

# Sports players – Legal and commercial considerations



## Legal agreements

In any form of business venture you are bound, sooner or later, to become involved with formal contracts. It is essential that you get a lawyer to look at the small print of the more important legal agreements that you need to enter into.

## Trading laws

Whatever your business, there are three trading standards which are almost bound to affect you. If goods are faulty, customers can have a full or partial refund; goods must always live up to the claims you make for them and goods must meet certain safety standards. You should also familiarise yourself with the requirements of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 and how they affect your trading relationships with both customers and suppliers. It is worth checking with a solicitor to find out what affects you.

## Insurance

There are many types of risk that you can insure against but the following are, perhaps, the more important ones:

- Public & Third Party liability
- Employer's liability (a legal requirement)
- Business interruption
- Professional Indemnity
- Theft or damage to assets

## Contact Us

Adrian Houstoun +44 (0)20 7566 3802  
Chris Hughes +44 (0)20 7566 3604  
Gordon Follows +44 (0)1727 896 040

## Employment law

There is much legislation on employing staff. The more important issues include:

- Written Terms of Employment
- The Minimum Wage
- Statutory Sick Pay
- Maternity Leave
- Redundancy
- Health and Safety at Work
- Stakeholder Pensions

Many employers take out an Employers' Protection insurance policy.

## Stationery

To comply with legal & VAT requirements, you will need to know exactly what can, must and cannot be included on your notepaper, invoices, statements etc.

These vary according to the legal status of the business you have.

## Protecting your intellectual property

It is essential that you take steps to protect your rights to any original work, designs, inventions etc. of your own creation whether it be by way of patent, copyright or otherwise.

Lynsey Christini +44 (0)20 7566 3608  
Robin Armstrong +44 (0)20 7566 3833  
Matthew Earl +44 (0)20 7566 3642

## The Data Protection Act

This legislation seeks to control information about other people that you retain by way of any electronic or other medium, how you use it and the rights of others to demand details of information you hold about them. Make sure you know what is required.

## Disaster recovery

With all the planning in the world things can still go wrong. Always be prepared. Plan for all potential disasters, not just IT failures. Put arrangements in place to recover from them as soon and as best you can. Don't just assume that disaster recovery plans will work, test them out.

## About Kingston Smith's sports team

Kingston Smith is a top 20 firm of Chartered Accountants. Our sports sector team have an in-depth understanding of the sports sector. We have helped many sports clubs and professionals and this experience means you receive positive and practical advice, based on a thorough understanding of your sport. By offering a 'one stop' complete tax and accountancy solution for all sports clubs and professionals, we can give you confidence that your commercial interests are being successfully managed.

To find out more about Kingston Smith's bespoke services to the sector please visit:  
[www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/sports](http://www.kingstonsmith.co.uk/sports)