KES 5307 – Issues in Sports Law – 8 Week Syllabus
Department of Kinesiology & Human Performance
Sul Ross State University

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alonzo Maestas, PhD, JD, MS, MA, MLS, MCJ
Email (preferred): Axm17kg@sulross.edu (Response time: 48 hours)
Phone: Email instructor for phone or Zoom appointment

Syllabus Objective

The purpose of this syllabus is to outline the semester for you in a manner that is easy to read and understand. I will cover the course requirements, assignments, deadlines, grading scale, and any and all other expectations of this course. Remember that this syllabus is subject to change, but I will let you know if I will be making any changes.

Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Course Delivery

This is a fully online course. This course follows an 8-week calendar as detailed in the course schedule.

Course Description

We live in an increasingly litigious society and have seen a dramatic increase in the number of lawsuits in the field of KES. This trend is also evident within the realm of sport and physical activity. You, as future professionals in sport and exercise, will gain general understanding of the law as it pertains to this area, be able to prevent and forestall litigation against your organization, and identify when it is necessary to retain the services of an attorney.

Required Textbook

You will have access to the textbook, free of charge, through the links in the modules. The textbook is as follows:

Title: Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies 13th ed.
Author: Coakley
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education
ISBN: 9781260240665

You may also need to access the SRSU Library to locate and download peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. For assistance, you may Ask the Library or contact the Graduate Student Center for help.

Expectation of Students
Students are responsible for keeping up with the reading and are expected to read the assigned chapters and/or other posted readings prior to class in order to contribute to online discussion. Handouts distributed through Blackboard should be kept in a notebook in order to be referred to as necessary.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students will:

A. Understand fundamental legal concepts relevant to tort law, contract law, and constitutional law.

B. Have identified potential liability situations in the supervision, management and conduct of sport, recreation and physical activity, and therefore, be able to design and develop strategies for limiting liability.

C. Have analyzed a tort law scenario, constructed basic court cases based on the scenario, and predicted the outcome of a hypothetical court case.

D. Have used the basic elements of contract law to construct a contract and waiver for a sport and physical activity situation. In addition, critiqued an existing contract and determined whether it meets legal standards.

E. Have identified situations regarding discrimination in terms of race, sex, and disability as it pertains to sport and physical activity. Analyzed constitutional law scenarios, constructed basic court cases based on the scenarios, and predicted the outcome.

F. Have communicated in writing a court case, its ramifications to the sport management profession, and debated the merits of the court's ruling.

Marketable Skills
The following marketable skills are met in this course:

1. Career Management. The entire course is designed to give you a practical understanding of how sport and law intersect, and how you will encounter this throughout your career as a sport professional.

2. Communication. Through your discussion posts, you will learn to communicate what you have learned with your peers, and how to reply and respond to your peers.

3. Critical Thinking. Through your homework and assignments, you will be challenged and learn how to think critically and outside your comfort zone.

Introduction



Welcome to Issues in Sports Law!

My name is Dr. Alonzo Maestas, and I will be your instructor for this course. I am excited to work with you this semester as we explore how law shapes the world of sport at every level, from youth leagues to professional athletics.

My academic and professional background sits at the intersection of law, sport, and education. I hold a doctorate in Sport Administration within the field of Physical Education, Sports and Exercise Science, a Juris Doctor, and multiple graduate degrees focused on sport law, coaching, physical education, and compliance. More importantly, I have applied that training in real-world settings.

I served as a legal officer in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, where I practiced contract, fiscal, and administrative law, and later practiced both criminal and civil law in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the sport context, I have worked as an Athletic Director, coached and officiated youth sports, and currently work in higher education as the Director of the Veteran and Military Resource Center at the University of New Mexico. These experiences inform how I approach sport law, not just as theory, but as something that affects real people, real institutions, and real decisions.

My teaching philosophy is straightforward: if you did not learn, I did not do my job. I design my courses to be structured, clear, and supportive, but student success depends on communication. If you encounter challenges during the semester, academic, personal, or logistical, reach out early so we can address them before they become larger problems. Email is the best way to contact me at amaest77@unm.edu. Please see the Instructor Information section of this syllabus for my response times.

In this course, we will examine legal and ethical issues in sport, including performance-enhancing drugs, eligibility and governance disputes, injury liability, and legal responsibilities across amateur and professional athletics. You will engage with the material through readings, assignments, discussions, and a final exam designed to build both understanding and practical application.

Important notes for success:

- The textbook is provided at no cost through the weekly McGraw Hill Connect links in Blackboard. Be sure to access readings through those links.

- Consistency matters. Avoid waiting until the end of the week to complete readings. Spreading the work across the week will significantly reduce stress.

- All due dates for readings, assignments, discussions, Connect work, and the final exam are posted in Blackboard and in this syllabus. Plan ahead and schedule your study time.

I am looking forward to a productive and engaging semester together. Welcome to the course. Let's get started.

Getting Help

SRSU Graduate Center
The Graduate Student Center, located in BAB 104, provides resources and services for all SRSU graduate students. There is a computer lab with desktop computers and a networked printer/copier/scanner; laptop computers, which can be checked out; a projector and screen for rehearsing student presentations; and a conference room for group study. Both Alpine and distance education students can receive writing and other assistance by calling 432-837-8524.

Blackboard
Navigating Blackboard and this course is essential to your success as a student. If you have problems submitting assignments, contact the support staff listed below.

Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)
Phone: 432-837-8888
Toll Free: 888-837-2882

Mon-Fri 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sandy Bogus: sbogus@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8523

Sat-Sun 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Rusty Klein: rklein@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8595

McGraw Hill Connect
If you have any technical issues or questions, please contact McGraw-Hill's Customer Experience Group at 1-800-331-5094.

Computer and Digital Literacy Skills
To be successful in this course, students are expected to be able to:
- Use a learning management system (LMS); specifically, Blackboard Learn
- Search the World Wide Web and efficiently use a web browser such as Firefox
- Have a basic understanding of their computer operating system
- Use Adobe Reader to view and download PDF documents
- Use email
- Play audio/video files
- Use online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information
- Create and submit files in commonly used word processing formats (specifically Microsoft Office Word)
- Properly cite information sources

Netiquette
When posting or emailing, please remember that professionalism is not only encouraged, but expected. You are practicing your written and electronic communication skills, and want to form good habits before you go out in the work force.

On that note, when posting on the Discussion Board, please keep in mind the following:

- Please be courteous. Don't flame (i.e., post insults, invective, or other personally disrespectful comments) or post flamebait (i.e., deliberately provocative or manipulative material intended or likely to elicit flames).
- Please be careful in the use of sarcasm and irony. Online communication lacks the subtle nonverbal cues that help us interpret such rhetorical flourishes in face-to-face settings, so that it is easy to miss the point or misunderstand. More importantly, it is easy to give or take offense where none is intended. Accordingly, give people the benefit of the doubt, and if you are misunderstood, don't get defensive.
- Avoid typing in all capital letters, as this is considered to be shouting and is considered rude.
- Limit the use of emoticons (emotion icons) to introductions and less formal communication.
- Use proper grammar and spelling. Avoid abbreviations and informal language. Text messaging abbreviations are not appropriate.
- Be tolerant of those who are still learning how to use this forum (e.g., people who accidentally send multiple copies of the same message, PEOPLE WHO FORGET AND LEAVE THEIR CAPS LOCK KEY ON WHEN TYPING).
- Don't post excessively or monopolize the conversation. Remember that multiple shoot-from-the-hip posts are much less effective than fewer carefully-thought-out ones, and that patience in responding will encourage more contributors with a wider variety of ideas and perspectives to participate.

In addition to the above, please keep in mind the following:

- A professional and respectful tone is expected for all course communication.
- Respect the privacy of your classmates and what they share.
- Understand that we may disagree and that exposure to other opinions is part of the learning experience.
- Be respectful of the views and opinions of others. We are in this together. Before posting a comment, ask whether you would be willing to make the same comment face-to-face.
- Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
- Be careful with acronyms. If you use an acronym, it is best to spell it out first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward. For example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Methods of Evaluation (See below 'Course Requirements' for more details)

Outcome Measure	Points per unit	Available Points	Percentage of Grade
Connect LearnSmart Chapter Readings Questions	Varies	200	25%
Discussions	50	200	25%
Assignments	100	300	37.5%
Final Exam	100	100	12.5%
Total/Final Grade*	--	800	**100%**

*Letter grading as per SRSU policy will be used in this course.

Note: Satisfactory progress in the HHP program means a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all core classes (e.g. everything leading up to the final practicum course). In most cases, this means a 'B' or better in each class is considered satisfactory progress.

Late Work Policy
All coursework must be submitted by the provided due dates in Blackboard or Connect. Late work will be subject to the following deductions: Discussions/Responses/Assignments/ Quizzes/Final Projects carry a 5% deduction per day late; up to 30% maximum deduction. LearnSmart readings must be completed by the due date for credit.

All Course Requirements Deadline
Due to the time requirement for grading purposes, all course requirements must be submitted/completed by the 'Course Requirements Deadline' of *Tuesday in Week 8 at 11:59pm* to be counted for credit towards the final letter grade in this course. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Late deductions will apply as per above policy.

Academic Dishonesty or Misconduct
Sul Ross State University is committed to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. Participating in behavior that violates academic integrity (plagiarism, etc.) will result in disciplinary action and may include receiving a failing grade for the assignment, failing the course, and suspension and/or dismissal from the University.

Drop Policy
Students are responsible to register and withdrawal from courses themselves, either through Banner (LoboOnline) or by contacting the University Registrar by published deadlines. For information regarding enrollment/registration changes please review the website at: http://www.sulross.edu/page/967/schedule-changes-withdrawals

Tentative Course Calendar

Week	LearnSmart Chapters	Assessments
1 (Aug 24 – Aug 30)	LearnSmart Chapters 1 – 2	DUE: Discussion 1 (post by Aug 28, response by Aug 30) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 1 – 2) ASSIGNMENT PACKET AVAILABLE
2 (Aug 31 – Sep 6)	LearnSmart Chapters 3 – 5	DUE: Assignment 1 DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 3 – 5)
3 (Sep 7 – Sep 13)	LearnSmart Chapters 6 – 7	DUE: Discussion 2 (post by Sep 11, response by Sep 13) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 6 – 7)
4 (Sep 14 – Sep 20)	LearnSmart Chapters 8 – 10	DUE: Assignment 2 DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 8 – 10)
5 (Sep 21 – Sep 27)	LearnSmart Chapters 11 – 12	DUE: Discussion 3 (post by Sep 25, response by Sep 27) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 11 – 12)
6 (Sep 28 – Oct 4)	LearnSmart Chapters 13 – 15	DUE: Assignment 3 DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapters 13 – 15)
7 (Oct 5 – Oct 11)	LearnSmart Chapter 16	DUE: Discussion 4 (post by Oct 9, response by Oct 11) DUE: LearnSmart questions (chapter 16)
8 (Oct 12 – Oct 16)		DUE: Final Exam due by Wednesday, Oct 14, at 11:59 pm

Course Requirements

Discussions
200 points total (Four discussions at 40 points for 'posts'; 10 points for 'responses')

'Posts'
Each post is worth 40 points. To create a thread, click on the hyperlink to the discussion and then click on create new thread. Put a short title and the week number in the subject line (e.g., Sports Shorts article – week 2). Please only respond directly in the message area, no attachments.

'Responses'
Each response is worth up to 10 points. Under each discussion post, you must read and respond to one of your classmate's original discussion posts. Responses are due 48hrs after the original discussion due date. The response must be more than "good job," "I like what you said," etc. It must be a substantial response, as if you were having a discussion on the topic in class. Specifically, a substantial response would include, but not be limited to adding to the discussion with further information you find (cite your source), asking relevant questions, describing application to sports, health or performance, as well as providing constructive criticism / a different viewpoint. Responses should be professional/academic responses and not chat room or informal language. To respond to another's post, click on their post and then choose reply. Title the subject of your response with your "Last name" and "response to Authors Last Name Week 3 post" (e.g., Maestas' response to Henderson's Week 3 post).

Connect LearnSmart
320 points total (20 points per chapter)

LearnSmart is an interactive reading program provided through McGraw-Hill Connect. These modules will guide you through each individual chapter asking questions to assess your knowledge along the way.

Assignments
300 points total (Three assignments at 100 points per assignment)

The assignments provide a real-world/practical application of the course content. There will be three assignments throughout the semester.

Final Exam
100 points total

The final exam will cover all chapters, and is in the link in week 8. You may access it at any time during the semester.

Learner Support

SRSU Disability Services
ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.