



COURSE PROPOSAL

Name of the Elective Course:

Sports Law

(Previously known as : Introduction to Modern Sports Law Business and Policy)

Name of the responsible Faculty Instructor:

Prof. Dr. Subhrajit Chanda

Asst. Professor

And

Asst. Director Centre for Sports Law Business and Policy

Spring 2026

1. Credit Type: Law (4)

2. Pre-requisites: N/A

3. Cross Listed: No

4. Vision of the Course

Sport has never been confined to the playing field. It generates identities, moves markets, shapes political agendas, and produces disputes that require careful legal resolution. India's rapid growth as a sporting nation fuelled by the Indian Premier League, emerging esports leagues, and the ambition of hosting the 2036 Olympics makes it necessary to develop a legal framework that keeps pace with these transformations. Yet, despite these ambitions, Indian sports law remains fragmented, scattered across scattered government policies, court rulings, and ad hoc codes of conduct.

This course is designed to respond to that gap. It seeks to introduce students to sports law as a self-standing discipline an area that cuts across traditional subjects like contract law, labour law, constitutional law, antitrust, arbitration, intellectual property, and human rights. The vision is not simply to impart technical rules, but to situate students within the global discourse of *lex sportiva*, where international federations, arbitral bodies, and transnational actors often dictate norms as much as domestic legislation does.

The vision has two clear aspects. On one hand, the course provides a strong academic foundation: students will study the legal architecture governing sport, including contracts, governance models, anti-doping regimes, and the protection of athlete rights. On the other hand, the course emphasizes practical exposure: students will learn how sports disputes are negotiated, arbitrated, and resolved, and they will experiment with policy analysis through debates and simulations. By holding these two aspects together, the course prepares students for diverse roles as lawyers, regulators, advisors, or policymakers while also enabling them to think critically about the direction Indian sports law should take in the coming decade.

5. Pedagogical Approach

This course is built on the principle that **sports law must be experienced, not memorised**. It uses an **interactive, comparative, and practice-oriented design** to prepare students for the real world of disputes, governance, and policy.

- **Interactive Seminars:** Each week begins with a focused seminar framing the theme governance, doping, contracts, or media rights followed by **case-based analysis** of landmark disputes such as *Bosman*, *Caster Semenya*, and FIFA's RSTP alongside Indian reforms like the Sports Governance Act, 2025.
- **Comparative Lens:** Students explore how different jurisdictions India, the EU, the U.S. approach regulation, learning why some models succeed while others falter.

- **Research Pathway:** Writing builds step by step: an annotated bibliography to map literature → a short article/blog to translate law for the public → a research paper for deeper doctrinal and policy critique.
- **Learning by Doing:** Simulations and role-plays immerse students in practice they argue as counsel in mock arbitrations, negotiate player contracts, or draft policy proposals.
- **Professional Connect:** Guest lectures from lawyers, arbitrators, policymakers, and athletes bring **first-hand industry insights**, bridging theory with practice.
- **Student-Centred Dialogue:** The classroom is a space for **debate and innovation**, where the instructor guides and challenges rather than dictates, enabling students to question, apply, and craft creative solutions.

6. 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.

7. Course Design (Weekly Plan):

Lecture	Topic and Description
1.	Introduction to Sports Law; Cultural, Historical & Organizational Perspectives
2.	Sports Governance: Regulation of Governing Bodies & Judicial Oversight
3.	The Role of the State in Sports Law: Codes, Policies & International Models
4.	European Union and Sports Law: Bosman to the Super League
5.	Human Rights and Integrity in Sport: Women, Transgender Athletes & Discrimination
6.	Sports Diplomacy: India, International Organizations & Global Governance
7.	Contracts, Employment & Commercial Rights in Sport
8.	Violence, Injuries & Hooliganism in Sport
9.	Doping in Sport: Institutions, Codes & Emerging Challenges
10.	Intellectual Property, NFTs & Media Rights in Sport
11.	Betting, Gambling & Esports Law
12.	Football Governance & Player Regulation
13.	Sports Arbitration & Alternative Dispute Resolution
14.	Revision

8. Essential Readings Books (10 Key Works):

- Blackshaw, Ian S., *International Sports Law: An Introductory Guide* (Springer, 2017).
- Beloff, Michael J. et al., *Sports Law* (2nd ed., Hart, 2012).
- Anderson, Jack, *Modern Sports Law: A Textbook* (Hart, 2010).
- Nafziger, James A.R., *Handbook on International Sports Law* (Edward Elgar, 2013).
- Siekmann, R. C. R. & Soek, J., *Lex Sportiva: What is Sports Law?* (Springer, 2012).
- Wong, Glenn M., *Essentials of Sports Law* (ABC-CLIO, 2010).
- Gardiner, Simon, Parrish, Richard, & Siekmann, Robert, *EU, Sport, Law and Policy* (TMC Asser, 2009).
- Anderson, J., Parrish, R. & García, B., *Research Handbook on EU Sports Law and Policy* (Edward Elgar, 2018).
- Chanda, Subhrajit, *Handbook: Developing Sports Law in India: A Challenge Ahead* (IIP, 2020).

- Lewis, Adam & Taylor, Jonathan (eds), *Sport: Law and Practice* (3rd ed., Bloomsbury, 2014).