

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 455.002 Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations (3)  
Spring, 2010

DAY/TIME: Thursday 4:30 p.m. - 7:10 p.m. LOCATION: FX – Robinson - A245  
PROFESSOR: Dr. Christopher Atwater EMAIL ADDRESS: [catwater@gmu.edu](mailto:catwater@gmu.edu)  
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

### PREREQUISITES

SPMT 201, 60 hours

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an examination of sport organizations focused on both professional and amateur governance structures and processes. The study of policy in educational, non-profit, professional and international sport venues will also be addressed.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

1. Identify governing bodies in professional and amateur sport
2. Recognize policy components and processes in major sport governing bodies
3. Recognize the influence of governmental bodies and commissions on sports
4. Identify the organizational structure of various sport governing bodies
5. Assess the authority and functions of various sport governing bodies
6. Identify the membership requirements of various sport governing bodies
7. Identify the sanctions and appeal processes utilized by sport governing bodies
8. Understand American sport policy and governance in comparative and international context
9. Understand different forms of sport policy and governance internationally

### REQUIRED READING

Mary A. Hums & Joanne C. MacLean (2004,2009). *Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations* (Scottsdale: Holcomb Hathaway).

Nils Asle Bergsgard, Barrie Houlihan, Per Mangset, Svein Ingve Nødland & Hilmar Rommetvedt (2007). *Sport Policy: A Comparative Analysis of Stability and Change* (Burlington, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann).

### GRADING

Grades will be assigned on the basis of two tests (Midterm and Final) at 30% each (60% total); and an oral presentation (accompanied with a 3-5 page summary including sources) weighted at 40%. Final grades and individual assignments will be recorded with “plus/minus” letter grade annotations. You can use the table below to do your own grade calculation. Convert letter grades to numerical equivalents using this scale: A=10, A=9, B+=8, B=7, B=6, C+=5, C=4, C=3, D=2, F=1. Multiply the numerical equivalent by the weight to get the weighted value. Add the weighted values and use the conversion scale to convert the total back to a letter grade. (Note: No credit towards graduation accrues from a failing grade or from a grade that is replaced by a

retaken course. For more information, please consult the current edition of the university catalog.)

	Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Weight	Weighted Value
Test 1 (Midterm Examination)			.30	
Test 2 (Final Examination)			.30	
Oral Presentation			.40	
TOTAL				

## POLICIES

1. **Participation.** Attendance and punctuality are essential for success in this class. Much of your work is based on information from the lectures and participation in class discussions. Your absences and/or tardiness will affect your general progress and that of your classmates. **Zero to one** cut will result in no penalty unless they occur on a day when you are assigned to present a project or complete an assignment. Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted as absent. Some absences may be excused provided **prior** arrangement is made with me. Examples of excused absences may be for medical reasons or field trips in other courses and will be allowed only at my discretion. Students who stop coming to class without discussing the matter with me will receive a failing grade. Should you miss an assignment due to absence, you will be allowed to make it up provided that you have written documentation regarding the nature of the absence.
2. **Written Assignments.** Written assignments will be expected to demonstrate college quality writing. In-class writing will not be stringently evaluated, but ALL work prepared outside of class (papers) will be assessed for content AND for presentation. While a variety of qualities may pass for “college level,” at a minimum it means writing is appropriately concise and clear; words are properly spelled; punctuation is appropriate; sentences are complete; subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent agree. Papers/abstracts/written assignments not turned in on the specified day will be given a grade lower than the one deserved. For example, an “A” assignment submitted late will be given a grade of “B.” No written work will be accepted later than one week after it is due.
3. **Honor Policy.** George Mason University takes its honor policy quite seriously. Examinations, papers, and other assignments must be your own work (except where you hire a typist or proofreader) with only the exception of group projects.
4. **Plagiarism** is representing another’s work as your own or recycling your work and representing earlier work as new work. Remember to use proper source citations in citing the evidence you use in your research. Failure to do your own work, or not to give credit where necessary, may result in failing the assignment, the course, and/or a report to the honor committee.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE		ASSIGNMENT	READING DUE FOR CLASS
January	27	Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations (introduction)	N/A
February	3	Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations (continued)	Chapter 1 (Hums & MacLean)
	10	Managerial Activities and Planning	Chapter 2 (Hums & MacLean)
	17	Part 1 - Strategic Management and Policy Development Part 2 – Ethics in Sport Organizations	Chapter 3 (Hums & MacLean) Chapter 4 (Hums & MacLean)
	24	Part 1 - Scholastic Sport Part 2 – Amateur Sport in the Community	Chapter 5 (Hums & MacLean) Chapter 6 (Hums & MacLean)
March	3	Part 1 - Campus Recreation Part 2 - Intercollegiate Athletics	Chapter 7 (Hums & MacLean) Chapter 8 (Hums & MacLean)
	10	Midterm Examination - Chapter 1-8 (Hums & MacLean)	N/A
	17	Spring Break – No Class	N/A
	24	Part 1 - North American Professional Sport Part 2 - International Professional Sport	Chapter 12 (Hums & MacLean) Chapter 13 (Hums & MacLean)
	31	Part 1 – Introduction to Policy Discussion Part 2 – Comparing Sports Policy in Economically Developed Countries	Chapter 1 (Bergsgard) Chapter 2 (Bergsgard)
April	7	Part 1 – Policy in Political and Historical Contexts Part 2 – Structure of Sport/Voluntary Sector	Chapter 3 (Bergsgard) Chapter 4 (Bergsgard)
	14	Part 1 – Government Structures and Values in Policy Part 2 – High Performance Sport	Chapter 5 (Bergsgard) Chapter 6 (Bergsgard)
	21	Sport for All	Chapter 7 (Bergsgard)
	28	Presentations - Day # 1	N/A
May	5	Presentations - Day # 2	N/A
	12	Reading Day – No Class	N/A
	19	Final Examination - Chapters 12 & 13 (Hums & MacLean) and Chapters 1-7 (Bergsgard)	N/A



School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

- All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.
- University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor.
- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students having documentation on file with the Disability Resources Center should bring this to the attention of the professor.
- <http://rht.gmu.edu>