Sports Law

Multidisciplinary and integrated legal advice



Driven by knowledge.

Sports Law

Whether one regards sport as a manifestation of a cultural or entertainment phenomenon or emphasizes its component of recreational physical activity or its dimension of professional or amateur competition, nowadays, sport is undeniably a thriving industry, involving a significant number of players, from athletes to sports administrators, from amateur clubs and associations to sports companies, but also leagues, sports associations and federations and a wide range of other players and industries that gravitate towards the sports phenomenon such as sports event promoters, sports equipment manufacturers, investors, sponsors, advertising agencies and the media.

This whole universe contributes to the conception of sport as a mass phenomenon, well reflected in the visibility and media attention it enjoys globally, and makes the sector an exciting and complex area, highly regulated, whose specificities demand intense consumption of legal services, not only specialized services in the field of sports activities or organizations, but mainly services characterized by a high cross-cutting nature, in areas that intersect such diverse matters as contract law, labor law, commercial law, administrative law, tax law, among others.
Due to the evolution of the phenomenon and the recent developments of the sector, SÉRVULO has a body of lawyers specialized in Sports Law, with extensive experience in assisting various sports agents, providing, to this extent, multidisciplinary and integrated legal advice, both in the scope of daily advice, and in the litigation before federative and judicial courts.



What we do



Agency and Sports Intermediation

- Drafting and negotiating representation and career management agreements;
- Legal advice on national and international transfers;
- Assistance in sports cooperation agreements between clubs, national and foreign, aiming at the exchange of athletes and coaches;
- Follow-up on procedures for claiming compensation for solidarity mechanisms and training rights.

Sports Labor Law

- Drafting and negotiating sports work and training contracts;
- Legal assistance in the management of work accidents within the sporting activity;
- Representation in procedures of collecting values due to athletes and coaches;
- Accompanying disciplinary procedures and termination of sports work and training contracts for just cause.

What we do

Sports Tax Law

- Tax assessment of national and international transactions and transactions and monitoring their implementation;
- Taxation of agents, sports practitioners, clubs and sports companies;
- VAT regime applicable to competitions and sporting events;
- Accompanying tax litigation processes.

Sports Public Law

- Drafting rules and regulations;
- Assisting sports federations and associations in the field of recognition of sports public interest status, recognition of the professional nature of competitions and the exercise of public authorities;
- Advising in the conclusion of sport development programme contracts;
- Drafting legal opinions and legal memoranda before entities of the central public sports administration, the regional sports public administration and the local public administration;
- Licensing of sports facilities;



What we do

Sports Litigation and Dispute Resolution

- Representation in sports related litigation before federative and judicial courts, national and foreign;
- Representation in administrative law litigation emerging from sports activity and organization;
- Follow-up of proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAD) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport of Lausanne (CAS).. Legal support in the organization of sports events;
- Legal advice and support in the areas of water, waste, land use, and others.

Criminal Law of Sport

Representation in criminal cases related to crime in sports, namely in matters of:

- Corruption in the sport phenomenon;
- Responsibility for unsporting behavior;
- Manipulation of results and online sports betting;
- Doping;
- Violence associated with sports.

Sports Commercial and Financial Law

- Drafting and negotiating business cooperation agreements, distribution agreements (agency, commercial franchising and franchising), joint venture agreements, among others;
- Incorporating and monitoring Sports Public Limited Liability Companies ("Sociedades Anónimas Desportivas" or"SAD") and Sports Single Partnership Private Limited Liability Companies ("Sociedades Desportivas Unipessoais por Quotas" or "SDUQ");
- Assistance in compliance with UEFA's financial fair play rules;. Legal support in the organization of sports events;
- Legal advice and support in the areas of water, waste, land use, and others.
- Advice to listed companies in the fulfillment of their information obligations vis-à-vis the market and in their relationship with the Portuguese Securities Exchange Market Commission ("CMVM");
- Accompaniment in public and private offers of securities (namely, takeovers and capital increase operations), admissions to trading on a regulated market (IPO) and exit operations;
- Advice on the structuring and registration of funds and collective investment entities;
- Preparing and negotiating financing contracts and guarantees in association with clubs or sports companies;
- Assistance in contracting sport insurance;
- Follow-up on revitalization and insolvency proceedings.

What we do

Competition and European Law

- Advising on matters of competition law, before the Competition Authority or the European Commission;
- Joint and individual purchase and sale agreements, television rights and competition law;
- Evaluation and representation in cases of State aid (exemptions, public financing of infrastructures, clubs or sports activities);
- Assistance in cases of restriction of freedoms of movement in sport (doping, national teams, rules of access to competitions);
- Third Party Ownership (TPO) and competition law;
- Access to professional competitions, exclusivity and competition.

Intellectual Property, Media and Entertainment

- Legal advice related to the management of image rights of sports practitioners;
- Industrial property rights, namely protection of trademarks and symbols of sports agents;
- Legal advice on issues related to sports advertising and sponsorship contracts and naming rights contracts;
- Drafting and negotiating contracts for the assignment of television rights;
- Assistance in matters related to privacy and personal data;
- Online betting and new sports phenomenon (eSports).



Key Contacts



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