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Adam Lewis KC



"Adam is the star of the Bar and literally wrote the book on sports law."

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2026

Year of call:	**1985**
Appointed to silk:	**2009**
Degree:	**MA (Cantab)**
Languages:	**French (working knowledge), Norwegian (working knowledge)**

Adam Lewis KC is widely recognised as the leading sports lawyer at the Bar.

He has been involved in most of the key disputes of recent years acting for participants, clubs, leagues, governing bodies and commercial partners in matters involving the full range of sporting, disciplinary, regulatory and commercial issues raised in all sports. He is co-editor of the leading sports law textbook, now in its 4th edition.

Recent work includes acting for many national and international governing bodies that have faced quasi-public law and competition law challenges to their attempts to enforce their rules regulating amongst other things financial fair play, salary caps, ownership, intermediaries and participation in unsanctioned competitions. He has also advised extensively on rule changes designed to improve the operation and regulation of several sports including football, rugby, golf and cricket. These have recently included the Premier League, UEFA, The FA, the EFL, World Rugby, Premier Rugby Limited, the WRU, Wimbledon, PGA European Tour and the ECB. Adam has also been involved in a significant number of cases arising out of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, and in relation to continuing issues arising out of the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Significant current and recent work includes:

- Ospreys and Scarlets v WRU; and WRU consultation on future arrangements for professional rugby in Wales: acts for the WRU in the context of proceedings brought against it by Ospreys and Scarlets in relation to past operation of participation arrangements, and in the context of the WRU's consultation as to future arrangements.
- Rainbow Laces: acts for the FA in defence of Administrative Court proceedings brought challenging the FA's involvement in the Rainbow Laces campaign.
- English Football League v Sheffield Wednesday: acts for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's failure to pay other clubs and its players on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations.
- Premier League: acting in a series of matters, including in relation to the calculation of compensation payable under the YDR, and blocked transmission hours.

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- Football Association: acting in a series of matters in relation to national football agents regulation in the wake of CAA v FA, FIFA intervening, and other matters.
- Football Association: acted for The FA in relation to threatened UEFA disciplinary proceedings against an international player.
- CAA and Others v Football Association, FIFA intervening: acted for the FA in arbitral proceedings brought against it by several leading sports agencies, alleging that its implementation of the new FIFA regulations governing football agents breaches competition law, and advising on implementation and related issues more widely.
- Premier League v Everton: acted for the league in multiple proceedings at first instance and on appeal in which the club was found to have breached the league's financial regulations and was deducted points on two occasions, and in relation to interested clubs' application in those proceedings for consequent compensation, and is also advising the PL in relation to several other clubs' compliance with the rules.
- English Football League v Sheffield United: acted for the league in proceedings against the club alleging breach of the league's financial regulations and also advising the EFL in relation to several other clubs' compliance with the rules.
- Premier League formulation of rule developments: acting for the league in relation to a wide number of possible rule changes, including to the owners and directors test, to financial regulation, to the regulatory process, and in light of UEFA club licensing requirements
- Tennis and football broadcast and other rights: separately acted for tennis bodies and football bodies on competition law issues relating to the structure for the marketing of commercial rights in the two sports
- World Rugby Calendar, Player Release and World 12s: acted for World Rugby on competition law issues relating to the relationship between the club game and the international game, and to a proposed new competition format, based on the IPL
- ECB Disciplinary Procedures: acted for the England & Wales Cricket Board in review of its procedures
- PGAET and LIV Golf: acted for the European Tour over the creation of an unsanctioned competition
- Newcastle United v Premier League: acted for the league in various proceedings over the proposed sale of the club to a consortium backed by the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund
- Premier League and European Super League: acted for the league in relation to the aborted attempt to create the new European Super League and the ensuing consequential events
- Premier Rugby v Saracens: acted for Premier Rugby in proceedings against Saracens for breach of the salary cap, which resulted in the relegation of the club
- Chaired the Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, investigating matchfixing in the sport

Adam Lewis is recognised by both of the main independent legal directories as the leading sports law counsel at the Bar. He is ranked in a category of his own as a Star Individual by Chambers & Partners. He was named Sports Silk of the Year 2023 at the Legal 500 Awards. Recent comments include:

- "Adam is the star of the Bar and literally wrote the book on sports law."- Chambers and Partners, 2026
- "Adam's knowledge of the sports industry and the relevant jurisprudence is second-to-none - he has an excellent ability to call on that knowledge to identify creative solutions to arguments."- Legal 500, 2026

Previous comments include:

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- Adam Lewis KC is absolutely pre-eminent in the sports law field."- Chambers and Partners, 2025
- "Adam is excellent and a go-to silk for sports work. He is bright and a great advocate, and as important, always puts the work in."- Legal 500, 2025
- "Adam Lewis QC is widely regarded as the leading sports barrister in the UK, whose dedicated focus has led to him having an unrivalled knowledge and experience in the sector."- Chambers UK, 2024
- "Exceptional knowledge of sports law, strong work ethic, tactical thinker, and a team player."- Legal 500, 2024
- "Adam is a terrific advocate who is all over the detail with unrivalled industry knowledge and a very user-friendly approach."- Chambers and Partners, 2024
- "Adam is incredibly flexible and devoted to delivering for the client. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of sports law and is able to contextualise the most unique and complex of issues."- Chambers and Partners, 2024
- "He has a wealth of experience and is both receptive and responsive."- Chambers and Partners, 2024
- "Adam Lewis KC has an extremely sharp and fierce intellect. His written work deals with new and complex areas."- Chambers and Partners, 2023
- "Adam Lewis KC is a leader in his field."- Chambers and Partners, 2023

EXPERIENCE

Sport

Adam Lewis has for some time been widely recognised as the leading expert on sports law at the Bar. He is ranked as the only Star Individual in this area by Chambers and Partners 2025, and won the Legal 500 Sports Law Silk of the Year 2023. He has acted in many of the leading cases. He co-edits the principal textbook, Lewis and Taylor, Sport: Law and Practice, 4th Edition Bloomsbury Professional 2021 and in 2016 also published Lewis, Taylor, De Marco and Segan, Challenging Sports Governing Bodies, Bloomsbury Professional. He teaches on the BASL PgCert Sports Law Course. He regularly sits as Chair on various sports tribunals, and as an arbitrator in a wide range of sports matters. He is President of the British Association for Sport and the Law.

"Adam's knowledge of the sports industry and the relevant jurisprudence is second-to-none - he has an excellent ability to call on that knowledge to identify creative solutions to arguments."

— LEGAL 500, 2026

He served in 2017 and 2018 as the Chair of the Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, leading a panel comprising Beth Wilkinson, a former US Attorney and trial lawyer, and Marc Henzelin, a Swiss trial lawyer and judge. In 2019 and 2020 he undertook an independent internal investigation in relation to a sports governing body's actions and processes in dealing with a potential breach of its rules by staff.

He has used his experience in the fields of Arbitration, Civil Liberties and Human Rights, EU and Competition, and Public and Regulatory, to develop the content and application of the law in the context of Sport.

He regularly advises participants, clubs, leagues, governing bodies and commercial partners, and acts on their behalf before the courts and tribunals (both national and international, such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport) and regulatory authorities. He has acted in matters arising in the full range of sports. His sports law work equally covers the full range of issues arising in sports law, from the legality of governing bodies' rules and actions to regulatory, disciplinary and drugs related work to, and from player/club disputes to the commercial exploitation of sport through broadcasting, sponsorship and merchandising. His specialism extends to all of the arbitration, human rights, EU and competition, and administrative law aspects of sports law.

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Cases

Ospreys Rugby Ltd and Scarlets Regional Ltd v Welsh Rugby Union: relationship between Union and Regions

Current. 2025 Arbitration

Acts for the WRU in arbitral proceedings brought against it by Ospreys and Scarlets in relation to the contractual participation arrangements between the four Regions and the Union. Ospreys and Scarlets allege that the Union is in breach of those arrangements, of its quasi-public law obligations as the governing body of the sport in Wales, and of competition law in its approach to the rescue of a third Region Cardiff and to the conclusion of new participation agreements.

Welsh Rugby Union: consultation on future arrangements for professional rugby in Wales

Current. 2025 Consultation.

Acts for the WRU in the context of its current consultation of interested parties into what form the arrangements for Welsh professional rugby should take in the future, including as to how many professional Regional teams funded by the WRU there should be.

R (Lindsey Smith) v The Football Association and Stonewall Equality Limited: challenge to The FA's involvement in Rainbow Laces

Current. 2025 Administrative Court.

Acts for The FA in defence of Administrative Court proceedings brought by Lindsey Smith challenging the legality of The FA's involvement in the Rainbow Laces campaign, on the basis of the contention that because Stonewall, which is also involved in Rainbow Laces, adopts the position that the concept of gender should be based on self-perception as distinct to biology, which the claimant who is gender critical opposes and finds offensive, The FA has acted contrary to its rules or irrationally in its involvement in the campaign.

English Football League v Sheffield Wednesday: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

Current. 2025 EFL Commission.

Acts for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's failure to pay other clubs and its players on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations.

Football Association: Women's Academy Contracts

Current. 2025.

Acts for The FA in relation to the arrangements for Women's Academy Contracts.

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Premier League: calculation of compensation payable by one club to another under the Youth Development Rules

Current. 2025

Acts for the Premier League in relation to the calculation of compensation payable by a club signing a player to the clubs that have previously been involved in his development.

Football Association: involvement in UEFA Club Licensing

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to the role the association has to play in the provision of information about clubs to UEFA for the purposes of UEFA Club Licensing.

Football Association: UEFA proceedings against a player

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to threatened UEFA disciplinary proceedings against a player.

Football Association: agent's satisfaction of FIFA Football Agents Regulations

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to the satisfaction by an FA Registered Football Agent of a particular aspect of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations.

Premier League: UEFA Statutes Article 48 and Regulations establishing blocked transmission hours

2024.

Acted for the Premier League in the context of the application of Article 48 of the UEFA Statutes and the UEFA Statutes issued under it.

Football Association: implementation of the National Football Agents Regulations

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to the implementation of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations in National Football Agents Regulations following the arbitral award in CAA v The FA, FIFA intervening.

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CAA and others v The Football Association, FIFA intervening: competition law compliance of FA implementation of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations

FA Rule K arbitration before Lord Collins, Lord Dyson and Christopher Vajda

Acted for the FA in arbitral proceedings brought against it under FA Rule K by several leading sports agencies, alleging that the FA's implementation in National Football Agents Regulations (NFAR) of the new FIFA Football Agents Regulations (FFAR) breaches competition law and should consequently be restrained. FIFA intervened to defend its FFAR, but some aspects of them were found unlawful. Also advising The FA on implementation and related issues more widely.

Premier League v Everton: breach of the PL Financial Regulations

2023 PL Section W Commission, 2023 Appeal Board, 2024 second PL Section W Commission.

Acted for the Premier League in successive proceedings in 2023 and 2024 in which two Section W Commissions found the Club to have breached the PL Financial Regulations (the Profitability and Sustainability Rules or PSRs) in Season 2021/22 and then Season 2022/23. Each imposed points sanctions. The first Commission's sanction of 10 points was reduced on appeal. Purported mitigation based on amongst other things the Covid epidemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were rejected. Interested clubs have also sought before the PL Section W Commission to recover consequent compensation from the Club. This decision is the first PL Section W Commission imposition of a sanction under the PSRs. Also advising the PL in relation to several other clubs' compliance with the rules.

English Football League v Sheffield United: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

2024. EFL Commission

Acted for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's persistent failures to pay other clubs on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations. The case settled with the Club accepting a sanction.

Premier League formulation of rule developments

Current

Acts for the league in relation to a wide number of possible rule changes, including to the owners and directors test, to financial regulation, to the regulatory process, and in the light of UEFA club licensing requirements.

Tennis and football broadcast and other commercial rights

2023

Separately acted for tennis bodies and football bodies on competition law issues relating to the structure for the marketing of commercial rights in the sport.

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World Rugby Calendar, Player Release and World 12s

2023 and 2022

Acted for World Rugby on competition law issues relating to the relationship between the club game and the international game, and to a proposed new competition format, based on the IPL. There is a perpetual balance to be struck between the interests of the club game, which employs players, and their unions, which wish them to be released for international duty. There is equally such a balance to be struck as to which parts of the year are to be allocated to the international game, and which to the club game. Clubs and leagues have challenged that balance. In addition World 12s requested sanction of a new competition format with 12 players and shorter matches to be played each August, where franchises would bid for players on the model of the IPL.

PFA v The FA: PFA funding

2023

Acted for The FA in relation to the PFA's funding.

ECB: Review of disciplinary process

2023

Acted for the ECB in relation to the review of its disciplinary processes and the drafting of appropriate changes in light of developments in cricket.

The Governing Body Endorsement arrangements for visas for foreign players

2023

Acted for The FA in the context of the UK GBE arrangements under which a sports governing body can apply rules as to when a foreign player has reached a level that justifies the grant of a UK visa to the player.

Brishtel v UEFA

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in CAS proceedings brought by expelled officials of the Belarus Football Federation challenging the decision of UEFA not to change on review the discretionary decision of the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors not to open disciplinary proceedings against the Belarus Football Federation or its officials.

PGAET and LIV Golf

2022 PGAET Disciplinary proceedings

Acted for PGAET in the context of LIV Golf's creation of an unsanctioned competition, and the disciplinary proceedings brought against several players as a result of their playing LIV events rather than PGAET events, when their requests for permission to do so had been refused. LIV, and the players, challenge the need for permission and the refusal of it as unlawful.

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Football Union of Russia v The FA: exclusion following invasion of Ukraine

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the FA in FUR's challenge in CAS to UEFA's and The FA's exclusion of Russian international teams from participation in international competitions (one being about to be held by the FA in England) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Burnley FC v Premier League, movement of players following invasion of Ukraine

2022. PL Section X Arbitration

Acted for the Premier League in its successful defence of an arbitration brought by Burnley FC challenging the Premier League's decision not to implement in full FIFA regulations permitting players at Russian Clubs to move following the invasion of Ukraine, because to do so would advantage some Clubs and disadvantage others.

Chelsea Football Club: licence under Government sanctions imposed following the invasion of Ukraine, to allow completion of fixtures

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of the Government sanctions on the Club's owner following the invasion of Ukraine. Absent licence from the Government to allow the Club to complete its fixtures, the Premier League competition would have been fundamentally undermined.

UEFA v The FA: England v Germany

2022

Acted for The FA in defence of disciplinary proceedings opened by UEFA against the FA into crowd behaviour at the 2022 match between England and Germany. The charges were dropped.

The FA v A Player

2022

Acted for the FA in an appeal against a Regulatory Commission's finding a disciplinary case not proven, to obtain amongst other things an authoritative Appeal Board ruling, which was made, that the balance of probabilities test does not involve any requirement that the more serious the charge, the more cogent must be the evidence to prove it.

Premier League: compliance with Financial Regulations

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of investigations into several Clubs' compliance with the Financial Regulations during season 2021/2022, and complaints by other Clubs that they had not complied.

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Premier League: satisfaction of Club ownership requirements

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of an investigation into whether Club ownership requirements were satisfied in a particular case.

Premier League: VAR decisions

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of a Club's complaint as to the consequences of incorrect VAR decisions.

Premier League: Match postponements, disciplinary proceedings and rule changes due to Covid-19

2022

Acted for the Premier League in several cases in relation to the grant or refusal of match postponements, disciplinary proceedings, and the possibility of rule changes, all in the light of the continuing aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Newcastle United v Premier League, St James Holdings Ltd v Premier League

Premier League Section X Arbitration and Commercial Court (Pelling J [2021] EWHC 349 (Comm)), and Competition Appeals Tribunal (Case No

Acted for the Premier League in an arbitration brought by Newcastle United challenging the PL Board decision that if the proposed acquisition of the Club by a consortium led by the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proceeds, the KSA would become a "Director" of the Club, such that it would fall to be assessed against the PL Owners and Directors Test. The Club's challenge to the chair of the Arbitral Tribunal on bias grounds failed before the Commercial Court. Prior to the hearing of the arbitration, legally binding assurances were provided that meant that the KSA did not fall to be assessed against the OADT.

Also acted for the Premier League in the simultaneous additional competition law proceedings brought before the Competition Appeals Tribunal by the 100% owner of the Club, St James Holdings Ltd, in relation to the same PL Board decision. The Premier League's challenge to CAT's jurisdiction was heard by the CAT, with an online audience of 33,000, but before judgment the proceedings were withdrawn when legally binding assurances were provided.

Premier League and European Super League

Spring 2021, continuing Spanish proceedings and implications 2022 and 2023

Advised and acted for the Premier League in response to the threatened but aborted establishment of the European Super League, unsanctioned by football's governing bodies, in Spring 2021. The response of amongst others the Premier League caused its member clubs that were involved to withdraw from the project. Proceedings continue in Spain and a reference has been made to the European Court. Continues to advise in relation to the subsequent consequences of the events.

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Premier League, Big Picture: proposed restructuring and funding

2020 - 2021

Advises and acts for the Premier League in the context of the continuing consequences of the failed late 2020 and early 2021 Big Picture proposals for the restructuring and funding of the Premier League and EFL. The response of amongst others the Premier League headed off the proposals at that point, but the issues that gave rise to them remain. Similarly advised the Premier League in relation to the attempt to set up the European Super League in 2021.

UEFA v The FA, Euros Final

UEFA Disciplinary Proceedings. October 2021

Acted for The FA in its defence of UEFA charges brought following events at the Euros Final in summer 2021. The tribunal imposed a sanction of one match behind closed doors and a further such match suspended, as opposed to the three matches behind closed doors sought by the independent disciplinary inspector.

EFL v Derby County, Breach of Financial Regulations

Independent Disciplinary Proceedings, Summer 2021

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to Derby County's breach of the EFL Financial Regulations in disciplinary proceedings ending in summer 2021.

Club v Agent, dual representation contract

Arbitration, 2022

Acted for an agent in the context of an attempt to commence arbitral proceedings against him, claiming breach of duties under a dual representation contract

Premier Rugby Limited, Salary Cap Disciplinary Proceedings

Possible Disciplinary Proceedings. 2022

Advised and acted for PRL in relation to possible charges against clubs for breach of the Salary Cap Regulations. Previously acted for PRL in the similar case against Saracens.

UK Sport, Paris Cycle Funding

Spring 2021

Acted for UK Sport in relation to a sport's challenge to the funding granted to it in the Paris Cycle. The sport suggests that UK Sport has misapplied the criteria to it with the result that it falls into a different category to that into which it believes it should fall.

Sporting v Player, Lille and FIFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport. Summer 2021

Acted for Lille defending Sporting's appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the FIFA decision in respect of a player.

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SIAC Sports broadcasting rights arbitration

Arbitrator, SIAC Arbitration. 2020 to 2022.

Sat as sole arbitrator in a dispute between an overseas broadcast rights holder and its overseas commercial partner. The matter settled before trial, following interim applications and procedural issues.

Club v UEFA: Covid-19 pandemic exception to FFP rules

2022

Acted for a Club in relation to the proper application and legality of the UEFA Covid-19 pandemic exception to the FFP Rules, which allows clubs to write off a loss in defined periods, but does not afford the equivalent benefit to prudent clubs, thereby placing them at a disadvantage in terms of permissible expenditure and possible compliance over the entire reporting period.

Club v EFL, EFL Covid-19 loan

Arbitration

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to proceedings brought by a Club to challenge the structure of the loan facility made available to League Clubs as a result of the damage suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Club v Welsh Rugby Union

2021

Acted for and advised the WRU in the context of threatened competition law proceedings by a rugby club in respect of the participation arrangements and distribution of funding, including in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic

World Rugby calendar adaption and player release

Autumn 2020

Advised World Rugby in the context of the adaptation of the international windows in the calendar in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in relation to player release as a result.

Premier League Related Party Transactions and Profitability and Sustainability Rules

Current

Advises the Premier League in relation to possible changes to the provisions in respect of Related Party Transactions for the purposes of the Profitability and Sustainability Rules

EFL, Financial Regulations revision

Current

Advises the EFL on possible revisions to the EFL Financial Regulations.

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EFL, Professional Footballers' Association, Salary Cap

Current

Advises and acts for the EFL in relation to the PFA's objections to the adoption of a League 1 and League 2 Salary Cap.

Premier Rugby Limited, Intermediaries

Current

Advises PRL in relation to changes to the Intermediaries Regulations

World Rugby, LNR Competition Law challenge to Regulation 9 Player Release

Complaint to European Commission.

Advised and acted for World Rugby in the context of the LNR's complaint to the European Commission that WR Regulations on player release infringe competition law.

Premier League, Restart: response to Covid-19 pandemic, disputes with several clubs

2020 and 2021

Advised and acted for the Premier League throughout 2020 and 2021 and continues to do so in the context of its ongoing reaction to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. At the outset, major concerns were the basis on which the 2019/2020 competition should be completed and the 2020/2021 competition pursued. Issues included whether the 2019/2020 season could and should be played out, and how, and if not, the basis on which it should be resolved in terms of winner, European places and relegation, the creation of protocols for safe play and the consequences of positive tests, and changes to the Premier League Rules to address the situation. Whatever course were adopted would provoke reaction from diverse groups with different interests, and threats of action on various bases including competition law, but a fine line was successfully taken, to date avoiding the litigation threatened.

Club v Premier Rugby Limited, Coach Movement

Arbitration. Spring 2021

Acted for PRL in a challenge to the PRL decision on the movement of a coach from one Club to another.

World Rugby, Regulation 8 Player Eligibility

2021

Advised World Rugby on possible revisions of Regulation 8 in relation to the eligibility of players to play for a Union.

Player v Club, Contract Dispute

Autumn 2020

Advised Club on a dispute as to the proper interpretation of contract and rectification.

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Olympiacos v Panathinaikos and Euroleague

Court of Arbitration for Sport. 2020.

Acted for basketball club Olympiacos in a dispute with Panathinaikos and Olympiacos' appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against Euroleague's decision not to discipline Panathinaikos for breach of its rules.

Premier Rugby Limited response to Covid-19 pandemic

2020

Advised Premier Rugby Limited in the context of its reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular the creation of protocols for safe play and the consequences of positive tests.

Rugby Six Nations media rights.

2020

Advised the Six Nations in relation to adaption of the basis on which their media rights are marketed, and other issues.

Tonga Rugby League v International Rugby League

Court of Arbitration for Sport, Summer 2020

Advised and acted for the International Rugby League in its defence of an appeal brought by the Tonga Rugby League to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against its expulsion.

Sports Governing Body independent internal investigation.

Chair of Inquiry. Winter 2019 and Spring 2020.

Conducted an independent internal investigation in relation to a sports governing body's actions and processes in dealing with a potential breach of its rules by staff.

FIFA v Chelsea Football Club

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the Club in its successful appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the two lower instance FIFA decisions and transfer ban in respect of the signing of young players, and at the earlier stages.

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Premier Rugby Limited v Saracens

Sport Resolutions arbitration. 2019

Acted for Premier Rugby Limited in its proceedings against Saracens for breach of the salary cap. Saracens defended on the basis that it was not in breach of the salary cap and in any event the entire salary cap was contrary to competition law. Saracens failed in the defences and the independent panel, chaired by Lord Dyson, fined Saracens £5.3million and deducted the club 35 points. The relevant rules were adapted to provide for a further deduction if in a season following a finding of breach, a club failed to submit to an audit of compliance. Saracens was consequently deducted a total of 70 points and was relegated at the end of the 2019/2020 season when it was eventually completed.

World Rugby v Scottish Rugby Union

Disciplinary proceedings, Autumn 2019

Advised World Rugby in the context of disciplinary proceedings against the SRU in respect of its reaction to the rescheduling of its match against Japan at the Rugby World Cup 2019.

Club v Club

Autumn 2019

Advised and acted for a football club in its dispute with another club over the transfer of a player.

FC Nantes, Cardiff City FC and Emiliano Sala

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Advised Cardiff City FC on the transfer position after the death of Emiliano Sala.

RusAF v IAAF

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the IAAF in the Court of Arbitration for Sport arbitration commenced by RusAF to challenge the IAAF's decision not to reinstate RusAF to full unsuspended membership pending the satisfaction of various conditions imposed on such reinstatement. The Russian organisation was suspended following the McLaren Report concluding that there had been organised evasion of the anti-doping rules in Russia.

International Canoe Federation v International Surfing Association

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the International Canoe Federation before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a dispute with the International Surfing Association. CAS issued an award in relation to the governance of the sport of Stand-Up Paddleboard, rejecting the International Surfing Association's claim to an exclusive right to govern the sport at world level but allowing it a role at Olympic level.

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Premier League v Scout and Club

Disciplinary proceedings. 2019.

Acted for the Premier League in disciplinary proceedings against a scout and football club in the context of the Youth Development Rules.

Club v Agent

Arbitrator, FA Rule K arbitration. 2019.

Sat as an FA Rule K sole arbitrator on a dispute between a football club and an agent.

Racecourse

2019

Advised a Racecourse in relation to rights over races.

World Rugby, Belgium and Spain

Advised World Rugby in relation to a dispute over qualification to the Rugby World Cup 2019.

Premier League Profitability and Sustainability Rules

2019

Advised the Premier League in relation to its Profitability and Sustainability Rules.

Rugby Football Union v Ashley Johnson

Defended the Wasps rugby player Ashley Johnson on a charge of breaching the anti-doping rules. The breach was found to have been inadvertent and only a short suspension was imposed. Also advised and acted in a number of other doping cases that are confidential.

Exeter City AFC v Chelsea FC

Appeared for Chelsea on Exeter's application to the Professional Football Compensation Committee for training compensation in respect of the defender Ethan Ampadu.

Christophe Mongai v Alex Song

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the player Alex Song in the Court of Arbitration proceedings brought against him by his former agent.

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Chris Froome and UCI, WADA, and Amaury Sport Organisation

Acted for Chris Froome in the context of the delay of the UCI and WADA in clearing the cyclist following an abnormal result. The cyclist was not charged because there was no basis for doing so, but the delay in reaching this conclusion led to the organisers of the Tour de France threatening to withdraw his entry to the 2018 race, raising the possibility of appeal to a French sports tribunal.

Jersey Football Association v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Jersey Football Association's attempt to overturn UEFA's refusal of membership to it.

FIFA v FA

Acted for The FA in its defence of FIFA disciplinary proceedings in respect of the wearing of the poppy by England players, which FIFA asserted was the wearing of a political symbol. Following two disciplinary hearings and appeal by The FA to CAS, which was not heard, FIFA changed its rules and allowed the wearing of the poppy in November 2017.

The FA v Agent

Advised the FA in its prosecution before the Regulatory Commission of an agent charged with misconduct.

UK Sport funding and British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association

Advised UK Sport on the process for revision of sports' funding for the Olympics, including in particular in the context of the objections of the British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association to the conditions imposed on funding

Previously advised on the Tokyo and Rio Funding Cycles.

International Cricket Council

Advised the ICC on the application of the ICC Code of Ethics.

Polo Player and Hurlingham Polo Association

Advised a Polo player on the legality and reasonableness of the Hurlingham Polo Association's changes to playing equipment rules.

Arsenal Football Club policing

Advised Arsenal Football Club in the context of the provision of special police services to the Club by the Metropolitan Police.

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National Association and Media Rights

Advised a national sports association on the reorganisation of the sale of media rights. The matter involved a number of issues including completion law.

Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis

Chair of Inquiry, 2017 and 2018

Appointed as the Chair of the three person Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, a major international review of the nature and extent of the threats to integrity arising in the sport, how they were addressed by the sport, and of how best to deal with them in the future, through changes to the rules, the mechanisms for enforcement, relationships, independence, resources, transparency, and education. The review also had to deal with various historical allegations, which the press had suggested indicate that tennis' approach in the past and presently was inappropriate. A very large number of witnesses all around the world were heard. An Interim Report followed by a Final Report were issued in 2018.

Tyson Fury

Advised the boxer Tyson Fury in relation to agency matters. Also advised in relation to a number of other boxers.

Club v Manager

Advised a premier league club on a dispute with its former manager.

National Association

Advised a national sports association on the compliance of its disciplinary structure with the common law and human rights law.

National Association

Advised a national sports association on the restructuring of its league.

Lagardère

Advised Lagardère on contractual entitlement under a sponsorship marketing agreement

Kieron Westwood v Sunderland AFC Ltd

FA Rule K arbitration – 2016

FA Rule K sole arbitrator of a dispute between club and player.

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Tokyo Funding Cycle

2016 - 2017

Advised and acted for UK Sport on the process for revision of sports' funding for the Tokyo Funding Cycle. Various sports were at risk of losing funding, and the process had to afford all of them an opportunity to put their case and to challenge any decisions.

Fulham FC v Derby FC

2017

Advised Fulham in relation to a dispute between clubs over a player transfer.

Football Association of Serbia v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Football Association of Serbia's attempt to overturn UEFA's admission of the Kosovan Football Federation to UEFA before CAS.

AFC Fiorentina v Chelsea FC

FIFA DRC 2016, Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2016

Acted for Chelsea in a dispute with Fiorentina over the loan of a player. Chelsea succeeded before the DRC and then before CAS.

Football arbitration

Sat as single FA Rule K arbitrator on a dispute between player and club.

Also acting for a club on a further current player club FA Rule K arbitration.

Governance of Sports Governing Bodies

Advised several sports governing bodies on changes to governance structures in the light of relevant recent developments in particular in relation to the compliance of regulatory and disciplinary procedures with human rights and public law standards.

UK Sport Funding

Advised UK Sport on funding structures for the Tokyo Cycle. Previously advised on the Rio Cycle.

QPR v Football League, Financial Fair Play Rules

FL Arbitration

Legality of the Championship Financial Fair Play rules on competition and free movement grounds.

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Gibraltar Football Association v FIFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2000-2016

Also previously GFA v UEFA. Long running litigation culminating in the GFA being admitted to membership of both UEFA and FIFA.

Italian Canoe Federation and CONI, British Canoeing and BOA v International Canoe Federation, Russian Canoe Federation and Russian Olympic Committee, Danish Canoe Federation and Danish Olympic Committee, French Canoe Federation and French Olympic Committe

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2016

Acted for the International Canoe Federation in its successful defence of a challenge to its application of its rules to the selection of teams for the Rio Olympics.

Aston Villa v FA

FA Rule K arbitration, 2016

Legality of application of player immigration rules.

Ipswich Town Football Club v Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary

High Court, 2016

Legality of decision to refuse to police Ipswich's matches.

Has also advised Arsenal on policing and previously advised Wembley and acted for Wigan in Greater Manchester Police v Wigan AFC (Court of Appeal, Chancery Division 2008).

Mutu v Switzerland

European Court of Human Rights, 2015

Legality of the Swiss Supreme Court's upholding of a CAS award and rejection of complaints as to the appearance of independence in the context of a closed list and compulsory arbitration.

Gopperth and Wasps v RFU

RFU disciplinary proceedings, 2015

Sanction for on field offence.

Akram v Dalian FC

Court of Arbitration for Sport 2015

Appeal against a FIFA DRC decision refusing player compensation for alleged breach of contract and granting compensation to the club.

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Rochemback v Dalian FC

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2015

Appeal against a FIFA DRC decision refusing player compensation for alleged breach of contract and granting compensation to the club.

Indian Hockey Federation v International Hockey Federation and Hockey India

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2015

Defence of proceedings brought before CAS by the Indian Hockey Federation challenging the International Hockey Federation's decision to accept Hockey India, and not to accept the Indian Hockey Federation, as a member.

Cardiff City v Crystal Palace

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2015

Dispute between clubs arising out of obtaining of team sheet.

Football League v Rotherham

FL Disciplinary Proceedings, 2015

Disciplinary proceedings against Rotherham for the fielding of an ineligible player.

Hull City v FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2015

Challenge to the governing body's refusal to allow its application to change its official name to Hull Tigers for the 2014/2015 season.

UKAD v Rhys Williams

National Anti–Doping Panel, 2015

Defence of anti–doping proceedings.

Cellino and Leeds United FC v Football League

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2015

Threatened FA Rule K proceedings in relation to the decision of the Football League Professional Conduct Committee.

Jocar v Samuel Eto'o

Central London County Court, 2015

Defence of an attachment of earnings application by former agents.

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World Rugby (ex IRB) – player release and calendar

European Commission and national proceedings

Club's Complaint to the European Commission and commencement of national proceedings challenging the sport's international player release rules and calendar on competition law and free movement grounds.

MTC Limited v Sir Bradley Wiggins

Queen's Bench Division, 2015

Commercial dispute with a former agent.

Premier Rugby Limited Legality of Salary Cap Regulations

PRL Arbitration, 2015

Challenge on competition law grounds to legality of regulations.

UEFA Financial Fair Play: CFCB counsel

UEFA regulatory proceedings, 2015

Appointed to assist the UEFA Club and Financial Control Body in the administration of the UEFA financial fair play rules, dealing with competition and free movement law issues and assisting in 2014 and 2015 in the settlement of cases with infringing clubs.

UK Sport eligibility for funding

2015

Advised UK Sport in relation to its rules on eligibility for funding of athletes that have been convicted of a doping offence, amongst other things in the light of the requirements of the 2015 World Anti–Doping Code.

I–CAP v Soul Electronics, re Fabregas

Queen's Bench Division, 2015

Acted for I–CAP in its efforts to recover sums due to it in respect of Cesc Fabregas' endorsement of earphones manufactured by Soul.

Arsenal FC agency dispute

2015

Agency dispute, where the named agent of a player was no longer an employee of the agency company.

Sheikh Hazza Bin Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan v Federation Equestre International

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2014

Appeal against the international federation's decision that the rider bore responsibility for a prohibited substance in a horse that he rode in an endurance competition.

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Lucinda Turner v British Equestrian Federation

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of anti–doping proceedings brought by the BEF.

British Swimming v UK Sport

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of British Swimming's challenge to UK Sport's decision to withdraw funding from Synchronised Swimming.

ICC v Jadeja

ICC Arbitration, 2014

Defence of disciplinary proceedings brought by the ICC in relation to an incident between two players.

Bruce Baker v British Boxing Board of Control

Queen's Bench Division, 2014

Defence of injunction proceedings brought to restrain the governing body from suspending the manager and promoter, and on its application for a stay under section 9 Arbitration Act 1996.

West Ham v Football Association

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of proceedings brought by the Club appealing the suspension of the Player Andy Carroll.

British Darts Organisation

2014

Advised BDO on rules requiring players finishing high in the preceding year's tournament to play in the following year's tournament.

Welsh Rugby Union, Welsh Regional Organisations, European Rugby Cup

2014

Acted for the WRU in the context of the relationship between the Union and the Regional Organisations and in the context of the reorganisation of the European cross border club competitions administered by ERC, in the light of the desire of English Clubs and Premiership Rugby Limited to create a Rugby Champions Cup instead. The issues included European competition and free movement questions. Settled.

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Matthew King v London Marathon Limited

Queen's Bench Division, 2014

Defence of discrimination proceedings brought against LML by former Rugby League Player Matthew King following its conclusion that it was not permissible for him to compete in the London Marathon using a motorised wheelchair.

FA Intermediaries Regulations

European Commission

Football agents' Complaint to the European Commission and threat to commence domestic proceedings challenging the legality of The FA Intermediaries Regulations on competition and free movement grounds.

BBBC v Eddie Hearn

BBBC, 2013

Acted for the promoter in the context of a complaint by Frank Warren that he has breached BBBC rules.

Maidstone FC v Football Conference

2013

Acted for Maidstone in its efforts to secure permission to use an artificial pitch should it be promoted to the Conference at the end of the 2013/2014 season.

Fenerbahce v UEFA, Besiktas v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Legality of reliance on criminal convictions when the convicted party claims that the convictions had been obtained in breach of his human rights and when an appeal to the relevant Supreme Court is pending.

Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (Mutu)

FIFA DRC and Court of Arbitration for Sport

Also Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (CAS, 2014, on appeal from FIFA DRC). Club's attempt to secure payment from Juventus of CAS' award against Mutu to the Club of €17 million in compensation for breach of contract, which was upheld by the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Leyton Orient FC v Football Association Premier League

FA Rule K arbitration, 2013

Ability of arbitral tribunal to order joinder.

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Martin Murray v Hatton Promotions Limited

2013

Acted for the boxer in a management dispute with Hatton Promotions.

Sports Governing Body Disciplinary Processes

2013

Advised a number of sports governing bodies in relation to the structures and practices of disciplinary processes and their compliance with human rights law, following the Court of Appeal decision in Kaur.

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association v Stephen Lee

Sport Resolutions, 2013

Sat as the Sport Resolutions appointed tribunal to hear matchfixing allegations against the snooker player Stephen Lee.

Fenerbahce v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Defended the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Champions League for matchfixing.

Besiktas v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing.

FC Metalist v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Advised in relation to its defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing. Also advised UEFA in relation to various satellite proceedings brought by clubs contending that the excluded clubs should have been excluded earlier, allowing the claimant clubs into the competition.

Sky Lantern v BHA and Elusive Kate

British Horseracing Association, 2013

Acted for Sky Lantern's interests in BHA proceedings, opposed by Elusive Kate's interests.

Doncaster Rovers Belles v The FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2013

Defence of a challenge brought to the FA's decision not to include Doncaster Rovers Belles in the highest division for women's professional football.

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UEFA v The FA

UEFA disciplinary proceedings, 2013

Acted for The FA in defence of disciplinary proceedings brought against it by UEFA over calendar clashes.

Japan Olympic Committee and Koji Murofushi v International Olympic Committee

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Acted for the JOC and the athlete Koji Murofushi in his CAS appeal against the IOC's exclusion of him from the IOC Athletes' Commission for improper campaigning.

USADA v Armstrong, Bruyneel, Lezema and Marti

AAA, 2013

Acted for Bruyneel in USADA's anti–doping proceedings against the remaining defendants after Armstrong chose to withdraw.

Amir Khan and Frank Warren

2013

Advised in the context of a dispute between Amir Khan and Frank Warren.

UK Sport criteria for funding

2013

Advised UK Sport on the revision of its criteria for the funding of athletes.

Withholding of player services

2013

Advised on EU competition law in the context of a threat of withholding of player services.

R (Leyton Orient FC) v London Legacy Development Corporation and West Ham

Queen's Bench Division, Administrative Court, 2013

Acted for Leyton Orient in the club's judicial review proceedings challenging the LLDC's decision not further to consider Leyton Orient for a co–tenancy of the stadium along with West Ham. Previously acted for Leyton Orient in R (Tottenham Hotspur FC and Leyton Orient FC) v Newham Council, OPLC, Mayor of London, and Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport (High Court Judicial Review, 2011); Leyton Orient FC v Football Association Premier League (FA Rule K arbitration, 2013).

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Arbitration

Adam Lewis frequently appears before arbitrations and sits as an arbitrator and Chair of disciplinary tribunals, chiefly in the context of Sport. He appears regularly before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne and Shanghai, and before domestic arbitral tribunals. He sits as an FA Rule K arbitrator and as a Sport Resolutions arbitrator.

He served in 2017 and 2018 as the Chair of the Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, leading a panel comprising Beth Wilkinson, a former US Attorney and trial lawyer, and Marc Henzelin, a Swiss trial lawyer and judge. In 2019 and 2020 he undertook an independent internal investigation in relation to a sports governing body's actions and processes in dealing with a potential breach of its rules by staff.

He was a contributor to Arbitration in England, Julian Lew et al, 2013 Wolters Kluwer, and was previously an editor of the Arbitration section in Halsbury's Laws.

He has been involved in a number of recent cases testing the parameters of arbitration in the context of Sport, including those set out below. In addition, most sports tribunal cases are now arbitral, with tribunals being made up of independent members and also otherwise satisfying the relevant test for arbitration. The cases below are confined to proceedings expressly specified in the relevant rules as being arbitral, but Adam Lewis' other cases under Sport and under Professional Discipline have also involved arbitration issues:

Cases

Ospreys Rugby Ltd and Scarlets Regional Ltd v Welsh Rugby Union: relationship between Union and Regions

Current. 2025 Arbitration

Acts for the WRU in arbitral proceedings brought against it by Ospreys and Scarlets in relation to the contractual participation arrangements between the four Regions and the Union. Ospreys and Scarlets allege that the Union is in breach of those arrangements, of its quasi-public law obligations as the governing body of the sport in Wales, and of competition law in its approach to the rescue of a third Region Cardiff and to the conclusion of new participation agreements.

CAA and others v The Football Association, FIFA intervening: competition law compliance of FA implementation of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations

FA Rule K arbitration before Lord Collins, Lord Dyson and Christopher Vajda

Acted for the FA in arbitral proceedings brought against it under FA Rule K by several leading sports agencies, alleging that the FA's implementation in National Football Agents Regulations (NFAR) of the new FIFA Football Agents Regulations (FFAR) breached competition law and should consequently be restrained. FIFA intervened to defend its FFAR, but some aspects of them were found unlawful. Also advising The FA on implementation and related issues more widely. The case involved looking at the parameters of intervention by interested parties in arbitral proceedings.

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Brishtel v UEFA

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in CAS proceedings brought by expelled officials of the Belarus Football Federation challenging the decision of UEFA not to change on review the discretionary decision of the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors not to open disciplinary proceedings against the Belarus Football Federation or its officials.

Football Union of Russia v The FA: exclusion following invasion of Ukraine

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the FA in FUR's challenge in CAS to UEFA's and The FA's exclusion of Russian international teams from participation in international competitions (one being about to be held by the FA in England) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Burnley FC v Premier League, movement of players following invasion of Ukraine

2022. PL Section X Arbitration

Acted for the Premier League in its successful defence of an arbitration brought by Burnley FC challenging the Premier League's decision not to implement in full FIFA regulations permitting players at Russian Clubs to move following the invasion of Ukraine, because to do so would advantage some Clubs and disadvantage others.

Newcastle United v Premier League, St James Holdings Ltd v Premier League

Premier League Section X Arbitration and Commercial Court (Pelling J [2021] EWHC 349 (Comm)), and Competition Appeals Tribunal (Case No

Acted for the Premier League in an arbitration brought by Newcastle United challenging the PL Board decision that if the proposed acquisition of the Club by a consortium led by the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proceeds, the KSA would become a "Director" of the Club, such that it would fall to be assessed against the PL Owners and Directors Test. The Club's challenge to the chair of the Arbitral Tribunal on bias grounds failed before the Commercial Court. Prior to the hearing of the arbitration, legally binding assurances were provided that meant that the KSA did not fall to be assessed against the OADT.

Also acted for the Premier League in the simultaneous additional competition law proceedings brought before the Competition Appeals Tribunal by the 100% owner of the Club, St James Holdings Ltd, in relation to the same PL Board decision. The Premier League's challenge to CAT's jurisdiction was heard by the CAT, with an online audience of 33,000, but before judgment the proceedings were withdrawn when legally binding assurances were provided.

Club v Agent, dual representation contract

Arbitration, 2022

Acted for an agent in the context of an attempt to commence arbitral proceedings against him, claiming breach of duties under a dual representation contract

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UK Sport, Paris Cycle Funding

Spring 2021

Acted for UK Sport in relation to a sport's challenge to the funding granted to it in the Paris Cycle. The sport suggests that UK Sport has misapplied the criteria to it with the result that it falls into a different category to that into which it believes it should fall.

Sporting v Player, Lille and FIFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport. Summer 2021

Acted for Lille defending Sporting's appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the FIFA decision in respect of a player.

SIAC Sports broadcasting rights arbitration

Arbitrator, SIAC Arbitration. 2020 to 2022.

Sat as sole arbitrator in a dispute between an overseas broadcast rights holder and its overseas commercial partner. The matter settled before trial, following interim applications and procedural issues.

Club v EFL, EFL Covid-19 loan

Arbitration

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to proceedings brought by a Club to challenge the structure of the loan facility made available to League Clubs as a result of the damage suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Club v Welsh Rugby Union

2021

Acted for and advised the WRU in the context of threatened competition law proceedings by a rugby club in respect of the participation arrangements and distribution of funding, including in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic

Club v Premier Rugby Limited, Coach Movement

Arbitration. Spring 2021

Acted for PRL in a challenge to the PRL decision on the movement of a coach from one Club to another.

Olympiacos v Panathinaikos and Euroleague

Court of Arbitration for Sport. 2020.

Acted for basketball club Olympiacos in a dispute with Panathinaikos and Olympiacos' appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against Euroleague's decision not to discipline Panathinaikos for breach of its rules.

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Tonga Rugby League v International Rugby League

Court of Arbitration for Sport, Summer 2020

Advised and acted for the International Rugby League in its defence of an appeal brought by the Tonga Rugby League to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against its expulsion.

FIFA v Chelsea Football Club

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the Club in its successful appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the two lower instance FIFA decisions and transfer ban in respect of the signing of young players, and at the earlier stages.

Premier Rugby Limited v Saracens

Sport Resolutions arbitration. 2019

Acted for Premier Rugby Limited in its proceedings against Saracens for breach of the salary cap. Saracens defended on the basis that it was not in breach of the salary cap and in any event the entire salary cap was contrary to competition law. Saracens failed in the defences and the independent panel, chaired by Lord Dyson, fined Saracens £5.3million and deducted the club 35 points. The relevant rules were adapted to provide for a further deduction if in a season following a finding of breach, a club failed to submit to an audit of compliance. Saracens was consequently deducted a total of 70 points and was relegated at the end of the 2019/2020 season when it was eventually completed.

FC Nantes, Cardiff City FC and Emiliano Sala

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Advised Cardiff City FC on the transfer position after the death of Emiliano Sala.

RusAF v IAAF

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the IAAF in the Court of Arbitration for Sport arbitration commenced by RusAF to challenge the IAAF's decision not to reinstate RusAF to full unsuspended membership pending the satisfaction of various conditions imposed on such reinstatement. The Russian organisation was suspended following the McLaren Report concluding that there had been organised evasion of the anti-doping rules in Russia.

International Canoe Federation v International Surfing Association

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the International Canoe Federation before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a dispute with the International Surfing Association. CAS issued an award in relation to the governance of the sport of Stand-Up Paddleboard, rejecting the International Surfing Association's claim to an exclusive right to govern the sport at world level but allowing it a role at Olympic level.

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Club v Agent

Arbitrator, FA Rule K arbitration. 2019.

Sat as an FA Rule K sole arbitrator on a dispute between a football club and an agent.

Christophe Mongai v Alex Song

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the player Alex Song in the Court of Arbitration proceedings brought against him by his former agent.

Jersey Football Association v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Jersey Football Association's attempt to overturn UEFA's refusal of membership to it.

Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis

Chair of Inquiry, 2017 and 2018

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Legality of the Championship Financial Fair Play rules on competition and free movement grounds.

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Defence of proceedings brought before CAS by the Indian Hockey Federation challenging the International Hockey Federation's decision to accept Hockey India, and not to accept the Indian Hockey Federation, as a member.

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Dispute between clubs arising out of obtaining of team sheet.

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Challenge to the governing body's refusal to allow its application to change its official name to Hull Tigers for the 2014/2015 season.

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Appeal against the international federation's decision that the rider bore responsibility for a prohibited substance in a horse that he rode in an endurance competition.

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Legality of reliance on criminal convictions when the convicted party claims that the convictions had been obtained in breach of his human rights and when an appeal to the relevant Supreme Court is pending.

Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (Mutu)

FIFA DRC and Court of Arbitration for Sport

Also Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (CAS, 2014, on appeal from FIFA DRC). Club's attempt to secure payment from Juventus of CAS' award against Mutu to the Club of €17 million in compensation for breach of contract, which was upheld by the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Leyton Orient FC v Football Association Premier League

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Ability of arbitral tribunal to order joinder.

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Sat as the Sport Resolutions appointed tribunal to hear matchfixing allegations against the snooker player Stephen Lee.

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Defended the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Champions League for matchfixing.

Besiktas v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing.

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Advised in relation to its defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing. Also advised UEFA in relation to various satellite proceedings brought by clubs contending that the excluded clubs should have been excluded earlier, allowing the claimant clubs into the competition.

Doncaster Rovers Belles v The FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2013

Defence of a challenge brought to the FA's decision not to include Doncaster Rovers Belles in the highest division for women's professional football.

Japan Olympic Committee and Koji Murofushi v International Olympic Committee

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Acted for the JOC and the athlete Koji Murofushi in his CAS appeal against the IOC's exclusion of him from the IOC Athletes' Commission for improper campaigning.

USADA v Armstrong, Bruyneel, Lezema and Marti

AAA, 2013

Acted for Bruyneel in USADA's anti–doping proceedings against the remaining defendants after Armstrong chose to withdraw.

EU & Competition

Adam Lewis' practice covers both EU and domestic Competition law including anti-competitive practices, mergers, the state aid rules, free movement, public procurement, VAT and trade and customs law, and the application of sector-specific EU legislation. He has in particular been involved in a large number of recent cases where complainants have sought to use the competition law rules as a basis for challenge to sports governing bodies' regulatory rules and actions.

"A smart, knowledgeable, hardworking, and very user–friendly silk."

— LEGAL 500, 2018

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Adam Lewis began to develop his EU and Competition law specialism before he started practice at the Bar. Between 1985 and 1987 he worked at in particular Wilmer Cutler & Pickering (now Wilmer Hale), a United States law firm with an established Competition and EU law practice and a Brussels office. In 1991 and 1992 he worked for the European Commission in the Cabinet of the European Commissioner responsible for Competition and Financial Institutions. Thereafter he was based in Brussels, working exclusively on competition and EU law related matters in a firm that is now merged with White & Case.

Particular cases include:

Cases

Ospreys Rugby Ltd and Scarlets Regional Ltd v Welsh Rugby Union: relationship between Union and Regions

Current. 2025 Arbitration

Acts for the WRU in arbitral proceedings brought against it by Ospreys and Scarlets in relation to the contractual participation arrangements between the four Regions and the Union. Ospreys and Scarlets allege that the Union is in breach of those arrangements, of its quasi-public law obligations as the governing body of the sport in Wales, and of competition law, in its approach to the rescue of a third Region Cardiff and to the conclusion of new participation agreements. The Regions allege an abuse of a dominant position by the WRU.

Welsh Rugby Union: consultation on future arrangements for professional rugby in Wales

Current. 2025 Consultation.

Acts for the WRU in the context of its current consultation of interested parties into what form the arrangements for Welsh professional rugby should take in the future, including as to how many professional Regional teams funded by the WRU there should be. Involves examination of compliance of the process with competition law.

Football Association: Women's Academy Contracts

Current. 2025.

Acts for The FA in relation to the arrangements for Women's Academy Contracts, including setting rules on the parameters for remuneration.

CAA and others v The Football Association, FIFA intervening: competition law compliance of FA implementation of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations

FA Rule K arbitration before Lord Collins, Lord Dyson and Christopher Vajda

Acted for the FA in arbitral proceedings brought against it under FA Rule K by several leading sports agencies, alleging that the FA's implementation in National Football Agents Regulations (NFAR) of the new FIFA Football Agents Regulations (FFAR) breached competition law and should consequently be restrained. FIFA intervened to defend its FFAR, but some aspects of them were found unlawful. Also advising The FA on implementation and related issues more widely. The case involved looking at the parameters of intervention by interested parties in arbitral proceedings.

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Tennis and football broadcast and other commercial rights

2023

Separately acted for tennis bodies and football bodies on competition law issues relating to the structure for the marketing of commercial rights in the sport.

World Rugby Calendar, Player Release and World 12s

2023 and 2022

Acted for World Rugby on competition law issues relating to the relationship between the club game and the international game, and to a proposed new competition format, based on the IPL. There is a perpetual balance to be struck between the interests of the club game, which employs players, and their unions, which wish them to be released for international duty. There is equally such a balance to be struck as to which parts of the year are to be allocated to the international game, and which to the club game. Clubs and leagues have challenged that balance. In addition World 12s requested sanction of a new competition format with 12 players and shorter matches to be played each August, where franchises would bid for players on the model of the IPL.

PGAET and LIV Golf

2022 PGAET Disciplinary proceedings

Acted for PGAET in the context of LIV Golf's creation of an unsanctioned competition, and the disciplinary proceedings brought against several players as a result of their playing LIV events rather than PGAET events, when their requests for permission to do so had been refused. LIV, and the players, challenged the need for permission and the refusal of it as unlawful. It was alleged that PGAET had acted in breach of competition law.

Newcastle United v Premier League, St James Holdings Ltd v Premier League

Premier League Section X Arbitration and Commercial Court (Pelling J [2021] EWHC 349 (Comm)), and Competition Appeals Tribunal (Case No

Acted for the Premier League in an arbitration brought by Newcastle United challenging the PL Board decision that if the proposed acquisition of the Club by a consortium led by the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proceeds, the KSA would become a "Director" of the Club, such that it would fall to be assessed against the PL Owners and Directors Test. The Club's challenge to the chair of the Arbitral Tribunal on bias grounds failed before the Commercial Court. Prior to the hearing of the arbitration, legally binding assurances were provided that meant that the KSA did not fall to be assessed against the OADT.

Also acted for the Premier League in the simultaneous additional competition law proceedings brought before the Competition Appeals Tribunal by the 100% owner of the Club, St James Holdings Ltd, in relation to the same PL Board decision. The Premier League's challenge to CAT's jurisdiction was heard by the CAT, with an online audience of 33,000, but before judgment the proceedings were withdrawn when legally binding assurances were provided.

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Premier League and European Super League

Spring 2021, continuing Spanish proceedings and implications 2022 and 2023

Advised and acted for the Premier League in response to the threatened but aborted establishment of the European Super League, unsanctioned by football's governing bodies, in Spring 2021. The response of amongst others the Premier League caused its member clubs that were involved to withdraw from the project. Proceedings continue in Spain and a reference has been made to the European Court. Continues to advise in relation to the subsequent consequences of the events.

Premier League, Big Picture: proposed restructuring and funding

2020 - 2021

Advises and acts for the Premier League in the context of the continuing consequences of the failed late 2020 and early 2021 Big Picture proposals for the restructuring and funding of the Premier League and EFL. The response of amongst others the Premier League headed off the proposals at that point, but the issues that gave rise to them remain. Similarly advised the Premier League in relation to the attempt to set up the European Super League in 2021.

Club v UEFA: Covid-19 pandemic exception to FFP rules

2022

Acted for a Club in relation to the proper application and legality of the UEFA Covid-19 pandemic exception to the FFP Rules, which allows clubs to write off a loss in defined periods, but does not afford the equivalent benefit to prudent clubs, thereby placing them at a disadvantage in terms of permissible expenditure and possible compliance over the entire reporting period.

Club v EFL, EFL Covid-19 loan

Arbitration

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to proceedings brought by a Club to challenge the structure of the loan facility made available to League Clubs as a result of the damage suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Club v Welsh Rugby Union

2021

Acted for and advised the WRU in the context of threatened competition law proceedings by a rugby club in respect of the participation arrangements and distribution of funding, including in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic

World Rugby calendar adaption and player release

Autumn 2020

Advised World Rugby in the context of the adaptation of the international windows in the calendar in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in relation to player release as a result.

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Premier League Related Party Transactions and Profitability and Sustainability Rules

Current

Advises the Premier League in relation to possible changes to the provisions in respect of Related Party Transactions for the purposes of the Profitability and Sustainability Rules

EFL, Financial Regulations revision

Current

Advises the EFL on possible revisions to the EFL Financial Regulations.

EFL, Professional Footballers' Association, Salary Cap

Current

Advises and acts for the EFL in relation to the PFA's objections to the adoption of a League 1 and League 2 Salary Cap.

Premier Rugby Limited, Intermediaries

Current

Advises PRL in relation to changes to the Intermediaries Regulations

World Rugby, LNR Competition Law challenge to Regulation 9 Player Release

Complaint to European Commission.

Advised and acted for World Rugby in the context of the LNR's complaint to the European Commission that WR Regulations on player release infringe competition law.

Premier League, Restart: response to Covid-19 pandemic, disputes with several clubs

2020 and 2021

Advised and acted for the Premier League throughout 2020 and 2021 and continues to do so in the context of its ongoing reaction to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. At the outset, major concerns were the basis on which the 2019/2020 competition should be completed and the 2020/2021 competition pursued. Issues included whether the 2019/2020 season could and should be played out, and how, and if not, the basis on which it should be resolved in terms of winner, European places and relegation, the creation of protocols for safe play and the consequences of positive tests, and changes to the Premier League Rules to address the situation. Whatever course were adopted would provoke reaction from diverse groups with different interests, and threats of action on various bases including competition law, but a fine line was successfully taken, to date avoiding the litigation threatened.

World Rugby, Regulation 8 Player Eligibility

2021

Advised World Rugby on possible revisions of Regulation 8 in relation to the eligibility of players to play for a Union.

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Rugby Six Nations media rights.

2020

Advised the Six Nations in relation to adaption of the basis on which their media rights are marketed, and other issues.

Premier Rugby Limited v Saracens

Sport Resolutions arbitration. 2019

Acted for Premier Rugby Limited in its proceedings against Saracens for breach of the salary cap. Saracens defended on the basis that it was not in breach of the salary cap and in any event the entire salary cap was contrary to competition law. Saracens failed in the defences and the independent panel, chaired by Lord Dyson, fined Saracens £5.3million and deducted the club 35 points. The relevant rules were adapted to provide for a further deduction if in a season following a finding of breach, a club failed to submit to an audit of compliance. Saracens was consequently deducted a total of 70 points and was relegated at the end of the 2019/2020 season when it was eventually completed.

Premier League Profitability and Sustainability Rules

2019

Advised the Premier League in relation to its Profitability and Sustainability Rules.

Jersey Football Association v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Jersey Football Association's attempt to overturn UEFA's refusal of membership to it.

QPR v Football League, Financial Fair Play Rules

FL Arbitration

Legality of the Championship Financial Fair Play rules on competition and free movement grounds.

Gibraltar Football Association v FIFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2000-2016

Also previously GFA v UEFA. Long running litigation culminating in the GFA being admitted to membership of both UEFA and FIFA.

World Rugby (ex IRB) – player release and calendar

European Commission and national proceedings

Club's Complaint to the European Commission and commencement of national proceedings challenging the sport's international player release rules and calendar on competition law and free movement grounds.

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Premier Rugby Limited Legality of Salary Cap Regulations

PRL Arbitration, 2015

Challenge on competition law grounds to legality of regulations.

UEFA Financial Fair Play: CFCB counsel

UEFA regulatory proceedings, 2015

Appointed to assist the UEFA Club and Financial Control Body in the administration of the UEFA financial fair play rules, dealing with competition and free movement law issues and assisting in 2014 and 2015 in the settlement of cases with infringing clubs.

British Darts Organisation

2014

Advised BDO on rules requiring players finishing high in the preceding year's tournament to play in the following year's tournament.

Welsh Rugby Union, Welsh Regional Organisations, European Rugby Cup

2014

Acted for the WRU in the context of the relationship between the Union and the Regional Organisations and in the context of the reorganisation of the European cross border club competitions administered by ERC, in the light of the desire of English Clubs and Premiership Rugby Limited to create a Rugby Champions Cup instead. The issues included European competition and free movement questions. Settled.

FA Intermediaries Regulations

European Commission

Football agents' Complaint to the European Commission and threat to commence domestic proceedings challenging the legality of The FA Intermediaries Regulations on competition and free movement grounds.

Doncaster Rovers Belles v The FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2013

Defence of a challenge brought to the FA's decision not to include Doncaster Rovers Belles in the highest division for women's professional football.

UEFA v The FA

UEFA disciplinary proceedings, 2013

Acted for The FA in defence of disciplinary proceedings brought against it by UEFA over calendar clashes.

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Withholding of player services

2013

Advised on EU competition law in the context of a threat of withholding of player services.

W.H. Newson Holdings Ltd and Others v IMI Plc and Others and Comap S.A

Chancery Division, 2015

Follow on damages case, permission to appeal obtained.

Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Gambling Commission

Administrative Court, 2014

Defence to the GBGA's challenge on Article 56 and rationality grounds to legislation and guidance introducing point of consumption regulation of internet gambling in the UK provided by operators outside the UK.

Clix Connex Limited v PhonePayPlus and OFT

Administrative Court, 2014

Impact of EU Information Society and Digital Economy legislation on PPP's ability to require prior permission for "Information, Connection and Signposting Services" paid for over premium rate telephone lines.

R (Leyton Orient FC) v London Legacy Development Corporation and West Ham and R (Tottenham Hotspur FC and Leyton Orient FC) v Newham Council, OPLC, Mayor of London, and Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport and Leyton Orient FC v Football Associa

Administrative Court, 2013

Whether procurement process breached the EU principles of transparency and equality of treatment and whether Newham Council's involvement in the bid breached EU state aid rules.

Public & Regulatory

Adam Lewis has acted in a wide range of public law matters, both for and against public bodies. He has developed a particular expertise in the application of public law principles at the boundary between public and commercial contexts, including EU law issues, public procurement, VAT, telecommunications and charging for policing. He has also worked on numerous matters involving the extension of public law principles to the activities of quasi-public bodies, such as sports governing bodies, whose regulatory and other decisions are not subject to CPR Part 54 Judicial Review but fall to be reviewed by reference to similar, analogous, standards.

"A broad practice that includes assisting sports governing bodies."

— LEGAL 500, 2018

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Since courts and tribunals dealing with sports law cases apply public law principles to the actions of sports governing bodies, most of Adam Lewis' cases under Sport and Professional Discipline have also involved public law questions. The cases below are ones where express allegations of breach of quasi-public law obligations by the governing body have formed an important part of the dispute, or where a quasi-public law process has been undertaken.

Cases

Ospreys Rugby Ltd and Scarlets Regional Ltd v Welsh Rugby Union: relationship between Union and Regions

Current. 2025 Arbitration

Acts for the WRU in arbitral proceedings brought against it by Ospreys and Scarlets in relation to the contractual participation arrangements between the four Regions and the Union. Ospreys and Scarlets allege that the Union is in breach of those arrangements, of its quasi-public law obligations as the governing body of the sport in Wales, and of competition law, in its approach to the rescue of a third Region Cardiff and to the conclusion of new participation agreements. The Regions allege an abuse of a dominant position by the WRU.

Welsh Rugby Union: consultation on future arrangements for professional rugby in Wales

Current. 2025 Consultation.

Acts for the WRU in the context of its current consultation of interested parties into what form the arrangements for Welsh professional rugby should take in the future, including as to how many professional Regional teams funded by the WRU there should be. Involves examination of compliance of the process with competition law.

R (Lindsey Smith) v The Football Association and Stonewall Equality Limited: challenge to The FA's involvement in Rainbow Laces

Current. 2025 Administrative Court.

Acts for The FA in defence of Administrative Court proceedings brought by Lindsey Smith challenging the legality of The FA's involvement in the Rainbow Laces campaign, on the basis of the contention that because Stonewall, which is also involved in Rainbow Laces, adopts the position that the concept of gender should be based on self-perception as distinct to biology, which the claimant who is gender critical opposes and finds offensive, The FA has acted contrary to its rules or irrationally in its involvement in the campaign.

English Football League v Sheffield Wednesday: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

Current. 2025 EFL Commission.

Acts for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's failure to pay other clubs and its players on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations. The case involves the quasi-public law parameters for sanction imposed by a sports governing body.

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CAA and others v The Football Association, FIFA intervening: competition law compliance of FA implementation of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations

FA Rule K arbitration before Lord Collins, Lord Dyson and Christopher Vajda

Acted for the FA in arbitral proceedings brought against it under FA Rule K by several leading sports agencies, alleging that the FA's implementation in National Football Agents Regulations (NFAR) of the new FIFA Football Agents Regulations (FFAR) breaches competition law and should consequently be restrained. FIFA intervened to defend its FFAR, but some aspects of them were found unlawful. The case also involved assessment of the wider quasi-public law obligations on The FA. Also advising The FA on implementation and related issues more widely.

Premier League v Everton: breach of the PL Financial Regulations

2023 PL Section W Commission, 2023 Appeal Board, 2024 second PL Section W Commission.

Acted for the Premier League in successive proceedings in 2023 and 2024 in which two Section W Commissions found the Club to have breached the PL Financial Regulations (the Profitability and Sustainability Rules or PSRs) in Season 2021/22 and then Season 2022/23. Each imposed points sanctions. The first Commission's sanction of 10 points was reduced on appeal. Purported mitigation based on amongst other things the Covid epidemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were rejected. Interested clubs have also sought before the PL Section W Commission to recover consequent compensation from the Club. This decision is the first PL Section W Commission imposition of a sanction under the PSRs. Also advising the PL in relation to several other clubs' compliance with the rules. The case involved the quasi-public law parameters for sanction imposed by a sports governing body.

English Football League v Sheffield United: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

2024. EFL Commission

Acted for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's persistent failures to pay other clubs on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations. The case settled with the Club accepting a sanction. The case involved the quasi-public law parameters for sanction imposed by a sports governing body.

ECB: Review of disciplinary process

2023

Acted for the ECB in relation to the review of its disciplinary processes and the drafting of appropriate changes in light of developments in cricket, and so as to comply with the quasi-public law parameters for such processes.

The Governing Body Endorsement arrangements for visas for foreign players

2023

Acted for The FA in the context of the UK GBE arrangements under which a sports governing body can apply rules as to when a foreign player has reached a level that justifies the grant of a UK visa to the player.

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Brishtel v UEFA

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in CAS proceedings brought by expelled officials of the Belarus Football Federation challenging the decision of UEFA not to change on review the discretionary decision of the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors not to open disciplinary proceedings against the Belarus Football Federation or its officials. The case involved the extent to which a regulatory body's decision not to challenge another regulatory body's decision was reviewable at the instance of a third party.

PGAET and LIV Golf

2022 PGAET Disciplinary proceedings

Acted for PGAET in the context of LIV Golf's creation of an unsanctioned competition, and the disciplinary proceedings brought against several players as a result of their playing LIV events rather than PGAET events, when their requests for permission to do so had been refused. LIV, and the players, challenged the need for permission and the refusal of it as unlawful. As well as competition law, the case involved the quasi-public law parameters for sanction imposed by a sports governing body.

Football Union of Russia v The FA: exclusion following invasion of Ukraine

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the FA in FUR's challenge in CAS to UEFA's and The FA's exclusion of Russian international teams from participation in international competitions (one being about to be held by the FA in England) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The case involved the extent to which international state action could justify sporting exclusion.

Burnley FC v Premier League, movement of players following invasion of Ukraine

2022. PL Section X Arbitration

Acted for the Premier League in its successful defence of an arbitration brought by Burnley FC challenging the Premier League's decision not to implement in full FIFA regulations permitting players at Russian Clubs to move following the invasion of Ukraine, because to do so would advantage some Clubs and disadvantage others.

Chelsea Football Club: licence under Government sanctions imposed following the invasion of Ukraine, to allow completion of fixtures

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of the Government sanctions on the Club's owner following the invasion of Ukraine. Absent licence from the Government to allow the Club to complete its fixtures, the Premier League competition would have been fundamentally undermined.

UK Sport, Paris Cycle Funding

Spring 2021.

Acted for UK Sport in relation to a sport's challenge to the funding granted to it in the Paris Cycle. The sport suggests that UK Sport has misapplied the criteria to it with the result that it falls into a different category to that into which it believes it should fall. UK Sport's decisions are subject to Part 54 Judicial Review.

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Club v EFL, EFL Covid-19 loan

Arbitration. Current

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to proceedings brought by a Club to challenge the structure of the loan facility made available to League Clubs as a result of the damage suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was alleged that the EFL had stepped outset the boundaries of what was permissible to it as a sports governing body.

Premier League, Restart: response to Covid-19 pandemic, disputes with several clubs

2020 and 2021

Advised and acted for the Premier League throughout 2020 and 2021 and continues to do so in the context of its ongoing reaction to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. At the outset, major concerns were the basis on which the 2019/2020 competition should be completed and the 2020/2021 competition pursued. Issues included whether the 2019/2020 season could and should be played out, and how, and if not, the basis on which it should be resolved in terms of winner, European places and relegation, the creation of protocols for safe play and the consequences of positive tests, and changes to the Premier League Rules to address the situation. Whatever course were adopted would provoke reaction from diverse groups with different interests, and threats of action on various bases including competition law, but a fine line was successfully taken, to date avoiding the litigation threatened.

RusAF v IAAF

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the IAAF in the Court of Arbitration for Sport arbitration commenced by RusAF to challenge the IAAF's decision not to reinstate RusAF to full unsuspended membership pending the satisfaction of various conditions imposed on such reinstatement. The Russian organisation was suspended following the McLaren Report concluding that there had been organised evasion of the anti-doping rules in Russia.

International Canoe Federation v International Surfing Association

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the International Canoe Federation before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a dispute with the International Surfing Association. CAS issued an award in relation to the governance of the sport of Stand-Up Paddleboard, rejecting the International Surfing Association's claim to an exclusive right to govern the sport at world level but allowing it a role at Olympic level.

Jersey Football Association v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Jersey Football Association's attempt to overturn UEFA's refusal of membership to it.

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UK Sport funding and British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association

Advised UK Sport on the process for revision of sports' funding for the Olympics, including in particular in the context of the objections of the British Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association to the conditions imposed on funding. The decisions of UK Sport are subject to Part 54 Judicial Review.

Previously advised on the Tokyo and Rio Funding Cycles

Arsenal Football Club policing

Advised Arsenal Football Club in the context of the provision of special police services to the Club by the Metropolitan Police.

Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis

Chair of Inquiry, 2017 and 2018

Appointed as the Chair of the three person Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, a major international review of the nature and extent of the threats to integrity arising in the sport, how they were addressed by the sport, and of how best to deal with them in the future, through changes to the rules, the mechanisms for enforcement, relationships, independence, resources, transparency, and education. The review also had to deal with various historical allegations, which the press had suggested indicate that tennis' approach in the past and presently was inappropriate. A very large number of witnesses all around the world were heard. An Interim Report followed by a Final Report were issued in 2018.

Tokyo Funding Cycle

2016 - 2017

Advised and acted for UK Sport on the process for revision of sports' funding for the Tokyo Funding Cycle. Various sports were at risk of losing funding, and the process had to afford all of them an opportunity to put their case and to challenge any decisions.

Football Association of Serbia v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in the Football Association of Serbia's attempt to overturn UEFA's admission of the Kosovan Football Federation to UEFA before CAS.

Governance of Sports Governing Bodies

Advised several sports governing bodies on changes to governance structures in the light of relevant recent developments in particular in relation to the compliance of regulatory and disciplinary procedures with human rights and public law standards.

UK Sport Funding

Advised UK Sport on funding structures for the Tokyo Cycle. Previously advised on the Rio Cycle.

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Aston Villa v FA

FA Rule K arbitration, 2016

Legality of application of player immigration rules.

Ipswich Town Football Club v Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary

High Court, 2016

Legality of decision to refuse to police Ipswich's matches.

Has also advised Arsenal on policing and previously advised Wembley and acted for Wigan in Greater Manchester Police v Wigan AFC (Court of Appeal, Chancery Division 2008).

Mutu v Switzerland

European Court of Human Rights, 2015

Legality of the Swiss Supreme Court's upholding of a CAS award and rejection of complaints as to the appearance of independence in the context of a closed list and compulsory arbitration.

Hull City v FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2015

Challenge to the governing body's refusal to allow its application to change its official name to Hull Tigers for the 2014/2015 season.

UK Sport eligibility for funding

2015

Advised UK Sport in relation to its rules on eligibility for funding of athletes that have been convicted of a doping offence, amongst other things in the light of the requirements of the 2015 World Anti–Doping Code.

Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association v Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Gambling Commission

Administrative Court, 2014

Defence to the GBGA's challenge on Article 56 and rationality grounds to legislation and guidance introducing point of consumption regulation of internet gambling in the UK provided by operators outside the UK.

British Swimming v UK Sport

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of British Swimming's challenge to UK Sport's decision to withdraw funding from Synchronised Swimming.

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Clix Connex Limited v PhonePayPlus and OFT

Administrative Court, 2014

Impact of EU Information Society and Digital Economy legislation on PPP's ability to require prior permission for "Information, Connection and Signposting Services" paid for over premium rate telephone lines.

Matthew King v London Marathon Limited

Queen's Bench Division, 2014

Defence of discrimination proceedings brought against LML by former Rugby League Player Matthew King following its conclusion that it was not permissible for him to compete in the London Marathon using a motorised wheelchair.

Fenerbahce v UEFA, Besiktas v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Legality of reliance on criminal convictions when the convicted party claims that the convictions had been obtained in breach of his human rights and when an appeal to the relevant Supreme Court is pending.

Doncaster Rovers Belles v The FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2013

Defence of a challenge brought to the FA's decision not to include Doncaster Rovers Belles in the highest division for women's professional football.

R (Leyton Orient FC) v London Legacy Development Corporation and West Ham and R (Tottenham Hotspur FC and Leyton Orient FC) v Newham Council, OPLC, Mayor of London, and Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport and Leyton Orient FC v Football Associa

Administrative Court, 2013

Whether procurement process breached the EU principles of transparency and equality of treatment and whether Newham Council's involvement in the bid breached EU state aid rules.

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Adam Lewis has dealt with issues involving Civil Liberties and Human Rights in the context of his EU and Competition, Public and Regulatory, and Sport law practice. In particular, he has frequently had to address fair trial rights, both for and against public bodies, and in particular sports governing bodies, as well as the balance between other competing rights in the context of sport.

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Cases

R (Lindsey Smith) v The Football Association and Stonewall Equality Limited: challenge to The FA's involvement in Rainbow Laces

Current. 2025 Administrative Court.

Acts for The FA in defence of Administrative Court proceedings brought by Lindsey Smith challenging the legality of The FA's involvement in the Rainbow Laces campaign, on the basis of the contention that because Stonewall, which is also involved in Rainbow Laces, adopts the position that the concept of gender should be based on self-perception as distinct to biology, which the claimant who is gender critical opposes and finds offensive, The FA has acted contrary to its rules or irrationally in its involvement in the campaign.

Football Association: Women's Academy Contracts

Current. 2025.

Acts for The FA in relation to the arrangements for Women's Academy Contracts, including setting rules on the parameters for remuneration.

Football Association: agent's satisfaction of FIFA Football Agents Regulations

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to the satisfaction by an FA Registered Football Agent of a particular aspect of the FIFA Football Agents Regulations.

Premier League formulation of rule developments

Current

Acts for the league in relation to a wide number of possible rule changes, including to the owners and directors test, to financial regulation, to the regulatory process, and in the light of UEFA club licensing requirements.

ECB: Review of disciplinary process

2023

Acted for the ECB in relation to the review of its disciplinary processes and the drafting of appropriate changes in light of developments in cricket.

The Governing Body Endorsement arrangements for visas for foreign players

2023

Acted for The FA in the context of the UK GBE arrangements under which a sports governing body can apply rules as to when a foreign player has reached a level that justifies the grant of a UK visa to the player.

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Brishtel v UEFA

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in CAS proceedings brought by expelled officials of the Belarus Football Federation challenging the decision of UEFA not to change on review the discretionary decision of the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors not to open disciplinary proceedings against the Belarus Football Federation or its officials. The case involved the extent to which a regulatory body's decision not to challenge another regulatory body's decision was reviewable at the instance of a third party.

Football Union of Russia v The FA: exclusion following invasion of Ukraine

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for the FA in FUR's challenge in CAS to UEFA's and The FA's exclusion of Russian international teams from participation in international competitions (one being about to be held by the FA in England) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The case involved the extent to which international state action could justify sporting exclusion.

Burnley FC v Premier League, movement of players following invasion of Ukraine

2022. PL Section X Arbitration

Acted for the Premier League in its successful defence of an arbitration brought by Burnley FC challenging the Premier League's decision not to implement in full FIFA regulations permitting players at Russian Clubs to move following the invasion of Ukraine, because to do so would advantage some Clubs and disadvantage others.

Premier League: satisfaction of Club ownership requirements

2022

Acted for the Premier League in the context of an investigation into whether Club ownership requirements were satisfied in a particular case.

Sports Governing Body independent internal investigation.

Chair of Inquiry. Winter 2019 and Spring 2020.

Conducted an independent internal investigation in relation to a sports governing body's actions and processes in dealing with a potential breach of its rules by staff.

Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis

Chair of Inquiry, 2017 and 2018

Appointed as the Chair of the three person Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, a major international review of the nature and extent of the threats to integrity arising in the sport, how they were addressed by the sport, and of how best to deal with them in the future, through changes to the rules, the mechanisms for enforcement, relationships, independence, resources, transparency, and education. The review also had to deal with various historical allegations, which the press had suggested indicate that tennis' approach in the past and presently was inappropriate. A very large number of witnesses all around the world were heard. An Interim Report followed by a Final Report were issued in 2018.

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Mutu v Switzerland

European Court of Human Rights, 2015

Legality of the Swiss Supreme Court's upholding of a CAS award and rejection of complaints as to the appearance of independence in the context of a closed list and compulsory arbitration.

Matthew King v London Marathon Limited

Queen's Bench Division, 2014

Defence of discrimination proceedings brought against LML by former Rugby League Player Matthew King following its conclusion that it was not permissible for him to compete in the London Marathon using a motorised wheelchair.

Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (Mutu)

FIFA DRC and Court of Arbitration for Sport

Also Chelsea v Juventus and Livorno (CAS, 2014, on appeal from FIFA DRC). Club's attempt to secure payment from Juventus of CAS' award against Mutu to the Club of €17 million in compensation for breach of contract, which was upheld by the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Sports Governing Body Disciplinary Processes

2013

Advised a number of sports governing bodies in relation to the structures and practices of disciplinary processes and their compliance with human rights law, following the Court of Appeal decision in Kaur.

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association v Stephen Lee

Sport Resolutions, 2013

Sat as the Sport Resolutions appointed tribunal to hear matchfixing allegations against the snooker player Stephen Lee.

Doncaster Rovers Belles v The FA

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2013

Defence of a challenge brought to the FA's decision not to include Doncaster Rovers Belles in the highest division for women's professional football.

Japan Olympic Committee and Koji Murofushi v International Olympic Committee

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Acted for the JOC and the athlete Koji Murofushi in his CAS appeal against the IOC's exclusion of him from the IOC Athletes' Commission for improper campaigning.

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USADA v Armstrong, Bruyneel, Lezema and Marti

AAA, 2013

Acted for Bruyneel in USADA's anti–doping proceedings against the remaining defendants after Armstrong chose to withdraw.

Professional Discipline

Adam Lewis regularly acts in cases involving Professional Discipline in the sense of sports governing bodies charging regulated parties with breaches of the sport's rules and proceeding to discipline them in accordance with those rules. The cases below are examples of such sports disciplinary proceedings that progressed to a hearing or resolution, or where the advice was given on the disciplinary process contained in the rules itself.

"He is a fantastic advocate who phrases matters in a way which really hits home; he knows just which nerve to strike and does so in an elegant way"

— CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS, 2017

Cases

English Football League v Sheffield Wednesday: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

Current. 2025 EFL Commission.

Acts for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's failure to pay other clubs and its players on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations.

Football Association: UEFA proceedings against a player

2024

Acted for The FA in relation to threatened UEFA disciplinary proceedings against a player.

Premier League v Everton: breach of the PL Financial Regulations

2023 PL Section W Commission, 2023 Appeal Board, 2024 second PL Section W Commission.

Acted for the Premier League in successive proceedings in 2023 and 2024 in which two Section W Commissions found the Club to have breached the PL Financial Regulations (the Profitability and Sustainability Rules or PSRs) in Season 2021/22 and then Season 2022/23. Each imposed points sanctions. The first Commission's sanction of 10 points was reduced on appeal. Purported mitigation based on amongst other things the Covid epidemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine were rejected. Interested clubs have also sought before the PL Section W Commission to recover consequent compensation from the Club. This decision is the first PL Section W Commission imposition of a sanction under the PSRs. Also advising the PL in relation to several other clubs' compliance with the rules.

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English Football League v Sheffield United: breach of the EFL Financial Regulations

2024. EFL Commission

Acted for the EFL in proceedings in which the Club's persistent failures to pay other clubs on time have been referred to an EFL Commission for sanction under the EFL Financial Regulations. The case settled with the Club accepting a sanction.

ECB: Review of disciplinary process

2023

Acted for the ECB in relation to the review of its disciplinary processes and the drafting of appropriate changes in light of developments in cricket.

Brishtel v UEFA

2022. Court of Arbitration for Sport

Acted for UEFA in CAS proceedings brought by expelled officials of the Belarus Football Federation challenging the decision of UEFA not to change on review the discretionary decision of the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors not to open disciplinary proceedings against the Belarus Football Federation or its officials.

PGAET and LIV Golf

2022 PGAET Disciplinary proceedings

Acted for PGAET in the context of LIV Golf's creation of an unsanctioned competition, and the disciplinary proceedings brought against several players as a result of their playing LIV events rather than PGAET events, when their requests for permission to do so had been refused. LIV, and the players, challenge the need for permission and the refusal of it as unlawful.

UEFA v The FA: England v Germany

2022

Acted for The FA in defence of disciplinary proceedings opened by UEFA against the FA into crowd behaviour at the 2022 match between England and Germany. The charges were dropped.

The FA v A Player

2022

Acted for the FA in an appeal against a Regulatory Commission's finding a disciplinary case not proven, to obtain amongst other things an authoritative Appeal Board ruling, which was made, that the balance of probabilities test does not involve any requirement that the more serious the charge, the more cogent must be the evidence to prove it.

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Premier League: Match postponements, disciplinary proceedings and rule changes due to Covid-19

2022

Acted for the Premier League in several cases in relation to the grant or refusal of match postponements, disciplinary proceedings, and the possibility of rule changes, all in the light of the continuing aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

UEFA v The FA, Euros Final

UEFA Disciplinary Proceedings. October 2021

Acted for The FA in its defence of UEFA charges brought following events at the Euros Final in summer 2021. The tribunal imposed a sanction of one match behind closed doors and a further such match suspended, as opposed to the three matches behind closed doors sought by the independent disciplinary inspector.

EFL v Derby County, Breach of Financial Regulations

Independent Disciplinary Proceedings, Summer 2021

Advised and acted for the EFL in relation to Derby County's breach of the EFL Financial Regulations in disciplinary proceedings ending in summer 2021.

Premier Rugby Limited, Salary Cap Disciplinary Proceedings

Possible Disciplinary Proceedings. 2022

Advised and acted for PRL in relation to possible charges against clubs for breach of the Salary Cap Regulations. Previously acted for PRL in the similar case against Saracens.

Olympiacos v Panathinaikos and Euroleague

Court of Arbitration for Sport. 2020.

Acted for basketball club Olympiacos in a dispute with Panathinaikos and Olympiacos' appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against Euroleague's decision not to discipline Panathinaikos for breach of its rules.

Tonga Rugby League v International Rugby League

Court of Arbitration for Sport, Summer 2020

Advised and acted for the International Rugby League in its defence of an appeal brought by the Tonga Rugby League to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against its expulsion.

Sports Governing Body independent internal investigation.

Chair of Inquiry. Winter 2019 and Spring 2020.

Conducted an independent internal investigation in relation to a sports governing body's actions and processes in dealing with a potential breach of its rules by staff.

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FIFA v Chelsea Football Club

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2019

Acted for the Club in its successful appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the two lower instance FIFA decisions and transfer ban in respect of the signing of young players, and at the earlier stages.

Premier Rugby Limited v Saracens

Sport Resolutions arbitration. 2019

Acted for Premier Rugby Limited in its proceedings against Saracens for breach of the salary cap. Saracens defended on the basis that it was not in breach of the salary cap and in any event the entire salary cap was contrary to competition law. Saracens failed in the defences and the independent panel, chaired by Lord Dyson, fined Saracens £5.3million and deducted the club 35 points. The relevant rules were adapted to provide for a further deduction if in a season following a finding of breach, a club failed to submit to an audit of compliance. Saracens was consequently deducted a total of 70 points and was relegated at the end of the 2019/2020 season when it was eventually completed.

World Rugby v Scottish Rugby Union

Disciplinary proceedings, Autumn 2019

Advised World Rugby in the context of disciplinary proceedings against the SRU in respect of its reaction to the rescheduling of its match against Japan at the Rugby World Cup 2019.

Premier League v Scout and Club

Disciplinary proceedings. 2019.

Acted for the Premier League in disciplinary proceedings against a scout and football club in the context of the Youth Development Rules.

Rugby Football Union v Ashley Johnson

Defended the Wasps rugby player Ashley Johnson on a charge of breaching the anti-doping rules. The breach was found to have been inadvertent and only a short suspension was imposed. Also advised and acted in a number of other doping cases that are confidential.

Chris Froome and UCI, WADA, and Amaury Sport Organisation

Acted for Chris Froome in the context of the delay of the UCI and WADA in clearing the cyclist following an abnormal result. The cyclist was not charged because there was no basis for doing so, but the delay in reaching this conclusion led to the organisers of the Tour de France threatening to withdraw his entry to the 2018 race, raising the possibility of appeal to a French sports tribunal.

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FIFA v FA

Acted for The FA in its defence of FIFA disciplinary proceedings in respect of the wearing of the poppy by England players, which FIFA asserted was the wearing of a political symbol. Following two disciplinary hearings and appeal by The FA to CAS, which was not heard, FIFA changed its rules and allowed the wearing of the poppy in November 2017.

The FA v Agent

Advised the FA in its prosecution before the Regulatory Commission of an agent charged with misconduct.

International Cricket Council

Advised the ICC on the application of the ICC Code of Ethics.

Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis

Chair of Inquiry, 2017 and 2018

Appointed as the Chair of the three person Independent Review of Integrity in Tennis, a major international review of the nature and extent of the threats to integrity arising in the sport, how they were addressed by the sport, and of how best to deal with them in the future, through changes to the rules, the mechanisms for enforcement, relationships, independence, resources, transparency, and education. The review also had to deal with various historical allegations, which the press had suggested indicate that tennis' approach in the past and presently was inappropriate. A very large number of witnesses all around the world were heard. An Interim Report followed by a Final Report were issued in 2018.

Governance of Sports Governing Bodies

Advised several sports governing bodies on changes to governance structures in the light of relevant recent developments in particular in relation to the compliance of regulatory and disciplinary procedures with human rights and public law standards.

QPR v Football League, Financial Fair Play Rules

FL Arbitration

Legality of the Championship Financial Fair Play rules on competition and free movement grounds.

Gopperth and Wasps v RFU

RFU disciplinary proceedings, 2015

Sanction for on field offence.

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Football League v Rotherham

FL Disciplinary Proceedings, 2015

Disciplinary proceedings against Rotherham for the fielding of an ineligible player.

UKAD v Rhys Williams

National Anti–Doping Panel, 2015

Defence of anti–doping proceedings.

Cellino and Leeds United FC v Football League

FA Rule K Arbitration, 2015

Threatened FA Rule K proceedings in relation to the decision of the Football League Professional Conduct Committee.

UEFA Financial Fair Play: CFCB counsel

UEFA regulatory proceedings, 2015

Appointed to assist the UEFA Club and Financial Control Body in the administration of the UEFA financial fair play rules, dealing with competition and free movement law issues and assisting in 2014 and 2015 in the settlement of cases with infringing clubs.

Sheikh Hazza Bin Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan v Federation Equestre International

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2014

Appeal against the international federation's decision that the rider bore responsibility for a prohibited substance in a horse that he rode in an endurance competition.

Lucinda Turner v British Equestrian Federation

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of anti–doping proceedings brought by the BEF.

ICC v Jadeja

ICC Arbitration, 2014

Defence of disciplinary proceedings brought by the ICC in relation to an incident between two players.

Bruce Baker v British Boxing Board of Control

Queen's Bench Division, 2014

Defence of injunction proceedings brought to restrain the governing body from suspending the manager and promoter, and on its application for a stay under section 9 Arbitration Act 1996.

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West Ham v Football Association

Sport Resolutions Arbitration, 2014

Defence of proceedings brought by the Club appealing the suspension of the Player Andy Carroll.

BBBC v Eddie Hearn

BBBC, 2013

Acted for the promoter in the context of a complaint by Frank Warren that he has breached BBBC rules.

Sports Governing Body Disciplinary Processes

2013

Advised a number of sports governing bodies in relation to the structures and practices of disciplinary processes and their compliance with human rights law, following the Court of Appeal decision in Kaur.

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association v Stephen Lee

Sport Resolutions, 2013

Sat as the Sport Resolutions appointed tribunal to hear matchfixing allegations against the snooker player Stephen Lee.

Fenerbahce v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Defended the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Champions League for matchfixing.

Besiktas v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing.

FC Metalist v UEFA

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Advised in relation to its defence of the Club's appeal against exclusion from the Europa League for matchfixing. Also advised UEFA in relation to various satellite proceedings brought by clubs contending that the excluded clubs should have been excluded earlier, allowing the claimant clubs into the competition.

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Sky Lantern v BHA and Elusive Kate

British Horseracing Association, 2013

Acted for Sky Lantern's interests in BHA proceedings, opposed by Elusive Kate's interests.

UEFA v The FA

UEFA disciplinary proceedings, 2013

Acted for The FA in defence of disciplinary proceedings brought against it by UEFA over calendar clashes.

Japan Olympic Committee and Koji Murofushi v International Olympic Committee

Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2013

Acted for the JOC and the athlete Koji Murofushi in his CAS appeal against the IOC's exclusion of him from the IOC Athletes' Commission for improper campaigning.

USADA v Armstrong, Bruyneel, Lezema and Marti

AAA, 2013

Acted for Bruyneel in USADA's anti–doping proceedings against the remaining defendants after Armstrong chose to withdraw.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Publications

- Lewis and Taylor, Sport: Law and Practice, 4th edition 2021 Bloomsbury Professional, the principal UK sports law text.

Lewis, Taylor, De Marco and Segan, Challenging Sports Governing Bodies, 2016, Bloomsbury Professional.

Lecturing

- Teaches on the British Association for Sport and the Law Postgraduate Certificate course.
- Regularly speaks at conferences.

Appointment

President of the British Association for Sport and the Law

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Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board