

## **Sports Law for the Athletic Administrator**

Fall 2022 -- Thursdays: 4:20 – 7:20 p.m.

Education Building Room Number 1102

Instructor: Eric J. Magner, J.D.

Office: Education Building 2300

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. & 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth study of substantive areas of law as it affects amateur, interscholastic, intercollegiate, and professional sports. Much of the focus will be on intercollegiate athletics for the college athletic department professional.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The course objectives will be met through textbook readings, case studies, lectures, and group presentations on legal topics relevant to the sports administrator. Students will be able to:

- 1) Understanding the legal system and its application to sports administration at various levels, but with emphasis on the intercollegiate athletic administrator.
- 2) Recognize key legal responsibilities of sport governing bodies (NCAA and interscholastic athletics).
- 3) Conduct legal research to gain a fundamental understanding of analysis when interpreting legal cases and concepts.

### **TEXTBOOK:**

Mitten, M., Davis, T., Smith, R., Shropshire, K., & Osborne, B. (2016). *Sports law: Governance and regulation* (2d Ed.). WoltersKluwer.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Expectations:** Students are responsible for attending the lectures, reading the assigned text's chapters, actively participating in the group projects, completing the final paper in APA format.

**Group Project:** Students will be assigned to groups that will research applicable case law and present their findings to the class on a topic of law relevant to sports law. These group presentations will ask members to proceed as if they were assigned to a task force in a college athletic department. EVERY member of the group MUST participate in the activities and presentation.

**Homework Assignments:** Students will bring to each class a one-page brief on material covered in the previous week's class. This will happen from the second week of class

(9/8) through week eleven (11/10). During these ten weeks, each assignment will be worth three (3) points. I will change your lowest score to a (3) and permit a re-do on one score (see below for more information). Students will find these assignments in each chapter. Students choose to answer any group of questions in the chapter, or provide a one-page brief on a case mentioned in that chapter.

**Cell Phones:** The use of cell phones during class is strictly prohibited. If you must use the phone, please do so outside of class.

**Extra Credit:** There are absolutely no opportunities for extra credit.

**FINAL GRADE (Total of 100 points available):**

- |    |                 |           |                               |
|----|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Participation:  | 10 points |                               |
| 2. | Group Project   | 25 points | Due: 12/1 and 12/8            |
| 3. | Weekly one-page | 30 points | Due Weekly 11/8 through 11/10 |

**Final Paper Parts:**

|              |           |   |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| Proposal     | Check     | Due: 9/15   |
| Bibliography | 10 points | Due: 10/13  |
| Rough Draft  | Check     | Due: 11/10 to be discussed at conference on 11/17 |
| Final Draft  | 25 points | Due: 12/15  |

**GRADES ASSESSED AS FOLLOWS:**

|          |    |          |    |
|----------|----|----------|----|
| 94—100:  | A  | 90—93.9: | A- |
| 85—89.9: | B+ | 80—84.9: | B  |
| 78—79.9: | B- | 75—77.9: | C+ |
| 70—74.9: | C  | 68—69.9: | C- |
| 00—67.9: | F  |          |    |

**HONOR STATEMENT:**

Old Dominion University is committed to students' personal and academic success. In order to achieve this vision, students, faculty, and staff work together to create an environment that provides the best opportunity for academic inquiry and learning. All students must be honest and forthright in their academic studies. Your work in this course and classroom behavior must align with the expectations outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, which can be found at [www.odu.edu/oscai](http://www.odu.edu/oscai). The following behaviors along with classroom disruptions violate this policy, corrupt the educational process, and will not be tolerated.

**Cheating:** Using unauthorized assistance, materials, study aids, or other information in any academic exercise.

**Plagiarism:** Using someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source in any academic exercise.

Fabrication: Inventing, altering, or falsifying any data, citation, or information in any academic exercise.

Facilitation: Helping another student commit, or attempt to commit, any academic integrity violation, or failure to report suspected academic integrity violations to a faculty member.

Academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity and may result in sanctions up to and including expulsion from the university.

| Week           | Topic   | Readings   | Assignment Due                     |
|----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1—September 1  | Intro to the Study of Law   | Chapter 1  | Nothing                            |
| 2—September 8  | Regulating Interscholastic and Youth Athletics                          | Chapter 2  | H.W.1                              |
| 3—September 15 | NCAA Internal Governance and Legal Limits (Part 1)                      | Chapter 3  | H.W. 2<br>Final Paper Proposal     |
| 4—September 22 | NCAA Internal Governance and Legal Limits (Part 2)                      | Chapter 3  | H.W. 3                             |
| 5—September 29 | Legal Relationship between the University and Student-Athletes (Part 1) | Chapter 4  | H.W. 4                             |
| 6—October 6    | Legal Relationship between the University and Student-Athletes (Part 2) | Chapter 4  | H.W. 5                             |
| 7—October 13   | Gender Equity Issues in Sports  | Chapter 5  | H.W. 6<br>Final Paper Bibliography |
| 8—October 20   | Racial Equity Issues in Athletics                                       | Chapter 6  | H.W. 7                             |
| 9—October 27   | Health, Safety, and Risk Management Issues in Sports                    | Chapter 7  | H.W. 8                             |
| 10—November 3  | Coaches' Contracts and Related Issues                                   | Chapter 10 | H.W. 9                             |
| 11—November 10 | Olympic and International Sports Issues                                 | Chapter 14 | H.W. 10                            |

|                |                                  |                 |                         |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|                |                                  |                 | Final Paper Rough Draft |
| 12—November 17 | CONFERENCES                      | N/A             |                         |
| 13—November 24 | Thanksgiving Break<br>(NO CLASS) | NO CLASS        | N/A                     |
| 14—December 1  | Presentation                     | Presentation    |                         |
| 15—December 8  | Presentation                     | Presentation    |                         |
| 16—December 15 | Final Paper Due                  | Final Paper Due | Final Paper             |