



# ARDF Championships 2011

## Visa information

The information relating to visa options contained in this fact sheet is current as at 05 April 2011. Australian law may change after this time resulting in a change in visa options.

The appropriate visa will depend, amongst other things, on the person's purpose for visiting.

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia (other than New Zealand passport holders, who will normally be issued a Special Category visa on arrival, provided they meet health and character requirements; and permanent residents of Norfolk Island who may be granted a Permanent Resident of Norfolk Island visa on arrival).

## Visa options

The passport which you hold determines whether you can apply online, or if you need to lodge a paper-based application. The following information will help you identify the right visa and application process applicable to you.

Your role at the event will also help determine which visa type is the most suitable between Tourist and Business visas.

1. **Tourist visas** - are the most appropriate option for amateur competitors, volunteer support staff such as coaches, sports co-ordinators, score bench officials, team officials, referees and time keepers. Attendees/spectators/family members should also apply for this visa type.

2. **Business visas** - are the most appropriate option for professional competitors, support staff and persons attending in the course of their profession.

## Tourist visa

Depending on the country of passport, the following Tourist visa options are available .

### eVisitor

Passport holders from eVisitor eligible countries are able to apply individually online for authorisation to travel to and enter Australia. You will need to select between the business and tourist stream, based on your role at the event.

#### eVisitor eligible countries

Andorra *	France *	Lithuania	Republic of San Marino *
Austria *	Germany *	Luxembourg *	Slovak Republic
Belgium *	Greece *	Malta *	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Monaco *	Spain *
Cyprus	Iceland *	The Netherlands *	Sweden *
Czech Republic	Ireland *	Norway *	Switzerland *
Denmark *	Italy *	Poland	United Kingdom – British Citizen *
Estonia	Latvia	Portugal *	Vatican city
Finland *	Liechtenstein *	Romania	

\* Eligible passport holders also have the option of applying for an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) through their travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office outside Australia. Note, travel agencies may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

Further information can be found at <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisitor/>

Applications can be made at [http://www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visas/evisitor.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visas/evisitor.htm)

A separate online eVisitor (Tourist stream) application is required for each family member who holds a passport from an EU eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia, including children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport. Applications for eVisitor visas are free.

## Electronic Travel Authority (ETA)

Passport holders from ETA eligible countries are also able to apply for a visa online to travel to and enter Australia. You will need to select between a business or tourist ETA, based on your role at the event as follows:

- Tourist role - ETA (Visitor) (Subclass 976)
- Business role - ETA (Business Entrant) (Subclass 977)

There is no visa application charge for this visa but a service fee of \$AUD20 is charged for online applications and travel agencies may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

### ETA eligible countries

Brunei	Singapore
Canada	South Korea
Hong Kong (SAR) *	Taiwan **
Japan	United States of America
Malaysia	

\* A Hong Kong Document of Identity (HKDI) cannot be used to apply for an ETA. Residents of Hong Kong require a citizen passport to apply for this visa.

\*\* Holders of Taiwanese passports can only be processed for an ETA if residing and applying in Taiwan. Applications can be lodged with an approved ETA travel agent in Taiwan, or Australian visa services office in Taipei.

Further information can be found at [http://www.immi.gov.au/e\\_visas/eta.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visas/eta.htm)

Applications can be made at <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/>

Each family member who holds a passport from an ETA eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia must complete a separate online ETA application form. This includes children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

### Tourist (Subclass 676) visa

All other passport holders need to submit a **paper-based** application Form 48R for a Tourist (Subclass 676) visa and lodge at an Australian office overseas.

- For application Form 48R *Application to visit Australia for tourism or other recreational activities* see <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/48r.pdf>
- To obtain the application documentation checklist for Form 48R see <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/pdf/676-visa-checklist.pdf>
- To lodge your application at the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence see <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

For more information on this visa, please see: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/676/index.htm>

## Date for lodging paper based applications

All visitors should apply for a visa as soon as possible in order to allow time for the application to be processed in time.

## Business visa

- Depending on the country of passport, the Business visa options are.

Information about eVisitor and ETA is provided above. For eVisitor, you need to select the business stream. For ETA, you will need to apply for a Business (Subclass 977) ETA.

While holders of eligible passports may apply for electronic Short Stay Business Visitor visas (Subclasses 651, 977 and 956), the department recommends that persons intending on working in Australia apply for a Subclass 456 visa. This enables the proposed activities of the applicant to be assessed and minimises the chance of being delayed or turned-around at the airport.

### Business (Short Stay) (Subclass 456) visa

- For Form 456 *Application for a Business (Short Stay) visa* see <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/456.pdf>
- To obtain the application documentation checklist for Form 456 see [http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/\\_pdf/456-checklist.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/_pdf/456-checklist.pdf)
- To lodge your application at the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence see <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

More information on this visa is available at [www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/](http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/)

## Things to consider before lodging an application

### Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

### Health requirements

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks.

The department will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances.

Information on which health checks may apply to you is available at [www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1163i.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1163i.pdf)

If you have a significant health condition and you are concerned that you may not meet the health requirement for an Australian visa, please apply for your visa as soon as possible.

### Character requirements

As part of the visa application process, you must show that you are of good character to pass Australia's character test. Information on the character test is available at [www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm)

If you are unsure whether you can pass Australia's character test because of prior criminal convictions, you should lodge a paper-based application at the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least four months prior to the event start date.

Contact information for Australian visa offices is available at [www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm)

### **Travel sanctions**

Nationals of countries subject to travel sanctions may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. For information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please see the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website at [www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc\\_sanctions/index.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc_sanctions/index.html)

### **Biometrics Program**

From December 2010, Biometrics will need to be collected at an Australian Visa Application Centre for visitors lodging a paper-based visa application from the countries listed at the department's website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/offshore/countries.htm>

## **Obligations of visa holders**

On arrival at Australia's border you must identify yourself, present your travel documents, and complete an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC). The IPC requires visitors to declare their health status and any prior criminal convictions.

If you do not meet immigration clearance requirements, you may be refused entry to Australia.

More information on immigration clearance processes at Australia's borders is available at [www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm)

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. For paper-based applications, this information is available either on your visa label or in the letter informing you that you have been granted a visa. For online applications, it is available on the letter or email confirming the grant of your visa.

If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled.

If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you become an unlawful non-citizen. Unlawful non-citizens are liable to be detained and removed from Australia.

## **Need help?**

General information on applying for visas is available at [www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1025i.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1025i.pdf)