

Governance & Sport Policy

SPRT 2040 SECTION A
FALL 2026

Course Information

Course Instructor: Daniel Sailofsky
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Office: MK 7001

Course Time & Day: Wednesday 10:00-1pm
Class Location: MK 2065
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3pm

Course Overview

Course Description

This course is an examination of the integration of management theory with sport governance and policy development practice. The course provides students with an understanding of the authority, organizational structures, and function of the major governing bodies in the various segments of professional and amateur sport organizations at the local, national, and global levels. The study of policy development in educational, non-profit, professional, and international sport organizations in relation to governance issues will also be addressed.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key organizations in global, national and provincial sport governance.
2. Describe and the apply the good governance framework and principles in sport environments.
3. Identify and describe key sport policies on issues such as anti-doping, athlete development, inclusion and discrimination, injuries and health, environmental impact, safeguarding, etc.
4. Develop their ability to analyze problems in a sport policy and governance context

Course Schedule

Important Dates

- September 22 - Last date to add a course without instructor permission
- November 10 - Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade
- December 8 – Last day of Fall classes
- December 9 – Fall study day
- December 10-23 – Exam period begins

Explore the York University [Academic Calendar](#) to find a list of important dates, such as class start/end dates, drop deadlines, holidays and more.

Weekly Course Schedule

Class schedule subject to change – be prepared to check e-class for updates. No assignment deadlines will be moved to earlier dates. All changes will be announced on e-class and in class sessions.

Week	Mode	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities	Assessment and notes
Week 1 – Sep 9		• Course Overview • Introduction to Sport Governance concepts	Shilburty and Perkins (2020) textbook, Chapter 2 Hoekman and Scheerder, 2021	
Week 2 – Sep 16	MK 2065	• Good governance framework • Olympic and global sport governance	Zipp & Ghai, 2020 Chapelet, 2020 Textbook, Chapter 4	

Week	Mode	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities	Assessment and notes
Week 3 – Sep 23	MK 2065	- Canadian sport governance - Ontario sport governance - Guest Lecture: Johnny Misley, Ontario Soccer	Canada's 2025 Future of Sport Commission Chapter on Good Governance CBC report Part I & Part II Provincial Sport Policy in Ontario Report	Pick debate partner
Week 4 – Sep 30	MK 2065	- Guest Lectures: Pam Julian, Ontario Cycling - Legal and regulatory systems - Anti-doping policy & practice - The great debates – Introduction to policy debate topics - Debate topics and partners	Chapter 3 of textbook Sport Integrity Canada Anti-doping policy & practice - WADA Bowers, L. D., & Paternoster, R. (2018). Inhibiting doping in sports: deterrence is necessary, but not sufficient. In <i>Sport, ethics and philosophy</i> (pp. 132-152). Routledge. Review Debate Assignment info	
Week 5 – Oct 7	MK 2065	- An Argentinian case study (guest lecture) - Professional league and team ownership in North America - Alternate models for sport policy and practice	Ch. 9	
Reading Week Oct 10-16				

Week	Mode	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities	Assessment and notes
Week 7 – Oct 21	MK 2065	- Professional league and team ownership in North America - Alternate models for sport policy and practice	McLeod, 2022 – Athlete owned sport leagues	
Week 8 – Oct 28	MK 2065	Midterm exam		
Week 9 – Nov 4	MK 2065	- Sport Event Governance - Comparisons – Canada vs Norway, Canada vs the UK	UK Sports Governance Code explainer Norway's Children's Rights in Sport provisions Tacon and Walters, 2021 Ch 15	Josie guest lecture online, Sam guest lecture online
Week 10 – Nov 11	MK 2065	Collegiate sport in Canada and in the US	Ch 14 Braes and Edwards, 2021 Van Rheenen, 2013	
Week 11 – Nov 18	MK 2065	- Gender and sport leadership and governance - Governing gender - Annotated Bibliography	Zipp & de Soysa, 2019 Joint Statement from Legal Experts on Genetic Sex Testing in Sport Maternity Policies in Elite	
Week 12 – Nov 25	MK 2065	In Class Debates	Peer Evaluations	Debates

Week	Mode	Topic(s)	Readings and Activities	Assessment and notes
Week 13 – Dec 2	MK 2065	• Future challenges in sport governance • Dr. Richard Norman on future governance • Exam Prep	Ch 29	Peer evaluations due
Exams Dec 10-23			Final Exam In person	

***Please note that the course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

****All students are responsible for accessing any additional reading content noted by the professor through the library unless otherwise directed.**

Communication Guidelines

The main form of communication with you regarding this course will be through email and eClass. Please be sure that you **regularly check your YorkU email address** for announcements about the course.

Students are encouraged to attend office hours (noted on page 1) in order to ask questions and get personalized help with this course. Email correspondence with Prof. Sailofsky is acceptable, but students should expect 24-48 hours turn-around time, and email responses will only occur during Mon-Fri business hours. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail.

Following the return of graded assignments, students may contact the marker/grader via email to discuss their grade (see Grade Appeal section for rules regarding this type of communication). The marker/grader will reply to emails within 48 hours.

For all email correspondence, please use your official YorkU email account and include the course code in the subject line. It is expected that the students will communicate in a professional manner at all times. Emails must include the full name of the student. Anonymous, unsigned, or disrespectful emails will be ignored and reported.

It is expected that you have read this syllabus and understand the information contained within it. Should you email the professor or marker/grader with questions

that are answered in this syllabus, expect a very curt email replay along the lines of “Read the syllabus.”

Required Course Materials

Required Textbook:

Title: *Handbook of Sport Governance*

Author(s): D. Shilbury & L. Ferkins

Edition / Year: 1st/ 2020

Publisher: Routledge

ISBN: ISBN 9781032239156

The textbook is available for FREE through the York U library. You can also purchase online through the Day1Digital (D1D) eText program. Please use the D1D link on eClass or visit York’s online bookstore.

Shilbury, D. & Ferkins, L. (2020). *Handbook of Sport Governance*. Routledge. ISBN 9781032239156.

Additional readings and resources will be posted on e-class. All additional readings will be accessible for free.

Other Resources

Front Office Sports newsletters. Sign up at <https://frontofficesports.com/newsletters/>. Instructions: Create a free account (you can unsubscribe from their emails after signing up). For “job title, write in “student” and for “company” write in “York University.” You can also visit their site to find up-to-date sports business news.

Canadian Sport Policy: <https://csp.sirc.ca/>

Sport Integrity Canada: <https://sportintegrity.ca/>

Race & Gender Report Card: <https://www.tidesport.org/racial-gender-report-card>

Teamwork Online: www.teamworkonline.com

Pending: Sign up for *Hypothesis*, a social annotation tool. We will use this tool for online discussion on readings and other collaborative work: <https://web.hypothes.is/>

YorkU Technical Supports

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) where students will interact with the course materials and each other.

Here are some useful links for computing information, resources, and help:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [eLearning Getting Started \(LA&PS eServices\)](#)
- [Student Guide to Remote and Online Learning](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#). If you need technical assistance, please consult the [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#) web page or write to askit@yorku.ca.

Course Evaluations

Evaluation Basis	% Value
Participation Quizzes	15%
Policy Debate (Pairs)	
Annotated Bibliography	10%
In Class Debate	20%
Peer Evaluations	5%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%
TOTAL 100%	

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %
Weekly reading quizzes – 4 multiple choice quizzes, only your 3 best grades count	DATE	15%
Policy Debate (Pairs Project) Annotated Bibliography In Class Debate Peer evaluations	DATE	10% 20% 5%
Midterm Exam	DATE	20%
Final Exam	Exam Week December	30%
TOTAL		100%

Assessment Descriptions

Each assessment is summarized below. Further details and instructions will be provided in class and in materials posted to the course website.

Weekly reading quizzes (15%)

Working individually, students will complete 4 in class quizzes at random points throughout the term. Each week's quiz will be based on the required readings for that week. Students will not have access to their notes for the quiz.

Policy Debate – Pairs Project (Total 35%)

Debate guidance - [detailed instructions here](#).

Midterm Exam (20%)

This is a comprehensive exam, drawing on material from across the first seven (7) weeks of the term. Students may use their own notes and the book (or copies of chapters); any hard copies of documents are permitted. They may not use online sources during the exam

Final Exam (30%)

This is a comprehensive final exam, drawing on material from across the entire semester. Students may use their own notes and the book (or copies of chapters); any hard copies of documents are permitted. They may not use online sources during the exam.

All instructions for assignments will be posted on eClass and discussed in class.

Late Work Policy

Assignments are due on the day and time noted in the assignment instructions. 10% will be immediately deducted if assignments are not submitted at the time of the dropbox closing. An additional 10% will be deducted each day (i.e., every 24 hours) - including weekends - until the assignment is submitted. Assignments will not be accepted after five (5) days (including weekends) have passed since the due date.

If a student is experiencing a personal situation that may warrant an extension, they must communicate with the instructor **in advance of the deadline. Examples of legitimate personal situations that may warrant an extension on an assignment include:**

- Incapacitating illness;
- Death in the family;
- Accommodations for religious observances – see YorkU policy below.

Examples of UNACCEPTABLE reasons for missing a due date include:

- Vacations;
- Varsity sports practices;
- Work/volunteer schedules;
- Student's forgetfulness or carelessness in planning their schedule;

- Multiple assessments taking place on the same day.

Missed Tests and Exams

There will be no makeup exams scheduled in this course. For example, missing the midterm will result in the weight of the midterm being added to your final exam (i.e., $20\% + 20\% = 40\%$ final exam).

Students are strongly urged not to make any commitments (e.g., travel or vacations) during the examination period as unforeseen circumstances can result in exams being rescheduled. Consequently, students are required to be available for examinations during the examination periods of all terms in which they register.

Please review York University's [deferred standing policy](#) if they believe that they not be able to complete the final exam.

Grade Appeals

Any problems associated with your graded work (grading error, missing graded assignment) **must be brought to the attention of the teaching team (Prof. Zipp and marker/grader) within one week after graded material has been returned, but not until 24 hours after you have received the grade (for a 'cooling off' period).**

Otherwise, the teaching team will not be able to negotiate an alternate arrangement with you. Therefore, stay on top of things, monitor your work, and make sure that inform the teaching team immediately if there are problems.

The teaching team will not entertain any end of semester negotiations about grades. However, the teaching team will support you in every way possible during the semester to ensure that you perform to the best of your ability as long as you communicate any difficulties or concerns with the material with the professor. Therefore, it is recommended that you take full advantage of the professor's office hours to ensure your success. Your grade in the course is a direct reflection of your engagement in your own learning process.

How to Use Citations in this Course

This course and the discipline of sport management relies on APA formatting for citations. It is recommended that students acquire the APA manual and/or use the on-campus resources noted below.

APA. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). This is the standard publication manual for APA formatting, and will serve as an excellent resource throughout your studies. It is available at the bookstore and a copy is on reserve at the library.

Resources to help with citations:

- [I need to cite and reference, Learning Commons](#)
- [Drop-in Research Support](#), YorkU Libraries
- [Writing Centre](#)
- [SPARK Student Papers & Academic Research Kit](#)

Grading

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

Grade	Grade Point	Percent Range	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	0	(below 50%)	Failing

Course Policies

Please review the course policies in this section. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. As a York student, you are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity by completing your own work. Connect with reliable [on-campus resources](#) that can support your work in ways that uphold academic honesty values of honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and courage. To better understand the serious consequences of breaching academic honesty policies, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). You can learn more about upholding academic integrity in your courses by exploring the [Guiding Principles for LA&PS](#) webpage.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). Using AI apps such as ChatGPT, GPT-3, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work **without your instructor's knowledge or permission**, is considered to be a breach of academic honesty. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

If you're not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is acceptable, it is recommended that you:

- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Turnitin

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will normally be required to submit their written assignments to Turnitin (via the course's eClass site) for a review of textual similarities and the detection of possible plagiarism. In so doing, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website. York students may opt out of using Turnitin. If you wish to opt out, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Accessibility

York University is committed to creating a learning environment which provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience any

barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with your instructor as early as possible. For students with disabilities, contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) to coordinate academic accommodations and services. Accommodations will be communicated to Course Directors through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of special significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course examinations, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor within the first three (3) weeks of class. If the date falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation for Examination Form](#) at least three (3) weeks before the start of the exam period.

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), [Academic Integrity](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Support and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.

- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources, and counselling to support your academic success.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides student study sessions for students to collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in certain courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, stats, and Excel.
- [The Writing Centre](#) provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio, and an Accessibility Specialist.
- [Centre for Indigenous Student Services](#) offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural, and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.
- [ESL Open Learning Centre \(OLC\)](#) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- [Learning Skills Services](#) provides tips for time management, effective study and learning habits, keeping up with coursework, and other learning-related supports.
- [Learning Commons](#) provides links to supports for time management, writing, study skills, preparing for exams, and other learning-related resources.
- [Roadmap to Student Success](#) provides students with timely and targeted resources to help them achieve academic, personal, and professional success.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident support.
- [Peer Mentorship](#) helps students transition through their first year by connecting them with upper-year students. The mentors can help find supports and resources. They also lead a community hub on campus.
- [goSAFE](#) is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops, or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness, and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).