

Sports Law Course

Sport is a growing sector globally, and there are many opportunities for employment within the industry of sport both in Australia and internationally. Given the commercial, commoditized and global nature of sport, the need for effective governance and understanding of legal aspects of sport is essential for a range of stakeholders including legal practitioners, sports administrators, athletes, sports consumers, sponsors and government.

Sports Law Defined

Sports law is the body of legal and ethical issues relating to both amateur and professional sports. Sports law overlaps substantially with labor law, contract law, competition law, trademark law, criminal law, constitutional law and tort law. The area of law was established as a separate and important entity only a few decades ago, and today is one of the fastest growing legal fields.

Course Description

This course provides an extensive overview of legal principles and ethical issues in professional sports. The course will focus on the legal and commercial principles involved in the conduct, commercialization, and regulation of sports and will draw on practitioner and case study perspectives to illustrate the operation of the law and business of sport in a global context. Topics include a background to the regulatory and governance systems pertaining to sport, locally, in India and internationally; athlete misconduct and disciplinary process; sponsorship and ambushing; corruption in sport; doping in sport; torts law in sport; intellectual property in sport; discrimination in sport and esports.

Course Aims

Students will learn the basic principles involved in the legal regulation and governance of sports. Students will learn about the major governing bodies of sports both in Australia, India and internationally, and will become familiar with some of the important current issues in sports law (corruption in sports leagues, doping, torts, contracting athletes and sponsorship rights). Students will improve their skills in risk management, governance, negotiation, commercial operation and client representation. Guest speakers who are practicing sports lawyers, sports administrators and law enforcers will visit the class to give students first-hand case studies and lead discussion.

Readings will consist primarily of recent newspaper articles, journal articles, case studies and excerpts from textbooks on sports law.

Module List (3 hours per topic)

- Session 1: Introduction to sports law; Structure, ownership and regulatory system of sport
- Session 2: Player grievances and arbitration
- Session 3: Torts Law in sport
- Session 4: Doping in Sport
- Session 5: Corruption in Sport: Organised crime, match fixing and gambling
- Session 6: Athlete/ Agent relationship and player contracting; celebrity endorsement and scandal
- Session 7: Sponsorship and Ambushing
- Session 8: Discrimination in sport
- Session 9: branding and intellectual property
- Session 10: Esports

Delivery will be 30 hours in total, delivered intensively over 12 days over a two week period, and incorporate guest speakers, case study teaching, readings and applied challenges in class. Students will also be immersed in various sports law organization visits, networking events, and cultural experiences while studying in India.

Course Materials

Readings and case study list

No required text, but recommended text reading