

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
School of Sport, Recreation & Tourism Management

PRLS 460 002- Sport and Recreation Law  
3 Credits, Fall 2020  
Distance Education Blackboard on NET

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

60 Credits

**University Catalog Course Description**

Emphasizes safety, liability, and risk. Covers current law and liability issues for administrators of RHT facilities and programs.

**Course Overview**

This course examines the issue of personal injury liability in a variety of contexts related to Recreation, Health, and Tourism, including recreation and parks, sports, events, and physical education administration. Case reports and articles will be used to illustrate general legal principles which determine recreational injury liability in a variety of contexts. Negligence liability will be defined through general legal principles, including reasonableness, foreseeability, and standard of care.

In addition to lifeguard and aquatics liability, this course will examine sport injury liability for coaches, participants, and spectators. The course will also examine the validity and enforceability of waivers and releases in sports and recreation. This overview of program supervision liability in sports and recreation will be complemented by an examination of general legal principles governing landowner liability for grounds and facilities used in sports and recreational activities. In addition to recreation injury liability, this course will also review several civil rights issues which impact significantly upon sport and recreation administration.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal.

## **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

(1) demonstrate a recollection and understanding of the opinion of the court contained in a series of articles and case reports illustrating general legal principles governing recreation injury liability in recreation, sports, and physical education programs.

(2) identify general legal principles and rules of law and their application to various recreation injury liability scenarios in recreation, sports, and physical education programs as described in lectures, review questions, objectives, and required reading material used in the course.

(3) identify legal principles and rules of law governing federal civil rights laws and their applicability to sports, recreation, and physical education programs, e.g., gender discrimination.

## **Professional Standards**

2013 Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions (COAPRT) standards met

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

- 7.03 Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management/administration in parks, recreation, tourism and/or related professions.

## **Required Texts**

The "textbook" in this course is a compilation of case reports and related articles which I have written, in particular my monthly "NRPA Law Review" column in *Parks & Recreation* magazine (the official publication of the National Recreation and Park Association). These case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading and printing on the PRLS 460 Blackboard course site (In the event Blackboard is unavailable course materials are also available on my GMU homepage at the following address: <http://cehdclass.gmu.edu/jkozlows/460.htm>)

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to access and complete all examinations as scheduled on Blackboard.

## **Examinations Course Performance Evaluation Weighting**

4 EXAMS on Blackboard (open book, weighted equally, each exam worth 25%)

## **Grading Policies**

Final grades are based solely on the percentage of points earned out of the total number of points available on all four exams. THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT. The grading scale for final grades based on the number of points earned out of a possible 200 on all four exams:

Grade Total Points Earned out of a possible 200

A +	180 and above	(90 percent)
A	170 - 179	85
A -	160 - 169	(80 percent)
B +	150 - 159	75
B	140 - 149	(70 percent)
B -	130 - 139	65
C +	120 - 129	(60 percent)
C	110 - 119	55
C -	100 - 109	(50 percent)
D	90 - 99	45
F	89 and below	

Individual exam questions on each exam are randomly selected by Blackboard from question sets in the PRLS 460 question database. As a result, while testing a student's understanding of a similar principle in each question, no two exams are identical.

All PRLS 460 exams are open book, but you are limited to primary course materials and video lectures posted to the PRLS 460 Blackboard site, as well as your own notes prepared prior to the exam. The use of any other study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information during PRLS 460 exam is prohibited.

### **Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Blackboard provides extensive data on each exam to determine any irregularities on individual exams and identify patterns which may indicate collusion among students on PRLS 460 exams that may warrant further investigation pursuant to the Honor Code. Moreover, any irregularities could artificially inflate and skew the scores on individual exams and questions which might produce an adverse effect on the course curve to the detriment of individual students and the class as a whole.

Accordingly, you are reminded that the Honor Code is in effect for all exams in PRLS 460 on Blackboard. Further, to clarify and reiterate, no collaboration or group participation whatsoever is permissible during PRLS 460 examinations.

Further, you are not to discuss the exam with any other student during or after the time which the exam is accessible. Providing or reproducing any information to another student about any questions on a PRLS 460 exam would constitute cheating within the context of the Honor Code, i.e., unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information.

**Exam One Sept 14-20: UNIT ONE THROUGH UNIT THREE**

**Exam Two Oct 5-11: UNIT FOUR AND UNIT FIVE**

**Exam Three Oct 26 - Nov 1: UNIT SIX AND UNIT SEVEN**

**Exam Four Dec 7-13 UNIT EIGHT THROUGH UNIT TEN**

Course Schedule & Readings (Dates listed are approximate to allow students to keep pace)

WEEK ONE 8/24-8/30: Unit One: INTRODUCTION, CONTROL TEST & NEGLIGENCE PRINCIPLES

WEEK TWO 8/31-9/6: Unit Two: STANDARD OF CARE IN NEGLIGENCE LIABILITY

WEEK THREE 9/7-9/13: Unit Three: LANDOWNER LIABILITY GENERAL PRINCIPLES

WEEK FOUR 9/14-9/20 Exam One UNIT ONE THROUGH UNIT THREE

WEEK FIVE 9/21-9/27: Unit Four: LANDOWNER LIABILITY FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY & RECREATIONAL USE IMMUNITY LAW

WEEK SIX 9/28-10/4: Unit Five LIFEGUARD & AQUATICS LIABILITY

WEEK SEVEN Oct 5-11 Exam Two UNIT FOUR AND UNIT FIVE

WEEK EIGHT 10/12-10/18 UNIT SIX SPORTS COACH LIABILITY & POST-INJURY PROCEDURES LIABILITY

WEEK NINE 10/19-10/25 UNIT SEVEN: SPORT PARTICIPANT LIABILITY & ASSUMPTION OF RISK

WEEK TEN Oct 26 - Nov 1 Exam Three UNIT SIX AND UNIT SEVEN

WEEK ELEVEN 11/2-11/8: UNIT EIGHT LIABILITY RELEASES & WAIVER AGREEMENTS IN RECREATION

WEEK TWELVE 11/9-11/15: UNIT NINE (PART 1) AGENCY LIABILITY FOR SEXUAL MOLESTATION

WEEK THIRTEEN UNIT NINE 11/16-11/22 (Part 2) SUPERVISION LIABILITY

WEEK FOURTEEN 11/23-11/29 THANKSGIVING WEEK

WEEK FIFTEEN 11/30-12/6: UNIT TEN GENDER DISCRIMINATION (Webstream Video Lectures 10a & 10b)

WEEK SIXTEEN Dec 7-13 Exam Four UNIT EIGHT THROUGH UNIT TEN

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .**