

Mediation as an Effective Tool for Resolving Sports Disputes

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Abstract : The relation to the infinite variety issues sprouting in sports or *lex sportiva*, like *lex mercatoria* in the early centuries, has now come of age and even begun a maturing process in the past thirty-five years or so. *Lex sportiva* now straddles sports management, sports medicine, tort, criminal law, employment contract, competition law and a host of multifarious activities related to sports. This has catapulted a host of legal issue and problems, demanding urgent legal solutions to actual or potential disputes. This paper discusses the nature and development of *lex sportiva*, and how it is able to resolve sports disputes. Resolving sports dispute via the tiresome, dilatory and expensive process of litigation is most unsuitable. Arbitration may not be equally a satisfactory solution. The paper strongly advocates the far the most effective and resolution friendly mode of settling sports disputes namely, mediation. In support it highlights numerous advantages mediation has to offer and with reference to many significant sports disputes which had been successfully resolved via mediation.

Keywords : alternative dispute resolution, mediation, arbitration, litigation

Conference Title : ICSLB 2015 : International Conference on Sports Law and Business

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : June 25-26, 2015