

The European Court of Justice

and its Connections to Sport

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Introduction

- Founded in 1952
- Based in Luxembourg
- Judicial authority of the EU
- Settle legal disputes between EU member states, EU institutions, businesses and individuals.

Structure

- Divided into 3 courts:
 - Court of Justice
 - Court of First Instance
 - Civil Service Tribunal

5 most common cases

- References for a preliminary ruling
- Actions for failure to fulfil an obligation
- Actions for annulment
- Actions for failure to act
- Actions for damages

Relationship with sport

- The Court of Justice has no direct relationship with sport
- Sport is part of the common law:
 - is subjected to the principle of free movement of persons, goods and services.
- Mainly connected to professional sport

Rulings

- Bosman 1995:
 - important decision on the free movement of labour
 - profound effect on the transfers of professional sportsmen within the EU
- Simutenkov 2005:
 - Partnership agreement between Russia & EU
 - Same consequences than the Bosman ruling but with non-EU countries that have association agreement with the EU

Others connections with sport

- Non-profit sport organisations don't have to pay value-added tax
- Finance of sport, Veikkaus monopole

References

- curia.europa.eu
- europa.eu
- wikipedia.org