Sports Law (Prof. Griffith)

Syllabus – Spring Term 2012

1. Focus of Course:

The course will deal with the major legal issues in professional team sports as well as an introduction to amateur sports. The primary focus will be on league operations, labor matters, league wide broadcast issues and related problems. The NFL negotiation/litigation has been our focus this year. Look at the 8th Circuit Website, http://www.ca8.uscourts.gov,and scan the pleadings and court decisions. This will give a look at the stuff you will learn this Spring.

Sports Law deals with the relationships between competitors arranged in leagues who employ members of some of the most powerful unions in America. The resulting conflicts and their resolution is the subject matter of the course. Amateur sports deal with competition as well and the need to protect the integrity of the game.

A class will be devoted to Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, the most important civil rights law passed in the last fifty years and its impact on sports.

2. Required Text:

Page numbers are to the main casebook, Sports Law and Regulation (2nd ed.), by Matthew Mitten, et.al., published by Aspen Publishers. Other materials will be distributed in class as appropriate.

3. Grades & Attendance:

Grading will be based on a final exam that will be self scheduled by the Law School as directed by the registrar. It will be a two-hour test and be closed-book. The final exam will be based on class discussions and the readings. The test will ask for short answers explaining concepts covered in the class.

The ABA requires that all law students regularly attend classes and those who do prosper. Remember, the world is run by those who show up.

Students are urged to read sports business articles in the daily press and on line, as well. A portion of each class will be devoted to review and analysis of the current news.

4. My availability:

I am available by email (ccgpa@ccgpa.com) and phone to my office (612) 338 9097. My office is at 4920 IDS Center, Minneapolis. If necessary, I can meet at the law school prior to or after class, but arrangements must be made in advance. If you wish, I can meet at my office. Call for a time.

Reading Assignments:

Date	Readings from Sports Law and Regulation.	Topic:
January 17	Text pages 28-48, and 170-178. Also review	The Brentwood, Indiana Highschool and Tarkanian cases will give insight into amateur sports regulation. Also, for our first class look over the introductory pages to the text for an overview of sports law and a society.
January 24	Potpourri: pp. 239-250; 254- 261;1043-1052	A review of important cases and one concept that falls outside the scope of the class. <i>NCAA v. Board of Regents; Law v. NCAA</i> , and a description of ambush marketing.
January 31	pp.594-608; pp. 79-96	Vernonia and drug testing in sports
February 7	pp. 849-865	Title IX, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688 , its origins and consideration of matters relating to compliance by educational institutions.
February 14	Chapter 6 pp 397-432	Reading deals with regulating professional athletics.
February 21	pp. 432-470 and NLRA in Statutory Supplement	Introduction to Labor Law
February 28	pp.466-482	We will discuss the Scheindlin and Sotomayor decisions in <i>Clarett</i> .
March 13	Chapter 7 pp. 483-514	The five unfair labor practices that are relevant to this course.
March 20	pp. 514-551	Collective bargaining issues; Labor arbitration.
March 27	pp 551-593	Arbitration of salaries, contract disputes, and disciplinary matters.
April 3	Review of Course	Review the course work done to date.
April 10	pp 609-664	Matters of league governance
April 17	pp.665-700	Disputes between rival sports leagues.
April 24	Student run review of course for final exam.	Go over the material read to date.