

FCSL Certificate in Sports Law

I. General Description

Students in good standing who wish to develop special expertise in sports law may enroll in FCSL's Sports Law Certificate Program. The program consists of a group of coordinated courses designed to provide students with the opportunity to study a wide variety of legal issues in the sports industry. The curriculum is designed to provide students with a substantial legal knowledge base as to how the sports industry functions under state and federal laws, and to provide students with the practical legal skills necessary to work in the sports industry. The sports law faculty members are committed to teaching, have written extensively on a variety of sports law issues, and have years of professional experience within the sports industry.

In line with the practice-oriented and student-centered philosophy of the law school, it is vital for students to have guidance in terms of career planning and job placement. The program director pursues opportunities for students enrolled in the certificate program to gain valuable legal and business experience by participating in a one semester-long paid or volunteer internship with a sports organization or university athletic department located in Jacksonville or elsewhere. The program director places students in all internships as and when they become available.

In order to receive the sports law certificate upon graduation, students must graduate with a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.5. While any FCSL student may enroll in any course in the sports law curriculum, students who have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have enrolled in the sports law certificate program will be given preference for internships and seminars. Upon graduation and satisfaction of the curriculum requirements, the student will receive a Certificate of Completion. Successful completion of the certificate program also will be identified on the student's transcript, thereby enhancing his or her marketability to employers in the sports industry.

Full-time students must enroll at the beginning of the third semester, and part-time students must enroll at the beginning of the fourth semester (not including summer semesters). To fulfill the certificate requirements, each student must take a minimum of 15 credits from courses as described below. Each student must satisfy the law school's Advanced Legal Writing Requirement in the Sports Law Seminar or an Independent Study approved by the program director, and may satisfy the law school's Skills requirement by taking one of the courses from the Sports Law Elective Courses list below. The course plan of each student in the certificate program must be approved by the program director.

II. Curriculum

A. Required Courses

The following courses must be taken:

REQUIRED COURSES	CREDITS
Professional Sports Law	3
Amateur Sports Law	3
Sports Law Seminar (ALWR)	2

B. Elective Courses

The elective courses listed below may be counted toward the 15 credit hours required for the certificate. (Note: Some courses have prerequisites).

SPORTS LAW ELECTIVE COURSES	CREDITS
Externship in Sports Law (as approved) (Skills)	3-6
Independent Study (as approved)(ALWR)	2
Legal Issues in Sports Marketing and Sponsorship (Skills)	2
Sports Law Workshop (Skills)	2
OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES	CREDITS
Alternative Dispute Resolution	2
Antitrust Law	3
Civil Rights Litigation	2
Employment Law	3
Entertainment Law	3
Federal Income Tax	3
Estate Planning	3
Intellectual Property	3
Intellectual Property Licensing	2
Labor Law	3
Media Law	3

C. Course Descriptions

AMATEUR SPORTS LAW (3 Credits). This course covers various individual and non-professional sports law issues and focuses on the regulation of interscholastic, intercollegiate, and Olympic sports. Topics covered include tort law, contract law, Title

IX gender discrimination, the relationship between the college athlete and university, drug testing of amateur athletes, the regulatory authority of the NCAA, and the rules and regulations pertaining to "amateurism" and use of agents.

EXTERNSHIP IN SPORTS LAW (2-3 Credits). Students enrolled in the Sports Law Certificate Program have the opportunity to gain valuable legal experience by participating in one-semester long volunteer sports law internships with a sports organization or university athletic department, which may satisfy the law school's skills requirement. The externship must be pre-approved by the program director. The director places students in all internship opportunities as they become available.

NDEPENDENT STUDY IN SPORTS LAW (2 Credits). Students do substantial research on a sports law topic and write a paper under the supervision of a member of the full-time faculty, which may also satisfy the law school's advanced legal writing requirement. The independent study must be pre-approved by the program director. Prerequisite: Amateur Sports Law or Professional Sports Law.

LEGAL ISSUES IN SPORTS MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP (2 Credits). This course will explore the legal issues pertaining to sports marketing and sponsorship. Topics covered include the relationship between the sponsor and the rights holder, the legal issues associated with marketing and sponsorship agreements, the rights of privacy and publicity associated with player endorsements and trading cards, the trademark rights that permit teams and companies to license and sell commercial merchandise, and the relationship between professional athletes and the international and national governing bodies of which they are members. The course will also explore the legal issues associated with media sponsors in television.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS LAW (3 Credits). This course covers legal issues peculiar to the professional sports industry, including league decision-making and commissioner power, labor relations, antitrust law, enforcement and negotiation of sports contracts, and stadium and intellectual property issues.

SPORTS LAW SEMINAR [Topic Specific] (2 Credits). This seminar will focus on modern legal issues pertaining to a particular subject matter of sports law, and the topic varies from semester to semester. Each student in the seminar will write a substantial paper on a specific topic chosen in consultation with the instructor, which also satisfies the law school's advanced legal writing requirement. Students will learn about advanced legal research methods and sources related to amateur and professional sports. Prerequisites: Amateur Sports Law and Professional Sports Law.

SPORTS LAW WORKSHOP (2 Credits). This course is a practical skills workshop in which students apply the legal principles learned in Amateur Sports Law and Professional Sports Law by working on various projects that involve legal problems associated with intercollegiate athletics and professional sports, including university athletic department governance and risk management, Title IX gender equity compliance audits, athletic event management and sponsorships, player contracts and scholarships, stadium and

arena financing and leases, and intellectual property licensing. This course satisfies the law school's skills requirement. Prerequisites: Amateur Sports Law and Professional Sports