

Sport performs many important functions in society, such as educational, public health, social, cultural and recreational functions. Sport is a rapidly growing area in economic terms and gains importance in generating employment, trade and commerce.

Worldwide, the sports sector engages millions of people either in sports clubs, as amateur or professional athletes and players, as spectators or otherwise. The regulation of sports increasingly takes place at international level, not only within the framework of organizations like, for instance, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), but also in governmental organizations like the United Nations or the European Union. Indeed, sports law is developing on a global scale, which increases the interest in comparison and mutual learning. Sports law is therefore gaining a growing relevance in international and comparative law.

While many legal rules in the area of sports law exist, there are almost no general and allencompassing scientific studies on this subject and it remains difficult for both academics, practitioners (like sporters, sports organizations, sports lawyers) and policy makers to have access

INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF LAWS

Sports Law

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to and gain insight in sports law on the international scene as well as at the various national levels.

The 'International Encyclopaedia of Sports Law' would, therefore, fill up an existing gap in the legal profession and the legal science related to the world of sports and constitutes an indispensable tool for sports organizations and policy makers around the world.

The Encyclopaedia

The structure of the Encyclopaedia of Sports Law is basically built up around two parts: monographs and documents. The documentary section provides the most relevant legal materials of an international concern in the area of sports.

The monographs are structured per country, region or organization. In the national monographs, attention will be paid to the distinction between public regulation (laws and regulation from governmental or public authorities) and private regulation (regulation and by-laws from sports organizations).



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