

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

SPMT 462-001 (Online - asynchronous) – Sport Business Law
3 Credits, Summer 2023
Online

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

SPMT 201 Introduction to Sport Management and completion of 60 hours.

University Catalog Course Description

Students in this course will receive instruction in the major areas of the law that impact 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 are afforded through assignments, online learning modules, readings, film and video material. The following requirements reflect the demands of the course. Students will be expected to respect the following policies:

- Official e-mail communications from the instructor will be sent only to students' GMU-assigned e-mail addresses. Students are responsible to check their e-mail inbox and to ensure that it is working and there is room to receive incoming correspondence.
- Students will abide by the Mason Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.
- No grades or discussion of grades or grade appeals will be carried out over email due to its impersonal nature and security issues. Students can discuss their grades with the instructor over the phone or in person.
- There will be no make-up assignments given without a valid university excuse. The instructor should be notified 24 hours in advance. The excuse must be written and documented.
- Arrangements for approved make-up assignments should be initiated by the student with the instructor.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. Students will be expected to read the textbook each week, watch short lecture videos, answer questions about the lecture/reading, and participate in blogs, discussion boards, and journals. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before "@masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available online May 22, at midnight.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard). To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers
To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems
- Students **must** maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player:
<https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>
 - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- **Course Week:** Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday morning and finish on Sunday night at 11:59pm.
- **Log-in Frequency:** Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least four times per week.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- **Technical Issues:** Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. **Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.**
- **Workload:** Please be aware that **this course is NOT self-paced**. Students are expected to meet **specific deadlines and due dates** listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus and the weekly modules in Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due. **Note: The reaction papers are only active for one week. Once the deadline for submission has passed, the assignment is no longer available for completion.** If you miss one deadline, you may ask for an extension without needing extenuating circumstances; anything beyond one will need further explanation and discussion with me.
- **Instructor Support:** Students are encouraged to schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

- Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. **Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.** Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations: Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.
- Gender identity and pronoun use: If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with me and how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her/hers for myself and you may address me as “Dr./Prof. Aylsworth” or “Dr./Prof. A” in email and verbally.

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 sport-specific fact patterns.
6. Become more comfortable articulating a clear, concise message through written work.

Professional Standards

Courses offered in the Sport Management (SPMT) undergraduate program are guided by the principles of the Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA). COSMA (2010, p. 1) “bases its accrediting process on principles, rather than standards.” The eight recommended principles are:

- outcomes assessment;
- strategic planning;
- curriculum;
- faculty;
- scholarly and professional activities;
- resources;
- internal and external relationships; and
- educational innovation.

For more information, please see:

Commission of Sport Management Accreditation. (2010, June). Accreditation principles and self-study preparation. Retrieved August 18, 2014 from <http://cosmaweb.org/accredmanuals>

Required Texts

Mitten, M., Davis, T., Osborne, B., Duru, N.J. (2021). *Sports Law: Governance and Regulation* (3rd ed.). Aspen Publishing. [ISBN#: 978-1-5438-1082-0]

Other required readings will be distributed via Blackboard.

Course Performance Evaluation

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

Students performance will be graded based on two exams, one paper, and class participation. The points for each assignment are in the chart below.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Midterm Exam	250 points
Final Exam	250 points
Research Paper	300 points
Class Participation	300 points
Total	1100 points

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and listen to all lectures. Students must participate in the weekly blogs, discussions, and questions during each module. Brief videos will make up the class lectures followed by questions to ensure the lectures/reading were completed. These will primarily be graded on a completion basis; approximately 200 of the 300 participation points will be awarded for sufficient completion of the discussion board, blog, journal, and quiz assignments; approximately 100 of the 300 participation points will be awarded based on effort, quality of response, and overall demonstrated active participation. 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 1-3, 5-6 of the required text and a final exam covering Chapters 7, 9, 11-13 of the required text. Exams will include the following types of questions: true/false, multiple choice, and short answer.

The research paper will cover a sports law topic chosen by the student and approved by the professor. Students must submit topics and papers before the deadlines listed in the "Class Schedule" section of the syllabus.

The research paper is an open-ended assignment on a sports law topic about which the student is passionate. The topic can be based on classroom discussion/reading or an unrelated sports law topic. The paper must be between 5-7 pages, double-spaced, with Times New Roman, size 12 font. More details on the paper, and a grading rubric, will be provided.

- **Grading**

The final grade in percentage terms (your total points/total possible points) will be converted to a letter grade per the following scale:

A = 94% and above
A- = 90-93%

B+ =88-89%
B =84-87%
B- =80-83%

C+ =78-79%
C =74-77%
C- =70-73%

D =60-69%
F = <60%

Professional Dispositions

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

<https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

Class Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Module/Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignments</u>
5/22-5/28	1	Introduction to Sports Law/Legal System	Chapter 1
5/29-6/4	2	Regulating High School/Youth Athletics	Chapter 2
6/5-6/11	3	NCAA Internal Governance/Limits on NCAA Authority	Chapter 3
6/12-6/18	4	Gender Equity Issues in Athletics	Chapter 5
6/19-6/25	5	Racial Equity Issues in Athletics	Chapter 6
6/26-7/2	6	MIDTERM EXAM (Due 7/2 at 11:59PM) RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC (Due 7/2 at 11:59PM)	
7/3-7/9	7	Health, Safety, and Risk Management Issues in Sports	Chapter 7
7/10-7/16	8	Intellectual Property	Chapter 9
7/17-7/23	9	Professional Sports League Governance/Antitrust Law Limits	Chapter 11
7/24-7/30	10	Professional Sports Labor Law	Chapter 12
7/31-8/6	11	The Athlete Agent Industry RESEARCH PAPER (Due 8/6 at 11:59PM)	Chapter 13
8/7-8/10	12	FINAL EXAM (Due 8/10 at 11:59PM)	

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 (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- 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 <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

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

