INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES WANTING TO COMPETE AT AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As an international athlete, the following procedures must be followed by ALL athletes before entering Australia.

1. Register for the event

2. LOC will then provide letter confirming entry in the championships.

3. Athlete applies for appropriate visa as advised by Home Affairs

4. LOC complete Home Affairs form

5. Wait for Home Affairs to process visa - this can take a number of weeks so best to start the process as soon as possible.

Based on the information provided, please find the following information regarding visa options for event participants below.

Visa options:

For visa purposes, athletes, coaches, judges, officials, and support people are considered to be amateur if they:

- are competing, training, or participating without remuneration (or not receiving prize money that is equivalent to a salary or income); and/or
- do not derive an income from their activity or where the activity is not the person's usual occupation

An amateur sports person or team participating in an amateur sporting event or series of events may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

- **Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist stream visa**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas

- **Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601)**. For eligible passport holders and more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601

- **eVisitor (subclass 651) Tourist Stream visa**. For eligible passport holders and more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651

NB: Eligibility for an eVisitor visa and ETA will be determined by the country of passport that the applicant holds.

NB: Visa applicants claiming to be an amateur athlete or competitor will be required to provide evidence or supporting documents with their visa application. This may include evidence of their primary source of employment or income, such as a letter from their employer stating their occupation, how long they have been employed, and that they have been given a leave of absence. Students may provide a letter from their educational institution or provider.

NB: Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist visa applicants should include as much information as possible to support their visa applications (see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas#HowTo). In addition, visa applicants should include the following information:

- evidence of any international travel outside of their own country (for example, copies of visas and passport pages containing entry and departure stamps)
- information and evidence of attendance at similar events of this type/nature.

Support persons, including a coach, manager, medical professional, official, or referee, ***who are supporting an amateur sports person or team on a genuine unpaid volunteer basis*** may be eligible for the following visa options:

- **Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist stream visa**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas

- **Electronic Travel Authority – ETA (subclass 601)**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601

- **eVisitor (subclass 651) Tourist stream visa**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651

Please note: Support persons claiming to be supporting an amateur sports person or team on a genuine unpaid volunteer basis will be required to provide evidence or supporting documents with their visa application. This may include a signed letter or statement from the sports federation or team management stating this.

Participation at an event by a coach, manager, medical professional, official, or referee, ***where the activity is the person's usual occupation*** may be eligible to apply for the following visa options:

- **Temporary Work (subclass 400) Short Stay Specialist visa**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-work-400

- **Temporary Activity (subclass 408) Invited participant visa**. For more information see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-activity-408/invited-for-other-social-and-cultural-activity

Please note that the letter of support from an Australian organisation is a legislative requirement for the ***Temporary Activity (subclass 408) Invited participant visa.***

NB: These are the visa options available presently but the Department reserves the right to change regulations. IECN assistance will NOT guarantee a visa grant. Visa applicants must demonstrate that they meet all the legislative requirements for an Australian visa.

Biometrics:

Visa applicants outside of Australia will need to provide biometrics when they apply for a visa that is part of the Australian biometrics program, or where they are from a country, or located in a country at time of application that is part of the Australian biometrics program.

For information regarding Australia's biometric program including visas and countries that are part of the program, please see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/biometrics

Health and Character Requirements:

Most visa applicants must meet minimum health standards before they can be granted a visa, and the department may assess your health as part of the visa application process. This is referred to as 'meeting the health requirement'. For more information regarding health requirements please see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health

Applicants must be of good character to visa Australia, and must meet the character requirements in order to be granted a visa. For further information regarding character requirements please see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character

Visa Application Process and Processing Times:

Visa applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances including:

- whether the applicant has lodged a complete application, including all necessary supporting documents and paid associated visa application charges
- how promptly the applicant responds to any requests for additional information
- how long it takes to perform required checks on the supporting information provided
- how long it takes to receive information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements
- when the application is lodged taking the current global visa processing times into account

Processing times are impacted each month by cases that are complex, changes to volume of applications and changes to Ministerial Directions. More information about visa processing times please see: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/overview. For this reason, we would advise that visa applications be lodged at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to a person's intended date of travel.

To assist timely processing by Australia's visa offices overseas, you can complete the attached bio-data collection sheet as event participants are invited to your event and email it to: iecn@homeaffairs.gov.au

The bio-data collection sheet has been designed to ensure you capture all the information we need to identify your event participants and their visa applications from the numerous other applications being lodged with the department at any given time. At minimum, the participant list will need to include each international delegate's full name, date of birth or passport number, and country of residence.

NB: In accordance with Australia's Privacy Act 1988, any information an event organiser or participant provides to the IECN will only be used to facilitate visa processing with the relevant Australian visa office overseas.

Travellers should familiarise themselves with Australia's border and entry requirements. For further information, see 'Entering and leaving Australia' at: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-australia