

Subject card

Subject name and code	Sports policy and sports law of the European Union - lecture, PG_00189548						
Field of study	Law in Sport						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject				2027/2028	
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group				Obligatory subject group in the field of study	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery				at the university	
Year of study	2	Language of instruction				Polish	
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits				3.0	
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form				exam	
Conducting unit	Department of European Law and Comparative Legal Studies -> Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Marcin Michalak				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		45.0	77
Subject objectives	<p>The aim of the course is to introduce students to the main principles of the European Unions sports policy and the foundations of EU sports law. The course examines how the European Union influences the sports sector through political initiatives, funding programmes, policy frameworks, and legal instruments. Particular emphasis is placed on the treaty basis for EU sports policy, the role of the European Commission and other EU institutions, and the relationship between EU-level sports policy and the activities of Member States and sports organisations.</p> <p>The course enables students to understand the position of sport within the EUs legal and political order, with special focus on issues such as the autonomy of sports organisations, sports funding, good governance, the protection of young athletes, anti-doping measures, athlete mobility, equality in sport, and the impact of EU law on national regulations and the operations of sports entities.</p> <p>By completing the course, students will acquire the knowledge necessary to analyse EU public policies relating to sport and to assess the effects of EU regulatory and policy actions on the functioning of sports organisations, both professional and recreational. The course develops skills essential for the practical application of EU sports law and policy in professional contexts within the sports sector.</p>						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	<p>[PSPORTL3_W04] Knows and understands the key dilemmas related to the functioning of sports law, in particular with regard to the relationship between public and private law, between state regulations and internal regulations of sports organisations, and between sporting values and market requirements.</p>	<p>Knowledge: Upon completing the course, the student understands the key dilemmas associated with the functioning of sports law in the European Union, particularly those arising from the relationship between EU public regulation and the regulatory autonomy of sports organisations. The student knows how EU law shapes sports regulation and can identify areas where tensions emerge between sporting values and the requirements of the internal market.</p> <p>Skills: The student is able to analyse situations in which conflicts arise between EU public law and the internal rules of sports organisations, assessing the extent to which such rules can be considered proportionate and compatible with EU law. The student can identify common regulatory dilemmas in sport, especially those related to competition law, internal market freedoms, player transfers, and good governance principles. The student is capable of critically interpreting EU policy documents and CJEU case law that illustrate the clash between sporting values and economic interests.</p> <p>Social competences: The student appreciates the complex interplay between sport as an autonomous sphere and EU public law. The student understands the importance of sporting values—such as fair play, youth development, and inclusiveness—particularly where they come into tension with market rules and commercial pressures. The student is prepared to formulate balanced assessments of sports regulations, taking into account both public interest considerations and the specific characteristics of the sports sector.</p>	<p>[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW5] implementation of a problem task</p>

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	<p>[PSPORTL3_W02] Knows and understands, at an advanced level, the system of public authorities in Poland and in the European Union, as well as the mechanisms of the functioning of the international legal order, and the competences of public bodies and selected international organisations in the field of making and applying regulations relating to sport.</p>	<p>Knowledge: Upon completing the course, the student understands the foundations of the European Union's sports policy and is familiar with the main legal and institutional instruments used by the EU to shape regulation in the field of sport. The student knows the competences of EU institutions in matters relating to sport, including the role of the European Commission, the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the EU. The student understands the relationship between EU sports policy, national policies and the activities of sports organisations, and can explain the importance of the Treaty provisions forming the basis for EU action in the field of sport.</p> <p>Skills: The student is able to analyse EU actions, documents and initiatives in the field of sport and assess their impact on the functioning of sports organisations and national sports policies. The student can identify the competences of individual EU institutions in shaping sports regulation and analyse cases in which EU law affects Member States' sports policy. The student can interpret EU strategic documents (such as EU Work Plans for Sport and good governance guidelines) and explain their practical implications for the sports sector.</p> <p>Social competences: The student is prepared to critically assess EU activities in the field of sport and understands the complexity of the relationship between EU public policy, EU law and the autonomy of sports organisations. The student appreciates the importance of institutional cooperation between the EU, Member States and the sports sector, and is aware of the consequences that EU policy and legal initiatives have for the development of sport in Europe.</p>	<p>[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report</p>

Subject contents	<p>Introduction to the EUs Sports Policy development of EU sports policy; the place of sport in the EU legal order; treaty framework (Articles 6 and 165 TFEU).</p> <p>Institutional Framework of EU Sports Policy role of the European Commission, Council of the EU, European Parliament; expert groups, cooperation platforms and the Open Method of Coordination; relations between EU institutions and sports organisations.</p> <p>EU Strategic Documents on Sport EU Work Plans for Sport; strategic documents and guidelines on good governance, equality and inclusion; the significance of Council Conclusions and Commission Communications.</p> <p>EU Sports Law Scope and Foundations sport as a supporting competence of the EU; limits of regulatory autonomy of sports organisations; impact of EU law on Member States' sports regulations.</p> <p>The EU Internal Market and Sport free movement of workers and its implications for professional sport; freedom to provide services and its relevance for transfers and club activities; sports services under EU law.</p> <p>EU Competition Law in the Sports Sector prohibition of anti-competitive agreements; abuse of dominance by sports organisations; key CJEU and Commission cases: Meca-Medina, ISU, Super League.</p> <p>Regulatory Dilemmas in Sport and EU Law tensions between sporting values and market requirements; regulation of transfers, agents, licensing, and sports calendars; proportionality and compatibility of sports rules with EU law.</p> <p>Horizontal EU Policies Relevant to Sport equality and inclusion; protection of young athletes; anti-doping and match-fixing; public health and physical activity.</p> <p>EU Funding for Sport Erasmus+ Sport; European cooperation projects; initiatives related to anti-doping, education, and health promotion.</p> <p>Practical Application of EU Sports Policy and Law case studies; analysis of regulatory challenges in sport; assessment of sports rules for compliance with EU law.</p> <p>Conclusion synthesis of key issues; current developments in EU sports policy; emerging challenges for EU sports law.</p>																	
Prerequisites and co-requisites																		
Assessment methods and criteria	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject passing criteria</th> <th>Passing threshold</th> <th>Percentage of the final grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Problem-solving assignments</td> <td>51.0%</td> <td>20.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class participation</td> <td>0.0%</td> <td>10.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exam</td> <td>51.0%</td> <td>50.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short position statement / document commentary</td> <td>51.0%</td> <td>20.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade	Problem-solving assignments	51.0%	20.0%	Class participation	0.0%	10.0%	Exam	51.0%	50.0%	Short position statement / document commentary	51.0%	20.0%
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Recommended reading	Basic literature	<p>Polish-language literature: B. Rischka-Słowik, <i>Konstytucja sportu w Unii Europejskiej</i>, Warsaw 2014. D. Kornobis-Romanowska (ed.), <i>Sport w prawie europejskim. Współczesne wyzwania dla teorii i praktyki</i>, Warsaw 2014. R. Kopczyk, <i>Zakaz dyskryminacji w sporcie w prawie Unii Europejskiej</i>, Warsaw 2013. T. T. Koncewicz, <i>Sport i prawo wspólnotowe (Orzeczenie TSWE w sprawie Lehtonen)</i>, Palestra 910/2000.</p> <p>English-language literature: R. Parrish, <i>Sports Law and Policy in the European Union</i>, Manchester University Press 2003. S. Weatherill, <i>Principles and Practice in EU Sports Law</i>, Oxford University Press 2017. S. Weatherill (ed.), <i>European Sports Law: Collected Papers</i>, T.M.C. Asser Press 2014.</p>
	Supplementary literature	The supplementary reading list will be provided on an ongoing basis during the course, depending on the topics discussed and the relevant source materials.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	<p>Discuss the treaty basis for the European Unions sports policy. What competences does the EU hold in the field of sport, and what is the significance of their supporting nature? Explain the role of the European Commission in shaping EU sports policy. What is the purpose and relevance of the EU Work Plans for Sport? Describe the relationship between the autonomy of sports organisations and EU law. How do internal market freedoms influence the functioning of professional sport? Discuss the regulatory implications of key CJEU decisions such as Meca-Medina and ISU. How does EU competition law shape the activities of sports federations? Present selected EU actions addressing doping and match-fixing in sport. How does the Erasmus+ Sport programme contribute to the development of sport in the Member States? Task: analyse an EU document on good governance and explain its relevance for a sports federation. Task: assess whether a selected sports regulation complies with the principle of proportionality under EU law.</p>	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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