

Optional Seminar

Seminar description

Outline

The practice of sports is one of the most common activities of individuals across all nations. Having fair games involves having rules accepted by all the sport communities. Today, having uniform rules in each sport discipline is a task carried out by national and international federations, national and international Olympic committees. However, in the last decades there has been an increase of international sports-related disputes, and as a consequence there was the need to establish an independent body for the settlement of sport related disputes, the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).

The seminar offers law students the opportunity to learn about sports law, about specific regulations from international federations in the field, and about the specialized arbitration process through the Code of Arbitration for Sports. The seminar shall discuss universal standard norms and principles derived from this field; the procedures of sports arbitration; as well as main decisions issued by the Court of Arbitration for Sports regarding disputes submitted to it.

The seminar is taught by an international arbitrator, member of the Court of Arbitration of Sports (CAS). She is an international lawyer, experienced both in academic research as well as the practice involving international dispute settlement and other areas of international law. The lecturer is also a former international athlete in Fencing (Paraguay); took part in the Athlete Arbitration Training Programme, Court of Arbitration for Sport; and was a Member of the CAS Ad Hoc Division for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. More on her biography can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Schedule

We shall have five block meetings. This seminar will cover the following topics:

- Overview: Introduction to Sports Law, Dispute Settlement Mechanisms, and the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS);
- Code of Arbitration for Sports;
- FIFA and its legal regulations. Selected cases and jurisprudence of CAS;
- Divisions and Arbitrators; Special Governing Bodies;
- Selected cases.

Session 1: November 7, 2025, 8am-2pm: Overview: Introduction to Sports Law, Dispute Settlement mechanisms, general aspects of Arbitration, and the establishment of the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

We will have an introduction to the world of international sports, the Olympic movement and the various international bodies created to regulate sports in their different disciplines. We will discuss

an overview of the dispute settlement mechanisms; the different methods and stages for solving international disputes. We will focus on general aspects of Arbitration as a dispute settlement mechanism. Finally we will compare the international dispute settlement mechanism, as it was established in international law, with the International Court of Justice and consider the history, development and establishment of the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

Session 2: December 5, 2025, 8am-2pm: Code of Arbitration for Sports; and Ad Hoc Arbitration rules of CAS for the Olympic Games;

We will discuss and analyse the following stages and special procedures allowed under the Code of Arbitration for Sports, regarding the procedure, arbitrators and tribunal, the arbitration agreement, the different categories of disputes, the applicable law and the award. We will also look at the special ad hoc arbitration rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sports for the Olympic Games.

Session 3 December 19, 2025, 8am-2pm: FIFA and its legal regulations. Selected cases and jurisprudence of CAS; Anti-Doping Rules.

We will look at FIFA as the world's main football governing body, its own system to resolve disputes, and the situations and cases where recourse is submitted to CAS. We will discuss the main jurisprudence of CAS by referring to key selected cases.

We will also discuss the Anti-Doping rules and regulations and the importance of national and international Anti-Doping arbitration.

Session 4: January 9, 2026, 8am-2pm: Institutional visit.

This session includes an organised visit to the Ministry of Sport of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Session 5: January 30, 2026, 8am-2pm: Essay Writing for the Certificate.

Reading:

Code of Arbitration for Sports.
Olympic Charter.
WADA Code.
FIFA Statutes. May 2024 Edition.