Special regulations for professional athletes

Are you an athlete looking to compete professionally in Germany? Find out here which visa regulations apply to you.

The German labour market is also open to professional athletes from abroad. To find out if you need a **visa** to enter or a **residence permit** to stay in Germany, see the "**How do I apply for a visa?**" section.

You want to work as a professional athlete

When are you considered a professional athlete?

You are considered a professional athlete if you receive more than an expense allowance for your activities.

To obtain a visa to take up employment as an athlete or coach, you must meet the following conditions:

- You must be at least 16 years of age;
- You must work at a German sports club or similar sporting institution. This institution must participate in competitive sport;
- The sports club or institution must pay you an annual **gross salary** of at least **€50,700** (as of 2026);
- The national governing body of the sport, in agreement with the German Olympic Sports Confederation, has confirmed your eligibility as a professional athlete or your competence as a coach.

Information on the web

Federal Employment Agency (BA)

Information regarding the access to the German labour market

Guidelines regarding the employment of foreign employees in Germany

Information and advice on finding a job

Print page

URL: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/other/athletes-coaches
Date: 2026-08-13 23:02:53 GMT