

THE SPORTS LAW
REVIEW

THIRD EDITION

Editor
András Gurovits

THE LAWREVIEWS

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PREFACE

This third edition of *The Sports Law Review* is intended as a practical, business-focused legal guide for all relevant stakeholder groups in the area of sports, including sports business entities, sports federations, sports clubs and athletes. Its goal is to provide an analysis of recent developments and their effects on the sports law sector in 23 jurisdictions. It will serve as a guidebook for practitioners as to how a selected range of legal topics is dealt with under various national laws. The guidance given herein will, of course, not substitute for any particular local law advice that a party may have to seek in connection with sports-related operations and activities. It puts specific emphasis on the most significant developments and decisions of the past year in the relevant jurisdictions that may be of interest for an international audience.

The Sports Law Review recognises that sports law is not a single legal topic, but rather a field of law that is related to a wide variety of legal areas, such as contract, corporate, intellectual property, civil procedure, arbitration and criminal law. In addition, it covers the local legal frameworks that allows sports federations and sports governing bodies to set-up their own internal statutes and regulations as well as to enforce these regulations in relation to their members and other affiliated persons. While the statutory laws of a particular jurisdiction apply, as a rule, only within the borders of that jurisdiction, such statutes and regulations, if enacted by international sports governing bodies, such as FIFA, UEFA, FIS, IIHF, IAAF and WADA have a worldwide reach. Sports lawyers who intend to act internationally or globally must, therefore, be familiar with these international private norms if and to the extent that they intend to advise federations, clubs and athletes that are affiliated with such sports governing bodies. In addition, they should also be familiar with relevant practice of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as far as it acts as the supreme legal body in sport-related disputes. Likewise, these practitioners should have at least a basic understanding of the Swiss rules on domestic and international arbitration as Swiss law is the *lex arbitri* in CAS arbitration.

While sports law has an important international dimension, local laws remain relevant in respect of all matters not covered by the statutes and regulations of the sports governing bodies, as well as in respect of local mandatory provisions that may prevail over or invalidate certain provisions of regulations enacted by sports governing bodies. The primacy of local laws is of particular importance in international employment relationships, for example, between clubs and foreign players, where the local laws of the clubs usually provide for a set of mandatory provisions that may impede performance by the athletes of their contractually agreed rights as regards the employers should they not fulfil the employment agreement. To avoid dependency on proceedings before local state courts and their application of local laws, which may be completely unknown to them, foreign athletes may seek to get the employers'

consent to arbitration (with place of arbitration in a jurisdiction that allows for arbitration in international employment relationships, such as, e.g., Switzerland) and to confer to the arbitral tribunal the competence to decide the dispute *ex aequo et bono*. This is an approach that to our knowledge is increasingly applied in basketball and that may facilitate emergence of an international *lex sportiva* in employment matters also in other sports.

Each chapter of this third edition will start by discussing the legal framework of the relevant jurisdiction permitting sports organisations, such as sports clubs and sports governing bodies (e.g., national and international sports federations), to establish themselves and determine their organisational structure, as well as their disciplinary and other internal proceedings. The section detailing the competence and organisation of sports governing bodies will explain the degree of autonomy that sports governing bodies enjoy in the jurisdiction, particularly in terms of organisational freedoms and the right to establish an internal judiciary system to regulate a particular sport in the relevant country. The purpose of the dispute resolution system section is to outline the judiciary system for sports matters in general, including those that have been dealt with at first instance by sports governing bodies. An overview of the most relevant issues in the context of the organisation of a sports event is provided in the next section and, subsequent to that, a discussion on the commercialisation of such events and sports rights will cover the kinds of event- or sports-related rights that can be exploited, including rights relating to sponsorship, broadcasting and merchandising. This section will further analyse ownership of the relevant rights and how these rights can be transferred.

Our authors then provide sections detailing the relationships between professional sports and labour law, antitrust law and taxation in their own countries. The section devoted to specific sports issues will discuss certain acts that may qualify not only as breaches of the rules and regulations of the sports governing bodies, but also as criminal offences under local law, such as doping, betting and match-fixing.

In the final sections of each chapter the authors provide a review of the year, outlining recent decisions of courts or arbitral tribunals in their respective jurisdictions that are of interest and relevance to practitioners and sports organisations in an international context, before they summarise their conclusions and the outlook for the coming period.

This third edition of *The Sports Law Review* covers 23 jurisdictions. Each chapter has been provided by renowned sports law practitioners in the relevant jurisdiction. As editor of this publication I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the authors for their skilful and insightful contributions to this publication. I trust that you will find this global survey informative and will avail yourselves at every opportunity of the valuable insights contained herein.

András Gurovits
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ISRAEL

*Ronit Amir-Yaniv*¹

I ORGANISATION OF SPORTS CLUBS AND SPORTS GOVERNING BODIES

i Organisational form

In Israel, in most cases, non-profit organisations are the owners of the different sports clubs. Each of the sports non-profit organisations (which we will refer to as a sports club) can establish and operate several teams (a professional team, a reserve team, under 21). Moreover, a sports club may own several teams of several different sports professions. Recently, we have seen new sports clubs established by fans in such a way that each fan receives one share of the organisation in exchange for a yearly membership fee. The team is administrated by an administrative board that is occupied by shareholders. Any extraordinary resolution that a sports club's administrative board wishes to pass must be approved by the Israeli Registrar of Associations.

ii Corporate governance

Each sports profession is managed by one association. The associations are established in accordance with the Sports Law 1988. Every association has a general assembly composed of representatives of any team that operates within the association's sport profession. Each team receives a different number of votes in the general assembly. The number of votes each team receives depends on the standing of the team in the league hierarchy; the score key for the distribution of votes is incorporated into the association's statute. Each association has its own elected administration and several subcommittees in various fields and every four years elections are held and team representatives can nominate themselves to be elected to the various subcommittees. The associations have their own statute book, tribunals, arbitration institute, budget control department, championship and cup rules and regulations. Any association is able to delegate its power to organise the professional leagues to a different management body.

iii Corporate liability

The Israeli law does not have any special reference to corporate liability in sports. The parliament decided that each association will be the regulator in its respective field, even though sports associations and organisations are still obligated to act within the limits of Israeli law. As described in Section (I)(i), sports clubs are non-profit organisations, as a result, they are under the supervision of the Israeli Registrar of Associations, and must comply with the Associations Law, 1980, the Registrar's guidelines, the Sports Law, 1988 and any other

¹ Ronit Amir-Yaniv is a partner at Yigal Arnon and Co, Law Firm.

Israeli law that is relevant to them (i.e., labour laws, safety regulations). Similar to any other sector, in sports organisations the liability is on the administrative board or general assemblies for their decisions and/or on personal officers for their actions.

Furthermore, if there is any personal suspicion against any administrative member that he or she acted in contradiction to the statute book of the association that his or her organisation is under its jurisdiction or in contradiction to the Israeli law, a claim can be brought against him or her personally in the association's tribunal or in the competent courts.

II THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SYSTEM

Every association has its own statute book (the articles) 'tailor made' to its requirements, as well as a dispute resolution system that includes tribunals and an arbitration institute. At the head of the tribunals sits a former district court judge. One of his responsibilities is to appoint the high tribunal judges and to publish a list of the authorised arbitrators. The association's tribunal deals with disciplinary offences as well as with appeals in a variety of topics. However, any dispute between a team and a player, trainer, coach or any other teams' employee – as mentioned in the articles – is under the jurisdiction of the arbitration institution, excluding certain topics in which other courts have exclusive jurisdiction. Certain employees of the team such as the CEO, CFO, COO, etc., are not subject to the arbitration institution.

i Access to courts

According to the majority of the association's regulations the decisions of the high tribunals are final and cannot be questioned or appealed; however, there is an option to appeal to a district court to dismiss the tribunal's decision. In general, the courts try to interfere only when there are claims of flaws in the procedural process (hearing, lack of proportionality, reasoning, etc.) and not in appeals that are related to the essence of the original claim.

ii Sports arbitration

Every sports association has its own arbitration institute. The arbitration institute's authority covers any dispute between a team and a player, coach, etc. The arbitration is compulsory, and courts will not accept claims if the parties did not address the arbitration institute first. However, in recent rulings of the labour courts, the courts ruled that some elements of labour claims are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the labour courts.

iii Enforceability

In most cases, the associations have no problem enforcing their rules and judgments within their jurisdiction because of the contractual relationship between them and the teams and the mandate they received from the authorities to be the regulator in the sports field. The problem arises when international organisations, such as FIBA and FIFA, try to force their rules and judgments on the teams and associations, in some cases, even when their rule or judgment stands contradictory to Israeli law. These situations put the teams and the associations in a dilemma, should they ignore the international associations' orders and follow the Israeli law or should they accept the international association's rules and judgments and disregard Israeli law? Such debates arise mainly in constitutional cases regarding the authority of a foreign organisation over Israeli sports associations, athletes and even the court itself (mainly

in associations' liquidation cases). An answer to this dilemma has not yet been resolved by any legal or regulatory body; however, it is inevitable that this question will sooner or later be raised and a resolution achieved.

III ORGANISATION OF SPORTS EVENTS

i Relationship between organiser and spectator

The basis of the relationship between the organiser and the spectator is contractual. By purchasing a ticket to an event or entering a sports venue, spectators subordinate themselves to the relevant association's articles. The main challenge of the organiser is to locate and identify any wrongdoers among the spectators and to make sure that the association will enforce its rules upon those spectators who have breached the articles. In any case, an organiser should take reasonable action to enforce the association's rules upon the spectators.

Both organiser and spectator are subject to the torts and criminal laws of Israel, on top of any standard of the associations, as torts and criminal law cannot be conditioned upon.

When it comes to criminal actions, the police are the only authority that has the jurisdiction to arrest, investigate and eventually recommend to the Prosecutor's Office whether to press charges against a spectator.²

In some cases that are not criminal but contradict the discipline statutes of the relevant association a police officer may be granted the authority to issue a restraining order to 'problematic' spectators to prevent them from entering the venue.³ We have also seen cases where the sports club has acted to ensure the disciplinary statutes of the association, for example, the Maccabi Haifa Football Club has, in the past, cancelled the subscriptions of known violent spectators.

ii Relationship between organiser and athletes or club

At sporting events, the organiser is obligated to secure the venue; such security is done by hiring private security companies. Furthermore, each event must be coordinated with the police and the police also assign police officers to secure the event.

This obligation is not contractual but legally binding, as it is stated in the laws and regulations and cannot be conditioned.

Moreover, some obligations are imposed upon the organiser from the association of the relevant sports field. Since athletes, clubs and organisers are all subject to the articles of the relevant association owing to their consent to participate in such events, they all dwell in the same legal area.

iii Liability of the organiser

The organiser is subordinated to the Tort Ordinance [New Version] 1965, when it comes to looking after the safety of spectators. Since the arbitration institute is not allowed to rule on damages claims (especially physical damages), any such damages claim must be filed with the relevant court. In one case, an organiser had to pay damages to a 15-year-old youth who was severely injured in a spectators' riot.⁴

2 See the Police Ordinance [New Version], 1971.

3 See the Prohibition of Violence in Sports Law, 2008.

4 C.c. (Haifa) 1274/01 *Rand v. the Company for Arts, Culture and Sports Haifa Ltd.*

The main liability we see imposed on an organiser is that of criminal (or administrative) liability in cases where the event was organised without a licence or permit.⁵ In theory, organisers may carry criminal liability in cases of death under Section 304 of the Criminal Law, 1977; however, such matters have yet to arrive before the courts.

iv Liability of the athletes

Every athlete is subject to the statutes and rules of its relevant association (e.g., basketball players are subject to the IBBA) by being a member of the association.

Claims of liability can be carried out by the athlete's team (in cases of breach of contract), or by any other person in case of damages caused by the athlete to the claimant. As mentioned, such claims of damages are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts.

According to Section 7 of the Sports Law, 1988, every athlete must be insured. In cases where an athlete injures an opponent mid-game and causes damages, the claim will be addressed to the insurance company, and not to the athlete him or herself. In some cases, when the injuring athlete acts deliberately or in an unsportsmanlike manner, there may be additional disciplinary consequences.

Despite criminal events being under the sole jurisdiction of the police, such events lead to the relevant associations' prosecutor bringing the facts of the case before the discipline tribunal of the association and this may result in a monetary fine for the transgressor, and maybe even a ban from professional games.

v Liability of the spectators

The issue of spectators' liability is a challenging one. Since spectators are not members of the sports associations, the sports associations have no authority over them. However, the IBBA has recently come up with a model of establishing a contractual relationship between the association itself and the spectators. A provision was added to the back of each ticket that states that by purchasing a ticket the spectators agree to be subordinate to the association, including to its discipline statutes.

Such trend is spreading to other sports fields.

vi Riot prevention

The liability for riots and the behaviour of the spectators lies upon the team whose fans caused the riot or even participated in one. The discipline tribunal is entitled to impose fines, rule that the convicted team will play without its fans or will play in a certain radius from its home court, etc.⁶

Actions against rioting fans taken by the respective team can result in an alleviation of the tribunal's ruling.⁷

5 See the Businesses Licence Law, 1968.

6 See the IBBA discipline tribunal case no. 538/16 *The IBBA v. Hapoel Tel-Aviv Basketball Association*.

7 See the IBBA discipline tribunal case 537/16 *The IBBA v. Hapoel Holon Basketball Association*.

IV COMMERCIALISATION OF SPORTS EVENTS

Naturally, sporting events hold the potential for business and commercial collaborations between the event organiser and other parties, as well as collaborations between the relevant association and such parties.

i Ownership of the rights

There are various rights and all of them belong to the associations or to the teams. The most important rights are as follows:

Intellectual property (IP) rights – each team has full IP rights and is entitled to register these rights. The team is entitled to sell merchandise bearing their IP such as shirts, balls, cups. The team is further entitled to determine the prices, exclusivity and all other terms.

Broadcasting rights – the broadcasting rights are owned by the association (for example, the IBBA owns the broadcasting rights to the National Cup games) and can be transferred or sold to third parties. Usually, the association divides the income among the relevant teams. For certain events, the team itself holds the broadcasting rights (for example, Euroleague games) and is entitled to sell its rights to private TV channels on its own terms. A team can open its own pay-per-view channel and enjoy direct income from the advertisements.

The sponsorship agreements – the association, as well as the teams, may receive money, equipment and discounts for selling the right to advertise on parts of the uniforms, signs or banners to third parties. Sometimes there is a conflict between sponsorships of a team and the individual sponsorships of a player (for example, where the team is endorsed by one brand of shoe and a player is endorsed by another) and therefore most of the sponsorship agreements contain provisions to deal with these instances.

ii Rights protection

The above-mentioned rights are protected by IP laws. Therefore, the owner of the rights (an association or team) is entitled to sue for any breach of these rights and to receive compensation or reimbursement from the infringers.

V PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AND LABOUR LAW

The Supreme Court of Israel has long determined that an athlete is considered an employee of the association that owns the team (since the team itself is not a legal entity). The labour laws in Israel apply almost in their entirety to the athletes. However, the law does take into consideration the unique legal environment in which Israeli sports associations act. Large sports associations such as football and basketball usually publish forms of 'standard agreements' between the teams and the players, coaches, referees or agents. The agreements can be changed by mutual consent, but each team must file them and get the approval of the Budget Audit Authority of each association. Referees were not considered employees for many years (but rather as volunteers or independent service providers). After a few referee strikes and legal proceedings, the basketball and football referees were recognised as employees of the relevant association.

In addition, from time to time there is a suggestion to set a cap for the annual payments to athletes (especially football and basketball players) such as those set by the NBA and other leagues, but the associations have not yet adopted any regulations.

i Mandatory provisions

The labour laws in Israel are very developed and contain certain statutory rights that are determined by law.⁸ Furthermore, although Section 10 of the Sports Law 1988 determines that any dispute between an athlete and his team is subject to the association's arbitration institute, protective labour rights are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the labour courts.⁹

ii Free movement of athletes

The Israeli associations determine very strict rules regarding foreign players. For instance, the Championship Games by-laws of the IBBA (the IBBA By-laws) limit the amount of foreign athletes in each league. According to section 7(e) to the IBBA By-laws, the Premier Basketball Leagues for men and women are subject to resolutions of the IBBA and the relevant Premier League Administration that will be given from time to time.

Section 7(a)(11) of the IBBA By-laws limits, however, the second basketball league for men, a level below the Premier Basketball League, to at least one and no more than two foreign players.

iii Application of employment rules of sports governing bodies

The major associations (IBBA, IFA, etc.) have affixed text for employment agreements between the teams and athletes, coaches and agents. The top leagues are obliged to show such agreements to the Budget Audit Authority of each association. Such agreements can be amended, subject to the protective labour laws. The employee (athlete, coach, etc.) and the employer may agree to contain in the agreement employment-related provisions found in statutes or regulations of an international sports governing bodies (such as FIFA or FIBA), subject to complying with the protection labour laws.

For instance, the IBBA By-laws contain regulations regarding the obligation to sign players under the age of 22 and 25 in each team of the IBBA Premier League. Several players appealed to the Tel-Aviv District Labour Court stating that such provision is against the Basic Laws of Israel (the Israeli Constitution). The Labour Court ruled to delete the petition owing to lack of authority, since there is no employee–employer relationship between the IBBA and the players.

VI SPORTS AND ANTITRUST LAW

One of the main goals of the Israeli Antitrust law is to prohibit abuse of a monopoly power. There is a legal debate as to whether each one of the sports associations should be considered as a monopoly in its respective field. One such case was brought before the supreme tribunal of the IBBA, with regards to Hapoel Jerusalem, one of the teams playing in the IBBA Premier League, and which is also registered to play in the Euroleague games (that are arranged by ULEB, a competitor of FIBA). FIBA addressed the IBBA in order to force it to prevent Hapoel Jerusalem from registering to the IBBA leagues, as Hapoel Jerusalem and the IBBA are committed to the FIBA, also playing in a ULEB arranged league would be bad for FIBA. Hapoel Jerusalem claimed that such provision is a misuse of the monopolistic power of FIBA

8 Such as the Severance Payment Law, 1963; Wage Protection Law, 1958, etc.

9 See, for example, Case (Labor Appeal) 791/05 *Doron Katz v. Roe Sapir* (4.5.20016)

and the IBBA, and also forms a restrictive arrangement. The Supreme IBBA Tribunal ruled that the FIBA rules themselves prevent FIBA from restricting any team or association from playing in a different organisation without any sanction.

The Supreme Tribunal left the antitrust question unanswered.

VII SPORTS AND TAXATION

i Foreign athletes

The tax laws of Israel contain a specific arrangement for foreign athletes. According to the Income Tax Regulations 1988, foreign athletes shall pay 25 per cent income tax (instead of the regular higher rate, which changes from time to time). Furthermore, the athlete's expenses (such as food and housing) will be deducted from the income, and shall not be deemed income for tax purposes. This situation caused a problematic situation with the local athletes due to claims of discrimination and the claim that teams have an incentive to prefer foreign athletes over local athletes. Therefore, a special committee was appointed to discuss this issue.

ii Israeli athletes

Duplicative agreements and 'black payments' were very common a few years ago until the Israeli tax authorities, together with the Budget Audit Authority of each association, increased their efforts to enforce the law.

VIII SPECIFIC SPORTS ISSUES

i Doping

Israeli law does not contain any law regarding the outcome of the use of drugs in professional sports (other than the criminal offence according to the laws of Israel). Accordingly, the relevant regulations regarding doping are the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations. The Israel National Anti-Doping Organization (INADO) is the authorised body that monitors and regulates the use of drugs in sports in Israel and it acts on WADA's behalf. The INADO is authorised to perform and to supervise doping tests in Israel.

In April 2017, INADO accused four foreign basketball players, playing for the Israeli Premier League, of using drugs. INADO held a hearing for those players, and eventually decided to suspend the players through the end of the season.

As some of the players were foreign players, some of the players left Israel before the end of the season and before INADO filed an indictment.

As a result of the multiple findings of drugs usage, INADO decided to increase the amount of drug tests among basketball players.

The Israeli Dangerous Drugs Ordinance [New Version], 1973, determines that any holding or dealing of drugs not in accordance with the Ordinance may result in prolonged imprisonment. However, owing to the worldwide tendency to ease drug holding and usage offences, the unofficial policy in Israel is to not prosecute for small amounts of 'light drugs' that are found in someone's possession.

ii Betting

Section 225 of the Israeli Criminal Law, 1977 forbids arranging betting games that involve money or any other benefits. However, the state of Israel established the Israel Sports Betting Board (the ISBB) in accordance with the arrangements of the Sports Betting Law, 1967.

The ISBB is the sole authority that is allowed to have arranged sports betting under the brand 'Toto' (from German: Football Betting). The ISBB is a communal body that is subject to the State Comptroller of Israel, and the members of the ISBB are elected by the Minister of Treasury and the Minister of Sports.

Since unlicensed betting is a criminal offence in Israel, the enforcement is carried out by the police.

However, there is a problem enforcing the law when it comes to the bettors themselves. The Israeli Criminal Law 1977 does indeed forbid participation in any betting or lottery event, but recognises that such participants need treatment for their addiction rather than imprisonment. When it comes to athletes with a betting problem, there are no internal sanctions in the associations, and those players are usually directed to treatment for their addiction.

iii Manipulation

Both the IBBA and IFA view every attempt for match fixing as a serious offence. An attempt to fix a match may result in the most severe punishments that the association is allowed to impose upon the teams.

Fixing a match is a criminal offence in Israel, under the general prohibition of fraud.¹⁰

One of the most famous manipulation cases in Israel involves Hapoel Haifa Football Club's player – Israel Cohen. In this case, Cohen was accused of deliberately committing an offence that resulted in a penalty kick, and Hapoel Haifa lost the game.

The IFA directed the investigative materials to the Israeli Police. After approximately two years of investigation, the Prosecutor's Office of the District of Tel-Aviv, concluded that the case relies on circumstantial evidence, and decided to close it.

Another famous incident of manipulation happened in Hapoel Beer-Sheva Football Club in 2006. In that case, three of the team's players admitted to receiving money from criminal organisations in order to fix the game against Hapoel Ra'anana Football Club. One of them, Asi Rahamim, was arrested and accused of failing to report knowledge of the game fix. Eventually, he was released and the Prosecutor's Office dropped the charges.

iv Grey market sales

In 2002 the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) passed Section 194A of the Israeli Criminal Law, 1977, which forbids profiteering. The new law allowed the police to investigate profiteering cases. Israel mainly fights organised profiteering, or ones of large scale.

IX THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In June 2017, Israel hosted the European Athletics Team Championships second league. In August 2017, Israel hosted the Eurobasket Basketball Games for Group B. The teams that played in Group B were Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia and Israel. Hosting

10 Section 415 of the Israeli Criminal Law 1977.

the tournament brought many tourists to Israel who came to watch the games. In June–July 2017, Israel hosted the European Junior Swimming Championship. Israel also arranged the Israel Open Gymnastics Championship and the Maccabiah.

Those events contributed to the increasing stream of tourists that Israel has enjoyed over the past few years.

As a start-ups nation, Israeli start-up companies have come up with several start-ups that will shape the future of sports. More than 70 sports tech start-ups were established and operate in Israel today in the fields of video, cameras, applications, smart stadiums, smart devices, wearables, performance improvement, fan engagement, smart TV, e-sports.

The most famous deal was the purchase of Replay Technologies by Intel. Replay developed an advanced viewing system that allowed fans to watch games in 360 degrees as well as watching them from the point of view of a player in the game.

In July 2017, a sport-tech exposition took place in Israel. Due to the strong reputation of Israel as a start-ups nation, many senior sports clubs worldwide, such as Dortmund (England), Olympiacos (Greece), LA Dodgers (USA), etc., sent their representatives to participate in the exposition.

Such start-ups have a strong influence and contribution to world sports, and to Israeli sports in particular.

The IBBA has formed a new 3X3 sports branch, which commenced in October 2017, for the 2017–2018 season.

X OUTLOOK AND CONCLUSIONS

Israeli start-ups have placed Israel in the front row of global sports technology. Many start-ups have successfully raised investment from Israeli, as well as foreign investors and funds.

The associations have started to develop and to establish more ‘common’ sports branches, such as 3X3 in basketball, amateur running marathons, bicycle riding competitions, etc., in order to reach out not only to professional athletes, but also to average people who want to add a more sport-oriented aspect to their daily lives. In order to give access to amateur sportsmen and sportswomen to competitive branches of sports, Israel has also improved essential infrastructure such as special bicycles lanes, running tracks and much more.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Ronit Amir-Yaniv heads Yigal Arnon & Co's sports practice.

Ronit has extensive experience in the sports law field, and has been the legal adviser of the Israel Basketball Association over the past three years.

Ronit's experience includes: representing business people in purchasing soccer teams; representing soccer and basketball teams and various athletes before the Association's institutions, budgetary control committees and other regulators, as well as with sponsors and commercial companies; drafting agreements for players, athletes and coaches, and she has appeared on both sides in the Football Association's arbitration proceedings; representing sponsors and companies such as Nike, Wertheimer Sport, Sector 55, Unilever and the Sports Channel; representing various athletes such as Arik Zeevi, and soccer players such as Yitzhak Weisker.

Ronit also served as director of Gad Zeevi's company and was his representative and proxy holder in the soccer association.

Ronit is very familiar with the establishment and affairs of non-profit associations and sports organisations. She advised athletes in their labour law issues and represents them in retirement proceedings, administrative and public law matters, as well as intellectual property rights in sports.

Ronit is a long-time member of the Sports Committee of the Israel Bar Association and of the Sports Committee of the District Committee of the Bar.

Ronit lectures on sports law at the Hebrew University, and at professional conferences on the purchase of sports teams, and regulations.

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