



CONTRACT AND COMPENSATION MATTERS

Sports teams must recruit, retain, and appropriately motivate the best talent available. A key component of this effort is the negotiation of employment agreements for coaches and other team leaders and college and university administrators.

With experience representing collegiate and professional teams in a variety of sports, including football, basketball, baseball, hockey, and soccer, the Jackson Lewis Collegiate and Professional Sports Industry Group is uniquely positioned to assist clients with contract negotiations, drafting, administration, and enforcement. Our attorneys understand the regulated environments in which college and professional athletes and coaches operate, as well as the reality that behavior – both on and off the court – can be critical to the overall success of an athletic program. Our attorneys can effectively combine this specific knowledge with their experience negotiating and drafting employment contracts and other agreements intended to motivate performance.

The Jackson Lewis Collegiate and Professional Sports Industry Group also understands the legal and tax implications associated with the broad array of incentive compensation arrangements and other perquisites often proposed in negotiations. Drawing upon our knowledge of the sports industry, our attorneys guide professional sports teams, colleges, and universities in drafting contracts that meet the needs of management while also taking into account the individual's financial and tax interests.

We can assist clients with all aspects of sports-related contracts and compensation matters, including:

- Negotiating executive employment agreements with coaches, managers, athletic directors, administrators, and other high-level team officials.
- Developing guidelines or agreements that address outside activities, such as “shoe” contracts, broadcasting opportunities, consulting engagements, and sports clinics, which are often available to coaches as a result of their position with an athletic program.
- Incorporating codes of conduct into incentive compensation arrangements.
- Drafting employment documents for assistant coaches, interns, and other members of team administration.
- Handling contract disputes in litigation, arbitration, or other alternative dispute resolution forums.

For more information on Jackson Lewis' Collegiate and Professional Sports Group, please contact Paul Kelly at Paul.Kelly@JacksonLewis.com or Gregg Clifton at Gregg.Clifton@JacksonLewis.com.