

ROAD TO RIO

1: Introduction to the series



Andrew Smith practises predominantly in the fields of employment and sports law, and is ranked by the Chambers & Partners legal directory as a leading junior in both. He is an editorial board member of LawInSport and a regular contributor to the website. Andrew also undertakes work in the field of commercial law, including arbitration. In addition, he is an ADR Group Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator.

2016 promises to be a particularly exciting year for sport and, by association, sports lawyers. The Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as Euro 2016, will inevitably provide significant doses of excitement, drama and controversy this summer.

Over the course of the next few months we will be publishing a series of sports law briefings addressing a range of interesting topics, drawing on the considerable expertise of our sports law team at Matrix. These topics are likely to include:

- Discrimination and personal liability in sport
- Human rights and labour violations in sport
- Corruption in sport
- Disciplinary and arbitration issues in sport
- Doping in sport
- Immigration issues in sport
- Regulation and judicial review in sport
- Selection disputes
- Integrity in sport

The briefings are intended to provide a concise and practical analysis of the sorts of issues encountered by sporting participants and lawyers who are, or may wish to become, involved in sport-related disputes. We hope you enjoy them.

Some information about Matrix Sport

The members of our sports law team are involved in a diverse range of high profile and complex sports law cases, which intersect with our expertise in:

- Arbitration, including proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne
- Employment and commercial law
- Media and reputation management
- Competition and regulatory law, including telecommunications disputes regarding the broadcasting of sporting competitions and events
- Discrimination and equality law

Our clients include international governing bodies, professional clubs, managers and players, players' unions, sports associations, broadcasters, and individual athletes. We have been instructed on cases concerning, amongst other matters, anti-doping, transfer restrictions, employment disputes, funding and other contractual disputes, state aid, exclusive broadcasting rights deals, and competition disputes.

Notable cases

We have advised and acted in a number of high profile cases. Recent examples include:

- Rhodri Thompson QC and Andrew Smith are instructed by UEFA and FIFPro in connection with their Joint Complaint to the European Commission regarding the practice of Third Party Ownership ("TPO") in football.
- Nicholas Randall QC acted for Hull City FC in a Rule K arbitration regarding the FA's decision to refuse Hull's application to change the club's name to Hull Tigers. Nicholas is also instructed by Queens Park Rangers in its challenge to the Football League's Financial Fair Play ("FFP") Regulations. Prof Takis Tridimas has also advised on FFP issues.
- Lord Ken Macdonald, Tim Owen QC and Aaron Watkins acted in the dispute between Massimo Cellino (the Leeds United owner) and the Football League regarding the application of the fit and proper person test.

- Rhodri Thompson QC, Nicholas Gibson and Christopher Brown acted for the owners of Coventry City FC in the dispute concerning the occupation and use of the Ricoh Arena stadium, including contentious issues of state aid.
- Thomas Kibling was instructed in an age discrimination claim concerning the ECB's policy governing the retirement of first class cricket umpires.

Arbitration expertise

Philippe Sands QC sits regularly as an Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport and has adjudicated on high profile cases including [Mohamed Bin Hammam v FIFA](#), [Veronica Campbell-Brown v The Jamaica Athletic Administrative & The IAAF](#), and [WADA v Lallukka](#).

Edward Craven acted as an ad hoc Clerk to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in the Veronica Campbell-Brown and Dutee Chand cases.

Nicholas Randall QC sits regularly as an FA Arbitrator and is a member of the FA Premier League Panel. He is also a member of the FA Disciplinary Tribunal Panel.

Mark Afeeva, Nicholas Randall QC and Thomas Linden QC are all accredited arbitrators for Sport Resolutions. Andrew Smith and Lorna Skinner are members of the Sport Resolutions *pro bono* advocates panel.

Matthew Ryder QC sat as the chair of a disciplinary tribunal for the British Judo Association in the complex investigation of a senior coach dealing with allegations of misconduct covering several decades.

Investigation expertise

Our Investigations and Audits team have worked on important cases relating to sporting organisations. For example, Sir Anthony Hooper led the investigation and subsequent report into individuals whose conduct was alleged to be in breach of the International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) Code of Ethics. You can listen to an interview with Sir Anthony on the LawInSport website [here](#).

For more information, please visit our website [here](#).