

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
School of Sport, Recreation & Tourism Management

PRLS 460 DL1- Sport and Recreation Law
3 Credits, Fall 2021
Distance Education Blackboard on NET

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

60 Credits

University Catalog Course Description

Emphasizes safety, liability, and risk. Covers current law and liability issues for administrators of RHT facilities and programs.

Course Overview

This course examines the issue of personal injury liability in a variety of contexts related to Recreation, Health, and Tourism, including recreation and parks, sports, events, and physical education administration. Case reports and articles will be used to illustrate general legal principles which determine recreational injury liability in a variety of contexts. Negligence liability will be defined through general legal principles, including reasonableness, foreseeability, and standard of care.

In addition to lifeguard and aquatics liability, this course will examine sport injury liability for coaches, participants, and spectators. The course will also examine the validity and enforceability of waivers and releases in sports and recreation. This overview of program supervision liability in sports and recreation will be complemented by an examination of general legal principles governing landowner liability for grounds and facilities used in sports and recreational activities. In addition to recreation injury liability, this course will also review several civil rights issues which impact significantly upon sport and recreation administration.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before

@masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on or before the first day of scheduled classes.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player:
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
 - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday.

- Log-in Frequency:
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, and/or access to course materials at least 2x times per week.
- Participation:
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments.
- Technical Competence:
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:

Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

- **Workload:**
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Instructor Support:**
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- **Netiquette:**
The course environment is a collaborative space. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- **Accommodations:**
Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

(1) demonstrate a recollection and understanding of the opinion of the court contained in a series of articles and case reports illustrating general legal principles governing recreation injury liability in recreation, sports, and physical education programs.

(2) identify general legal principles and rules of law and their application to various recreation injury liability scenarios in recreation, sports, and physical education programs as described in lectures, review questions, objectives, and required reading material used in the course.

(3) identify legal principles and rules of law governing federal civil rights laws and their applicability to sports, recreation, and physical education programs, e.g., gender discrimination.

Professional Standards

2013 Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions (COAPRT) standards met

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

- 7.03 Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management/administration in parks, recreation, tourism and/or related professions.

Required Texts

The "textbook" in this course is a compilation of case reports and related articles which I have written, in particular my monthly "NRPA Law Review" column in *Parks & Recreation* magazine (the official publication of the National Recreation and Park Association). These case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading and printing on the PRLS 460 Blackboard course site (In the event Blackboard is unavailable course materials are also available on my GMU homepage at the following address: <http://cehdclass.gmu.edu/jkozlows/460.htm>)

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to access and complete all examinations as scheduled on Blackboard.

Examinations Course Performance Evaluation Weighting

4 EXAMS on Blackboard (open book, weighted equally, each exam worth 25%)

Grading Policies

Final grades are based solely on the percentage of points earned out of the total number of points available on all four exams. THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT. The grading scale for final grades based on the number of points earned out of a possible 200 on all four exams:

Grade Total Points Earned out of a possible 200

A + 180 and above (90 percent)

A 170 - 179 85

A - 160 - 169 (80 percent)

B + 150 - 159 75

B 140 - 149 (70 percent)

B - 130 - 139 65

C + 120 - 129 (60 percent)

C 110 - 119 55

C - 100 - 109 (50 percent)

D 90 - 99 45

F 89 and below

Individual exam questions on each exam are randomly selected by Blackboard from question sets in the PRLS 460 question database. As a result, while testing a student's understanding of a similar principle in each question, no two exams are identical.

All PRLS 460 exams are open book, but you are limited to primary course materials and video lectures posted to the PRLS 460 Blackboard site, as well as your own notes prepared prior to the exam. The use of any other study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information during PRLS 460 exam is prohibited.

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Blackboard provides extensive data on each exam to determine any irregularities on individual exams and identify patterns which may indicate collusion among students on PRLS 460 exams that may warrant further investigation pursuant to the Honor Code. Moreover, any irregularities could artificially inflate and skew the scores on individual exams and questions which might produce an adverse effect on the course curve to the detriment of individual students and the class as a whole.

Accordingly, you are reminded that the Honor Code is in effect for all exams in PRLS 460 on Blackboard. Further, to clarify and reiterate, no collaboration or group participation whatsoever is permissible during PRLS 460 examinations.

Further, you are not to discuss the exam with any other student during or after the time which the exam is accessible. Providing or reproducing any information to another student about any questions on a PRLS 460 exam would constitute cheating within the context of the Honor Code, i.e., unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information.

Exam One Sept 13-19: UNIT ONE THROUGH UNIT THREE

Exam Two Oct 4-10: UNIT FOUR AND UNIT FIVE

Exam Three Oct 25 - 31: UNIT SIX AND UNIT SEVEN

Exam Four Dec 6-12 UNIT EIGHT THROUGH UNIT TEN

Course Schedule & Readings (Dates listed are approximate to allow students to keep pace)

WEEK ONE 8/23-8/29: Unit One: INTRODUCTION, CONTROL TEST & NEGLIGENCE PRINCIPLES

WEEK TWO 8/30-9/5: Unit Two: STANDARD OF CARE IN NEGLIGENCE LIABILITY

WEEK THREE 9/6-9/12: Unit Three: LANDOWNER LIABILITY GENERAL PRINCIPLES

WEEK FOUR 9/13-9/19 Exam One UNIT ONE THROUGH UNIT THREE

WEEK FIVE 9/20-9/26: Unit Four: LANDOWNER LIABILITY FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY & RECREATIONAL USE IMMUNITY LAW

WEEK SIX 9/27-10/3: Unit Five LIFEGUARD & AQUATICS LIABILITY

WEEK SEVEN Oct 4-10 Exam Two UNIT FOUR AND UNIT FIVE

WEEK EIGHT 10/11-10/17 UNIT SIX SPORTS COACH LIABILITY & POST-INJURY PROCEDURES LIABILITY

WEEK NINE 10/18-10/24 UNIT SEVEN: SPORT PARTICIPANT LIABILITY & ASSUMPTION OF RISK

WEEK TEN Oct 25 - 31 Exam Three UNIT SIX AND UNIT SEVEN

WEEK ELEVEN 11/1-11/7: UNIT EIGHT LIABILITY RELEASES & WAIVER AGREEMENTS IN RECREATION

WEEK TWELVE 11/8-11/14: UNIT NINE (PART 1) AGENCY LIABILITY FOR SEXUAL MOLESTATION

WEEK THIRTEEN UNIT NINE 11/15-11/21 (Part 2) SUPERVISION LIABILITY

WEEK FOURTEEN 11/22-11/28 THANKSGIVING WEEK

WEEK FIFTEEN 11/29-12/5: UNIT TEN GENDER DISCRIMINATION (Webstream Video Lectures 10a & 10b)

WEEK SIXTEEN Dec 6-12 Exam Four UNIT EIGHT THROUGH UNIT TEN

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .