

Legal Issues in Sport (SBLR 5040)

Seattle University
Albers School of Business and Economics
Fall Quarter 2020

Faculty:	Kelli Rodriguez Currie	Start date:	September 9, 2020
Email:	rodrig31@seattleu.edu	End date:	November 18, 2020
Class time:	Monday, 6:00p – 8:00p	IRAC Memo Due:	November 24, 2020
Class location:	Hybrid / Pigott 200		
Student Hours:	Wednesday 11:00a – 12:00p Thursday 3:00p – 4:00p		

Course Overview

The relationship between sports organizations and sports leaders is increasingly impacted by developments in the law. Despite the fact that legal issues are typically resolved through legal counsel, sports organizations rely on their leaders to identify and mitigate legal issues from the onset. Sports leaders must not only understand general legal principles, they must also assess risk and collaborate with organizational stakeholders to address legal issues.

Legal Issues in Sport introduces students to legal research and analysis in sports leadership contexts. Students will become familiar with legal issues encountered by sport professionals and learn critical skills to make sound inquiries, informed decisions, and seek out appropriate resources in response to the changing legal landscape of sport and recreation. Students will learn how to read, articulate, and analyze the law. Students will develop cognitive skills in analysis, critical thinking, and reasoning, while emphasizing the application of these skills in a sport context by leveraging effective and professional communication.

Course Description

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand fundamental legal concepts relevant to intellectual property, tort law, contract law, and regulatory authorities governing sport; identify potential liability situations in the supervision, management and conduct of sport, (including employment and labor law issues); and design and develop strategies for limiting liability within the sport context including: litigation, negotiation, and arbitration.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will have:

- organized and explained the legal rules applicable to sport issues in a written collection;
- identified and explained the legal issues present in sports scenarios in an oral presentation;
- researched and differentiated legal resources in a written memo;
- and applied legal reasoning framework to propose a risk management strategy in a written memo.

Required Materials

Required Text

Cotton, D. J., & Wolohan, J. (2017). *Law for Recreation and Sport Managers*. Kendall Hunt.

- ISBN 978-1-5249-0268-1

Required Video

Saladoff, S. (Director). (2011). *Hot Coffee* [Film]. Hot Coffee, If Not Now Productions, The Group Entertainment.

- Available on [Amazon Prime](#)
- Available on [Tubi](#)

Canvas & Other Materials

Additional required readings will be posted and linked from Canvas. Students are expected to read the required materials, whether articles, websites, or other resources as they would any other assigned text.

Instructional Approach

By necessity, law is an active study; it moves and evolves in amorphous ways that are often difficult to capture in a textbook alone. The course will be conducted in a hybrid format, with substantial work to be completed asynchronously via Canvas. We will also meet synchronously both in a distanced face-to-face format and online. The course offers different ways to interact with material, including reading, online videos, interactive activities, and robust discussions. Students are expected to engage fully in all required materials and assignments.

Canvas Modules

The Canvas modules are organized by week and include all assignments and due dates for the given week. Although this syllabus contains an overview of the modules and topics that we'll work through this quarter, you will find the details and due dates of readings, lectures, and assignments in Canvas.

Required Reading

As a graduate level course, the selected readings are intended to provide a substantial amount of the content necessary to achieve the objectives of each unit. The reading may be significant for some units and more approachable for others. It is imperative that students engage fully with the reading material: verbatim understanding is not required, but students must have sufficient understanding to synthesize concepts.

Lectures

Lectures are designed to provide an opportunity to engage with the concepts in the reading, discuss current events that intersect with the material, ask questions, and further synthesize the legal rules into applicable risk management strategies. Lectures will be conducted synchronously in-person and online throughout the quarter; students are expected to complete the readings prior to the lecture and participate fully.

Course Requirements & Policies

All assignments, rubrics, and specific deadlines will be available on the Canvas site. The following requirements and policies are intended to provide a general outline of what to expect; please be sure to review the details for each assignment on Canvas.

Participation

Consistent and sustained participation in the hybrid course format is expected, both online throughout each week and module, and during synchronous lectures. Plan to log onto the course regularly throughout each week; you may lose participation points if you are regularly logging in to complete the week's module in a single day, unless you have made other arrangements.

Grades & Points

With the exception of a couple of assignments that will be noted as "complete/incomplete" in Canvas, assignments will be graded with a point value assigned.

Late Work

Most work will be accepted late with a 10% penalty at the beginning of each 24-hour period after it is due. For example, if an assignment is due at 11:59 PM on Sunday, a 10% deduction will apply at 12:00 AM on Monday, and another 10% will be deducted at 12:00 AM on Tuesday. Please be sure to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to submit assignments. Note that late discussion posts and replies will not be accepted, as noted below.

Discussions

All discussions will require a minimum of one post and two replies. Initial posts and all replies must be posted no later than Sunday at 11:59 PM Pacific Time. Discussions will close promptly at 11:59 PM on Sunday evenings and no posts or replies may be submitted after the discussion closes.

Expectations for Online Communications

All students are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and thoughtfully online. In a course about law, where students bring many different experiences and opinions to the conversation; we must make room for these differing views and be respectful when we disagree. Disrespectful, harassing, or abusive tone or language in text or via zoom will not be tolerated and may result in a report of violation of The Code of Student Conduct.

Communicating with your Professor

Email & Canvas Inbox

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns throughout the quarter; you may reach me via email or Canvas Inbox. I am generally online throughout the day and aim to reply to email within 24 hours Monday through Friday. I do not reply to email over the weekends. Like so many of you, my email often gets buried, please feel free to reach out again if you have not heard from me within a day or so.

Student Hours

Feel free to drop into my regular virtual “student hours” (read: office hours) each week on Wednesday between 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon and Thursday 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM. The zoom link will be available on Canvas.

Video & Phone Meetings

I am available throughout the week schedule a zoom or phone meetings at a mutually agreeable time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to schedule a meeting with me, or you may schedule directly via the link on Canvas.

Grading

Grades are assigned based on the following weights and approximate scale.

Items	Points	Grading Scale	Letter Grade
Engagement / Participation	5%	95% and higher	A
- Zoom Intro/Capstone Mtg.		90%-94%	A-
- Consistent discussion engagement		87%-89%	B+
- Consistent class attendance		83%-86%	B
		80%-82%	B-
Discussions (9 @ 40 pts each)	25%	77%-79%	C+
Legal Rules Statements (9 @ 20 pts each)	25%	73%-76%	C
Group Oral Presentation	10%	70%-72%	C-
Capstone IRAC & Risk Assessment	35%	67%-69%	D+
- IRAC Memo: Identification of Facts		63%-66%	D
- IRAC Memo: Identification of Law		60%-62%	D-
- IRAC Memo: Articulation of Rules		59% and lower	F
- IRAC Memo: Analysis & Rec. Outline			
- Final IRAC Memo & Risk Assessment			

Academic Honesty

I expect that all students will abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy. "Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the educational process. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense against the academic community." If you are not sure about whether an action is acceptable per the Academic Honesty Code, you should check with me before engaging in it.

As required by University regulations I must report to the chair of the department all verified instances of plagiarism, cheating and usage of unauthorized sources in exams, papers, projects, homework, or any other academic assignment. Depending on the severity and circumstances of the violation I may recommend that the student receive a grade of D or F in the course.

Office of Institutional Equity (Title IX)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle University remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle University offers emergency, medical, and other support resources, as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct.

Seattle University requires all faculty and staff to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student.

For more information, please visit <https://www.seattleu.edu/equity/>. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (email: oiie@seattleu.edu; phone: 206.296.2824)

Notice on Religious Accommodations

It is the policy of Seattle University to reasonably accommodate students who, due to observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of their academic course or program. Please see Policy on Religious Accommodations for Students. (<https://www.seattleu.edu/media/policies/Policy-on-Religious-Accommodations-for-Students---FINAL.pdf>)

Notice for Students Concerning Disabilities

Seattle University values diverse types of learners and is committed to ensuring that each student is afforded an equal opportunity to participate in learning experiences. For disability and other learning-related needs and accommodations that you have already arranged via Disability Services, please communicate with me during the first week of class through email or Zoom. Should concerns arise at any point in the quarter, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an “invisible disability” such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, but have not yet arranged support services and/or accommodations, I encourage you to do so through Disability Services staff at DS@seattleu.edu or (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process. I am committed to working with you, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (<https://www.seattleu.edu//learningcommons/>)
(E.g.: *Learning Assistance Programs, Library Research Services, Writing Ctr., Math Lab.*)
- Academic Integrity Tutorial (<https://www.seattleu.edu/academic-integrity/resources-for-students/>)

Academic Policies

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policies (program-specific)

You will find these and other policies on the Registrar’s website: <https://www.seattleu.edu/redhawk-service-center/academic-policies/>

Tentative Course Schedule

Module	Topic or Activity	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1	Introduction to Sports Law Face-to-Face class: September 14	Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 1 (pp. 1-38)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Sep. 13
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Sep. 20
Week 2	Negligence Face-to-Face class: September 21	Schedule Zoom Introduction & Capstone Meeting	Sep. 27
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 2 (pp. 39-212)	Before Class
		Read <i>Scott v. Pac. West Mtn. Resort</i> , 119 Wn.2d 484, 834 P.2d 6 (1992)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch "Hot Coffee" documentary	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
Week 3	Torts & Risk Management Online class: September 28	Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Sep. 20
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Sep. 27
		Submit IRAC Memo: Identification of Facts	Sep. 27
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 213-272)	Before Class
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 4 (pp. 273-357)	Before Class
Week 4	Contracts Online class: October 5	Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Sep. 27
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Oct. 4
		Submit IRAC Memo: Identification of Law	Oct. 11
Week 5	Interscholastic, Intercollegiate, & Recreational Sports Online class: October 12	Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 5 (pp. 359-402)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Oct. 11
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Oct. 18
Week 6	Intellectual Property & Gambling Online class: October 19	Submit Oral Presentation Video (Group)	Oct. 18
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 6 (pp. 403-520)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Oct. 18
Week 7	Equity & Title IX Online class: October 26	Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Oct. 25
		IRAC Memo: Articulation of Rules	Oct. 25
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 7.11-7.12 (pp. 522-542)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Oct. 25
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Nov. 1

Module	Topic or Activity	Assignments	Due Date
Week 8	Employment & Agency Online class: November 2	Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 7.13-7.16 (pp. 543-590)	Before Class
		Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 7.40 (pp.660-670)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Muddiest Point Discussion	Nov. 1
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Nov. 8
		Submit IRAC Memo: Analysis & Recommendations Outline	Nov. 8
Week 9	Labor & Antitrust Online class: November 9	Read <i>Law for Recreation & Sports Managers</i> , Chapter 7.30 (pp. 626-659)	Before Class
		Read supplemental readings on Canvas	Before Class
		Watch supplemental videos on Canvas	Before Class
		Submit Muddiest Point Discussion	Nov. 8
		Submit Rule Statements (Group)	Nov. 15
Week 10	Capstone IRAC & Risk Assessment	Capstone IRAC Memo & Risk Assessment	Nov. 22

Note

This tentative schedule is simply intended to provide an overview of the course timeline. Please see Canvas for all reading, lecture, and assignment details.