

SPORTS LAW WORLD¹

By Gregory J. Tarone, Esq.

Levels/Spheres:

Backyard and Schoolyard
Youth (League, Pee Wee, Pop Warner, Camps)
Scholastic (Little League, YMCA, Schools, Camps)
Collegiate (Junior College, College and University Sports)
Noncollegiate (Club and Intramural)
Professional/Quasi-Professional
International (Olympic Games, Pan-American Games, Paralympics, et.c)
Professional Associations and Leagues

Areas of Laws, Rules or Regulations:

Agency
Contracts
Ethics
Labor (Scholarships as Employment Contracts, Unions)
Constitutional (First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments plus Title IX)
Antitrust
Intellectual Property (Patent, Trademark & Copyright)
Torts (Negligence, Employment, Products Liability, etc.)
Worker's Compensation
Insurance (Disability, Life, etc.)
Taxation
Estate Planning
Criminal (Ice Hockey, Skiing)
Immigration
International
Federal Communications Commission Broadcast Regulations
Internet/Worldwide Web
Civil Procedure (State or Federal Court?)
State and Federal Regulation (Athlete Agent Registration, etc.)
Federal and State Law (Statutory and Case)

Whom/What Affected:

Player
Parent/Guardian
Family
Spouse
School/University

Agent/Manager
Coach
Assistant Coach
Physician
Trainer
Owner (Individual, Group or Municipality)
Sponsor
Event Organizer
Media (Television/Radio/Press/Internet)
Film or other properties promoter
Benefactor
Fan
League (and Union)
Umpire and Referee
Manufacturer of Goods
Ticket Vendors
Stadium Owners
Stadium Operators
Vendors/Licenses
Conference(s)
Municipality (Parks and Recreation Departments)

Types of Athletes:

“Amateur” ²	Participates for physical, mental and social benefits as an avocation
“Professional”	Receives "compensation" to participate
"Quasi Amateur"	Where a professional athlete becomes a temporary amateur ²

Regulatory Organizations:

Youth:	Little League Baseball Pee Wee Baseball Little League Softball Pop Warner Football
High School:	National Federation of State High School Associations
College:	National Collegiate Athletic Association

² The National Collegiate Athletic Association introduced new rules in July 2021 to permit NIL agreements involving student-athletes. Many states have passed laws to govern these contracts, providing a framework for both athletes and schools. In states that have not passed NIL laws, only NCAA rules and conference or school policies control NIL agreements.” See *Justia*.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
National Junior College Athletic Association
Conferences (Big East, Big Ten, ACC, etc.)
Student-Athlete Unions (?)

International: National Governing Bodies
International Olympic Committee
United States Olympic Committee
International Paralympic Committee
International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
Special Olympics Committee
Invictus Games Committee
World Championships Committees
World Indoor Championships Committee
University Games Committee
Military Championships Committee
Military Track & Field Championships Committee

Professional: Leagues (NFL, NBA, MLB, MLS, NBA, WNBA, etc.)
Associations (AAU, PGA, LPGA, ATP, WTA, PBA, USGA, USTA,
NASCAR, PBR, Worldwide Wrestling Association³, Horse Racing,
etc.)
— Players
— Unions
— Agreements /Constitution
— Minor Leagues

Special Events: Bowls, Tours and Entertainment, Boston Marathon, “Holiday on Ice”
Skating, Team Tennis, Harlem Globetrotters, National Veterans
Wheelchair Games
– Individuals
– Organizations

Notes:

1. This outline was updated and is copyright © by Gregory J. Tarone. A.B., J.D., Georgetown University. Admitted to the New York, Massachusetts, and Colorado bars. Note that this list is not meant to be a comprehensive compilation, but rather, a dynamic, evolving description of the sports law spectrum worldwide, covering all kinds of sports, athletes, organizations, laws, rules, regulations, and ethics.

2. The International Olympic Committee began allowing professionals to compete in 1988. The NBA and NHL players and others become a sort of “quasi-professionals” for the period during which they are competing.

3. The World Wrestling Association is generally accepted to be entertainment rather than genuinely competitive sport, and as such utilizes its own regulatory structure for events.

