

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
*School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management*  
**SPMT 455-DL1 Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations (3)**  
*Spring 2024*

DAY/TIME:	<b>T 10:30-11:45am</b>	LOCATION:	<b>ONLINE</b>
PROFESSOR:	Craig Esherick	EMAIL:	<a href="mailto:cesheric@gmu.edu">cesheric@gmu.edu</a>
OFFICE:	Krug Hall 213D	PHONE:	703 993 9922
OFFICE HOURS:	By Appointment	FAX:	703 993 9097
CREDITS:	3 hours		

**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

**COURSE DELIVERY:**

This course is delivered 100% online and in an asynchronous format; work is completed on student's schedule, BUT with due dates each week. There will be no class meetings online, but the instructor will meet with students online individually, during scheduled meetings, over the course of the semester.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

The learning experiences in this course are afforded through assignments, class participation, lectures supplemented with power points, notes, discussion, group

activities and technology assisted activities. Course content includes, but is not limited to, the following: Sport in education (intercollegiate, recreation, interscholastic, international); professionalization of sport; organizational communication; management theories; present status of the sports industry - collegiate, professional, private, manufacturers; governing bodies in professional and amateur sport; organizational structure of a variety of sport governing bodies; authority and functions of various sport governing bodies; requirements for membership in sport governing bodies; sanctions and appeal processes utilized by sport governing bodies; influence of governmental bodies and sports commissions on sport governing bodies; sport policy and governance in international sport.

## **HONOR CODE**

George Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work along with passing off use of AI as your own work constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code. With this in mind, all students in this course are held to the strictest standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

## **INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS**

1. Course Week: Tuesday 9am through 11:59pm on Monday.
2. Log-in Frequency: You must actively check the course Blackboard site and your GMU email for communications from Professor, class discussions, and access to course materials daily.
3. Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities, listening to lectures where necessary and completing assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions where required, and on Bb.
4. Workload: Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. You are expected to meet specific deadlines and due dates listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus, but new due dates will be communicated via Bb and email during the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due. It is your responsibility to keep up in

this course and to use the syllabus provided. New material and power points will be posted each week.

5. **Written Assignments:** Written assignments, including discussion board posts will be expected to demonstrate college-quality writing. All work will be assessed for content AND for presentation. Your assignments must have been planned, researched, and proofread. Do your own work and don't COPY material from anyone else or from a published source. *Re-read the Mason rules for plagiarism and the Honor Code in the Student Handbook! Plagiarism includes having a computer program write your paper (ChatGPT) and submitting the paper as **YOUR** work, without attribution or permission.*

6. **Format:** Papers and projects submitted must be in proper, **college-level** format (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization and general appearance). Your content is to be your best work.

7. **Instructor Support:** You may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content, or other course-related issues; I would like to have at least one conversation with everyone in class, in my office. Email me to schedule a one-on-one session in person (Krug Hall 213D) or on Blackboard. *You will be required to schedule at least two of these sessions over the course of the semester.*

8. **Honor Policy:** George Mason University takes its honor policy quite seriously, and so do I. Papers, projects, and other assignments must be your own work.

9. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is representing another's work as your own or recycling your work and representing earlier work as new work. I will be checking your work for originality. 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, will result in failing the course and a report to the honor committee. If you need assistance with citation rules beyond the APA style guide or with determining if something should be cited, please ask me!

10. **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. If you are struggling with technical components of the course, I expect you to seek assistance as early as possible in the semester.

11. **Technical Issues:** You should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget your time accordingly. *Late work will not receive full credit.* Start your submission well before the deadline.

12. **Etiquette:** The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Always re-read your responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not

consider them as personal offenses. 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. I will also be respectful in all communications. In online communications in this class, it is understood that you are constructing your sentences at the college level. **YOU ARE NOT SENDING AN EMAIL TO YOUR BEST FRIEND**, when you send me an email.

13. Accommodations: If you require effective accommodations to insure accessibility, you must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

### **Class Engagement and Participation:**

Participation is important not only to the individual student, but to the class as a whole. We will have fun if everyone is engaged. Online participation is also part of how you will be assessed (earn your grade). To be engaged, you have to keep up with the reading, participate in a timely fashion and complete ALL assignments on time. I would like you to learn the names of others in the class too. Despite being an online course, student interaction is important and a learning experience. Remember this is a management course; our program is training managers to work in the sport industry, to be leaders and to be the future trendsetters in the industry. Think and act like a **manager** and a **leader** in this class.

### **Required Text:**

Mary A. Hums, Yannick Kluch, Samuel H. Schmidt & Joanne C. MacLean (2023). *Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations, Fifth Edition* (New York: Routledge).

ISBN 978-1-30042-9 (Print Book)

ISBN 978-1-003-30318-3 (E Book)

### **Assessment:**

Class Enthusiasm, Participation, Assignments, Three Quizzes: Each quiz will include short answer questions, definitions, matching and essay with some knowledge of organization abbreviations. Discussion board responses will be part of participation and enthusiasm for the class; response to emails from the professor will also be part of enthusiasm grade. Assignments will include case studies, short essays and short current event papers. **70%**

Final Exam: The final exam will cover material that was tested on the first three quizzes along with Chapters 12-16 in the textbook. The exam will be true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay questions. **30%**

## GRADING SCALE

A+= 98-100

A = 94-97

A- = 90-93

B+ = 88-89

B = 84-87

B- = 80-83

C+ = 78-79

C = 74-77

C- = 70-73

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

## PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

*Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times, including their email and online communication. Attending class on time exhibits professional behavior.*

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Course Introduction/Overview/Intro to Sport Governance,  
Textbook acquisition, evaluation, expectations, syllabus  
Rules for the semester and successful class; Discussion Board  
Intro to Sport Governance; Assignment  
Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 1
- 2 Managerial Functions related to Governance  
Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 2  
Case study and review
- 3 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sport Governance  
Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 3
- 4 Ethics in Sport Organizations  
Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 4
- QUIZ**
- 5 High School Sports: NFHS, VHSL  
Reading: Hums/Maclean Chapter 5
- 6 Amateur Sports/Youth Sports: YMCA, JCC, AAU  
Reading: Hums/Maclean Chapter 6  
*Career Social: Dewberry Hall February 26th*
- 7 Campus Recreation and NIRSA  
Reading: Hums/Maclean Chapter 7  
*Spring Break March 4-8*
- 8 Intercollegiate Sport: NCAA, NJCAA, NAIA

Reading: Hums/Maclean Chapter 8

**QUIZ**

9 Major Games: Pan Am, Commonwealth, University, Deaflympics

Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 9

10 The Olympics: IOC and USOPC

Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 10

11 Paralympic Sport: IPC

Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 11

**QUIZ**

12 Professional Sport Leagues in North America

Professional Individual Sports

Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 12 & 13

13 Professional Sports beyond North America

Reading: Hums & MacLean, Chapter 14

14 Esports and Times of Crisis Governance

Reading: Hums & MacLean Chapter 15 and 16

15 Prepare for final exam; review session

**Final Exam**

*Graduation May 9*

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



School of Sport, Recreation  
and Tourism Management

**GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

***Policies***

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- 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 <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

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

### ***Campus Resources***

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk2ohelp@gmu.edu](mailto:tk2ohelp@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>

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

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](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

### **CORE VALUES COMMITMENT**

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

