

السليطي للمحاماة والاستشارات القانونية
AL SULAITI LAW FIRM



***The Sports Law
and its implications on the National Laws***

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Introduction :

- Our purpose is not to provide an overview to sports law. Rather, it is to alert others to the potential of sports as a driver of legal change and to encourage participation in the development of sports law by a wide range of lawyers as an integral part of their diverse professional and scholastic pursuit.



We will mention some exceptions mentioned in the Qatari Laws :

- The QSAT has jurisdiction, the QSAT shall be competent to resolve sports/football employment-related disputes by arbitration.
- In all disputes referred to the QSAT, the QSAT shall be solely competent to determine and rule on its own jurisdiction.
- QSAT awards do not need to be rendered in the name of His Highness, the Emir of the State of Qatar, in order to be valid, final and binding on all the parties.



Intellectual Property and Anti-Ambush Marketing Laws :

- Intellectual property and anti-ambush marketing laws are the backbone of the broadcasting, merchandising, and sponsorship agreements that finance international sports competitions and generate several billion dollars.



Such Law has mentioned sanctions for violating its provisions :

- Without prejudice to any greater penalty provided by another law, any person convicted of knowingly importing goods that represent an infringement on any rights under protection shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding ten thousand riyals, or to either penalty”



Human Rights Laws :

- The awarding of the rights to host a major sports event such as the Football World Cup has come to be linked to some degree directly or indirectly to the human rights records of the bidders. In this regard, Qatar has amended and issued several provisions related to the sponsorship and the rights of the expatriates.



Human Rights Laws :

- **LAW 21 of 2015 [EXPATS ENTRY, EXIT and RESIDENCE]**
- According to the new regulations that apply to Sponsorship and Employment in the State of Qatar expats don't need to leave the country for 2 years before applying for a new job. The new changes allow expats to switch jobs at the end of a fixed-term contract. These changes will come in to force on the 14/12/2016.



Grace Period announced by Ministry of Interior: September 1st 2016 until December 1st 2016

- As of September 1st the Ministry of Interior has announced the start of a grace period for residents living illegally in Qatar. This is the first grace period after passing of almost a decade. Those living or working in Qatar illegally are given a 3 month period to leave the country without any legal consequences.
- As the new immigration laws will come in to force in December 14th 2016, the government is allowing expats remaining in the state of Qatar illegally to rectify their actions by leaving the state without being held accountable. As part of the new changes the government is adamant to run the new immigration laws smoothly, giving this grace period allows them to start the new process.

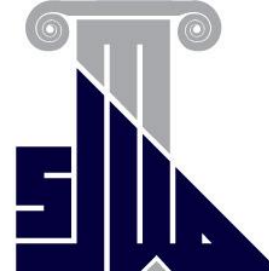


Conclusion :

- The law of sports has potentially broad implications for the development of national law as well as global dispute resolution. It offers fertile ground for academic study by legal scholars. In addition, attorneys and judges need to be aware that judicial resolution of sports-related cases may provide the seed that germinates into jurisprudence with broader application and more widespread effects. It is our hope to contribute to the awareness of the importance of sports, not only as a worldwide cultural phenomenon and a significant part of our 21st century global economy, but as a rich source of both international and national public and private laws as well as lessons for establishing, implementing, and enforcing global legal norms.



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Thank you.