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The 25th Volume of the International Sports Law Journal

2025 marks a major milestone in the life of the International Sports Law Journal as we publish our 25th volume of cutting-edge research. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of the ISLJ's physical and spiritual home, the TMC Asser Institute in The Hague, where we will be returning for our annual conference on November 6 and 7 later this year.

The origins of the ISLJ can be traced back to the Asser International Sports Law Project,¹ which grew out of the Asser Round Table Sessions that were held in the beginning of 1996 to examine the legal impact of the Bosman case.² As the Project's work began to contribute to the Institute's specialist research programmes in international law, the law of the European Union, the law of international organisations, and international commercial arbitration, the decision was taken to establish The Asser International Sports Law Centre, with a mission to advance the study and practice of transnational sports law through high-quality scholarship, research, education and consultancy. The Centre started life on 2 January 2002 and, from this point, took over the running and editorial management of the ISLJ. In the first editorial after the creation of the Centre, the ISLJ's first Editorial Board, Robert Siekmann, Janwillem Soek, Simon Gardiner, and Jim Gray said that,

The International Sports Law Journal will be continued as the Centre's journal, the main purpose of which is to comment upon and to inform those interested in sports and the law - whether academics, practitioners or others - about "legally relevant" developments in the world of sport in a national and international perspective.³

The vision of the original editors remains very much at the heart of everything that the ISLJ seeks to achieve.

Over the first 24 volumes, the ISLJ has covered all of the major and emerging developments in international and transnational sports law. From freedom of movement to doping, competition law to the right to participate, the evolution of good governance to the operations of the Court of Arbitration of sport, human rights to esports, and many more topics alongside of these, the ISLJ has become the leading authority on their analysis and discussion.

As we begin our 25th volume, sports law and *lex sportiva* continue to evolve as dynamic and innovative fields of research and scholarship, with a growing audience and increasing diversity amongst our authors, including those engaging with inter- and multi-disciplinary approaches. We have a growing number of submissions from India, including two in this Issue from Sheikh Inam Ul Mansoor on the regulation of traditional medicines and an examination of the regulation of inclusivity standards in Indian sports by Tarun Tarun, V. Rakshitha, Rishiraj Pargaonkar, Souniya Dhuldhoya and Anamika Shukla. We are also leading on the development of the growing scholarship on the Olympic Games, Olympic law and *lex Olympica*. Two papers in this issue examine the Olympic Games: Prof Jules Boykoff builds on his keynote address to the ISLJ 2024 Conference, examining the Olympics in crisis, and Prof Jacques de Werra examines the protection of the Olympic properties in the digital environment. Later this year, we will have a special issue on the evolution of *lex Olympica*, with Guest Editors Prof Yuliya Chernykh and Dr Jörg Krieger, building on the workshop that they organised at the Lillehammer Olympic and Paralympic Studies Centre.

The topics of our articles are also becoming more diverse, with an increasing number examining the need for sports organisations to take their human rights responsibilities more seriously and the impact

¹ For more information on the history of the Asser Centre for International Sports Law see, <https://www.asser.nl/sportslaw/about-the-centre/>.

² Case C-415/93 *Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL v Jean-Marc Bosman, Royal Club Liégeois SA v Jean-Marc Bosman and others* and *Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA) v Jean-Marc Bosman* [1995] ECR I-4921.

³ Siekmann et al (2002).

of the law on the governance and regulation of esports becoming increasingly sophisticated. Alongside of these emergent specialisms, we continue to encourage and receive work on the topics that we have always covered, including the repercussions of the Court of Justice of the European Union's decisions of December 2023,⁴ AG Ćapeta's opinion that the *res judicata* position of CAS awards should be overturned,⁵ and the upcoming decision of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in Caster Semenya's case. 2025 also marks an important stage in the latest review of the World Anti-Doping Code, which will be the topic of the ISLJ's annual conference on the 6 and 7 November.

The Centre and the ISLJ both continue to provide a range of activities and resources for the transnational sports law community. These include the Centre's summer programme on human rights and international sport, its collaboration with Gujarat National Law University's Centre for Sport and Entertainment Law for the conference: Transnational Sports Law from the Periphery: A Global South Perspective, and the Asser International Sports Law Blog. Alongside of the journal's main activities is the ISLJ's Annual Conference, the ISLJ's Archive and the TMC Asser Press' International Sports Law Series of books. Each of these elements ensures that we meet our aim of continuing the ideals of the founding editors by developing the scope and breadth of the research that we promote and the contributions of the authors to the ongoing development of sports law.

It is an honour to be the Editor in Chief as we reach this important landmark and to work with the Editorial Board and the members of the Centre. We are all looking forward to continuing to set the agenda for sports law and scholarship for the next 25 volumes.

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⁴ Duval and James 2023.

⁵ Case C-600/23 *Royal Football Club Seraing v FIFA, UEFA et al*, Opinion of AG Ćapeta of 16 January 2025.