How to Score Points under the New English Football Immigration Rules

1) Auto Pass

The primary criteria for getting a visa is through international appearances. If a player has played enough games for their country (and their country is ranked highly enough in the FIFA rankings), the player will 'auto pass' which means that no other criteria are relevant.

A player scores points based on the percentage of 'Available International Matches' the player played in. This is the total number of matches played by the Player's National Association in Senior Competitive International Matches during the 24 months prior to the date of application (12 months for players aged U21) minus the number of matches that the Player was unavailable for selection (e.g. injury or suspension)

Auto Pass & Points Accrued for International Appearances					
Aggregated FIFA World Ranking of the Player's National Association at at 1 January 2021*					
Player's International Appearances	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-50	51+
	Bel / Fra / Bra / Eng / Por / Spa / Arg / Uru / Mex / Ita	Cro / Den / Ger / Neth / Col / Swi/ Chi / Wal / Pol / Sen / Swe	USA / Aus / Ukr / Per / Tun / Jap / Ven / Ira / Ser	Alg / Tur / Slo / Par / Mor / Nige / Rom / Kor / Rus / Hun / Austra / Cze / Ire / Nor / NI / Ice / Jam / Sco / Egy / Cam	
90-100%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	2
80-89%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	1
70-79%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	0
60-69%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	0
50-59%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	10	8	0
40-49%	Auto Pass	Auto Pass	9	7	0
30-39%	Auto Pass	10	8	6	0
20-29%	10	9	7	0	0
10-19%	9	8	0	0	0
1-9%	8	7	0	0	0

* This is the rankings list as applied over 24 months. Where a youth player (U21) is involved, the relevant rankings period is 12 months.

2) Collecting 15 points

If they don't qualify through the auto pass route, a player will need to accumulate 15 points from a range of potential routes. They can get up to 10 points from their international appearances (as set out in the table above), and other points can be collected from the following criteria.

2.1 Domestic Appearances

A player scores points based on the percentage of 'Available Domestic Minutes' they played in. The 'Available Domestic Minutes' is the total number of minutes (including added time) played by the player's club in its domestic league competition during the last 12 months, minus the number of minutes the player was unavailable for selection.

If the player has played for multiple clubs during the past year the 'Available Domestic Minutes' should be calculated for the time he was registered to each club. The overall percentage is then taken as an average of his minutes played per club, e.g. player plays 100% at club 1, 50% at club 2, so his overall figure is 75%. The points are taken from the *highest band* played in by the player.

Points Accrued for Domestic Appearances						
Player's Domestic Minutes	**Band 1** Top division of England, Germany, France, Spain, Italy	**Band 2** Top division of Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Turkey —————— 2nd division of England	**Band 3** Top division of Russia, Brasil, Argentina, Mexico, Scotland	**Band 4** Top division of Czech Republic, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, Ukraine, Greece, Colombia, USA —————— 2nd division of Spain, France Germany	**Band 5** Top division of Uruguay, Serbia, Denmark, Chile, Poland, China Slovenia	**Band 6** All leagues not in bands 1-5
90-100%	12	10	8	6	4	2
80-89%	11	9	7	5	3	1
70-79%	10	8	6	4	2	0
60-69%	9	7	5	3	1	0
50-59%	8	6	4	2	0	0
40-49%	7	5	3	1	0	0
30-39%	6	4	2	0	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.2 League Quality of Player's Current Club

A player scores points based on the band of his current club provided (i) he appeared on the match day squad list at least once in its domestic league competition or a continental competition, OR (ii) the value of the player's 'Domestic Cup Minutes' was at least 1% during the last season, i.e. he played in 1% of the club's domestic cup minutes for which he was available. The last season refers to the last completed season before the application.

If a player has been loaned to a club in a lower band than the current (parent) club, but has made a first team appearance on the pitch for his parent club in the last 12 months, he gets the points attributable to the parent club rather than the loan club.

Points Accrued for Quality of League of Player's Current Club						
	Band 1	**Band 2**	**Band 3**	**Band 4**	**Band 5**	**Band 6**
	Top division of England, Germany, France, Spain, Italy	Top division of Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Turkey ——————— 2nd division of England	Top division of Russia, Brasil, Argentina, Mexico, Scotland	Top division of Czech Republic, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, Ukraine, Greece, Colombia, USA ——————— 2nd division of Spain, France Germany	Top division of Uruguay, Serbia, Denmark, Chile, Poland, China Slovenia	All leagues not in bands 1-5
Points	12	10	8	6	4	2

2.3 Final League Position of Player's Last Club

A player scores points based on the final league position of his last club provided (i) he appeared on the match day squad list at least once in its domestic league competition, OR (ii) the value of the player's 'Domestic Cup Minutes' was at least 1% during the last season. The last season refers to the last completed season before the application.

Points Accrued for Final League Position of Player's Last Club						
	Band 1	**Band 2**	**Band 3**	**Band 4**	**Band 5**	**Band 6**
Final Position of Player's Last Club at end of Last Full Season before Application	Top division of England, Germany, France, Spain, Italy	Top division of Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Turkey —————— 2nd division of England	Top division of Russia, Brasil, Argentina, Mexico, Scotland	Top division of Czech Republic, Croatia, Austria, Switzerland, Ukraine, Greece, Colombia, USA —————— 2nd division of Spain, France Germany	Top division of Uruguay, Serbia, Denmark, Chile, Poland, China Slovenia	All leagues not in bands 1-5
Title Winner	6	5	4	3	2	1
Qualified for group stages of UEFA Champions League / Copa Libertadores	5	4	3	2	1	0
Qualified for qualifiers of UEFA Champions League / Copa Libertadores	4	3	2	1	0	0
Qualified for group stages of UEFA Europa League / Copa Sudamerica	3	2	1	0	0	0
Qualified for qualifiers of UEFA Europa League / Copa Sudamerica	2	1	0	0	0	0
Mid Table	1	0	0	0	0	0
Relegation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promotion	N/A	1	1	1	1	1

You can only score once from this table (e.g. you do not score for both winning the league as well as qualifying for continental competition).

2.4 Continental Appearances

A player scores points based on the percentage of 'Available Continental Minutes' they played in. The 'Available Continental Minutes' is the total number of minutes (including added time) played by the player's club in its continental competition during the last 12 months, minus the number of minutes the player was unavailable for selection.

If the player has played for multiple clubs during the past year the 'Available Continental Minutes' should be calculated for the time he was registered to each club. The overall percentage is then taken as an average of his minutes played per club, e.g. player plays 100% at club 1, 50% at club 2, so his overall figure is 75%.

Points Accrued for Continental Appearances			
Player's Continental Minutes	Band 1 UEFA Champions League, Copa Libertadores	Band 2 UEFA Europa League, Copa Sudamerica	Band 3 Any continental competition not in bands 1-2
90-100%	10	5	2
80-89%	9	4	1
70-79%	8	3	0
60-69%	7	2	0
50-59%	6	1	0
40-49%	5	0	0
30-39%	4	0	0
20-29%	0	0	0
10-19%	0	0	0
1-9%	0	0	0

2.5 Continental Progression of Player's Last Club

A player scores points based on Continental Progressions of their last club, provided: (i) he appeared on the match day squad list at least once in its domestic league competition or a Continental Competition, OR (ii) the value of the player's 'Domestic Cup Minutes' was at least 1% during the last season. The last season refers to the last completed season before the application.

Points Accrued for Continental Progression of Player's Last Club			
Player's Continental Progression	Band 1 UEFA Champions League, Copa Libertadores	Band 2 UEFA Europa League, Copa Sudamerica	Band 3 Any continental competition not in bands 1-2
Final	10	7	2
Semi - Finals	9	6	1
Quarter Finals	8	5	0
Round of 16	7	4	0
Round of 32	6	3	0
Group Stage	5	2	0
Other	0	0	0

3. Youth Players

Where the transfer involves a player aged under 21 at the time of the application, and the player does not meet the criteria above for senior players, there is a range of additional criteria that can be used. We have not set it out in this document but we are happy to discuss it with you if you are or represent a player whom this may affect.

In summary, a youth player scores points for:
- youth international appearances;
- making a senior debut for his club in domestic league competition in the last 12 months;
- the final league position of the player's last club;
- the Continental progression of the player's last club;
- the league quality of the player's last club.

A separate note on youth players will be available in due course.

Final Remarks

This note should only be used as a guide - do not place reliance upon the information set out herein without first checking with us as to how it would apply in relation to any particular player. Alternatively, consult the FA or seek out the latest information on www.thefa.com. There are many factors that could apply to alter the number of points a player could accumulate as against the details set out above.

Please contact us directly if you need more information. We would be happy to talk through tricky scenarios and we can assist in English, Spanish, Italian and Chinese.

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