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BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law

Course Code: PSLAW

2026/27

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# Postgraduate Certificate Sport Law (PSLAW)

## Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law
<b>Awarding body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of qualification and credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course lengths and standard timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 months (part-time and block delivered, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Location(s) of delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at Headingley campus but on occasion may be at City campus.
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a>  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .
<b>Course fees</b>	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.  Fees enquiries may be directed to <a href="mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

### Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

### Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

#### Professional body

None

## Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## Key Contacts

**Your course director** Genevieve Gordon-Thomson and Dr Sara Ward

**Your course administrator** [SchoolOfSportPGAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:SchoolOfSportPGAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Course Overview

### Aims

The professional sports industry has rapidly evolved, with increasing commercialisation driving the expansion of legal roles across clubs, foundations, and governing bodies. With the increase of law firms unveiling sports practice desks and the demand for in house legal counsel around the world, this PG Certificate reflects the sector's growing complexity and influence across political, economic, and legal spheres. To lead effectively in this dynamic environment, sports executives must possess both legal and governance acumen. The Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law is the UK's only programme of its kind, designed to equip professionals with cutting-edge expertise in governance, sport law and the many intricacies this specialism demonstrates due to its self-regulatory status. Students who successfully complete the course will have developed a critical understanding of the context in which the law operates, acquired an appreciation of the factors and variables which shape the relevant area of legal study, and developed an ability to analyse and criticise the relevant area of law have acquired the ability to apply the relevant area of law in practice.

### Course learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Develop a critical understanding of the context in which the law operates across sport organisation, governing bodies and competitions
2	Established a critical perspective of the factors and variables which shape legal practices and procedures in sport law, courts and tribunals
3	Developed an ability to analyse and criticise the relevant area of international law across sport organisation, governing bodies and competitions
4	Contextualise the relevance of sport law and its legal heritage through general law principles
5	Research independently and engage in synthesis of current issues and external factors that shape legal representation of those involved in professional sport across sport organisations, governing bodies and competitions

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

As a Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law award, the emphasis on the programme is to develop specialised knowledge and skills appropriate to a Level 7 award reflecting critical review and analytical application. As such the learning and teaching approach will involve the dissemination of legal concepts within the teaching environment and requires students to independently apply these concepts in their assessments. Within the programme, students will be provided with the tools to undertake the process of effective Level 7 writing and critical consideration of the law being applied to characteristics of sport organisations, Governing bodies and associations. The programme will combine expert content delivery from the teaching team and guest presenters from the world of sport law. The teaching sessions will provide historical background demonstrating the progression of the specialism of sport law.

**Onboarding:** Students will engage in activities to equip them within critical thinking and writing skills, action learning familiarisation, and an overall awareness of the programme content, master's level assessment requirements. As social learning is embedded throughout the programme the pre-joining activity will enable initiate the formative feedback process and aims to reduce student anxiety whilst creating a strong relational learning environment.

**Induction Block:** Students will be introduced to LBU systems and procedures (including electronic resources and MyBeckett) to start the socialisation process.

**Module One:** The module covers the basics of sport law and encourages the student to gain an understanding of the application of law to fundamental sport law issues. The module covers the creation and design of governing bodies, their powers and restrictions, commercial activity and the aspects of application in sports, national, EU and international legislation that impacts sport law and the matters of doping control.

**Module Two:** This module offers a unique blend of academic insight and real-world application, equipping students with a deep understanding of legal frameworks within sport. Delivered by leading practitioners and academic experts, the module explores key areas such as sports governance, disciplinary processes, commercial rights, and ethical considerations in sport. Through case studies and practical examples, students gain firsthand exposure to the complexities of sports law, preparing them for roles in legal advisory, regulatory bodies, and sports organisations.

**Module Three:** This module content allows you to explore the key elements of contracts of employment in the sporting arena. Through representative case studies students will develop their understanding of the key contractual terms likely to feature prominently in negotiations. Aspects of taxation, including the international dimension and tax avoidance planning will be brought to bear to build a complete picture of the role of the legal adviser to professional sportspeople. Through policy and case law we will discuss eligibility and team selection as they are critical to understanding the impact of self-regulatory law on athletes.

### **Choose one elective from either:-**

**Module Four:** This elective module focuses upon a diagnostic comparative analysis and evaluation of the systems of sport governance operated in key jurisdictions and then by close reference to current events considers the challenges to maintaining effective sporting integrity in the world of sport. The role and effectiveness of world sporting organisations such as the Olympic Committee (IOC), International Federations (e.g. FIFA) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will be considered and evaluated. The module investigates the way in which international sport governance has developed and the key challenges that present moving forward.

**Module Five:** This elective module allows the student to explore the legal and regulatory framework surrounding individuals involved in sports, including athletes, coaches, officials, and governing bodies. It examines the rights and responsibilities of these participants within the context of the civil and criminal law, the role of sports organisations, and how disputes are resolved through legal systems and sports-specific tribunals. Key topics include issues of liability, disciplinary procedures, anti-doping regulations, and the enforcement of contracts. The module also considers how national and international courts influence the governance of sport and protect the integrity of competition. The developing jurisprudence will be considered together with the role of sport governing bodies and professional associations while considering the athletes themselves.

### **Common teaching and assessment approaches throughout all stages of the Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law:**

As a distance learning course, the overriding characteristic of the student learning experience is guided self-study. Guidance comes through interaction with relevant academic staff via the detailed course materials which are designed for self-study, via telephonic and email communication, and via the study day programme.

- Sessions will be interactive, and formative feedback will be an aspect of the learning approach embedded within this learning and teaching approach.
- Summative assessments are professionally and academically appropriate to level 7 combining vocational and academic development, which is progressive through the progression to completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law.
- Teaching will be informed through the latest thinking in relation to each specialised module and appropriate guest speakers from these fields are included in the teaching programme.
- Feedback and evaluation will be undertaken and used to inform on-going programme development, and the student experience.

## Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

### Level 7 – Part Time 1 Year

#### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Foundations of Sport Law and the Sport Regulatory Regime	15	Year 1
Contemporary Perspectives on International Sport Law	15	Year 1
Representing the Athlete-Player	15	Year 1
Number of credits of compulsory modules	45	

#### *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Integrity in International Sport	15	Year 1
The Sport Participant and the Courts	15	Year 1
Number of credits of compulsory modules	15	

## Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules undertaken by students on the course. A standard 15 credit module equates to 150 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning, assessment and independent study. Apart from module one, each core module has one applied project as the component of assessment.

- The award requires the development and application of skills and knowledge within National/International sporting context and therefore all assessments will be designed to be context specific.
- The assessment strategy has been designed to enable progressive development and application of skills and knowledge to deliver academic level 7 rigour within a vocational context.
- The variety of assignment tasks aims to balance the development and application of knowledge and skills over the duration and sequencing of the Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Law. Students will be encouraged and expected to share their insights during the production of their assignment work with other students on the programme to support the development of a strong peer group.
- To support the varied learning needs of our students a formative assessment, will be required for consideration and feedback early in the module, to supplement the final applied project submission. This formative assessment will act as an early mechanism between student and tutor to negotiate and co-create their individual applied project focus and design.

- The student handbook will carry clear identification of the assessment tasks, marking criteria and the learning outcomes appropriate to each module. Students will receive full guidance from the teaching team and electronically via MyBeckett.
- Assessments tasks will be evaluated against a marking criterion based on Level 7 standards of achievement based on University assessment guidelines. Descriptions of the levels of assessments will be provided to enable students to see the levels and expectations of each in relation to their work.
- Should students require their work to be anonymous this will be accommodated following normal University procedures.
- The handbook will carry details of academic honesty policy and this will also be covered in pre-joining activities during the Induction process when students will explore the requirements of developing academic writing and critical writing skills.

## Assessment

### *Level 7*

On this course students will be assessed predominantly by coursework with some practical assessment.

## Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	144 hours
Independent study	456 hours
Placement	0 hours