

# DON'T TAKE A SPORTING CHANCE!

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**Whether you are a sports fan or actually taking part, probably the last thing on your mind when booking your sports travel arrangements is that your travel firm might go out of business and leave you either stranded abroad or without your trip and out of pocket.**

Sadly travel firms do sometimes go bust and this has in the past affected both fans and sports clubs. With an array of travel association logos in brochures and websites, it can be difficult to know who would look after you if the travel firm organising your trip went out of business.

ATOL, which is part of the Civil Aviation Authority, is a government backed financial protection scheme which for over 30 years has provided financial protection for flights and air holidays sold by tour operators. It currently covers over 28 million people each year. From the moment you make payment, ATOL protects your money against the insolvency of over 1,900 of the UK's travel

organisers. If an ATOL holder stops trading before you travel, we'll refund your money and, if you're on your trip, we'll look after you and bring you and your group home as planned. No worry, no expense.

To check you're ATOL protected, just look for the ATOL Protected logo in brochures and on websites. If a travel firm offering air packages hasn't got one, don't book. You may be putting your money at risk.



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**MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO WITHOUT**

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There are ATOL tour operators that specialise in sports trips who can put together packages to suit all needs. What's more, all elements of an ATOL Protected package are covered, and if there's a problem with any of the suppliers involved in your trip the tour organiser must sort it out. Why take a risk?

**Does ATOL protect flight only bookings too?** - If you book and pay a deposit for a flight with a travel organiser or travel agent, your invoice is your proof of booking with the ATOL tour operator. If you get an ATOL invoice or receipt your money is protected. If you pay in full and receive your airline tickets straight away, the airline is responsible for your flights.

**But what if the airline goes out of business?** - If a scheduled airline goes out of business you're protected only if the seat is bought from an ATOL holder or as part of an ATOL package. If you receive tickets straight away, or you book direct with an airline, you may not be protected unless you take out a specific insurance or you pay by credit card, where you may be covered by the Consumer Credit Act. When booking direct with an airline, including the so-called 'no-frills' carriers, you are not ATOL protected.

**What if I book independently with different suppliers?** - If you book each element of your arrangements direct with different suppliers - airlines, accommodation and car hire firms etc - these won't be ATOL protected. If one of the suppliers fails, you could find yourself having to make other arrangements at extra cost.

### ATOL BOOKING CHECKLIST

To help you further, we've put together a checklist for clubs and organisers so that you can be sure that your next trip is fully protected.

#### Sports Club Tour Check List - Booking direct



- Does our trip include flights?
- Does the tour operator or organiser hold an ATOL?
- Does the ATOL number check out at [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk)?
- Have we received an ATOL confirmation?

#### Sports Club Tour Check List - Booking via travel agent \*



- Has the agent told us which ATOL tour operator you're booked with?
- Does the ATOL number check out at [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk)?
- Have we received an ATOL receipt from the agent?
- Have we received an ATOL confirmation from the travel organiser?

\* If you're booking through a travel agent, they must tell you which ATOL holder they have booked you with and provide you with a ATOL receipt which includes this information. They must also provide you with a copy of the ATOL holder's confirmation invoice. If your travel agent goes out of business the ATOL holder is still responsible for your booking

