

**DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

LAW 324 Sports Law (4 Units) Spring 2022



**LAW 324 Sports Law**

**Units: 4**  
**Spring 2022**  
**On Campus**

**M/W 10:00 to 11:50 AM**

**Location: TBD**

**Instructor: Professor Vered Yakovee**

**Office: TBD**

**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**Contact Info:**

**Undergraduate Academic Calendar Spring 2022**

<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>January 10</b>
<b>Martin Luther King's Birthday</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>January 17</b>
<b>President's Day</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>February 21</b>
<b>Spring Recess</b>	<b>Sun-Sun</b>	<b>March 13-20</b>
<b>Classes End</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>April 29</b>
<b>Study Days</b>	<b>Sat-Tue</b>	<b>April 30-May 3</b>
<b>Exams</b>	<b>Wed-Wed</b>	<b>May 4-11</b>
<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>May 13</b>

\* \* \*

**Course Description**

This course is designed to familiarize the students with the ways in which the American legal system uses a variety of tools to regulate sports. Areas of law that impact sports include contract law, tort law, statutory law, and constitutional law.

This course examines how various areas of law apply to amateur and professional sports. Students will use critical and analytical thinking to develop a basic understanding of areas of law that affect these industries.

Upon completion of this course, students will understand basic legal structure of multiple sports businesses and will be able to analyze the legal issues that permeate these organizations. This course will examine the relevance and application of various legal structures to all participants in particular sports enterprises. Topics will include, among

others, Contracts, Title IX, Collective Bargaining, NCAA Compliance and Governance, Agency, Risk Management and Sports Marketing and Licensing.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course will introduce students to major legal issues in the sports industry, and teach practical skills to navigate the field. The course will also demonstrate how broad the sports industry is, as well as the myriad ways in which a legal career can weave into sports. Students will:

- Understand legal terms, procedures, and issues affecting the amateur and professional sports industries.
- Identify and discuss litigation and legislation affecting sport organizations nationally and internationally.
- Discuss and understand strategies aimed at reducing the probability of injuries and lawsuits surrounding sport activities.
- Analyze and evaluate the application of the law in various sports contexts.
- Learn the basics of contract negotiation in the professional sports industry.
- Competently read and understand a sports industry contract.
- Learn about the many roles a lawyer can play in the context of sports.

### **Course Policies**

Active participation in class discussions and exercises is expected. Regular and punctual attendance in class is required. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings for each class before class. If students are experiencing any difficulties in the course, they are encouraged to reach out to the professor.

### **Required Readings**

Required Textbook:

- *Sports Law: Governance and Regulation, Third Edition* (2020) Mitten, Davis, et al., Wolters Kluwer, NY. ISBN 978-1-5438-1082-0

### **Exams**

Students will complete a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will be multiple choice and open book. The midterm exam will be given during class time on a date to be announced between Week 7 and Week 10. The final exam will be given during the final exam period indicated on the Reading Assignments and Schedule chart below.

### **Grading Breakdown**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Attendance and Discussion	10%
Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Grading Scale**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

## **Discussion and Attendance**

Attendance is required. Discussion assessment will include:

- Students are expected to attend class ready to discuss the assigned reading materials.
- Depending on the size of the class, students will be generally required to participate in discussion *each* time the class meets.
- Students will be required to engage with professor in the Socratic method of questioning.
- Students will be expected to come to class prepared with meaningful questions, ideas, and criticisms to discuss with their peers and the professor.

**The rest of this page is intentionally blank.**

**DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Reading Assignments and Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan. 10	Welcome & Chapter 1	Ch. 1, p. 1-14
Jan. 12	Chapter 1 cont.	--
Jan. 17	No Class	
Jan. 19	High School Sports	Ch. 2, p. 15-34
Jan. 24	High School Sports cont.	Ch. 2, p. 35-48
Jan. 26	High School Sports cont.	Ch. 2, p. 48-59
Jan. 31	NCAA Internal Governance	Ch. 3, p. 61-75
Feb. 2	NCAA cont.	Ch. 3, p. 76-89
Feb. 7	NCAA cont.	Ch. 3, p. 89-114
Feb. 9	College athletics	Ch. 4, p. 115-129
Feb. 14	College athletics	Ch. 4, p. 130-150
Feb. 16	Gender Equity	Ch. 5, p. 151-162
Feb. 21	No Class	
Feb. 23	Gender Equity	Ch. 5, p. 163-174
Feb. 28	Gender Equity	Ch. 5, p. 175-184
March 2	Gender Equity	Ch. 5, p. 184-193
March 7	Racial Equity	Ch. 6, p. 193-209
March 9	Racial Equity	Ch. 6, p. 210-226
March 14 & 16	Spring Break	
March 21	Health, Safety and Risk Mgt.	Ch. 7, p. 227-251
March 23	Health, Safety and Risk Mgt.	Ch. 7, p. 251-270
March 28	Sports Medicine	Ch. 8, p. 271-282
March 30	Sports Medicine	Ch. 8, p. 283-294
April 4	Coaches Contracts	Ch. 10, p.329-352
April 6	Professional Sport Leagues	Ch. 11, p.353-369
April 13	Professional Sport Leagues	Ch. 11, p.369-388
April 11	Labor and Labor Relations	Ch. 12, p.389-408
April 13	Labor and Labor Relations	Ch. 12, p.409-426
April 18	Agents	Ch. 13, p.427-447
April 20	Agent regulation	Ch. 13, p.448-472
April 25	Intellectual property	Ch. 9, p. 295-310
April 27	Intellectual Property	Ch. 9, p.310-328
May 4-11	Final Exam Period	

## **Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

### **Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

### **Students and Disability Accommodations:**

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### **Support Systems:**

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086*  
[eeotix.usc.edu](http://eeotix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*  
[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

**DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776*

[osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu)

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](http://campussupport.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)*

[ombuds.usc.edu](http://ombuds.usc.edu)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

*Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)*

[chan.usc.edu/otfp](http://chan.usc.edu/otfp)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

**The rest of this page is intentionally blank.**