

The Wharton School – University of Pennsylvania
Sports Law (228-001)
Fall 2017

Syllabus

Professor Mason P. Ashe
Monday 3:00pm – 6:00pm
Room: JMHH, Room 255
Office: JMHH, Room 651

Final Exam: Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 3pm

REQUIRED TEXT

Mitten, Davis, Smith, Shropshire, and Osborne, SPORTS LAW, GOVERNANCE and REGULATION (2nd ed. Wolters Kluwer 2016).
ISBN-13: 978-1454869788
ISBN-10: 145486978X

Supplemental Materials (as announced throughout the semester)

COURSE COVERAGE

This course examines the legal, financial, moral, and policy issues and disputes that arise in the world of amateur and professional sports. The casebook assignments cover some of the most current and comprehensive legal developments affecting high school, college, Olympic, and professional sports. We will discuss new landmark judicial decisions, as well as, significant NCAA infractions cases and Olympic sports arbitration awards. Students are also provided an opportunity to debate complex issues related to the application of antitrust, labor, and intellectual property law to sports. We will approach the issues from the perspective of various players in the sports industry, such as the sports lawyer, corporate counselor, university administrator, team manager, various sports regulatory bodies, and, of course, the athletes -- and fans.

CLASS SCHEDULE & SYLLABUS

The reading assignments for the course will be announced each week in class. Unless otherwise noted, all reading assignments are from the Mitten, *et al*, casebook. From time to time additional materials will be made available either on reserve or on a web site that will be developed and used for updates and announcements. I also hope to bring several guest speakers throughout the semester. Please note that we likely will not have time to cover every assignment, and the class will be polled as to particular topic interest as the semester progresses.

LET'S TALK SPORTS!

Each week for at least the first *15 minutes*, we will start class bantering about the latest in sports found on Twitter, Facebook, ESPN, and Sports Business Journal . . .

ASSIGNMENT #	SPORTS LAW TOPIC
#1	<u>Chapter 1:</u> Introduction to the Study of Sports Law <u>Chapter 2:</u> Regulating Interscholastic (High School) Athletics
#2	<u>Chapter 3:</u> NCAA Internal Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics and Legal Limits
#3	<u>Chapter 4:</u> Legal Relationships Between the University and Student-Athletes
#4	<u>Chapter 5:</u> Gender Equity Issues in Athletics
#5	<u>Chapter 6:</u> Racial Equity Issues in Athletics
#6	<u>Chapter 7:</u> Health, Safety, and Risk Management Issues in Sports <u>Chapter 8:</u> Sports Medicine, Concussions, Compensation, and Impairment in Sports
#7	<u>Chapter 9:</u> Intellectual Property Issues in Sports
#8	<u>Chapter 10:</u> Coaches' Contracts and Related Issues <u>Chapter 11:</u> Professional Sports League Governance and Legal Regulation
#9	<u>Chapter 12:</u> Professional Sports Labor Law and Labor Relations
#10	<u>Chapter 13:</u> Representing Players Teams: The Athlete-Agent Industry

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. Each student is expected to attend class fully prepared to discuss the assigned materials. I will use a variety of teaching methods throughout this course including group exercises to give students experience with scenarios posed in the cases and some they may face as a sports industry professional.

2. In addition, you may find one or more “*Question*” or “*Problem*” sections in each chapter but they are not part of the required reading since current events will be highlighted and analyzed weekly in class instead.
3. Attendance is mandatory. In accordance with school policy, regular and punctual class attendance is required.
4. Do not leave class while it is in progress unless it is an extremely urgent matter.
5. Laptop computers may be used in class at the discretion of the professor. When students are permitted to use laptops or smartphones in the class, please use them for class notes and not for surfing the web, answering e-mail or sending text messages during class. Please turn off the sound and type as quietly as possible.
6. If you are interested in using audio, video or other means to record this class, then you must have the permission of the professor -- due to the sensitive and often confidential nature of information discussed. In other words, you may **not** record this class without my specific permission to do so.
7. You are expected to conduct yourself in accordance with the **University of Pennsylvania’s Code of Academic Integrity**.

GRADING

1. Participation

Your class participation is highly valued and critical to the success of your learning experience in this course. Throughout the course of the semester, we will have various exercises in which we simulate actual cases and scenarios that arise in the world of sports law. These assignments may include, but are not limited to, a client consultation and a contract negotiation at various times throughout the semester. **Your class attendance, participation, and performance in these exercises and assignments will be considered a plus or minus factor in your final course grade.**

2. Mid-Term Exam grade constitutes 25% of your final grade. The mid-term exam will be an open book examination that covers reading assignments and class lectures from the first half of the semester. It shall consist of a series of multiple-choice questions and at least one essay.

2. The Final Exam grade constitutes 50% of your final grade. The final exam will be an open book examination that covers the entire course. The use of the Internet will not be permitted during the exam.

3. Class Participation constitutes 25% of your final grade. Simply attending every class will not position a student to receive the maximum credit awarded. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions, mock negotiations, and/or class presentations.

ADA PROCEDURES:

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should contact the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services for

verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University, or at the beginning of each semester.

CONTACT INFORMATION

My official office hours are by appointment, although before and after classes I will be available to meet with students. Please feel free without an appointment to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the coursework or the industry. My sports law practice requires frequent travel in various time zones, but in most cases, I will respond to emails and voice messages within 24 hours. My direct mobile number is 301-310-2229, and my email addresses are: mpashe10@gmail.com and mpashe@ashesec.com.