

**OVERVIEW**

Sports Law is a three (3)-credit-hour course that will meet **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.** in **Room TBD**. Office Hours are by appointment and will be held from **10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in **Room TBD**. You may contact me via e-mail at [bcooper@fbtlaw.com](mailto:bcooper@fbtlaw.com) or my direct line at **(713) 590-9331**.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

- **Textbook:** R. Yasser, J. McCurdy, C. Goplerud, and M. Weston, *Sports Law*, (Ninth Edition, Anderson Publishing Co., 2020).
- **Supplements:** There will be assignments of other required readings that will be distributed no later than two (2) weeks prior to the class in which they will be used.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine the application of law to the sports industry. The course analyzes legal relationships between athletes, teams, leagues, governing bodies, facilities, media, technology, and fans using contract, antitrust, labor, intellectual property, and tort law. We also will study financial, business and risk management issues critical to the sports industry. The course will be presented in three (3) sections: (I) College Sports; (II) Pro Sports – Business Operations; and (III) Pro Sports – Player Operations with review projects at the end of each section.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of the course, students will have working knowledge of:

- Unique relationships among participants in the sports industry;
- Issues that impact professional sports teams and leagues, and the rights of athletes;
- Issues involving amateurism and student-athletes;
- League operating agreements and collective bargaining agreements;
- Player contracts, governing body bylaws, and player-agent representation agreements

**GRADES**

Your final grade will be based on: your final examination score (**55%** of final grade); three (3) section review projects (**30%** of final grade); and your participation performance (**15%** of final grade).

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance and participation in class discussions are mandatory. All students are expected to be prepared to discuss assigned readings.

You are required to attend **80%** of the classes in order to receive credit for the course. If you have a serious illness, death in the family, or other emergency, please contact me. More than **two (2) missed classes** in this course will qualify as excessive absences.

Attendance will be taken via a roll sheet passed out during each class session.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Please note that information in this syllabus, other than grading and attendance policies, is subject to change at the professor's sole discretion, with reasonable notice to the students.

Class	Date	Section	Topic	Pages
1	1.17	<b>I: College Sports</b>	Scholarships	4-13
2	1.19		Athlete / Employee	15-31
3	1.24		NCAA Procedures	71-95
4	1.26		Coaches Contracts	110-129
5	1.31		Title IX	144-170
6	2.2		TV / Antitrust	190-200
7	2.7		NIL	209-221
8	2.9		NIL	222-39; 795-802
9	2.14		<b>College Sports Project</b>	
10	2.16	<b>II: Pro Sports – Business Ops.</b>	League – Governance	247-265
11	2.21		League – Membership	289-311
12	2.23		League – Market	312-332
13	2.28		League – Competition	364-387
14	3.2		League – Authority	389-413
15	3.7		IP – Brand Management	338-362
16	3.9		IP – Trademarks	807-15; 824-26
	3.14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
	3.16			
17	3.21		IP – Broadcasting	827-851
18	3.23		Stadium Logistics	603-31; 900
19	3.28		<b>Pro Sports – Bus. Ops Project</b>	
20	3.30	<b>III: Pro Sports – Player Ops.</b>	Labor Overview	417-439
21	4.4		Free Agency	266-284
22	4.6		Grievance Arbitration	480-498
23	4.11		Salary Arbitration	506-512
24	4.13		Player Representation I	517-536
25	4.18		Player Representation II	537-564
26	4.20		Contract Negotiation	571-586
27	4.25		Endorsements / IP Rights	600-02; 789-94
28	4.27		<b>Pro Sports – Player Ops. Project</b>	
	5.2		<b>Review and Recap</b>	
	5.4		<b>Final Exam – Classroom TBD</b>	

### **COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)**

CAPS can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. See: [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html).