

## MEET THE BOARD

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Director



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### How did your career in sports law begin?



I had my heart set on becoming a lawyer from my school days but chose to read Philosophy and Theology at university, rather than law, purely because it was a subject that fascinated me and I knew I was unlikely to have an opportunity to indulge it after I started work. As it happened, writing two essays a week for three years and learning how to frame arguments on the some of the most esoteric of topics provided an excellent grounding for the skills I would need as a lawyer.

After graduating and undertaking a conversion course at law school, I began my training contract at Freshfields. Thanks to my uncle, Michael Beloff QC, I was aware of the intersection between sport and law (then still in its relative infancy) and the possibility of combining an (armchair) passion for sport with a legal career. At Freshfields I was lucky enough to work for eminent litigator Raj Parker, who sat as a Court of Arbitration for Sport arbitrator alongside his commercial litigation practice. It gave me an insight into the inner workings of sports disputes and arbitration and prompted me to make an early leap to London's then leading sports law practice, Denton Hall, headed by former BASL chair Adrian Barr-Smith and Mark Gay.

After that, I spent 10 years in the sports and IP team at DLA Piper, principally working on IP litigation for sports rights owners, including the Premier League's long-running case against suppliers of non-UK decoder cards to UK pubs.

Click here to [Read More](#) about Catherine's Career.

# BASL MASTERCLASS SERIES

The 2021 BASL Masterclass series launched in February and have proved a huge success. We have successfully delivered two insightful sessions; one focussing on Anti-Doping and the other on Esports.

We are busy planning the remaining sessions of the year. Richard Bush of Bird and Bird will be delivering a session in May on Safeguarding and Andy Harvey will be delivering a session revolving around Trans Athletes in June. We then have two remaining sessions after the summer season in October and November.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about the 2021 BASL Masterclass Series.

## UPCOMING MASTERCLASSES



Safeguarding in Sport

Trans\* and Intersex Athletes  
in Sport

Integrity in Sport: Challenges  
and Consideration

# BASL MASTERCLASS REVIEW

James McDougall

Edinburgh Napier University



Thank you to James McDougall, who offered his thoughts below on the Anti-Doping WADA Code Update Masterclass held on Friday 19th February 2021.

Michele Verroken provided a fascinating insight into the WADC 2021. The session began with an overview of the legal framework including the slightly bewildering array of actors involved. A very interesting section summarized some of the state law now in force, in Europe, Australia and most notably the USA's Rodchenkov Act. As Michele pointed out this has been described by Travis Tygart as a game changer.

The focus then shifted to some key amendments to WADC. This included "Substances of Abuse." These are drugs "frequently abused in society outside of sport" and which are not regarded as performance enhancing. WADA has decided that the category consists of cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and THC. If a positive test is out of competition and the athlete can show ingestion was "unrelated to sport performance", he or she can now expect a ban of as little as one month. Michele pointed out two issues: first, the athlete must complete an approved "substance of abuse treatment programme"; and secondly, the athlete may have to admit taking the drugs which could lead to serious legal complications for the athlete and possibly even more so for the supplier.

Click here to [Read More](#) from James' Review.

## COMING SOON: BASL CASE LAW DIGEST

BASL are delighted to be re-igniting their Sports Law Journal initiative. Watch out for further announcements over the coming months for the launch of our all new Case Law Digest - a selection of peer and academic reviewed edited case notes and articles.

### BASL PGCERT UPDATE



BASL, via their academic partner DMU, are delivering a successful, fully online version of the BASL PGCert. It has been a tricky year navigating COVID19 from an educational point of view, but students have received the usual standard of high quality teaching and insights from guest speakers and academics alike throughout the Practice Perspectives module which runs Thursday evenings from September - April.

We wish the 2020 intake the best of luck as they move onto their remaining modules of the academic year.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please do remember to follow our social media channels to receive up-to-date information on our events, education, and conferences.

You can find us on LinkedIn by searching British Association for Sport and Law, you can follow us on Twitter @BASL\_Sport\_Law or Facebook @BritishAssociationforSportandLaw.

