

## THE LABOUR APPROACH OF THE NEW SPANISH SPORTS LAW: PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES AND SPORTS PROFESSIONALS

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*ABSTRACT: Spain's new Sports Law, approved on 30 December 2022 includes a definition of professional athlete that refers to the special employment regulation applicable to this category of athletes. This paper analyses the relationship between the new law and the pre-existing specific labour regulations relevant to professional athletes, explaining the connection between the latter and other sports professionals (in particular, coaches, trainers, physical trainers, sports directors, and physical education teachers). They can all work as employees or self-employed workers, subject to the special employment relationship when applicable.*

*La nuova legge sullo Sport in Spagna, approvata il 30 Dicembre 2022, prevede una definizione di atleta professionista che fa riferimento alla regolamentazione del regime speciale di lavoro applicabile a questa categoria. Il presente contributo esamina il rapporto fra la nuova legge e le regolamentazioni specifiche precedenti rilevanti per gli atleti professionisti, distinguendo questi ultimi dagli altri professionisti dello sport (in particolare, allenatori, preparatori, istruttori fisici, direttori sportivi e insegnanti di educazione fisica). Tutte queste figure possono essere classificate come lavoratori subordinati o indipendenti, soggetti alle norme speciali applicabili.*

Keywords: *Sports Law Act – Professional Athletes – Sports professions.*

*Legge sullo Sport – Atleti Professionisti – Professioni sportive.*

SUMMARY: 1. The Spanish legal system: sport and labour – 2. Professional athletes – 2.1 Sports Law – 2.2 Labour Law – 2.2.1 Employees – 2.2.2 Self-employed workers – 3. Sports professionals – 3.1 Sports instructors – 3.2 Coaches/trainers – 3.3 Physical trainers – 3.4 Sports directors – 3.5 Physical education teachers – 4. Conclusion

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