



Special regulations for professional athletes

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

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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 "[Do I need 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](#)



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