# Course Title: Legal Aspects of Recreation, Event and Sport Organizations - RESM 4080

## Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to how legal systems impact the world of sports through current events, case law, and practical application. It will examine legal issues that affect amateur, collegiate, professional, and international sports including contracts, torts, risk management, antitrust, regulation, business structures, and dispute resolution. This course emphasizes problem recognition and solving with real world examples and practical application.

## Instructor Information

**Name:** Jack Sawko

**Office Number:** (940) 382-4357

**Email Address:** jsawko@dentonlawyer.com

**Office Hours:** My work week can be a bit unpredictable in terms of consistent schedule. I will however do my best to hold office hours every Thursday from 12:00PM to 1:00PM. You can either call in by zoom, or we can meet in person at my office at 1172 Bent Oaks Dr. Denton, Texas 76210. If I am unavailable during that hour, I will send a notification of that through canvas. You are also welcome to email me to schedule a time to meet either over zoom, or in person. Further, please do not hesitate to email me questions, I will do my best to respond promptly. If I don't respond within two days, please send me a follow up email, or call me.

## How to Succeed in this Course:

1. Show up to class
2. Participate
3. Do the Readings
4. Turn in assignments on time. Assignments that are late will not be accepted, unless you have a good reason that has been communicated ahead of time.

**Required Material:**

1. **Text Book**
2. **Supplementary Material required from time to time. It will always be uploaded to canvas and free to download.**
3. **Technology Requirements for digital materials**
    a. **This class will have digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System as well as the online textbook. If you are unable to access the internet, please let me know ahead of time, so that we**

**can discuss options. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access the course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at Learn Anywhere (https://online.unt.edu/learn).**

**Tentative Class Schedule/ Readings**

**Please note, all of the below is subject to change.**

| Date | Readings | Topics | Case Studies/Current Events | Book Cases |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class 1: | Text book Page 2-14 (optional) | Introduction , Syllabus, Introduction to legal systems. | | Case 2: NFLPA v. NFL (page 10) (Jurisdiction Example)<br><br>Case 3: MSJ Example |
| Class 2: | Text book Page 26-32 | Dispute Resolution | Armstrong v. Tygart<br><br>Jordan Chiles International Court of Arbitration for Sport,<br><br>Russian Skiers Ruling | Armstrong v. Tygart |
| Class 3: | Text book Page 15-20 | Business Structures | NBA Corporate Documents | Fraser v. Major League Soccer (Page 20) |
| Class 4: | Text book page 253-261 | Contracts | | Newspin Sports, LLC v. Arrow Elecs., Inc. (page 262) |
| Class 5: | Text book page 267-273 | Contracts | College Athlete contracts | Vanderbilt v. Dinardo (page 273) |
| Class 6: | Text book page 279-286 | Contracts | | Indycar, LLC v. Casey (page 287) |

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| **Class 7:** | **Text book page 39-47** | **Negligence** | | **Wolf v. Kaplan (page 48)** |
| **Class 8:** | **Text book page 53-62** | **Liability of sports participants** | **Draymond Green and the Flagrant Foul** | **Nabozny v. Barnhill (page 62)** |
| **Class 9:** | **Text book page 129-135** | **Emergency Care** | | **Kleinknecht v. Gettysburg College (page 135)** |
| **Class 10:** | **Text book page 66-73** | **Defenses against Negligence** | | **Mayes v. La Sierra University (page 74)** |
| **Class 11:** | **Text book page 79-87 and 92-102** | **Waiver and Immunity** | | **Stokes v. Bally's Pacwest Inc. (page 88)**<br><br>**Marvin v. Colchester Board of Education (page 103)** |
| **Class 12:** | **Text book page 107-114 and 118-124** | **Premises Liability and Property Law** | | **Patrick Rider v. Tennis Enterprises (page 114)**<br><br>**Lockner v. Pierce County (page 125)** |
| **Class 13:** | **Text book page 141-147 and 151-157** | **Transportation and Product Liability** | | **Federal Insurance Company v. Executive Coach Luxury Travel, Inc. (page 148)**<br><br>**Covell v. Bell Sports, Inc. (page 158)** |
| **Class 14:** | **Text book page 175-183 and 189-195** | **Intentional Torts and Criminal Law** | **Speakers of Sport** | **Higgins v. Kentucky Sports Radio, Inc. (Page 184)**<br><br>**Speakers of Sport v. Proserve, Inc. (provided)**<br><br>**State v. Guidugli (page 196)** |

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| **Class 15:** | **Text book page 202-210 and 213-224 and 228-238.** | **Risk Management and crisis management** | | **Zipusch v. LA Workout Group (page 224)** |
| **Class 16:** | | | | |
| **Class 17:** | | **Professionalism v. Ameturism** | | |
| **Class 18:** | **Text book page 294-298 and 306-311** | **Regulation Levels of Law: Constitutional Law, State Action and Due Process** | **Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Tarkanian** | **A.K. v. Minnesota State High School League (page 311)** |
| **Class 19:** | **Text book page 316-322** | **Regulation Levels of Law: Equal Protection and First Amendment** | **West Virginia v. BPJ**<br><br>**MLB Players with Bible Verses on their hats** | **Hecox v. Little (page 322)**<br><br>**Kennedy v. Bremerton (page 335)** |
| **Class 20:** | **Text book page 342-347)** | **Regulation Private Clubs, and Voluntary Organizations/ Governance** | **Kawhi Leonard and Steve Balmer** | **Lobel v. Woodland Golf Club of Auburndale (page 347)** |
| **Class 21:** | **Text book page (367-373)** | **Regulation Drug Testing** | | **Veronia School district v. Acton (page 373)** |
| **Class 22:** | | **Regulation Levels of Law: Local Laws and Ordinances** | | |
| **Class 23:** | **Text book page 381-390 and 395-406 and 411-417** | **Title IX and Discrimination** | **Myers v. Stephen F. Austin**<br><br>**Larry Nassar** | **Stacey-Suugs v. Board of Regents (page 406)** |

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| **Class 24:** | **Text book page 424-431 and 436-440** | **Age and Disability and Discrimination** | | **PGA Tour v. Martin (page 441)** |
| **Class 25:** | **Text book page 497-515** | **Antitrust and Labor Law** | **Federal Baseball Club v. National League.**<br><br>**Flood v. Khun**<br><br>**United States v. International Boxing**<br><br>**Clarrett v. NFL** | |
| **Class 26:** | **Text Book page 565-570** | **Antitrust and Labor Law, and NIL** | **NCAA v.Regents of Oklahoma**<br><br>**NCAA v. Alston**<br><br>**House Settlement** | |
| **Class 27:** | **Text book page 447-452 and 459-464 and 471-477 and 565-570** | **Media, Copyright Law** | | |
| **Class 28:** | **Text book page 552-557** | **Gambling** | **Terry Rozier, Jontay Porter and Brendan Soresby** | **Murphy v. NCAA (page 558)** |
| **Class 29:** | | **Presentations** | | |
| **Class 30:** | | **Presentations** | | |

**Assignments:**

| Assignment Type | Description | Quantity | Weight of Each | Total Weight |
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| **Journal Entries** | Each week I will give you a prompt based on what we are working on in class. All that you need to do is answer the prompt. A rubric will be posted on canvas. | 15 | 2% | 30% |
| **Quizzes** | There will be two quizzes during the semester. They will be multiple choice with 10-20 questions on each one. These quizzes will take place during the last 30 minutes of classes. If you are unable to attend a class let me know ahead of time, so that we can discuss options. | 2 | 10% | 20% |
| **Project** | More information on this to come. | 1 | 25% | 25% |
| **Final Exam** | More information on this to come | 1 | 25% | 25% |
| **Extra Credit** | During the course of this class there may be opportunities to earn extra credit points. Those points will | TBD | TBD | TBD |

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| | be added at the end of the semester and will be added to final exam grade. | | | |

## University Policies

Americans with Disabilities Compliance. The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.
You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access).

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out mental health services (https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004): The University of North Texas prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct, and it investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Inclusivity. I am dedicated to fostering an environment that values inclusivity and learning. This course may require discussion of topics that can be uncomfortable or difficult. I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know.

Prohibition on AI: In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of generative AI tools is generally not permitted. There may be times during the semester that I will allow the use of AI but I will specifically set that out in the assignment instructions. If I do not speak to the use of AI, it is not permitted. Unless expressly permitted, the use of generative AI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are important aspects of this class. This class will ask that you participate in group activities and projects as well as the occasional pop quiz. It will also be discussion based. As such, attendance and participation is paramount to success. If you cannot be in class, please email me ahead of time. If there is an emergency, I will work with you to make sure that you are caught up on the classes you miss, so that it does not negatively impact your grade. Further, if you have more than three unexcused absences, your grade may be negatively lowered.

## CANVAS and Technical Support

The course will utilize Canvas, as it is UNT's learning management system. You will need to:

- Upload assignments to Canvas in the appropriate format.
- Use presentation software.

Technical Assistance: Using technology and a learning management system comes with benefits and issues. The UNT Student Help Desk can help with Canvas or other technology issues. Please plan for your assignments to avoid frustrations.
Help Desk: UNT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130; Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm
Telephone Availability:
Sunday: noon-midnight
Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
Friday: 8am-8pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm
For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)