**INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN SPORTS LAW ROBERT C R SIEKMANN 2012 TMC ASSER PRESS THE HAGUE THE NETHERLANDS HARD BACK PAGES 419 + XI ISBN 978-90-6704-851-4 PRICE 129.95€**

This new Book by Prof Dr Robert Siekmann, who really needs no introduction, is a very welcome addition to the International Sports Law literature, for much of which sports lawyers and academics alike around the world have to thank Rob for his various initiatives and contributions, especially his pioneering editorship of ‘The International Sports Law Journal’ and various Books in the ‘Asser International Sports Law Series’ (of which the present Book is one of them) and his organisation of ‘Round Tables’ for the presentation and discussion of topical and controversial Sports Law issues, in his capacity as Founder and Director of the TMC Asser Instituut International Sports Law Centre in The Hague – the legal capital of the world.

The Book, although selective as its sub-title ‘*Capita Selecta*’ suggests, covers a wide range of interesting topics, which include: the ‘specificity’ of sporting rules and regulations; the collective selling of TV rights (in this connection, it may be noted that the English FA Premier League have recently sold their live TV rights for the seasons 2013 -2016 for a record sum of £3bn!); other EU aspects; sports betting; sport and nationality; sport and politics (which are not supposed to mix!), particularly the fascinating and thorny subject of sporting boycotts; the universal and continuing problem of doping; and, of course, a great deal on the subject of the world’s favourite and most lucrative sport, association football (soccer), including the social dialogue in the European Professional football sector, the legal issues raised by professional football transfers and the premature unilateral breach of players’ contracts and how to compensate them (Webster, Matuzalem and De Sanctis cases) and fighting football hooliganism in Europe.

The Book also includes the full text of Rob Siekmann’s Inaugural Lecture of 10 June, 2011 delivered in the capacity of his recent appointment as Professor of International and European Sports Law at the School of Law of Erasmus University Rotterdam. This Lecture includes in an Annex an intriguing and erudite study of the origins of the terms ‘*Lex Sportiva*’ (Sports Law proper) and ‘*Lex Ludica*’ (Rules of the Game), which the Lecture itself examines in some detail with examples. The Lecture - not surprisingly - addresses the on-going question of whether there is such a thing as ‘Sports Law’ and concludes as follows:

“In summary, it can be concluded that: (1) *sports law* exists, (2) according to the ‘sources theory’ which in fact is presented in this address, it comprises a public and a private part, (3) it is proposed to name the public part ‘lex sportiva’ (*sporting law*) and the private part ‘lex ludica’ (*sportive law*), and (4) the ‘hard core’ of sports law is chiefly ‘judge-made law’: of the European Court of Justice (now: Court of Justice of the EU) as the public judge – at least from a European (EU) perspective, or court (regional), and of the Court of Arbitration for Sport as the private court (global).

Additionally, and from a different perspective, it can be argued that the Laws of the Game (the term is here used in a generic sense) are in fact the ‘hard’ core of sports law. They then are surrounded by the regulations of the sport governing bodies at the national, regional and global levels. Together they form the lex ludica (sportive law). In this circular model, the lex ludica is surrounded by the lex sportiva at the various levels.”

There is plenty of food for thought in this Book for sports lawyers, academics and all others with an interest in sport and I have no hesitation whatsoever in commending this excellent Book to all of them and also congratulating its author on writing and publishing it.

So, read on!

**Prof Dr Ian Blackshaw International Sports Lawyer and Academic**