

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 462-001 — Sports Business Law
3 Credits, Spring 2018
Tuesday 7:20-10:00PM [Location: Krug Hall 253 — Fairfax Campus]

Faculty

Name: Richard Kanter
Office hours: By Appointment
Office location: No personal office.
Program Office Location is Thompson Hall Room 1409 (Fairfax Campus)
Office phone: None. Mobile phone number will be made available to students.
Email address: rkanter@gmu.edu

Prerequisites/Co-requisites

60 Credits

University Catalog Course Description

Students in this course will receive instruction in the major areas of the law that impacts the sport industry. Students will also see how knowledge of sport law can make them better sport managers. There will be an introduction to the legal system in the United States and then we will see how the law has shaped the management of sport organizations and the playing and staging of the games.

Course Overview

The learning experiences in this course will be a hybrid approach combining the case method used in law school with the more traditional power point, lecture approach used in undergraduate education. Students will be encouraged and expected to participate in class discussions. Many of this material will be interesting and relevant to current events in the sports industry. Students will gain far more from the course if they remain engaged and share their viewpoints with fellow students.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered in a classroom setting using a discussion and lecture format that encourages participation by all students. Prominent guest speakers from the sports industry may be used on an occasional basis.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the American legal system.
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply legal principles to the sports business.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the critical role the law plays within youth sports, the

NCAA, and professional sports; and how it can impact the bottom line.

4. Understand the importance of sports on the social and cultural landscape, and the positive impact a student can have in that area.
5. Improve critical thinking and analytical reasoning as students apply case law and statutory regulations to sports specific fact patterns.
6. Become more comfortable verbally articulating a clear, concise message through both prepared and unprepared remarks.

Required Texts

Mitten, M., Davis, T., Smith, R., Shropshire, K., Osborne, B., (2016). *Sports Law: Governance and Regulation, Second Edition*. New York: Wolters Kluwer. ISBN: 978-1-4548-6978-8.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

| Assignment | Percent of Course Grade |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Paper | 30% |
| Class Participation | 20% |

Students will be treated as upperclassmen, bordering on graduate students, which means there is an expectation they do not need constant quizzes or homework assignments to stay on task. They will be graded based on two exams, one paper, and class participation.

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before class begins. Students must be prepared to discuss any problems/questions posted in advance by the professor. Class lectures will be largely supplemented by student discussion and students are expected to be prepared. Their preparation and contribution to class discussion, along with their attendance, will be reflected in their participation grade. When determining the participation grade, the professor will take into account any extenuating circumstances that may affect a student's ability to participate on a given day.

The two exams will consist of a midterm exam covering Chapters 1-7 of the required text and a final exam covering Chapters 8-14 of the required text. Exams will include the following types of questions: true/false, multiple choice, and short answer.

The paper will cover a sports law topic chosen by the student and approved by the professor. Students must submit their topics no later than March 20, 2018. The paper is due on April 17, 2018.

The paper is meant to be an open-ended assignment on a topic that the student is passionate about. The topic can be based on classroom discussion/reading or an unrelated sports law topic. The paper must be between 7-10 pages, double spaced, with Times New Roman, size 12 font. More details on the paper will be provided.

Due to the challenging nature of the course, students will have the opportunity to receive extra credit. One extra credit assignment will be available to all students. It will be worth five percentage points (5%) on their final grade. For example, if a student has earned an 89% after all four weighted assignments above, their final grade will now be a 94%.

In order to receive extra credit, the student must (1) perform 15 hours of volunteer work for one organization no later than April 23, 2018, and (2) complete a class presentation on their experience working with the organization on April 24, 2018. Students are encouraged to find a sport related non-profit to work with in order to help them understand their ability to use sports as a vehicle for positive social change. However, any non-profit or community focused organization will work. It is important for students to learn they always have the time, no matter how busy they are, to help others. Volunteer locations must be approved in advance by the instructor. Students cannot be compensated. Students must have a signed hours log from an employee of the organization. The 15 hours can be spread out in a way that fits the student's schedule, but must include a minimum of three different site visits. The student can choose the format of the in-class presentation, but must give background information on the organization, what they did as a volunteer, and explain the impact their work had on others and themselves.

- **Assignments and Examinations**

| Date | Class | Topic | Reading Assignment |
|---------|----------|--|---------------------------|
| 1/23/18 | 1 | Introduction to Sports Law/Legal System | Chapter 1: Pages 1-14 |
| | | Regulating High School/Youth Athletics | Chapter 2: Pages 15-42 |
| 1/30/18 | 2 | Regulating High School/Youth Athletics | Chapter 2: Pages 42-58 |
| | | NCAA Internal Governance | Chapter 3: Pages 59-83 |
| 2/6/18 | 3 | Legal Limits on NCAA Authority | Chapter 3: Pages 83-111 |
| | | Legal Relationship Between University/Student Athletes | Chapter 4: Pages 113-122 |
| 2/13/18 | 4 | Legal Relationship Between University/Student Athletes | Chapter 4: Pages 122-145 |
| | | Gender Equity Issues in Athletics | Chapter 5: Pages 147-170 |
| 2/20/18 | 5 | Gender Equity Issues in Athletics | Chapter 5: Pages 170-183 |
| | | Racial Equity Issues in Athletics | Chapter 6: Pages 185-215 |
| 2/27/18 | 6 | Health, Safety, and Risk Management Issues in Sports | Chapter 7: Pages 217-255 |
| | | Review for Midterm Exam | |
| 2/28/18 | No Class | Sports Management Career Social (Hub 1 - 6:30PM)** | |
| 3/6/18 | 7 | MIDTERM EXAM | |
| 3/13/18 | No Class | Spring Break | |
| 3/20/18 | 8 | Sports Medicine, Concussions, Impairment (ADA) | Chapter 8: Pages 257-279 |
| | | Intellectual Property | Chapter 9: Pages 281-314 |
| 3/27/18 | 9 | Coaches' Contracts and Related Issues | Chapter 10: Pages 315-335 |

| | | | |
|---------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| | | Professional Sports League Governance | Chapter 11: Pages 337-344 |
| 4/3/18 | 10 | Internal League Governance/Antitrust Law Limits | Chapter 11: Pages 344-370 |
| 4/9/18 | No Class | Sports Communications Panel (JC 326 Room B – 4:30PM) ** | |
| 4/10/18 | 11 | Professional Sports Labor Law | Chapter 12: Pages 371-404 |
| 4/17/18 | 12 | The Athlete Agent Industry | Chapter 13: Pages 405-422 |
| | | STUDENT PAPERS DUE | |
| 4/18/18 | No Class | Women in Sports Symposium (Merten Hall – 6:30PM)** | |
| 4/24/18 | 13 | The Athlete Agent Industry | Chapter 13: Pages 423-440 |
| | | Student Presentations: Volunteer Projects | |
| 5/1/18 | 14 | Olympic and International Sports Issues | Chapter 14: Pages 441-470 |
| | | Review for Final Exam | |
| 5/8/18 | No Class | Reading Day | |
| 5/15/18 | No Class | FINAL EXAM | |

** Students are strongly encouraged to attend these sports management events for their own professional development, but are not required to attend.

- **Other Requirements**

All of the assigned reading must be completed prior to the class date listed above. Professor reserves the right to alter readings during the semester and will notify students in a timely fashion.

Students must refrain from the use of electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) in class during the lecture period. Students may use laptops to take notes.

There will be no make-up work and late assignments will not be accepted. Absences supported by documentation may be excused (i.e. a doctor's note).

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Students must arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. Attendance will be factored into a student's class participation grade. If a student misses class they should inform the instructor in advance and obtain class materials from another student. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but to the class as a whole. The class will be more fun and rewarding if everyone is engaged.

Students who miss classes, exams, or other assignments as a consequence of religious holidays or for participation in intercollegiate athletic competitions, or other legitimate university-sponsored activity, will be provided a reasonable alternative opportunity to make up the missed work. Students who do not notify the instructor in advance of missed classes or exams will not be able to complete make-up work. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty, within the first two weeks of the semester, with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent, and the dates for which they are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity scheduled prior to the start of the semester, and as soon as possible otherwise. Students requesting an excused absence for participation in a university-sponsored activity must

provide their instructor with a letter from a university official stating the dates and times that participation in the activity would result in the student missing class or an exam. (See full GMU policy: <http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=6150#attendance>)

- **Grading**

| Grading Scale | | | |
|---------------|--------|----|-------|
| A | 94-100 | C+ | 78-79 |
| A- | 90-93 | C | 74-77 |
| B+ | 88-89 | C- | 70-73 |
| B | 84-87 | D | 60-69 |
| B- | 80-83 | F | 0-59 |

Student grades will not be rounded up. Therefore, in order to receive an A-, a student must have a 90% average after all four graded assignments and extra credit have been calculated. An 89.9%, for example, will result in a B+.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Class Schedule

The class will meet on Tuesday nights from 7:20-10:00PM. Students will receive a ten-minute break from 8:30-8:40PM. The specific class schedule is incorporated in the “Assignments and/or Examinations” section of the syllabus.

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .