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I am very pleased and honoured to write the foreword to this book.

As Professor Ian Blackshaw, a member of and expert on the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), points out in his Introductory Remarks to this book, the CAS, which is in its 27th year of operations, is establishing itself in the sporting world, as its founders intended to be, as the ‘Supreme Court of World Sport’.

Claimed to be the world’s favourite sport—and it must be added the world’s most lucrative one—football, not surprisingly, is providing the CAS with a lot of cases, especially disputes on international transfers of football players, since football’s world governing body, FIFA, joined the CAS in 2002.

It is most fitting, therefore, that a collection of landmark cases has now been made and commented upon by sports law experts in this book, which is both timely and most welcome. I would warmly congratulate the editor, Alexander Wild, and also the publisher, Philip van Tongeren of the T.M.C. Asser Press, on this worthy initiative.

The book is the latest in the Asser International Sports Law Series, of which the editors are Prof. Dr. Robert Siekmann and Dr. Janwillem Soek, and which is a publication of the ASSER International Sports Law Centre, based in the ‘legal capital of the world’, The Hague, The Netherlands. It is also the first book on this important subject.

As already indicated, this book will fill a gap in the international sports law literature and provide an invaluable resource for all those involved in the legal aspects of the ‘beautiful game’, particularly extra-judicial dispute resolution, including administrators, regulators, football agents and their legal advisers. The book will also prove very useful to students and researchers in this particular field.

It will certainly find a place on my book shelf and, once again, I would welcome and commend this book to all those concerned with this developing and significant
aspect of the activities of the CAS and its continuing—and, I would add, very valuable—contribution to a so-called Lex Sportiva in sport in general and in football in particular.

New Delhi, Summer 2011

Amaresh Kumar *
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