



REGULATORY AND PROCEDURAL UPDATES IN SPORTS

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What is inside?

Women's Football: Minimum Conditions for Players -2

FIFA Approves New Regulations - 3

The United States of America Passes Anti-Doping Act - 5

NBA introduces New Rule for 2020/2021 Season -7

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FOOTBALL



1. Women's Football: Minimum Conditions for Players



The women's football scene has seen new improvements, with FIFA putting in place measures to protect women's football. These measures will help improve player welfare, and also promote participation.

According to FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, the regulatory framework "is appropriate and suitable to the needs of the women's game".

The proposed new rules include a number of key measures such as:

- At least 14 weeks of mandatory maternity leave, with players being paid a minimum of two-thirds of the player's contracted salary.
- Clubs may exceptionally register a female player outside of a registration period to temporarily replace another female player who has taken maternity leave.
- Clubs must make sure the players are reintegrated when they return, as well as providing adequate medical and physical support.
- No female player should ever suffer a disadvantage as a result of becoming pregnant, thus securing greater employment protection for women in football.

The full details can be accessed [here](#)



2. FIFA Approves New Regulation to Protect Football Coaches.



In order to provide better protection for football coaches, FIFA has approved a new regulation for them.

According to FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, football coaches are important in football, playing a key role; yet they have not had a regulation to protect them. However, this is about to change as FIFA has decided to "plug this gap and recognise the key role they have".

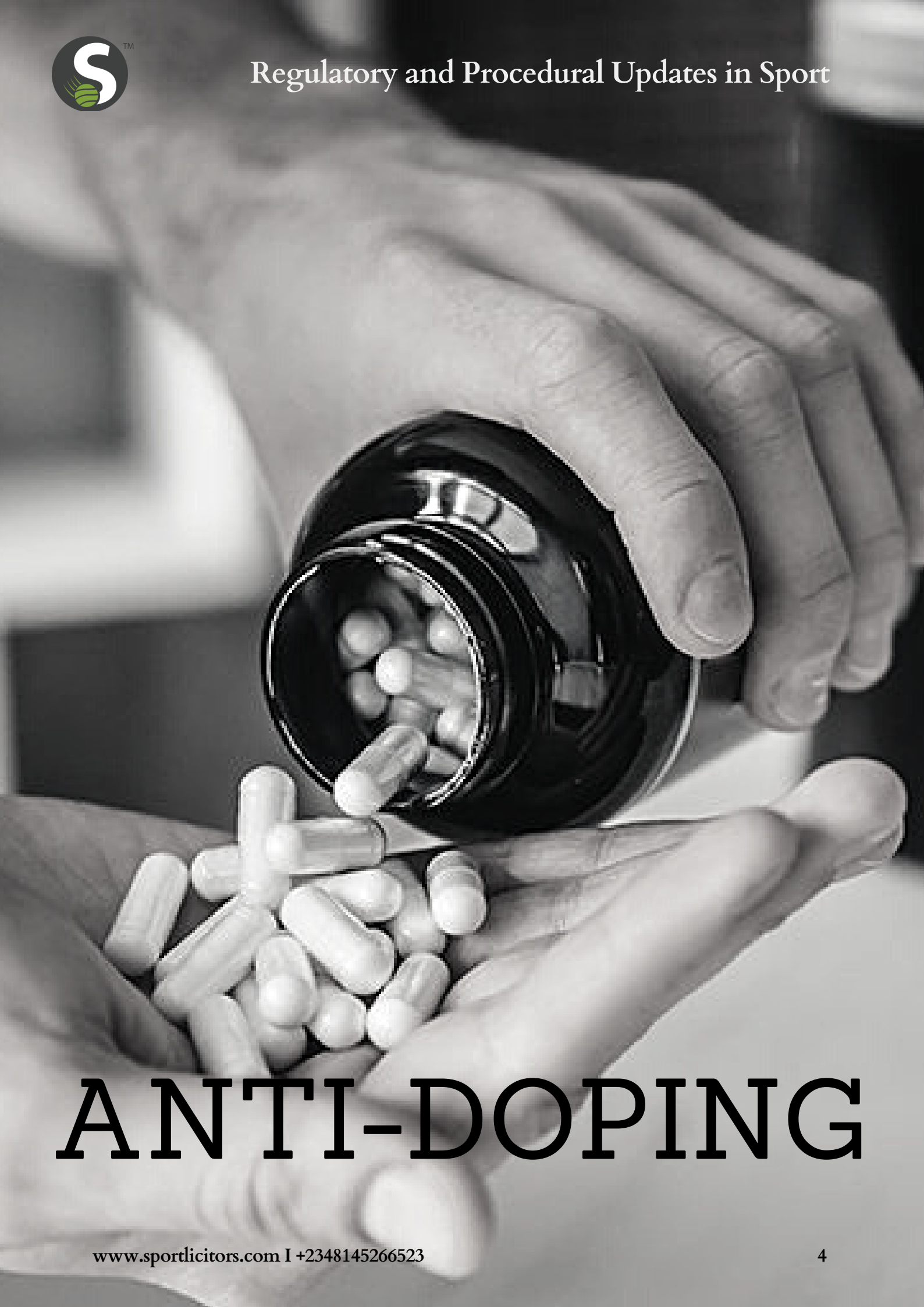
The new rules establish minimum standards for coaches' contracts and provide greater clarity on the content of employment agreements.

Amongst the improvements of the Regulation are:

- Providing football coaches with a minimum regulatory framework that will offer a higher degree of legal certainty in their employment relationships with a club or association;
- Facilitate the work of the relevant FIFA bodies to decide employment related disputes involving coaches.
- There will also be improvements in terms of payables due to coaches regarding their contracts.

The full details can be found [here](#).





ANTI-DOPING



1. The United States of America Passes Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act.



With the issues that have arisen from the doping scandals of Marion Jones, Lance Armstrong, as well as rumours of coaches nudging their players to dope, the United States has taken a further step in its quest to tackle doping.

The Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Bill which was previously passed by the House of Representatives unanimously has also been passed by the Senate unopposed; which means that it will become law when the President of the United States gives his assent.

The main aim of the Bill is to provide the tools needed to protect athletes who are clean, as well as holding accountable, those involved in international doping conspiracies that defraud sport, sponsors and that harm athletes.





BASKETBALL



NBA Introduces New Rules for the 2020/21 Season



With the commencement of the NBA 2020/21 season around the corner, the NBA has set out a number of rules, taking into regard the COVID-19 situation.

The Association has released that the salary cap and the 'luxury tax threshold' for the new season will remain the same as that of last season. This has been done because of the importance of keeping the cap roughly at the same level, so as to ensure consistency in the free agency market.

Furthermore, the NBA has decided to impose a tax break on tax-paying teams this season. The CBA originally provided that where a team's salary exceeds the luxury tax threshold of \$132,627,000, such a team will pay a tax on every dollar that is over the threshold. However, that will not apply this season.

In addition, the CBA now contains a force majeure clause in Article XXXIX. The clause entitles the NBA to terminate the CBA if a force majeure event:

- Makes it impossible for the NBA to perform its obligations;
- Frustrates the underlying purpose of the Agreement; or
- Makes it economically impracticable for the NBA to perform the obligations under the Agreement.





MEANING OF ABBREVIATIONS

- **USADA**- United States Anti Doping Agency
- **USATF**- United States Athletics Federation
- **NBA**- National Basketball Association



ABOUT SPORTLICITORS

We are a law firm specialized in sports law practice, covering a variety of areas such as sport governance & regulation; sports contracts; sports dispute resolution; intellectual property rights in sports; sports marketing & sponsorship; sports immigration services, amongst others.

Our firm is one of the foremost fully-specialized sports law firms in Africa. It was established based on the understanding that the African sports industry needs expert lawyers who are fully-devoted to helping sports stakeholders exploit the opportunities, and negotiate the challenges of an ever-changing sports industry.


Over time, we have provided legal services in respect of:


- Sports disciplinary matters;
- Formation of sport leagues/clubs;
- Dispute Resolution before local/international sports tribunals, and civil courts; such as matters of 'overdue payables', 'training compensation', 'solidarity contribution', tort in sport, etc;
- Advice on player management and transfers;
- Club management, employment contracts and commercial contracts, etc.

Our track record includes provision of legal services to clients such as: Fédération Internationale des Associations de Footballeurs Professionnel (FIFPRO), Myron Topclass Sport Outfit, Discovery Sport, Oghenekaro Etebo (Stoke City FC, England), Godbless Asamoah (Rivers United FC, Nigeria), Adama Coulibaly (Warri Wolves FC, Nigeria), Adeola Aminu & Chima Nwosu (Sunshine Queens FC, Nigeria), Gbagada FC (Nigeria), Geedeede FC (Nigeria), Ahmed Kone & Bobbie Ansah (Sunshine Stars FC), among others.

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