

European Sports Law and Policy Bulletin

INTERNATIONAL
AND COMPARATIVE
SPORTS JUSTICE

Michele Colucci and Karen L. Jones eds.

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INTRODUCTION

Sports justice is of paramount importance for any club, athlete, and any other person registered with a sports association. They all have rights and obligations that are peculiar in the sense that they are proper to the context of sport, and therefore are most appropriately granted or supervised by sports justice within an autonomous system.

In the name of their autonomy and the specificity of sport many associations around the world developed their own justice bodies. Some of them seem to be more effective than others but all share the same goal: to settle disputes, to mediate and to guarantee the correct interpretation of sporting rules and regulations.

This is not an easy task since the scope of sports justice is not always easy to describe. In fact ordinary justice maintains its place for granting and supervising certain rights and obligations that are not all so different from those protected by sports justice.

The lines of distinction become even more blurred when issues of individual or fundamental rights come into play.

This has become an interesting paradox, because sports justice and ordinary justice are not always discernible. One possible explanation may be found in the reality of certain countries where the two systems tend to converge.

This book is unique in that, for the first time, besides the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the sports justice systems of six international federations and twenty-three national federations as well as their relationship with ordinary justice, have been closely analysed.

The authors are all eminent scholars, sports lawyers and arbitrators who provide in-depth review and personal insights into the complexities of the topic.

The book is divided into three parts. The first covers the major international associations in football, soccer, basketball, handball, and Formula 1.

The second part focuses on the national sports justice systems and, in particular, on the general principle of sports justice as defined by the national Olympic Committees and by the football federations. Proper attention is given to the rules and procedures of the sports judicial bodies and to the relevant case law.

The last part gives an overview of all justice systems covered in order to identify the critical issues and relevant trends.

The aim is to provide all stakeholders with selected and detailed information in view of raising awareness of existing practices all over the world.

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Michele Colucci Karen L. Jones

SPORTS LAW AND POLICY CENTRE

Via Cupetta del Mattatoio 8 - 00062 Bracciano RM

P.IVA 10632481007

www.slpc.eu – info@slpc.eu

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