

OVERVIEW

Sports Law is a three (3)-credit-hour course that meets **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from **9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** in **Room TBD**. Office Hours are by appointment and held on **Thursdays** from **10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in **Room TBD**. You may contact me via e-mail at bmcooper@uh.edu or my direct line at **(713) 359.0323**.

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Textbook:** R. Yasser, J. McCurdy, C. Goplerud, M. Weston, and R. Karcher, *Sports Law, Cases and Materials* (Tenth Edition, Carolina Academic Press, 2024).
- **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.

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) written section review projects (**30%** of final grade); and your participation performance (**15%** of final grade). The projects and the final will be open-book, open-notes examinations comprised of essay questions.

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	1.20	I: College Sports	NCAA Procedures	59-96
2	1.22		Scholarships	97-107
3	1.27		Athlete / Employee	107-128
4	1.29		Coaches Contracts	129-148
5	2.3		Title IX	209-238
6	2.5		TV / Antitrust	149-159
7	2.10		NIL	161-181
8	2.12		NIL	182-196; 630-39
9	2.17		College Sports Project	
10	2.19	II: Pro Sports – Business Ops.	League – Governance	251-270
11	2.24		League – Membership	293-314
12	2.26		League – Market	315-330
13	3.3		League – Competition	356-382
14	3.5		League – Authority	383-410
15	3.10		IP – Brand Management	331-363
16	3.12		IP – Trademarks	640-659
3.17 3.19 SPRING BREAK				
17	3.24		IP – Broadcasting	660-686
18	3.26		Stadium Logistics	587-620
19	3.31		Pro Sports – Bus. Ops Project	
20	4.2	III: Pro Sports – Player Ops.	Labor Overview	411-450
21	4.7		Free Agency	271-292
22	4.9		Grievance Arbitration	472-493
23	4.14		Salary Arbitration	494-504
24	4.16		Player Representation I	505-528
25	4.21		Player Representation II	529-556
26	4.23		Contract Negotiation	557-586
27	4.28		Endorsements / IP Rights	621-629
28	4.30		Pro Sports – Player Ops. Project	
	5.1		Review and Recap	
	5.5		Final Exam – Take Home (3 hrs.)	

STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM

Our classroom is a learning space where each student is treated with respect and dignity and where everyone is provided the opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In this course, all students are welcome regardless of background or identity. I encourage you to speak up and share your views appropriately throughout the semester. I also expect every class member to remember that in this learning environment, we will engage respectfully and with professionalism toward each other. In the words of the Texas Lawyer's Creed, "[a] lawyer should always adhere to the highest principles of professionalism."

HONOR CODE

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

STATEMENT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

General

Generative artificial intelligence is a form of machine learning that creates new and original output based on the data it has been trained on or has access to, employing algorithms to generate content in response to prompts. Examples of the technology include what are known as generative "large language models" (LLMs). Two well-known LLM implementations are ChatGPT and Claude. LLM output can include text, images, music, code, and more. This syllabus policy covers the textual output of generative LLMs (AI Generated Work Product)—which can include computer code or programs and human-language content. Because AI Generated Work Product can often mimic human intelligence, it could potentially be used as a substitute for a student's own work product. Such use is potentially problematic to the extent that it becomes a substitute for internalized student understanding of the material or creates a dependency on AI-Generated Work Product, which may be strictly prohibited in settings that include the bar examination.

Prohibition

Subject to the exceptions immediately below, your continuing enrollment in this course constitutes your pledge not to generate or to use any AI-Generated Work Product—whether from yourself or others—in relation to any assessment in this course. The term "assessment" means any graded or ungraded work product for this course that is submitted to the instructor, presented in a class session, or used in an oral or written graded assessment for this course.

Exceptions

The following AI-Generated Work Product uses are exceptions to the preceding prohibition. The exceptions' intent is to allow the generation and use of AI-Generated Work Product for specific, narrowly defined activities related to this course.

- You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for class preparation, although you must disclose the full extent of that use if your instructor asks. You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for study supplements to aid with general understanding of course content. This could take different forms that include creating examples or explanations of a concept, generation of diagrams and flow charts, "gamification" of course content, flash cards for study, or sample questions and answers.
- You may generate and use AI-Generated Work Product for outlines that summarize the course content.
- You may use AI-Generated Work Product to check your originally drafted text for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity, effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things.
- You may use AI-Generated Work Product for the purpose of language translation

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) 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