SPORTS LAW IN DENMARK

JENS EVALD LARS HALGREEN





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Jens Evald Lars Halgreen

This book was originally published as a monograph in the International Encyclopaedia of Laws/Sports Law.

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The Authors			3
List of Abbreviations			9
General Introduction			11
§1. SPORTS IN DENMARK			11
§2. DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS LAW			12
§3. THE SOURCES OF SPORTS LAW			13
Selected Bibliography			15
Part I. Organization of Sports			17
Chapter 1. Public Regulation			17
§1. SPORT AND TORT LAW I. Introduction II. Injuries during Competition III. Defective Sports Requisites IV. Organizers of Sporting Events V. Liability of Coaches and Supervisors VI. Sports and Insurance			17 17 18 20 20 21 22
§2. SPORT AND CRIMINAL LAW I. Sports Participants' Violence II. Spectator Violence III. Child Certificate			25 25 27 27
§3. CONTROL OF SALE OF TICKETS			28
84 TAYATION			28

Part II. Commercial Issues	29
Chapter 1. Sport Marketing and Intellectual Property Rights I. Protection of Sports Image Rights II. The Protection of Sports News III. The Ownership of Sports Rights	29 30 33 35
Chapter 2. The Danish Gambling Legislation I. Introductory Remarks II. The Current Gambling Legislation III. The European Commission: Infringement Proceedings IV. The New Danish Approach to Gambling Legislation A. Background and Structure B. The New Danish Act on Levies on Gambling Services (The Levies Act) C. The New Danish Act on Danske Spil A/S (The Ownership Act) D. The New Danish Act on Distribution of Profit from Lotteries and Bets on Horses and Dogs (The Distribution Act) E. The New Danish Act on Gambling (Gambling Act) F. Criteria for Offering Gambling Services G. Duty to Disclose All Material Facts, Sale and Marketing H. Administrative Provisions I. Penalty Provisions J. Commencement and Temporary Provisions	38 38 38 39 41 41 42 42 43 43 46 46 47 47 48
Chapter 3. Private Regulation	50
§1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE	50
§2. NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND SPORTS CONFEDERATION OF DENMARK (DIF) I. The Organization of DIF	51 51
§3. DANISH GYMNASTICS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS (DGI)	55
§4. THE DANISH FEDERATION OF COMPANY SPORTS (DFIF)	56
§5. Team Denmark	57
§6. THE FINANCIAL FOUNDATION FOR SPORTS IN DENMARK	58

Part III. Doping and Sport	61
Chapter 1. Introduction	61
Chapter 2. Doping in Organized Sport	62
§1. Introduction	62
§2. Anti-doping Denmark	62
§3. THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND SPORTS CONFEDERATION OF DENMARK (DIF)	64
§4. THE ANTI-DOPING RULES FOR RECREATIONAL SPORTS	66
Chapter 3. Doping outside Organized Sport	67
§1. ACT No. 232 of 21 April 1999 on Prohibition of Certain Doping Substances	67
§2. ADD'S PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH EXERCISE AND FITNESS CENTRES	68
Part IV. Sport and Status	71
Chapter 1. Public Regulation	71
§1. EMPLOYMENT LAW	71
§2. EU AND EMPLOYMENT LAW	73
Chapter 2. Private Regulation	75
§1. SPORT AND EMPLOYMENT	75
§2. Players	76
§3. COACHES	77
§4. Players' Agents	79
§5. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT I. The Arbitration System in Disciplinary Matters II. The Arbitration System in Civil Matters	79 79 80
Index	81

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The Authors

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List of Abbreviations		9
General Introduction		11
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III. The Ownership of Sports Rights	35
Chapter 2. The Danish Gambling Legislation I. Introductory Remarks II. The Current Gambling Legislation	38 38 38
III. The European Commission: Infringement Proceedings	39
IV. The New Danish Approach to Gambling LegislationA. Background and Structure	41
B. The New Danish Act on Levies on Gambling Services (The Levies Act)	42
C. The New Danish Act on Danske Spil A/S (The Ownership Act)D. The New Danish Act on Distribution of Profit from Lotteries and Bets on Horses and Dogs	42
(The Distribution Act)	43
E. The New Danish Act on Gambling (Gambling Act)F. Criteria for Offering Gambling Services	43
G. Duty to Disclose All Material Facts, Sale and Marketing	46
H. Administrative Provisions	4
I. Penalty Provisions	4
J. Commencement and Temporary Provisions	48
Chapter 3. Private Regulation	50
§1. HISTORICAL OUTLINE	50
§2. NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND SPORTS CONFEDERATION OF DENMARK (DIF) I. The Organization of DIF	5:
§3. DANISH GYMNASTICS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS (DGI)	55
§4. THE DANISH FEDERATION OF COMPANY SPORTS (DFIF)	56
§5. TEAM DENMARK	5
§6. THE FINANCIAL FOUNDATION FOR SPORTS IN DENMARK	55

Part III. Doping and Sport	61
Chapter 1. Introduction	61
Chapter 2. Doping in Organized Sport	62
§1. Introduction	62
§2. Anti-doping Denmark	62
§3. THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND SPORTS CONFEDERATION OF DENMARK (DIF)	64
§4. THE ANTI-DOPING RULES FOR RECREATIONAL SPORTS	66
Chapter 3. Doping outside Organized Sport	67
§1. ACT No. 232 of 21 April 1999 on Prohibition of Certain Doping Substances	67
§2. ADD'S PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH EXERCISE AND FITNESS CENTRES	68
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§1. SPORT AND EMPLOYMENT	75
§2. Players	76
§3. Coaches	77
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Index	81

List of Abbreviations

DBU Danish Football Association

DDFS Danish Association of Company Sports

DDG Danish Gymnastic Associations

DDGU Danish Gymnastics and Youth Association

DDS Association of Danish Rifle Clubs

DDSG&I Danish Riflemen, Gymnastics and Sports Associations

DFIF Danish Federation of Company Sports
DGI Danish Gymnastics and Sports Association

DIA Danish Insurance Association

DIF National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of

Denmark

DSDF Danish Sport Diving Federation

FIFA Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FKBU Company-Clubs Union

HKBU Trade and Clerical Employees Ball Game Union

ICB Insurance Complaints Board

NOC National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of

Denmark.

UEFA Union of European Football Association

List of Abbreviations

General Introduction

§1. SPORTS IN DENMARK

- 1. It can be useful to emphasize the fact that sport, in Denmark as well as in the rest of Europe, is an integrated part of society. Bearing that in mind, it is easier to understand that athletic and sports organizations have duties and rights in relation to each other and in relation to society as a whole. No matter whether the athlete is an elite or low-level athlete, individualist or team player, he/she is also a citizen with the possibilities and limitations that come with that. Thus the development and history of sports and sports law must be seen in the light of the development and history of society.
- 2. Since the turn of the nineteenth century, society and sports have undergone a transformation. Society has moved *from* a society based on the rule of law focussed mainly on the freedom of individuals, *to* a society we know as a welfare state, focusing on community and solidarity. Concurrently with the increase in welfare, working hours have been reduced; and in more and more areas of life, work has been mechanized. On the one hand this development has given social security to most people, but on the other hand it has led to a monotonous and physically inactive life for many people and increased their need for an active sports life.
- 3. About three out of four children and teenagers in Denmark are regularly engaged in sports in their spare time, and almost half of the adult population is engaged in sports and exercise. Approximately 3 million Danes are members of the more than 16,000 sports clubs. Boys mostly play football, team handball and badminton, whereas girls are more interested in gymnastics, riding, team handball and swimming. Many adults continue to participate in sports in clubs even after they reach a more 'mature age'. Actually, the number of sport active adults has tripled during the last thirty years, and especially in the oldest age groups, participation has risen most dramatically.¹
 - 1. See <www.dif.dk>.
- 4. In Denmark, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for sports, because both elite sports and sports for all are considered to be important features of the cultural picture. However, the Danish government interferes very little in sports matters. Danish sport is based on the freedom of association and is therefore an independent and autonomous sector.