

The Wharton School – University of Pennsylvania
Sports Law (228-001)
Fall 2021

Syllabus

Professor Mason P. Ashe
Monday 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm (Eastern Standard Time)
Room: JMHH - F60
Office Hours: Virtual by appointment

Midterm Exam: [TBD]
Final Exam: [TBD]

REQUIRED TEXT

1. Mitten, Davis, Osborne, and Duru. SPORTS LAW – Governance and Regulation (3E. Wolters Kluwer, 2021). ISBN: 978-1-5438-1082-0
2. Subscription (recommendation:12 weeks for \$61) to *SportsBusiness Daily*. To subscribe at the discounted price, please visit: www.sbjcollege.com/subscribe. Once on their site, select “University of Pennsylvania-Wharton School” from the dropdown menu.
3. Supplemental course materials will also be distributed electronically or via Canvas.

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 stakeholders in the sports industry, such as the sports lawyer, corporate sponsor, university administrator, team owner, team manager, coach, athlete, sports regulatory body, and fan.

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 Canvas for updates and announcements. I also hope to feature 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 social media and Sports Business Daily . . .

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. Each student is expected to attend class ***IN-PERSON*** and 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. Laptops with a working webcam (or an external webcam) will be mandatory to access the class on Zoom, if necessary and permitted under special circumstances. Please only use the laptop in class for class notes and not for surfing the web, answering e-mails or sending text messages during class.
5. Turn off cell phones and other devices during class. Due to the sensitive and often confidential nature of information discussed, you may **not** record this class without my specific permission to do so. Please contact me at least one day in advance or as soon as possible in an emergency to obtain my permission. Without my specific written permission or without **an approved accommodation**, you may not record any class. I will endeavor to have each class recorded for students who have received permission to view the recordings as a necessary substitute for their absence from class.
6. Do not leave class while it is in progress unless it is an extremely urgent matter.
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 persuasive presentation 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: to be determined; and is flexible -- so we will discuss this in class.]

3. 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. [Date: to be determined]

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 virtual official office hours are by appointment during the week, although I will be available 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 direct mobile number is 301-310-2229, and my email addresses are: ashem@wharton.upenn.edu.