

Syllabus for Sports Law
Fall 2008
Professor Andrew Brandt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the core substantive areas of law relevant to the business of sports, as well as the practical application and impact of such laws. The course focuses primarily on professional sports. Naturally, my experiences and real-life stories will be a part of the learning process, although not the focus of the class.

We will begin each class with discussion of current events in the sports business and legal realm; these discussions are integral to real-world deliberations of these topics.

Through classroom lectures, interactive discussions and presentations, students will gain an understanding of the creation and regulation of professional athletics, antitrust, agency law, organizational structures of leagues and associations, and labor relations. In-class problem solving will be utilized extensively to expose students to the application of the law to particular situations. Participation in class discussions/in class exercises is strongly encouraged and will be weighted in the final grades.

I do not anticipate that any modifications will be necessary, although it is possible that I may have to cancel a class during the semester due to work obligations or travel difficulties. If this is the case, I will try to notify you as soon as possible in advance of the class, and we may need to arrange to re-schedule class at a convenient time. I have also allowed time to be given to guest speakers to be determined by availability and timing of the course. Thus, the syllabus will necessarily be flexible.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS

Weiler and Roberts, *Sports and the Law* (3rd Ed.)

Supplement for Weiler and Roberts, *Sports and the Law* (3rd Ed.)

Additional cases and materials as assigned

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

Regular reading of *The National Football Post* is suggested ☺ Also, newspapers and magazines pertinent to the sports industry are strongly suggested, especially the *Sports Business Journal* and the *Sports Business Daily*. Other important sports publications are *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News*, and *the USA Today*. ESPN's *SportsCenter* and E:60 and HBO's *Real Sports* are all recommended media sources as well. Helpful websites beyond nationalfootballpost.com are *SportsBiz with Darren Rovell*, *Sports law blog*, the *HuffingtonPost*, etc.

COURSE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Class sessions will follow a lecture/discussion format. I will be calling on students and will start discussions, as will experiential exercises, videos, and case studies.

PARTICIPATION:

Class participation can result in a half grade upward or downward departure (i.e. an A- to an A, or a B+ to a B). Students are expected to be prepared for every class. Attendance is not participation! The quality of participation, as reflected in careful reading and thorough analysis of the assigned materials, is important. It is also important to build upon other students' comments. This requires attentive listening. Class participation will be judged on the basis of quality and consistency upon a weekly basis. Students are encouraged to discuss the adequacy of their participation with the professor.

EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

There will be a final exam for your full grade; subject to participation above.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR:

The schedule below is a tentative one and is subject to change. Any changes will be announced to class members.

Weeks One and Two**Moral Integrity of the Sport: Role of the Commissioner and the Law**

Pp. 5-100, Supplement pp. 57-65; supplemental materials

Weeks Three and Four**Contract Law and the Baseball Antitrust Exemption**

Pp. 101-174, Supplement pp. 130-149; supplemental materials

Weeks Five, Six and Seven**From Antitrust to Labor Law; The Labor Exemption**

Pp. 175-262, supplemental materials, negotiation exercise

Weeks Eight and Nine**Labor Law & Collective Bargaining**

Pp. 262-361, Supplement pp.5-12, 84-129; supplemental materials, negotiation exercises.

Weeks Nine and Ten**Agent Representation of the Athlete**

Pp. 362-430, Supplement pp.150-168; supplemental materials, negotiation exercise

Weeks Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen**Franchise, League & Community; Torts and Sports; Miscellaneous Topics**

Pp. 539-561; 574-587; 616-624, 1083-1106, supplemental materials

