

**COURSE TITLE: SPORTS LAW**

***Responsible Faculty Instructor:***  
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Asst. Professor & Asst. Director CSLBG

Credits: 4

Credits Type: Elective

Cross-registration: No

Pre-requisites: N/A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION (COURSE VISION):**

By its very nature, Sports Law, as a distinct field of law, spans various different jurisprudence. For example, the laws relating to contracts and negotiation, media law, public competition, laws on drugs, narcotics, and artificial stimulants are all interconnected to sports law's ecosystem. However, laws relating to sport are yet to be taught as a full-fledged subject across law schools in India. This situation has made it very difficult to understand the finer nuances of this ever-growing sphere of law.

Noteworthy here is the fact that there is no Central or State Legislation that regulates sports per se in India. The governance of sports in India is interspersed among many institutions at the international, national, regional, and local levels. Thus, there is an extreme dearth of clarity among law professionals, students, sportsmen and even sports regulators regarding the actual facets, scope, application and interpretation of this law. Contrasting this to India's recent rise as a force in the sphere of sports, it becomes even more imperative and to a certain extent inherent necessity to fulfil the gaps between sports and its jurisprudence to overcome the deficit in knowledge and comprehension of Sports and its related laws.

This course is not traditional Sports Law which aims to look into the specific nature of sports jurisprudence and its history; but it will also look towards its business aspects .

As it aims to provide students an overview of the business and legal issues within the areas of professional and amateur sports, specifically, but not limited to, the following: professional clubs, professional leagues, sports marketing contracts, negotiation techniques, television, sponsorship, insurance, and athletic associations.

The course also tries to establish that all such issues covered also have a relationship to basic principles and laws like contract, antitrust, tort, taxation, negotiation arbitration and other areas. To emphasize on this further, the course will also look into various cases laws, both national and international to help the students declutter the nature of 'disputes' in sports.

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY:**

The course will be combines of seminars, guest lectures and class discussions. Every module will be introduced by the instructor and/or guest lecturers through seminars.

Discussions will be based on case-studies from India and the World. Students are expected to engage in discussions during seminars based on prior reading of course material.

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students are expected to have developed the following competencies:

- a) **Conceptual Understanding:** Students will gain a clear grasp of the place of sports law within the wider legal system. They should be able to explain how doctrines of contract, labour, constitutional, and competition law intersect with sports governance and policy, both in India and internationally.
- b) **Doctrinal and Policy Analysis:** Students will be able to analyze landmark judgments, statutes, and regulatory frameworks in the sports sector. They will also be able to critically evaluate recent reforms such as the Sports Act 2025 and the Esports Bill, assessing their constitutional validity, enforceability, and long-term policy implications.
- c) **Comparative Insight:** Students will learn to compare India's fragmented governance model with global approaches, such as the EU's use of competition law or the U.S. model of collective bargaining in sport. This outcome ensures that students can situate Indian debates within a global context and consider possible legal transplants.
- d) **Research and Writing Skills:** Through progressive assignments, students will acquire the ability to write in different registers—academic, policy-oriented, and public-facing. They will learn how to construct legal arguments, synthesize scholarly sources, and present well-reasoned conclusions.
- e) **Practical Competence:** Students will develop hands-on experience in tasks central to sports law practice, such as preparing for arbitration hearings, negotiating contracts, and drafting legal briefs or policy proposals.
- f) **Ethical and Social Awareness:** Students will be sensitized to questions of integrity, inclusivity, and human rights in sport. They should be able to identify issues such as discrimination, trafficking, or doping not only as regulatory problems but also as ethical challenges that demand holistic responses.
- g) **Critical and Independent Thinking:** The course expects students to go beyond rote learning and demonstrate the ability to form independent judgments on contested legal questions, whether in classroom debates, written work, or simulations.

READING LIST (upto 10 select readings):

1. Blackshaw, Ian S., *International Sports Law: An Introductory Guide* (Springer, 2017).
2. Beloff, Michael J. et al., *Sports Law* (2nd ed., Hart, 2012).
3. Greenhow, Annette and Wolohan, John (eds), *The Routledge Handbook on Sports Law and Governance* (Routledge 2025).
4. Nafziger, James A.R., *Handbook on International Sports Law* (Edward Elgar, 2013).
5. Siekmann, R. C. R. & Soek, J., *Lex Sportiva: What is Sports Law?* (Springer, 2012).
6. Wong, Glenn M., *Essentials of Sports Law* (ABC-CLIO, 2010).
7. James, Mark and Osborn, Guy, *Olympic Laws: Culture, Values, Tensions* (Routledge 2025).
8. Anderson, J., Parrish, R. & García, B., *Research Handbook on EU Sports Law and Policy* (Edward Elgar, 2018).
9. Chanda, Subhrajit, *Handbook: Developing Sports Law in India: A Challenge Ahead* (IIP, 2020).
10. Lewis, Adam & Taylor, Jonathan (eds), *Sport: Law and Practice* (3rd ed., Bloomsbury, 2014).

WEEKLY READING PLAN (WEEKLY OUTLINE):

A weekly plan is provided below:

<b>MODULES</b>	<b>WEEK(S)</b>
<p><b>MODULE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE</b>                      &amp;                      INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROSPECTIVE ON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of Sports</li> <li>• Sociological Schools of Thought on Sports.</li> <li>• Fundamental Character of Sports</li> <li>• History of Sports</li> <li>• Rule of Structure of Sports</li> <li>• Legal Definition of Sports</li> <li>• Sports Culture in India                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Concept of Dehvada</li> <li>b. Indus Valley Civilization</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>Week 1</p>

<p>c. Vedic Period d. Hindu Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports In India</li> <li>• Constitution of India and Sports</li> <li>• Sport development policy in India between 1947–2019</li> <li>• Indian E-Sports Policy 2022</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MODULE 2: Legal Regulation of Sports Governing Bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for Sports Governing Body</li> <li>• The Core Role</li> <li>• What are Sports Governing Body</li> <li>• Appropriate Model for Governance</li> <li>• Principal of Sports Governing Body</li> <li>• Structure of Sports Governing Body</li> <li>• UN Model of Governance</li> <li>• IOC Model of Governance</li> <li>• AI’s Impact on Sports Governance and Psychological well–being.</li> <li>• The Decision-Making Process In Governance</li> <li>• Constitutional Charter for Governance of Sport</li> <li>• Substantive Rights against Sports Governing Bodies</li> <li>• Structure of Sports Governance in India</li> <li>• The organizational structure of sport in India</li> <li>• Sport Governing Bodies in India</li> <li>• Societies Registration Act XXI</li> <li>• The BCCI</li> <li>• Judicial Review: Compare India and the World</li> </ul>	<p>Week 2</p>
<p><b>MODULE 3: The Role of the State and Sports Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Sports Code</li> <li>• The Responsibilities of The State</li> <li>• The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</li> <li>• The Indian Olympic Association</li> <li>• The National Sports Policy 2001</li> <li>• National Sports Policy 2007</li> <li>• National Code for Good Governance in Sports 2017</li> <li>• National Sports Governance Act, 2025</li> <li>• National Sports Fraud Bill</li> <li>• International Legislation and Statutes in Sports             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ European Union</li> <li>○ Australia</li> <li>○ Malaysia</li> <li>○ Mauritius</li> <li>○ Namibia</li> <li>○ USA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Week 3</p>
<p><b>MODULE 4: European Union and Sports Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between EU and Law</li> <li>• Bosman Ruling</li> <li>• EU on Sports Subject to Community Law</li> </ul>	<p>Week 4</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UEFA Gentleman Rule</li> <li>• Lisbon Treaty</li> <li>• Garden Leave Theory</li> </ul> <p>EU Competition Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)</li> <li>• State Aid</li> <li>• Financial Fair Play rules</li> <li>• Concept of European Super League</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MODULE 5:</b> Human Rights (Special reference too Women’s and Transgender Rights) and Integrity in Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept</li> <li>• SIGA Goals</li> <li>• IOC Integrity Policy</li> <li>• FIFA Integrity Policy (special reference to Article 3 of FIFA statutes)</li> <li>• 1960 Resolution, and Task Force of FIFA</li> <li>• Type of Discrimination in Sports</li> <li>• Unlawful Harassment</li> <li>• Discrimination and European Law</li> <li>• History of Women’s Participation in Sports</li> <li>• Women’s and Transgender Rights in Sports</li> <li>• Trafficking in Sports</li> <li>• Child Protection: Sports Coaches and Child Athletes</li> <li>• E-Sports and Women</li> <li>• Myth Surrounding Women and Sports Participation Safety</li> <li>• Women and Sports in India</li> <li>• Transsexuals in Sports and Gender Testing (IOC and India’s Perspective) in Sports</li> <li>• Gender Testing and Human Rights</li> <li>• Trafficking in Sports</li> </ul>	<p>Week 5</p>
<p><b>MODULE 6:</b> Sports Diplomacy: India and other International Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Military Sports Council (CISM) and Sports as</li> <li>• Soft Diplomacy</li> <li>• UN and Sports Diplomacy</li> <li>• FIFA and Sports Diplomacy</li> <li>• European Union and Sports Diplomacy</li> <li>• India Government and Sports Diplomacy Bridging Soft Law, Global Governance, And Sustainable Development in International Relations</li> </ul>	<p>Week 6</p>
<p><b>MODULE 7:</b> Contractual Issues &amp; Drafting in Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Sports Contracts</li> <li>• BCCI Player Contracts</li> <li>• IPL Player Contracts</li> <li>• The Bosman Ruling and Free Movement</li> </ul>	<p>Week 7</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Diarra Case and FIFA RSTP</li> <li>• Player and Football Club Contracts</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MODULE 8: Violence in Sports and Sports Injuries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of Violence in Sports</li> <li>• Criminal Liability in Sports</li> <li>• Civil Liability in Sports Injuries</li> <li>• Concept of Dangerous Play (Special Reference to FIFA, Law 12)</li> <li>• Offences Against the Person Act 1861</li> <li>• Negligence in Sports</li> <li>• Liability of Person Associated with Sports</li> <li>• Unintentional Trots</li> <li>• Duty Of Care Owed to Visitors to Sports Grounds.</li> </ul> <p>Hooliganism in Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Hooliganism</li> <li>• Spectator Racism in Sports</li> <li>• Spectator and Crowd Management</li> <li>• Football Hooliganism</li> <li>• Stadium Liability Issues</li> <li>• Football Spectators (Seating) Order 1994</li> <li>• Stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium, 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Week 8</p>
<p><b>MODULE 9: Regulation of Doping in Sports :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doping in Sports</li> <li>• Types of Doping             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Traditional</li> <li>○ E- Doping</li> <li>○ Technology Mode</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Anti-Doping Institutions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNESCO</li> <li>○ WADA</li> <li>○ IOC</li> <li>○ NADOs (NADA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• World Anti-Doping Code             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preamble</li> <li>○ Anti-Doping Rule Violation</li> <li>○ Proof of Doping</li> <li>○ Fair Hearing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meca – Medina Ruling</li> <li>• Banned Substances</li> <li>• Cannabis use in Sports is it Doping?</li> <li>• Introduction to Global DRO</li> <li>• National Anti-Doping Agency and Code, 2021</li> <li>• Sanction Under Doping in Sports</li> <li>• The Future</li> <li>• Whereabouts rule in doping, future of inspection</li> <li>• Jannik Sinner Case law of 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Week 9</p>

<p><b>MODULE 10: Intellectual Property Rights and NFT Use in Sports.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of Patent Law Development</li> <li>• Role of Patent in Sports</li> <li>• Patent on Sports Move (Special Reference to Yoga)</li> <li>• Trademark in Sports</li> <li>• Trot of Passing off</li> <li>• Tattoo and Image Rights</li> <li>• Image Rights and Digital Gaming</li> <li>• Domain Name in Sports             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concurrent Right</li> <li>○ Cybersquatting</li> <li>○ Gripe Sites</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trade Secret in Sports</li> <li>• Ambush Marketing</li> <li>• Sports Merchandising</li> <li>• IPR and NFT use in Sports</li> </ul> <p>Sports and Broadcasting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical Background</li> <li>• Broadcast Process</li> <li>• Competition and Broadcasting</li> <li>• Sports Broadcasting and EU Laws</li> <li>• Media Law in India</li> <li>• Broadcast of Sporting Events of National Importance</li> <li>• Removing barriers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of World Politics through the medium of Strategic Communication and Sports Law</li> <li>• International Broadcasting Legislation</li> <li>• Broadcasting and Revenue Losses</li> </ul>	<p>Week 10</p>
<p><b>MODULE 11: Online Gambling and Betting Laws:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Game of Skill vs Game of Chance</li> <li>• History of Betting and Gambling</li> <li>• Betting and Gambling in Ancient India</li> <li>• Betting in Different Manuscripts of India             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rig – Veda</li> <li>○ Atharv Veda</li> <li>○ Yagnyavalkya Smriti</li> <li>○ Manu Smriti</li> <li>○ Concept of Narad Smriti and Brihas pati</li> <li>○ Kautilya’s Arthshastra</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ancient Europe and Betting and Gambling</li> </ul>	<p>Week 11</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution of India and Betting.</li> <li>• Law Related to Gambling in India</li> <li>• Morality and Sports Betting</li> <li>• NFT as a mode of Sports Betting</li> <li>• The Proposed Monitoring Body</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MODULE 12: Football Governance System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Provision</li> <li>• Membership</li> <li>• Confederations</li> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Congress</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Standing Committee</li> <li>• Competitions</li> <li>• Offences</li> <li>• Offensive Behavior and Violation of the principles of fair play</li> </ul> <p>Misconduct of Player and official</p> <p>International Football Governance and Transfer Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important terminology</li> <li>• FIFA RSTP Introduction</li> <li>• Status of Players</li> <li>• Registration of Players</li> <li>• Maintenance of Contractual Stability Between Professional and Clubs</li> <li>• Third-Party Influence and Player's Economic Rights</li> <li>• Loan of players</li> <li>• Formation and Term of Contract</li> <li>• Terminating a contract with just cause</li> <li>• Unfair Dismissal</li> <li>• International transfers involving minors.</li> <li>• Training Compensation and Solidarity Mechanism</li> <li>• Football Tribunal</li> <li>• Procedural Fairness</li> </ul> <p>Citizenship and Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreign Players</li> <li>• Switching Nationalities</li> <li>• Formation of New Indian States and Rights of Associations</li> <li>• Foreign Citizenship and Indian Origin</li> <li>• Issue of National Representation</li> <li>• Indian Origin and Indian Citizenship – The Problem</li> </ul> <p>Power of Agents in Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match Agents</li> <li>• Football Agents</li> <li>• Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams</li> </ul>	<p>Week 12</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National football agent regulations</li> <li>• Continuing Professional Development</li> <li>• Disclosure and publication</li> <li>• Suspension and Termination of Contract</li> <li>• Player Agent Relationship “Bungs” and Player Agent</li> </ul>	
<p><b>MODULE 13: Sports and International Arbitration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of ADR in Sports</li> <li>• Court for Arbitration in Sports</li> <li>• Internal Disciplinary Procedure             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber</li> <li>○ Basketball Arbitration Tribunal</li> <li>○ Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) Courts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indian ADRs             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indian Centre for Arbitration of Sports is it a myth.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Week 13</p>
<p><b>MODULE 14: Future of Sporting World: E-Sports Rule and Regulations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Concept</li> <li>• Article 2.1.a of the European Sports Charter</li> <li>• Indian Government and Concept of E-Sports</li> <li>• Threats to esports integrity</li> <li>• Fight against Integrity</li> <li>• E-Sports Governing Organizations</li> <li>• Doping issue and Tackling policy in Esports</li> <li>• Types of Software Doping</li> <li>• Now Protocol in Regulation by IESF</li> <li>• Gaming Impacts</li> <li>• Harassment in the world of Metaverse</li> <li>• E-Sports and Armed Force</li> <li>• E-Sports Business Landscape</li> <li>• E-sports future in India</li> <li>• India’s e-sports popularity – business justification</li> <li>• E-sports venue</li> <li>• E-sports eco-system</li> <li>• Economic values of the E-sports Industry</li> <li>• E-sports Player Vs Social Gamers Changes for better eco-system</li> <li>• Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (PROG Act)</li> </ul>	<p>Week 14</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVISION WEEK</b></p>	<p>Week 15</p>