

# **Advanced Sports Law (SPM 6905, Section 2B89)**

## **Course Information, Syllabus, and Assignments**

### **Course Information:**

Dates: August 20, 2019 – December 8, 2019  
Location: Online, available until December 9, 2019  
Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (Canvas)

### **Contact Information**

Prof. Daniel Sokol  
Holland Hall 332  
(352) 273-0968  
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You may contact me through Canvas or email me directly. I will try to respond within 48 hours.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3-5 or by appointment.

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to further student understanding of foundational legal principles in the field of sport management, especially those principles governing contractual relationships, agency representations, and liability for wrongful conduct. This course builds on the basic principles of law students studied in the introductory Sports Law course.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will:

Articulate the role of contracts in sports management and be able to explain how contracts are formed and enforced

Ascertain the kinds of contracts commonly used in the field of sports management.

Differentiate how agency relationships are formed and what duties the agency relationship imposes

Analyze hypothetical scenarios involving sports and recreation and predict what types of tort liability they might generate

Correlate and classify the different categories of tort liability and articulate the legal elements of various torts, including battery, negligence, right of publicity, and defamation

Break down how the laws of contracts, torts, and agency affect sports management and be able to articulate basic principles of legal risk management.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Analyze contract terms and conditions

Assess and evaluate how and why contracts are used

Interpret and classify types of contracts

Identify the formation of agency relationships and explain the duties they impose

Analyze and respond to tort liability scenarios

Define and describe various types of tort liability and their elements

Differentiate the laws of contracts, torts, and agency and their effect on sports management

Explain risk management

**Required Texts:** There is a required text for this course.

Contracts in a Nutshell 7th Edition by Claude Rohwer and Anthony Skrocki

ISBN-13: 978-0314925640

All other assigned readings are available in Canvas for each assignment.

If you need assistance with Canvas, you can find answers to specific questions on the UF e-learning help main page for canvas: [lss.at.ufl.edu/help/](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/)

Additional support is offered by the UF Computing Help Desk 352.392.4357  
[helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

**Course Information and Policies:**

Please read this syllabus carefully. This course is not completely self-paced. *All quizzes, exams, assignments, discussion posts, and so forth must be turned in by the date listed on the syllabus.* Quizzes and exams will only be available on the dates and times listed on the syllabus. Please put the relevant deadlines on your calendar! We will not accept assignments, quizzes, or discussion posts after the posted deadlines.

If personal circumstances arise that may interfere with your ability to meet a deadline, please let us know as soon as possible before the due date. Please keep in mind only university authorized excuses will be accepted, and documentation must be provided. Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Please check the **Course Announcements** periodically for clarifications as needed.

This course is an online course, and all class sessions, assignments, and discussions will be delivered through E-Learning (Canvas). The Course is organized in 15 Weekly blocks with the following elements:

**Lectures:**

Most weeks will have four or five lectures. These lectures provide you with crucial information.

**Readings:**

Course readings will be assigned for each week, and you will be responsible for material in the readings, even if it is not covered in the lecture. Reading assignments will involve mainly case law. It is important to keep up with the reading so you can learn the key terms and concepts. The law has a language all its own and it takes some effort to learn it. The reading for this course is very light, which means that taking excellent notes during the lectures is very important. Optional readings to help situate these issues including Contracts in a Nutshell, Torts in a Nutshell, and Agency, Partnership, and the LLC in a Nutshell. The difference between prior editions and the current one for our purposes is minimal as contract, tort and agency law do not go through significant shifts or fundamental changes, unlike other areas of business law such as corporations, tax or securities law.

**Exams:**

Three (3) exams will be given during the semester. Exam 1 will cover the Contracts materials, Exam 2 will cover Agency Law materials. Exam 3 will cover Torts materials. Exam content will be based on material from lectures, PowerPoint slides, and other assigned readings (case law and assignments) from the weeks prior to that exam. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be given without an excused, approved absence. Exams will be given in Canvas. Any missed exam will result in a zero. If you have a conflict (that warrants a make-up) with the exam dates or times, you must e-mail the course instructor at [sokold@law.ufl.edu](mailto:sokold@law.ufl.edu) *at least seven days prior* to the exam to request a possible make-up time and date. Please provide specific information for your request. Make-ups will only be given for very rare, extenuating circumstances. In the event of an emergency (medical, death in family, etc.), contact the course instructor as soon as possible prior to the exam. Documentation of the emergency will be required.

**Discussion Questions and Discussion Boards:**

Students will take part in four (4) discussions during the semester. See list of deadlines below. Students will be put into groups (dependent on the size of the class) and required to post an Initial Post based on the instructions/subject matter, but must also post subsequent posts/responses to their group member's posts. Points will be given for your initial post AND your responses to group members. Posts should be well reasoned, articulate, on time, and supported by examples and concepts learned each week. You can respond to your group members with ideas, questions, or your view on their posts. All students are expected to follow

rules of common courtesy in email messages, discussions, chats etc.

**Grading, Point Distribution, and Scale:**

**Discussion Posts**

**4 X 10 points = 40 points**

**Exams**

**3 X 100 points = 300 points**

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**Total Points: 340**

A	=	93-100%
A-	=	90-92.9%
B+	=	87-89.9%
B	=	83-86.9%
B-	=	80-82.9%
C+	=	77-79.9%
C	=	73-76.9%
C-	=	70-72.9%
D+	=	67-69.9%
D	=	60-66.9%
E	=	Below 60%

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Contracts Initial Discussion Board Post and Discussion Responses	40	Contracts Initial Discussion Board Post Due on 10/2 Discussion Response Due on 10/6
Contracts Exam	100	10/14
Agency Discussion Board Post and Discussion Responses	40	Agency Discussion Board Post Due on 10/15 Discussion Response Due 10/19
Agency Law Exam	100	10/27
Torts Initial Discussion Board And Torts Discussion Responses	40	Torts Initial Discussion Board Post Due on 11/13 Response Due on 11/17
Torts Exam	100	12/8

**Statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Resources. The UF Office of Disability Resources will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Law School Office of Student Affairs when requesting accommodation.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students must adhere to university regulations regarding academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to any form of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, etc.) will not be tolerated. Any student guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade (E) for the course, and the matter will be forwarded to the UF Office of Judicial Affairs.

**Course Evaluations:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last few weeks of the semester, but students will be notified when they are open. Summary results of assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

**Online Assistance:**

The University of Florida recognizes that pursuit of an online degree requires just as much student support as pursuit of a traditional on-campus degree and, therefore, each online program is responsible for providing the same student support services to both students who are in residence on the main campus and those who are seeking an online degree through distance learning. The following links provide support services for students:

**[Online Computing Help Desk- e-Learning Support Services](#)**

The UF Computing Help Desk is available to assist students with technical issues. If you have any issues accessing the online course material you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately for assistance and obtain a case number. or issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

**[Online Library Help Desk](#)**

The help desk is available to assist students with access to all of the UF Libraries resources.

### *Disabilities Resource Center*

The University of Florida is committed to providing equal educational access to students with disabilities. As you are developing and/or updating your syllabi for the spring semester, please take a moment to review the university's "[Policy on Course Syllabi](#)" which specifies the inclusion of the following recommended statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities:

"Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester."

A disability syllabus statement serves to open the lines of communication between an instructor and a student by making the student feel included when approaching an instructor regarding accommodation needs and/or disability-related concerns.

Additional resources for faculty can be found on the Disability Resource Center's Instructor Resources webpage (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/faculty/resources-for-instructors>). Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565 or via e-mail at [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu) if you have any questions.

### *Counseling and Wellness Center*

If you would like to speak to a counselor about a problem that you are having, please visit UF's counseling and wellness center.

### *Dean of Students Office*

If you need help resolving a conflict or would you like access to the student code of conduct, please visit the Dean of Students website.

**Copyright Statement:** The materials used in this course are copyrighted. The content presented is the property of UF and may not be duplicated in any format without permission from the College of Health and Human Performance, UF Levin College of Law, and UF, and may not be used for any commercial purposes.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents the tentative plans and objectives for the course. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

## Modules

### *Welcome and Introduction to Contracts*

Week 1: Monday, Aug. 19-Sunday, Aug. 25

Module Objectives: In this module we will offer an introduction for how to think about law and an introduction to contracts that includes Contract Formation as well as issues of Consideration and the Bargain Principle. This module is about developing core competencies in reading and synthesizing cases and in offering a background on what contract law is, the existence of a promise, its elements, and bargained for exchange.

### *Contracts*

Week 2: 8/26 - 9/1

Week 3: 9/2 - 9/8

Week 4: 9/9 - 9/15

Week 5: 9/16 – 9/22

Week 6: 9/23 – 9/29 (Third Parties)

Module Objectives: The readings in this module focus on situations of potential contractual opportunism – through various sorts of ambiguity, drafting error, breach and remedies, law can be used as a sword or shield to change your commercial position. Synthesizing the basic framework of contractual doctrine allows for a more sophisticated view of how to approach various contractual problems and situations.

### *Contracts*

Week 6: 9/30-10/6 (Arbitration)

Week 7: 10/7 -10/13

Module Objectives: In this module we offer some practical application of many of the issues that we have analyzed in contract law. We begin with an overview of arbitration generally and then apply it to a baseball setting. Next, we have a series of case studies that offer real world examples of situations in which contracting plays a role in business. Law shapes a number of these opportunities.

## *Agency Law*

Week 8: 10/14 - 10/20

Week 9: 10/21 - 10/27

Module Objectives: In this module, we focus on a few principles that we believe are foundational to the study of business organizations: agency formation, fiduciary duty, and various principles of attribution. All of us enter into relationships, but only some of those relationships invoke legal regulation. We examine why agency relationships and partnerships subject to legal regulation. Many of the rules governing business organizations are directed at the inward-looking consequences of the relationship. In addition to rules about the inward-looking consequences of the relationship, each business organization has default rules about outward-looking consequences. We explore and synthesize legal doctrine on these issues.

## *Torts*

Week 10: 10/28 - 11/3

Week 11: 11/4 - 11/10

Week 12: 11/11 - 11/17

Week 13: 11/18 - 11/24

Week 14: 11/25 - 12/1

Module Objectives: Torts law has two major objectives: (1) to compensate the victims of a tort victims and (2) deterrence. The law of torts can be broken into its general doctrinal elements. Ultimately, these readings strengthen your ability to evaluate and analyze tort claims, apply case law to factual situations and to interpret and predict legal risk based on an analysis of legal doctrine to business practices.