

Interview with Rodrigo Arias Grillo and Alberto Ruiz de Aguiar, Academic Coordinators of “The Real Sport Arbitration Experience”

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Recently, the law firm SPORTIA LAW, the prestigious Association REX SPORT and the also prestigious Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economía (ISDE), have launched a course in a new format called THE REAL SPORT ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE.

In order to get to know the main aspects of this new teaching offer, we interviewed Rodrigo Arias Grillo and Alberto Ruiz de Aguiar Díaz-Obregón, creators of the format and academic coordinators of this original course.



QUESTION: ¿Rodrigo, Alberto, ¿what makes this course different from the other courses in sports law?

ANSWER: As its name suggests, the course is a real experience in international sports arbitration, based on the theory of the games. We for two small groups of students. We provide each group the necessary background of the case, those who in real life would be provided by the

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client and ask the first group to request an arbitration. After the request, we enclose a copy of the request to the other group which will have the respondent's role in the arbitration procedure. The arbitration continues in all its formalities, until the celebration of a hearing at the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) seat in Lausanne, with three real arbitrators.

Q: ¿Besides reproducing an arbitral procedure before CAS, the course has teaching contents?

A: Each group has a tutor or a back up lawyer of international recognized prestige that will design an arbitral strategy with his group providing the students the knowledge that comes from the experience before CAS. Additionally, as the arbitration procedure goes on, there will be complementary material provided for the students regarding the analysis of the rules of the procedures before CAS, and the doctrine and jurisprudence of said Tribunal.

Q: You mentioned tutors and lawyers of recognized international prestige and real arbitrators, ¿who composes the teaching staff?

A: The backup lawyers and tutors of each contender group are Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez and Lucas Ferrer. Both working lawyers, with brilliant professional careers and a contrasted experience before CAS. Regarding the arbitrators that will compose the panel at the hearing, they are Efraim Barak, Michele Bernasconi and José Juan Pintó Sala. The three of them are jurists of recognized international prestige who are usually appointed as arbitrators before CAS.

Q: What a team...

A: Well, we are actually short of words in the description. We can guarantee that we have a first class staff which is really involved into this course with real enthusiasm for being part of this teaching project unique in the world. This format surprises those who have achieved professional success. Their enthusiasm, dedication and deep arbitration knowledge, say a lot about their humility and their desire of continue working and teaching. As we said, a real lushness for the participant students.

Q: And you also have ISDE's endorsement.

A. ISDE is leader in Sports Law education. If we wanted excellence for the course, we had to count with ISDE's experience and knowledge for this new format. This prestigious institution's enthusiasm, dedication and risky choosing of this new format are also remarkable.

Q: Rodrigo, Alberto, we haven't talk of how did the idea came up.

A: We both remembered the first time we had to redact a letter to CAS or the first time we had to go into a courtroom and the anxiety that generates you not knowing even where to seat or how to start your intervention. The

name of the course is THE REAL SPORT ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE, precisely because the student has the opportunity to live his/her first case before CAS, helped with the experience of lawyers and arbitrators without involving third parties' interests. Each group only risks the honor of doing it right.

Q: ¿How many students are there every edition of the course?

A: Each edition has two groups of five students each that litigate against each other in Spanish and two groups of five students each that litigate against each other in English.

The visits will take place in two different sessions, one for the Spanish group and another one for the English group, with the assistance of the three arbitrators and back up lawyers, although these last ones will have prohibited their intervention (not their advice) at the hearing.

Q: ¿Are there attending sessions?

A: Given that every member of the group may be anywhere around the world, ISDE has an informatics tool that allows the backup lawyers to have tutorial sessions online wireless, and forums for the students of each group to use for sharing and exchanging their knowledge and strategies.

Q: ¿What if someone needs further information?

A: Through the link <http://www.therealarbitrationexperience.com/> or contacting ISDE at Calle Recoletos number 6 de Madrid (28001), telephone number: +34 911 265 180 or by E-mail: masters@isdemasters.com.

Rodrigo and Alberto, thank you for your kindness with IUSPORT and its readers.

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