



The World Games 2022 Birmingham Organizing Committee

Visa and Entry Handbook for National and International Federations



The World Games
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA



THE
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GAMES

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IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL UPDATE

Effective November 8, 2021, all foreign nationals flying to the United States must be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination before boarding a plane. [Click here](#) for a list of accepted vaccinations as of October 24, 2021

Do I require a visa to travel to the United States?

To determine if you require a visa to travel to the United States, please review the instructions below or visit the U.S. Department of State's [Visa Wizard](#).

A visa will be required of all visitors to enter or transit through the United States with the exception of nationals of Canada, Bermuda and countries that are part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Currently 39 countries participate in the VWP: Refer to Visa Waiver Program ([state.gov](#)) for the most up to date list of countries that participate in the Visa Waiver Program.

Andorra	France	Liechtenstein	San Marino
Australia	Germany	Lithuania	Singapore
Austria	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Belgium	Hungary	Malta	Slovenia
Brunei	Iceland	Monaco	Spain
Chile	Ireland	Netherlands	Sweden
Czech Republic	Italy	New Zealand	Switzerland
Denmark	Japan	Norway	Taiwan
Estonia	Korea, Republic of	Poland	United Kingdom*
Finland	Latvia	Portugal	Croatia

**To be eligible to travel under the VWP, British citizens must have the unrestricted right of permanent abode in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Also of note: The countries of Curacao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Maarten (of the former Netherland Antilles) are not eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program if they are applying for admission with the passports from these countries.*

Travelers from these countries who are eligible to travel visa free will need Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to travel. Travelers should check ESTA status well ahead of traveling, and those who are applying for ESTA for the first time should apply early, but not later than 72 hours prior to traveling.

If you require a visa to travel to the United States, please refer to **Section A**.

For additional information on the Visa Waiver Program, please refer to **Section B**.



SECTION A: I REQUIRE A VISA TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

Application Process

When should I initiate the application process?

Apply early! Although the majority of applications are processed and ready to pick up within a few business days, some applications will require administrative processing. It is recommended that you apply several months before you plan to travel.

Please note that consular operations have been greatly impacted by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and in some cases, visa applicants may be required to apply outside of their respective country. For questions related to visa operations at a U.S. embassy or consulate, please visit www.usembassy.gov or email travel@twg2022.com.

Visa applicants can apply at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For countries that do not have a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, please apply at a post of your choosing and contact The World Games to notify us of your interview location so that we may better assist you.

The wait times for interview appointments by consular post are available at the [Department of State travel site](#).

How do I apply for a visa?

- Complete the online Nonimmigrant Visa Application Form [DS-160](#).
- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. Your photo must be in the format explained in the [photograph requirements](#).
- Pay the required visa application fee, if required to do so prior to the date of your interview. For additional information on fees, please visit: [U.S. Visa Reciprocity](#). For country-specific information, please visit the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate website](#).
- Print the DS-160 barcode page and bring with you to your interview appointment.
- Schedule an interview appointment. Appointments should be scheduled as soon as possible. For instructions and information, please consult [U.S. Visa info](#). Please note, interview appointments must be scheduled by the applicant, they are not assigned by the Embassy/Consulate.

Note: Filling out the application form is free and easy. You do not need the assistance of a travel agent or visa facilitator.

*If there are no interview appointments available prior to the date of the meeting or event, please confirm the earliest appointment available and notify travel@twg2022.com immediately. By confirming the earliest appointment available, the applicant is considered to be entered into the U.S. Department of State network.

Expansion of Interview Waiver Eligibility

On March 11, 2021 Secretary Blinken, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, has temporarily expanded the ability of consular officers to waive the in-person interview requirement for individuals applying for a nonimmigrant visa in the same classification. Previously, only those applicants whose nonimmigrant visa expired within 24 months were eligible for an interview waiver. The Secretary has temporarily extended the expiration period to 48 months. This policy is in effect until December 31, 2022. This change will allow consular officers

to continue processing certain nonimmigrant visa applications while limiting the number of applicants who must appear at a consular section, thereby reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission to other applicants and consular staff. Travelers are encouraged to review the website of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for detailed information on what services are currently available as well as eligibility information and instructions on applying for a visa without an interview.

Do all nonimmigrant visa applicants have to come to the Embassy for an interview?

Yes, for most applicants. The following applicants generally do not have to appear in person:

- Applicants for A1, A2 (official travelers on central government business), C2, C3 (central government officials in transit on central government business) or G1, G2, G3, G4 (central government officials traveling in connection with an international organization, or employees of an international organization).
- Children under 14 years of age at the date of the initial visa interview in the Embassy or Consulate if either of the parents have a valid nonimmigrant visa.
- Applicants older than 79.

Source: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/sk/sk-niv-visarenew.asp>.

I have a nonimmigrant visa that will expire soon and I would like to renew it. Do I need to go through the entire visa application process again?

Yes.

Preparing for Your Interview

How should I prepare for my interview appointment?

Gather and prepare the following required documents before your visa interview:

- Ensure your passport is valid for travel to the United States. Many passports must be valid for at least six (6) months after your planned departure from the United States unless exempted by [country specific agreements](#).
- Print your application fee payment receipt, if you are required to pay before your interview.
- Print the DS-160 barcode page and bring with you to your interview appointment.
- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160. If the photo upload fails, the applicant must bring one printed photo to your interview. Your photo must be in the format explained in the [photograph requirements](#).
- Additional documentation may be required: Review the instructions for how to apply for a visa on the website of the [U.S. Embassy or Consulate](#) where you will apply. Additional documents may be requested to establish if you are qualified. It is recommended that you bring these documents in the case that they are requested. For example, additional requested documents may include evidence of:
 - o The purpose of your trip.
 - o Your intent to depart the United States after your trip.
 - o You may be asked to provide information about your current and previous education, work or sport.
 - o Your employment and/or your family ties may be sufficient to show the purpose of your trip and your intent to return to your home country. If you cannot cover all the costs for your trip, you may show evidence that another person will cover some or all costs for your trip.

Please be prepared for a short interview. Ensure that your answers are clear and concise.

Please obtain a new passport before your interview if:

- Your passport expires in less than six (6) months after the time you enter the U.S. Unless exempted by [country specific agreements](#).
- The film on the biographic data pages of your passport (i.e. page with your photo is peeling, or
- Your passport is otherwise torn, damaged, mutilated or has been washed or laundered.
- Your passport has no more blank pages

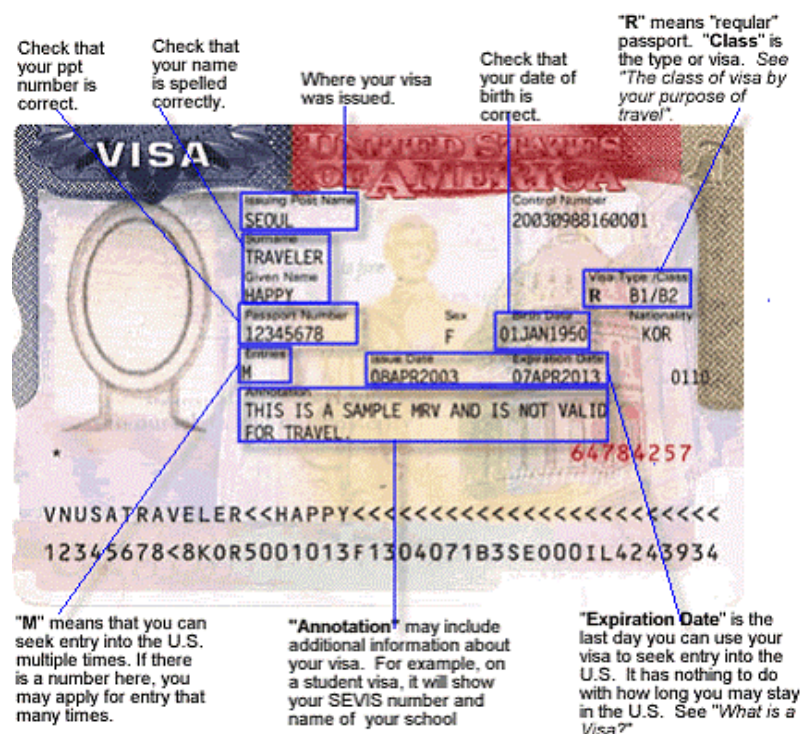
However, official letters of invitation are strongly recommended and The World Games or National Federation will provide letters to official delegates upon request.

During your visa interview, a consular officer will determine whether you are qualified to receive a visa. You will need to establish that you meet the requirements under U.S. law to receive the category of visa for which you are applying. Ink-free, digital fingerprint scans will be taken as part of your application process. Fingerprints are usually taken during your interview, but this varies based on location.

After your visa interview, your application may require further administrative processing. You will be informed by the consular officer if further processing is necessary for your application. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary based on the individual circumstances of each case. Visa applicants are reminded to apply early for their visa – well in advance of the anticipated travel date. Please notify travel@twg2022.com if your application requires administrative processing.

When the visa is approved, you may pay a visa issuance fee if applicable to your nationality, and will be informed how your passport with visa will be returned to you and approximately when your passport with visa will generally be ready for pick-up or delivery by the courier.

As soon as you receive your visa, please check to make sure all your personal information printed on the visa is correct. If any of the information on your visa does not match the information in your passport or is otherwise incorrect, please contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate (issuing authority) immediately as well as notify the USOPC.



My visa was printed incorrectly. What do I do?

If you think your visa was printed incorrectly, please email travel@twg2022.com and explain why you think there is an error.

My visa will expire while I am in the United States. Will this be an issue for me?

No. You may stay in the U.S. for the period of time and conditions authorized by the Department of Homeland Security officer when you arrived in the U.S., which will be noted on the I-94, even if your visa expires during your stay. Further information about understanding your visa can be found by visiting [visa FAQs](#).

What if my request for a visa is refused?

The consular officer has the sole authority to issue or refuse a visa in accordance with regulations that have been established by Congress. The consular officer's decision cannot be overruled. There is no formal appeal process for a visa refusal. Applicants may reapply.

If your visa is refused, please contact travel@twg2022.com immediately with the reason for refusal. It is possible that with additional information the refusal may be reconsidered and apply with a new application.

Entering the United States**What will happen when I enter the United States?**

Upon granting entry to the United States at the port of entry, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer will stamp the travel document of each arriving traveler. The admission stamp will show the date of admission, class of admission and the duration of admission. Upon arrival, travelers will also receive a flier alerting them to visit cbp.gov/194 for their admission record information. This online record replaces the paper I-94 form. WWP travelers receive Form I-94W. On this form, the officer records either a date or "D/S" (duration of status). If your I-94 records a specific date, then that is the date by which you must leave the United States. In either case, WWP travelers are not permitted to remain in the United States more than 90 days.

A visa does not guarantee entry into the United States, but allows a foreign citizen coming from abroad to travel to a U.S. port of entry and present themselves for admission to enter the United States. The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials have authority to permit or deny admission to the United States, and determine how long a traveler may stay.



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If an ESTA application is refused and the traveler wishes to continue with the trip, the traveler will be required to apply for a nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Can I apply for ESTA without specific U.S. travel plans?

Yes. VWP travelers are not required to have specific plans to travel to the United States before they apply for ESTA. If a traveler's destination address in the U.S. is unknown at the time of application, the traveler should enter the name of the hotel or approximate location he or she intends to visit. Travelers may update this information when their plans are finalized, but they will not be required to update their destination addresses or itineraries should they change after their ESTA has been approved. The Department of Homeland Security recommends that ESTA applications are submitted as early as possible, as soon as, or even before travel is planned. ESTA will accept applications from last-minute and emergency travelers.

Traveling Under the Visa Waiver Program**Am I eligible for ESTA if I am traveling on a private aircraft?**

No. If you are otherwise eligible to travel on an ESTA but are traveling on a non-U.S. corporation private aircraft you will require a visa.

If I travel to the United States without ESTA, what happens?

VWP travelers who have not obtained approval through ESTA should expect to be denied boarding on any air carrier bound for the United States. If you are allowed to board, you can expect to encounter significant delays and possible denial of admission at the U.S. port of entry (i.e. arrival airport). ESTA registration usually only takes a few minutes to complete; authorization can take up to 72 hours. The ESTA is valid for two years, unless the traveler's passport expires within that two-year period. In those cases, ESTA validity is limited to the passport's validity.

Do I need to apply for ESTA if I am in Canada or Mexico and want to drive to the United States?

If you are a citizen of a country that participates in the VWP and you enter the U.S. by land from Mexico or Canada, you are only required to complete the paper I-94W form at the land-border crossing. ESTA is currently required for air and cruise ship travel only.

Note: VWP citizens do not need an ESTA to travel on the ferries between Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia and Washington state. They are treated as a land-border port.

Appendix 1: Sample Invitation Letter DS-160

SAMPLE -- ON HOST NGB/LOC LETTERHEAD

August 12, 2021

Mr. Peter John Hartshorne, President
Australia Softball Federation
Level 2, La Trobe Sports Stadium La Trobe University
Melbourne Campus (Bundoora) VIC 3086

Dear President Hartshorne:

The World Games 2022 hereby extends an invitation to the following delegation members of the [Country] [Sport] Federation to participate in The World Games 2022 to be held on July 05 – July 18, 2022 in Birmingham, AL USA at the various venues throughout Birmingham, AL and Jefferson County.

The World Games 2022 is an international, multi-sporting event recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which features 34 sporting events and competitors from 104 countries. Delegation members will be staying at one of the host Universities (Student Housing) listed below:

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
1001 14th Street S
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205) 996-0400

Birmingham Southern College (BSC)
900 Arkadelphia Road
Birmingham, AL 35254
(205) 226-4717

Your assistance in granting the necessary visa will be greatly appreciated. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Birmingham Organizing Committee (BOC) at travel@twg2022.com.

For Birmingham Organizing Committee The World Games 2022 Local Organizing Committee for the International World Games in the United States.

Sincerely,

Nick Sellers
CEO, The World Games 2022

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USOPC CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE REFERENCES

The World Games Organizing Committee email: travel@twg2022.com

Visa Wizard: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wizard.html>

Visa Wait & Processing Times: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html>

DS-160 Form: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>

Photograph Requirements: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/photos.html>

Interview Waiver Eligibility: <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/sk/sk-niv-visarenew.asp>

U.S. Embassies & Consulates: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

Country-Specific Agreements (Six-month Validity): <https://fam.state.gov/searchapps/viewer?format=html&iquery=d&links=D&url=/FAM/09FAM/09FAM040309.html>

Visa FAQs: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/frequently-asked-questions/about-basics.html>

Arrival/Departure Forms: I-94 and I-94W: <http://www.cbp.gov/I94>

ESTA: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

Contacts:

The World Games 2022 Birmingham

Organizing Committee Attention:

Allan Judah

Tel: 806.548.4181

Email: travel@twg2022.com



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