

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

SMGT 505

LEGAL ISSUES IN SPORTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an examination of risk management and the current legal principles which affect sport and recreation organizations.

RATIONALE

Sport managers need to understand the legal concepts encountered in the operation of sport and recreation programs, events, and facilities. This increased awareness of legal issues prevents liability, promotes safety, and reduces exposure to risk.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/ video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word; Microsoft PowerPoint
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
- D. [Adobe Reader](#) (free download)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Apply various aspects of law to the concept of risk management within a sport or recreation setting.
- B. Utilize the library and electronic resources to research sport law cases and legal principles.
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of how U.S. law applies to sport and recreation organizations.
- D. Analyze and interpret court cases, and identify future applications of the legal principles within a sport setting.
- E. Describe the applicable legal defenses that may be utilized by sport and recreation organizations.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and online articles

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

The student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums intended for interactive reflection. Each forum assignment will be completed in two parts: 1) the student will post a thread in response to the instructor's prompt and 2) the student will then post replies to the threads of 3 other classmates. Each thread must be at least 400 words and the three replies must be at least 200 words each.

- D. Legal Issues Paper: Annotated Bibliography

Before beginning the Legal Issues Paper, the student will create an annotated bibliography consisting of 15 peer-reviewed sources. It must not summarize the article or book, nor must it list the article's content; rather, it must briefly explain 1) the author's main point or argument; 2) the author's method or approach; and 3) the place of the piece in the literature as a whole (e.g., does the author agree with other scholars?). The bibliography as a whole must provide a solid overview of the existing state research in the area that the student is studying.

- E. Legal Issues Paper

The student will research a topic in sport law and write a 10–15-page paper that integrates the research with one specific sport or recreation of his/her choosing. Once the research is complete, the student will compose a thesis that unifies the research, using the findings to support the paper's main ideas. Fifteen articles and five case studies must be cited. The paper should have a title page, abstract, and references page (these are not included in the total page count); all content must be formatted in current APA style.

F. Special Events Contingency Planning Certificate

The student will take a 5-hour web-based mini-course offered through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, which will provide information related to pre-event planning, forming the planning team, event hazard analysis, and responding to incidents during special events in any community. This mini-course will provide universal guidelines regarding contingency planning for special events of all sizes, and it will provide instruction for how to use the Incident Command System (ICS) as an efficient way of managing special events. Upon completion of the mini-course, and successfully passing the accompanying exam, students will submit the FEMA certificate as proof of course completion.

G. Risk Management Presentation

The student will submit a 15–20-slide PowerPoint presentation that applies a portion of their Legal Issues Paper to the process of risk management. More specifically, the student will use the identified legal issues (from his/her previously completed paper), and develop a risk management plan to mitigate the issues for managerial practice. The presentation will be submitted as if it is intended to train employees on the process, plan, and practical treatments of risk management.

H. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be utilized to measure the student’s ability to recall, analyze, and apply the concepts covered in the first four modules of the course. The student must choose 4 essay questions out of 13 questions provided. Each essay answer must cite 2 resources that have not yet been used in the course. The midterm’s answers should be submitted in a Word document.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Legal Issues Paper: Annotated Bibliography	50
Legal Issues Paper	150
Special Events Contingency Planning Certificate	200
Risk Management Presentation	200
Midterm Exam (Modules 1–4)	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dougherty, N., Goldberger, A. S., & Carpenter, L. J. (2007). *Sport, physical activity, and the law*. Champaign, IL: Sagamore Publishing. ISBN: 9781571675279.
- Hronek, B. B., Spengler, J. O., & Baker, T. A. III. (2007). *Legal liability in recreation, sports, and tourism*. Champaign, IL: Sagamore Publishing. ISBN: 9781571675712.
- Nohr, K. (2009). *Managing risk in sport and recreation: The essential guide for loss prevention*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. ISBN: 9780736069335.
- Pittman, A.T., Spengler, J.O., & Young, S.J. (2008). *Case studies in sport law*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. ISBN: 9780736068215.
- Sharp, L.A., Moorman, A.M., & Claussen, C.L. (2007). *Sport law: A managerial approach*. Scottsdale, AZ: Holcomb Hathaway. ISBN: 9781890871703.
- Thornton, P.K. (2010). *Sports law*. Subury, MA: Jones and Bartlett. ISBN: 9780763736507.



COURSE SCHEDULE

SMGT 505

Textbook: Cotten & Wolohan, *Law for Recreation and Sport Managers* (2017).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 1	Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1	10 50
2	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 6	DB Forum 2	50
3	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 7 1 court case	DB Forum 3 Legal Issues Paper: Annotated Bibliography	50 50
4	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 5	Midterm Exam	200
5	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 2	Legal Issues Paper	150
6	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 2 FEMA course	Special Events Contingency Planning Certificate	200
7	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 3 1 online article	DB Forum 4	50
8	Cotten & Wolohan: ch. 4	Risk Management Presentation	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.