

**The Wharton School – University of Pennsylvania**  
**Sports Law (228-001)**  
**Fall 2018**

**Syllabus**

Professor Mason P. Ashe  
Monday 3:00pm – 6:00pm  
Room: JMHH, Room 355  
Office: JMHH, Room 651

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 3pm

**REQUIRED TEXT**

1. Mitten, Davis, Smith, Shropshire, and Osborne, SPORTS LAW, GOVERNANCE and REGULATION (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Wolters Kluwer 2016). ISBN: 978-145486978-8
2. Subscription (minimum of 12 weeks) to *SportsBusiness Daily*. To subscribe, please visit their website at: <https://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com/College-University/Subscribe/College-Subscription.aspx?schoolId=81&id=MAWSF184>. Once on the site, select “University of Pennsylvania-Wharton School” from the dropdown menu.
3. Supplemental course materials will also be distributed via class handouts and/or electronically.

**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 in the syllabus, 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 . . .

<b>ASSIGNMENT #</b>	<b>SPORTS LAW TOPIC</b>
#1 (Monday, 9/10/18)	<b><u>Chapter 1:</u> Introduction to the Study of Sports Law</b>
#2	<b><u>Chapter 2:</u> Regulating Interscholastic (High School) Athletics</b>
#3	<b><u>Chapter 3:</u> NCAA Internal Governance of Intercollegiate Athletics and Legal Limits</b>
#4	<b><u>Chapter 4:</u> Legal Relationships Between the University and Student-Athletes</b>
#5	<b><u>Chapter 5:</u> Gender Equity Issues in Athletics</b>
#6	<b><u>Chapter 6:</u> Racial Equity Issues in Athletics</b>
#7	<b><u>Chapter 7:</u> Health, Safety, and Risk Management Issues in Sports</b>
#8	<b><u>Chapter 8:</u> Sports Medicine, Concussions, Compensation, and Impairment in Sports</b>
#9	<b><u>Chapter 9:</u> Intellectual Property Issues in Sports</b>
#10	<b><u>Chapter 10:</u> Coaches' Contracts and Related Issues</b>
#11	<b><u>Chapter 11:</u> Professional Sports League Governance, Legal Regulation, and Representing Teams (and Owners)</b>
#12	<b><u>Chapter 12:</u> Professional Sports Labor Law, Labor Relations, and Player Unions</b>
#13	<b><u>Chapter 13:</u> Representing Players &amp; Teams: The Athlete-Agent Industry</b>

## 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. Class Participation** constitutes 25% of your final grade. 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 or management which require you to be persuasive. These assignments may include, but are not limited to, a client consultation and a contract negotiation at various times throughout the semester. Simply attending every class **will not** position a student to receive the maximum credit awarded.

**2. Mid-Term Exam** grade constitutes 25% of your final grade. The mid-term exam will be an open book in-class 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 perhaps at least one essay. [Date: Monday, October 15, 2018]

**3. The Final Exam grade** constitutes 50% of your final grade. The final exam will be an open book in-class examination that covers the entire course. The use of the Internet will not be permitted during the exam. [Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 3pm]

### 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 I will be available before and after class to meet with students. You may also call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the coursework or the industry. My sports agency is based outside of Washington, D.C., and I travel frequently, but I will try to respond within 24 hours. My direct mobile number is 301-310-2229, and my email addresses are: [mpashe10@gmail.com](mailto:mpashe10@gmail.com) and [ashem@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:ashem@wharton.upenn.edu).