 of the PBS will be granted for three years or the length of the Manager’s contract (whichever is shorter) and a GBE under Tier 5 of the PBS will be granted for twelve months or the length of the Manager’s contract (whichever is shorter). A Manager will not be eligible to undertake employment duties for the club beyond the expiry date of the GBE

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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**

6. An Extended GBE under Tier 2 of the PBS can be obtained for three years or the length of the Manager’s contract (whichever is shorter). If a GBE was granted for less than twelve months under Tier 5 of the PBS, an Extended GBE can be obtained to extend the period of the Manager’s GBE to a total of twelve months and the application can be made within the country. If a Club wishes to grant an Extended GBE under Tier 5 of the PBS to extend the period of the Manager’s GBE to over twelve months, the Manager must leave the country before the expiry of the twelve month period and make an application for an Extended GBE under Tier 5 of the PBS.
7. A Manager who has been granted a GBE under Tier 5 of the PBS can apply (in country) to transfer to a GBE under Tier 2 of the PBS, provided that application is made within twelve months of the Tier 5 GBE being granted. The club must submit a new application for a GBE and provide a pass certificate, or other written confirmation containing an appropriate reference number, from an accredited English language test centre that the Manager has passed the English language test required to secure leave to remain under Tier 2 of the PBS (in addition to the documents listed in paragraph 12).
8. A Manager who has been granted a GBE must submit a new application for a GBE if he or she wishes to take up that role with another club. If the GBE is granted, the Manager must submit a change of employment application to the Home Office, which must be granted before the Manager can undertake any employment duties for the new club.
9. Any application for an Extended GBE (in accordance with paragraph 6), a transfer of a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 7) or a new club application for a GBE (in accordance with paragraph 8) shall be considered as follows:
  - a) If the Manager meets the criteria set out in paragraph 16, a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).
  - b) If the Manager does not meet the criteria set out in paragraph 16, the club must submit any information which it considers to be relevant to its application to The FA. The FA will then provide this information to the Relevant Interested Parties by email. The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties shall consider this information, and any other information which they deem to be relevant in their absolute discretion, to determine whether the Manager remains of sufficient quality to be awarded a GBE. The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties shall make a decision by simple majority and if a majority of The FA and the Relevant Interested Parties recommend that the Manager should be awarded a GBE, a new or Extended GBE will be granted (as appropriate).
  - c) The Manager shall not have a new or Extended GBE granted (as appropriate) other than in accordance with paragraphs 9.a) or 9.b) above.
10. If a Manager:
  - a) does not turn up for employment;
  - b) is absent for more than 10 working days without permission;
  - c) has his or her contract terminated during the period that a GBE is effective;
  - d) is no longer sponsored by the club for any other reason; or

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- e) experiences any significant changes in circumstances (such as a change in job title, salary or location of employment),

the club must inform the Home Office within 10 days.

- 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)

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- 12. A club must submit a fully completed application form for a GBE (see Appendix 1) to The FA’s Player Status Department along with any evidence in support of the application.
- 13. The club must also pay an administration fee of £500 plus VAT for each application within 14 days of the date on which the decision is communicated to the club. Each club shall bear its own costs in respect of any application.
- 14. If any information submitted as part of the GBE application process is amended (including the terms and conditions of a Manager’s contract or scope, job description or nature of the role):
  - a) before a GBE has granted and before the Manager has commenced his or her role, the club must inform The FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
  - b) after a GBE has been granted but before the Manager has commenced his or her role, the club must inform The FA who may require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid);
  - c) after a GBE has been granted and after the Manager has commenced his or her role, the club must inform the Home Office via the Sponsorship Management System. The Home Office will confirm whether they require a new application to be submitted (and a new fee to be paid).
- 15. If a new application is required in accordance with paragraphs 14.b) or 14.c), it will be assessed by reference to the criteria set out in this document and the Club must comply with paragraphs 12-13 of these criteria in respect of the new application. The FA may also inform the Home Office who may curtail the Manager’s right to work.

### **CRITERIA**

- 16. A Manager will only be granted a GBE if:
  - a) The Manager will have Overall Responsibility for the first team of the applicant club.
  - b) The Manager holds a UEFA professional licence/diploma or equivalent.
  - c) The applicant club does not have an Existing Manager. Where a club has been issued with a GBE for an Existing Manager, a GBE will not be granted in respect of a new Manager until The FA has received written confirmation that the Existing Manager is no longer working in that capacity for the club.
  - d) The Manager has:
    - i. Managed a club in a Top League for the Prescribed Time; or

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- ii. Managed an international team for the Prescribed Time which had an Aggregated FIFA Women’s World Ranking of 40 or above for the entire Prescribed Time.
17. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraph 16 above, the Club may request that an Exceptions Panel consider the application. If the Club requests an Exceptions Panel, the procedure in paragraph 19 to 26 shall apply.
18. If a Manager is not granted a GBE in accordance with paragraphs 16 or 19 to 26, he or she will have no further opportunity to apply for a GBE and will not be eligible to be the Manager for the applicant club.

### **EXCEPTIONS PANELS**

**Please note that Exceptions Panels will not be available after the Winter (January) Transfer Window in 2021.**

19. If a club requests an Exceptions Panel in accordance with paragraph 17, The FA will appoint an independent panel of three members, which shall include one legally qualified chair and two panel members who have relevant experience at the top level of the game (the “**Panel Members**”).
20. A fee of £5,000 plus VAT will be charged for every Exceptions Panel, which must be paid by the club in accordance with paragraph 17.
21. The club will be notified of the identity of the Panel Members and have the opportunity to challenge the appointment of any Panel Member on the basis of an actual or perceived conflict of interest. Each Panel Member shall also have the opportunity to declare an actual or perceived conflict of interest (of him or herself or any other Panel Member) to the Chair or, if the conflict of interest relates to the Chair, to The FA. The Chair, or The FA respectively, shall then determine whether the Panel Member should be excluded from participating in the application. If the Panel Member is excluded from participating in the application, The FA will appoint a replacement Panel Member (to whom this paragraph shall also apply).
22. The Exceptions Panel can request any further information from the secretariat or the applicant club that it deems necessary, in its absolute discretion, in order to make its decision. If an Exceptions Panel meeting has been convened or is in progress when a request for further information is made, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow the information to be gathered. Where it is able to do so, the applicant club or the secretariat will supply the further information to the Exceptions Panel within a reasonable timescale.
23. The Exceptions Panel shall only recommend to The FA that a GBE be granted if it is satisfied that the Manager is of the highest calibre and is able to contribute significantly to the development of the game at the top level in England. In doing so, the Exceptions Panel will have regard to the following (and any other matters that the Exceptions Panel determine to be relevant in its absolute discretion):
  - a) where the Manager was not previously a first team manager or head coach or an assistant first team manager or head coach, the position held by the Manager;
  - b) the league or leagues in which the Manager has Managed during the Reference Period;

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- c) the participation of the club(s) Managed by the Manager during the Reference Period in competitive continental or world competition during the Manager’s tenure;
  - d) the Aggregated FIFA Women’s World Ranking of any international team or teams that the Manager has Managed during the Reference Period;
  - e) the participation of the international team(s) Managed by the Manager in competitive continental and world competition during the by the Manager’s tenure;
  - f) the reasons why the automatic criteria (as set out at paragraph 16) have not been met.
24. The Exceptions Panel will make its decision, based on the papers submitted to it, at an in-person or virtual meeting at which The FA will provide appropriate secretarial support. Each Panel Member has one vote and the decision will be made by a simple majority, with the chair having a casting vote.
25. If the Exceptions Panel recommends to The FA that a GBE be granted, The FA will consider whether to grant a GBE (but is under no obligation to do so).
26. Written reasons for the decision will be supplied by the Exceptions Panel to the applicant club. An anonymised summary of each decision will be made available (on a confidential basis) to all Stakeholders and Stakeholders may make these summaries available to clubs in the FA Women’s Super League or FA Women’s Championship.

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Appendix 1

Application Form

**POINTS BASED SYSTEM**

**Application for a Governing Body Endorsement  
for a Manager**

Please refer to the criteria for The FA’s Governing Body Endorsement (“**GBE**”) under the Points Based System (the “**Criteria**”) when filling in this application form. Defined terms used in this application form are set out in that document.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Contact details of applicant Club (employer)</b>
Name:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
E-mail:	

<b>2.</b>	<b>Manager details</b>
Title:	
Surname/Family Name:	
First Name:	
Date of birth:	
Age:	
Nationality:	
Passport Number:	



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Government issuing passport:
Has the Manager previously held a Work Permit/Certificate of Sponsorship: If YES: (a) please give details of employer and dates: (b) please confirm whether this is an application for an extension of a GBE:
Manager’s current place of residence:

<b>3. Application details</b>
Tier 2 or Tier 5 of the Home Office Points Based System:
Length of Manager’s contract  From:  To:
Length of GBE sought:

<b>4. Skills and Experience</b>
Please provide evidence to show that the Manager will have Overall Responsibility for the applicant club (including, but not limited to, a job description for the role).

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Please provide evidence that the Manager holds a relevant qualification in accordance with paragraph 16 of the Criteria.

**Management/Coaching History**

Please provide evidence that the Manager has Managed a club in a Top League for the Prescribed Time or Managed an international team for the Prescribed Time which had an Aggregated FIFA Women’s World Ranking of 40 or above for the entire Prescribed Time.

Time Period	Position Held	Club/National Team
<i>(Example)</i> <i>June 2008- August 2009</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>VFL Wolfsburg</i>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Exceptions Panel</b>
Are you requesting that an Exceptions Panel consider the application:	
If so, please provide evidence of any relevant factors in accordance with paragraph 23 of the Criteria:	

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<b>6.</b>	<b>Any other information which you consider relevant to this application</b>
Please also provide evidence to support any information provided in this section.	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Details of Representatives being used by Club (e.g. Solicitors)</b>
Name:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
E-mail:	

<b>6.</b>	<b>Declaration (to be given by an authorised signatory of the applicant club)</b>
<p>The details given in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>The employer named in this application is responsible for the terms and conditions of employment and any requirements for registration or licensing necessary for the employment which is subject to this application.</p> <p>The employer holds a valid sponsor’s licence under Tier 2 and/or Tier 5 of the PBS so as to be eligible to assign Certificates of Sponsorship and is aware of its duties to comply with immigration law, including co-operating, record-keeping and reporting.</p>	

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Signature:

Date:

Name (in CAPITALS please):

Position:

For and on behalf of:

Please submit the application to:

**Player Status Department**

The Football Association

Wembley Stadium

PO Box 1966

London SW1P 9EQ

**Email:** [Registrations@thefa.com](mailto:Registrations@thefa.com)