

Graduate Diploma in Sports Law

1. Background

The Faculty of Law proposes to introduce a new specialist graduate diploma entitled the Graduate Diploma in Sports Law, within the Faculty's established Graduate Law Program. The proposed graduate diploma will bring together in a specialist course a number of single subjects on sports law currently taught in the Graduate Law Program.

The Faculty first offered a subject in sports law as part of the Master of Laws by coursework (LLM) in 1988. Since then, and in response to the expanding scope and complexity of sports law as well as student and sports industry interest, the Faculty has progressively expanded the number of sports law subjects in its Graduate Program to six, with a further two to be introduced in 2006. Currently, students wishing to obtain a formal qualification in connection with these sports law subjects must pursue the generalist LLM or the Master of Commercial Law (MCL). There is a growing belief within the Faculty and in the sports industry that the sports law subjects should be brought together in a specialist course and that there is a gap to be filled between taking single subjects for continuing education on the one hand and pursuing the LLM or MCL on the other. The proposed graduate diploma would satisfy both of these identified needs and can be offered using established subjects without committing additional resources.

The lecturers in the sports law subjects are nationally well known and regarded. In some cases they are without peer at the national level. About half of the lecturers are regarded internationally as among the leaders in their respective fields.

The University of Melbourne was the first Australian university to offer a sports law subject in a law degree. While other universities have followed suit, Melbourne offers the largest and most innovative range of sports law subjects. It is believed that the number of subjects offered is eclipsed internationally by only Marquette University in the USA which houses the National Sports Law Institute.

Former students of sports law in the Faculty have published their research papers in national and international law journals and some now teach sports law at other universities.

2. Entry Requirements

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to successfully complete the course using the following criteria –
 - an undergraduate degree in law at honours standard leading to admission to legal practice, or equivalent; or
 - an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline and at least one year of documented, relevant, work experience.
2. The Selection Committee may call for referee reports and employer references, conduct interviews and tests to assist with the selection process.

3. Course/Program Structure

All candidates must complete four subjects drawn from the list below. Candidates who do not have a degree from a common law system must complete the preliminary subject 'Australian Legal Process and Legal Institutions'. This preliminary subject does not count towards the four subjects of the Graduate Diploma.

- 730-680 Event Management Law
- 730-792 Introduction to USA Sports Law

- 730-791 Racing Industry Law and Regulation
- 730-674 Sport, Commerce and the Law
- 730-738 Sports Labour Law
- 730-793 Sports Law: Entities and Governance
- 730-843 Sports Marketing Law
- 730-790 Sports Medicine Law

At least four subjects will be offered each year, and all subjects will be offered on a two year cycle.

4. Availability of course

The course will be available to domestic and international fee-paying students on a full and part time basis from Semester 1, 2006