

Sports law

Protecting sports clubs,
organisations and
individuals



THE LAW FIRM WITH
A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

About HCR Law

HCR Law is an award-winning, dynamic law firm providing comprehensive legal services to businesses and private clients across ten offices, from Cardiff to Cambridge.

Our sports lawyers support athletes, clubs, sponsors, venues, organisers, and governing bodies. We specialise in Premier League and EFL football, Premiership rugby, motorsport (including Formula 1), cricket, ice skating, and supporting both professional and amateur athletes. We also advise on global events like the FIFA World Cup and Commonwealth Games.

Our tailored services for sports professionals and organisations, include:

- **Finance:** Raising capital for clubs and individuals
- **Commercial contracts and event management:** Drafting and negotiating sports agreements
- **Corporate:** Mergers, acquisitions, and structuring
- **Data protection and intellectual property:** Compliance, privacy, and IP protection
- **Disciplinary and regulatory:** Advice and representation
- **Dispute Resolution:** Arbitration, litigation, and mediation
- **Employment and Immigration:** Contracts and immigration solutions
- **Private Client and Family Law:** Personal legal support
- **Reputation management:** Crisis and media management
- **Restructuring and Insolvency:** Corporate and individual debt solutions
- **Safeguarding and governance:** Athlete safety and organisational advice.

Our Passion for People is at the heart of everything we do. It's the engine that keeps us ticking and inspires us to do our best. We're not satisfied unless we're making a real difference to people's lives, and we'll keep working hard to ensure we achieve the best outcome possible for you.

Key contacts



Kate Oliver
Partner, Head of Sports, Media and Entertainment

M: 07740 366 202

E: koliver@hcrclaw.com

hcrlaw

Winning advice

We act for a broad range of sports clubs, agents, athletes, governing bodies, organising committees, sponsors, and rights holders. Our advisory team are passionate about sport, so their legal expertise is grounded in an understanding of what you care about too – helping you move forward when faced with a potential issue, or opportunity for growth.

From grass roots to premiership, local to international, and from individuals to Olympic teams, we have the experience you need. We take your legal and compliance headaches away, so you can focus on getting back to winning, and doing what's right for you and your organisation.

Working with



Official Legal
Partner



Partner to
Gloucester-Hartpury
Women's RFC



Official Legal
Partner

Raising finance for growth

If your club needs to access additional funding, our banking and finance solicitors have the lending connections you need, and expertise to help make the borrowing process as smooth as possible. We can help you leverage your assets, finance property development and refinance existing debt.

Our awards



We advised an English Football League club on its loan arrangements with the FA and Premier League.



We advised the British Ice Skating Association in relation to sponsorship, ticketing and various contract issues.

“ ”

The HCR team is proactive, thoughtful and efficient; they are very good at managing relationships, negotiating effectively and getting deals done.

Client quote

Ensuring your contracts are watertight

Our commercial team will draft, advise on, and negotiate all types of sport-related contracts. Our team contains specialists in intellectual property, data protection and AI.

We can help you put your commercial ideas into practice and support the organisation of major matches and events, including event and venue agreements and technology contracts.



We advised on, and provided legal reviews of, advertising and promotions relating to FIFA World Cups – particularly on the associated risks and liabilities.



We advised the rights holder of a T20 cricket tournament on all steps of the arrangement and management of the event, including drafting, advising and negotiating an event management agreement and other essential contracts.

HOW WE HELP SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

“ ”

Kate Oliver's comprehensive understanding of regulatory laws, coupled with a strategic approach to legal proceedings instilled confidence in me throughout the process.

Elite Sports Coach

Gearing up for change, growth or sale

Our corporate team can support you with shareholders advice, guidance on corporate governance including constitution, and corporate structures. If your club, business, or organisation is gearing up for a joint venture, merger, sale or acquisition, our due diligence process and expert corporate lawyers will ensure you are protected, and your liabilities minimised.



We assisted with the creation of Sports Council Trust Company to hold all the National Sports Centres.

HOW WE HELP SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

In your corner

If you get into a dispute, for example with a player, governing body, supplier, or the shareholders, we'll be by your side. Our dispute resolution team regularly act on sporting matters and always try to keep the issue out of court – saving you time, money and stress.

“ ”

As a Head Coach, Manager and Leader, to be suddenly, without warning, cast to one side and prevented from doing my job is one of the worst experiences possible. However, as soon as I was in touch with HCR, I felt someone was on my side and there was light at the end of the tunnel.

National Olympic Coach



We assisted a minority shareholder and joint partner in a Formula 1 team to successfully bring an unfair prejudice shareholder and director misfeasance dispute.

HOW WE HELP SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Keeping your team where you need them

We're your people-experts. We advise on player transfers and immigration, day-to-day employment challenges, and projects including staff recruitment or disputes.



We advised a county cricket club on an Employment Tribunal matter that involved immigration law.



We've arranged multiple visas for international players.

“ ”

An extremely formidable team that helped get us what we wanted when we wanted it. I certainly would not want to be on the other side of the table to them!

Client quote

Staying on the right side of the regulations

Not only do we help keep your club compliant on health and safety, trading standards, and food safety – we can also help you to maximise your premises licence, by providing strategic advice on how to make best use of your space and facilities.

When it comes to needing advice on safeguarding, professional conduct or anti-doping, we'll be by your side at every step. We can provide strategic media and PR advice, minimising any fall out from club or player activity. Our clients include major food and drink chains, hotels, sports clubs, including individual well-known sports men and women, and also governing bodies - when the need arises, we're your problem solvers.



We advised a leading sportswear retailer when concerning the use of children in advertising campaigns and any associated safeguarding issues.



We helped establish The National Sports Medicine Institute (NSMI) and the Anti-Doping structure with King's College, London.



Maximising your property and land

We advise on all aspects of the commercial property lifecycle; from acquisition, development, and funding through to asset management and disposal and everything in between. We have specialist commercial property, real estate dispute resolution, planning, and construction solicitors – so we can help you maximise your real estate position, wherever you are in the cycle.



We advised on construction contracts for development at a county cricket club involving a new hotel and conference venue to make it a year-round venue, maximising revenue.

HOW WE HELP SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Avoiding troubled waters

If your club or organisation gets into financial difficulty, our restructuring and insolvency team can help you avoid troubled waters by offering a lifeline. We help safeguard jobs and protect company directors. We can provide advice on what you need to do to protect yourself against insolvency proceedings and can defend you should you face disqualification proceedings.



We acted for a leading sports club when it was facing multiple winding up petitions from HMRC.



When a British basketball team were on the brink of extinction, we supported a new ownership. The quick work meant there were no job losses and the team were playing the next season.

“ ”

We are delighted with the support provided by HCR Law who worked around the clock and over the weekend alongside us.

Owners of British basketball team

Global connections

With extensive experience working in overseas markets and on international agreements, our teams have built meaningful relationships with legal partners all around the world. Having advised on global sporting matters and major events for decades, our specialists are well connected and positioned to support you wherever you are.



We advised stakeholders in relation to international mega-events including FIFA World Cups, Commonwealth Games, and Expo 2020 Dubai.



Our team provided extensive legal support relating to the inaugural Dubai Tour, the first stage of the Union Cycliste International Asian Tour calendar.

Your best defence tactic

We provide advice to national governing bodies, Olympic committees, charities and sports clubs ranging from grassroots to elite level.

We represent high-performance coaches and professional athletes, offering tailored advice on safeguarding, disciplinary issues, and sports regulations to ensure their legal protection and success.



We advised multiple sports clubs on safeguarding, child protection issues and disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks.

“ ”

From the outset, Kate Oliver put our minds at rest with a strategic plan in place, she left no stone unturned. Kate helped us manage our frustrations and emotions throughout the difficult hearing and her professionalism and no-nonsense approach was amazing. Everything she said would happen, happened.

Elite Olympic Coach

“ ”

Hefin Archer-Williams really understands how national governing bodies work, ensuring that he is well-placed to advise on member disputes.

Client quote, Legal 500 2025

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs in motion on a blue running track. The person is wearing a blue athletic top and shorts. Their right leg is a prosthetic, dark in color with a white knee joint, and is captured mid-stride, pushing off from a grey and yellow starting block. Their left leg is natural, wearing a red and white running shoe, also in mid-stride. The background shows the curved white lines of the track and a blurred green field.

HOW WE HELP SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Playing for purpose

Our Charities and Not-for-Profit team simplify complex legal matters so you can focus on what is important. We provide specialised advice for charities, not-for-profits, philanthropists, and related entities. We assist with incorporation, governance, trustee training, mergers, and dissolutions.

Our team also handles Charity Commission applications, such as those for spending permanent endowments, making changes to governing documents, and merging charities.



We acted for a charity established to help those who have suffered a sports-related spinal cord injury resulting in tetraplegia/quadriplegia.

“ ”

Forming a part of HCR Law's multi-disciplinary national sports group, the attentive and hardworking Cardiff-based offering has been particularly active handling dispute resolution matters for a range of stakeholders in the sports sector.

Client quote, Legal 500 2025

Protecting you now

We support players and individuals on a variety of challenges. We draft and negotiate sponsorship agreements, as well as endorsement or merchandising contracts. We also deal with, and help prevent, disputes over intellectual property or image rights.

We'll help you protect your interests - if it comes to needing incident response, an investigation, advice on handling prosecution or preparation for a trial, we'll be at your side.



We've drafted high value football player transfer and loan agreements.



We acted for a Premier League footballer to unwind an overseas trust company structure and simplify it into a UK structure.



If you're buying or selling your home, our specialist residential property team can help make your move as smooth as possible. We know you'll want a swift transaction with minimal fuss.

“ ”

HCR gave me exceptional legal representation during a difficult period in my life in the face of untrue allegations and intense media scrutiny. They approached every aspect of my case with professionalism, diligence and compassion.

Client quote

Protecting your future

When you've worked hard to grow your personal wealth, it's important to have advisors that can help you protect and manage it effectively, and ensure it is passed on through generations or dealt with as decided by you. Our experts work with private individuals and family offices, to help you get the most from your assets, now and in the future. We draft wills and trusts and help individuals with their estate planning – minimising your tax liabilities along the way.

Protecting your family

We advise on issues affecting every kind of family – including divorce, matters involving children, pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements and international family law. We can also help with immigration matters if you are looking to move your family to the UK.

“ ”

The lawyers are extremely friendly and make it easy to pick up the phone, whatever the question. They are an outstanding firm.

Client quote



We've acted for several high-profile footballers and other sports professionals in their divorces and family matters.

hcrlaw

Our team supports athletes, clubs, sponsors, and organisers – from grassroots to global level. We'll give you a formidable teammate, whoever the opponent. Find out more by visiting our website.

www.hcrlaw.com

