



SELA BLOG GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the Suffolk Law Sports & Entertainment Law Association Blog! The goal of the Blog is to help contributors develop a strong writing portfolio that can be shared with prospective employers while also encouraging creativity and thoughtful expression of your interests in all areas of sports and entertainment law. These guidelines are intended to serve as both a template and a set of general rules governing the writing, submission, approval, and editing of blog posts.

A. CORE RULES/PRINCIPLES

There are four core rules governing all blog submissions:

- (1)** The topic must relate to sports and/or entertainment law;
- (2)** No legal advice may be given under any circumstances (the disclaimer **must** be included at the end of every post);
- (3)** No political opinions are permitted;
- (4)** The use of Generative AI to write **any** portion of your Blog post is **prohibited**; and
- (5)** Submissions must be professional, respectful, and free from discriminatory, defamatory, or demeaning language. Contributors may not make disparaging remarks about individuals or groups based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or any other protected characteristic.

With respect to rule (3), we recognize that political figures or government actions can intersect with sports and entertainment law issues, and those connections may be discussed. However, such topics will be reviewed carefully to ensure compliance with these rules. If the Editorial Board determines that one or more of these rules have been violated, the submission may be denied at the Board's discretion. That said, submissions will not be rejected without

discussion—our goal is to work collaboratively with contributors to reframe or revise arguments so they can align with these standards.

The Blog aims to promote thoughtful and diverse legal analysis. At the same time, as a student-run organization operating under the University's name, we must remain mindful of these boundaries.

B. SUBMISSION

1. Forms of Request.

- a. There are two ways to request publication:
 - i. Topic Proposal (Pre-Approval)
Submit a formal topic proposal request to the Editorial Board in accordance with the guidelines in the Topic Proposal section. We will be approving topics on a running basis. The Editorial Board will track submissions via the [Google Sheet](#) to avoid duplicate topics.
 - ii. Completed Draft Submission
Given the fast-paced nature of the Sports and Entertainment Industries, we understand that some topics may be time sensitive. Therefore, you may submit a completed draft for consideration via email. The Editorial Board will review your submission and notify you of its status within three (3) days.

2. Topic Proposal Formalities. Submit the request via email to the **entire Editorial Board**. Your request must include:

- a. The issue or case you plan to write about; and
- b. A brief, 3-4 sentence summary describing your topic and the argument or perspective you intend to present.

Please note: Submissions will only be considered if they are sent to the entire Editorial Board.

C. APPROVAL

1. Approval will occur within a maximum of 48 hours after submission. Your assigned editor will reach out directly to inform you of your submission's status.
2. Once approved, the assigned editor will add the topic to the shared Google Sheet so that other contributors are aware and can plan their submissions.

3. If multiple contributors propose the same topic, approval will be granted on a **first-come, first-served basis**.
4. If your submission is not approved, the editor will provide feedback explaining the decision and guidance on how the proposal may be revised.
5. Writers will have up to seven (7) days after approval to submit their first draft for editing.

D. BLOG POST GUIDELINES

1. Format

- a. Length
 - i. Blog posts should be approximately 1,000 words. While the Editorial Board does not wish to impose overly rigid limits that could hinder creativity or enthusiasm, submissions longer than 1,300 words may not be considered.
- b. Document Title
 - i. Draft submissions should be titled: Lastname-SELA Blog Draft 1
 - ii. Final submissions should be titled: Lastname-SELA Blog Final
- c. Click [here](#) to view a model blog template.

2. Title

- a. Create a title that grabs the reader's attention
- b. Must be 15 words or less
- c. If you are writing about a case, you must cite the case in the Title.
 - i. Example: Bad Agents or Bad Athletes? Rethinking the Definition of "Student-Athlete" Under the Uniform Athlete Agent Act—Williamson v. Prime Sports Mktg., LLC, 101 F.4th 302 (4th Cir. 2024).
- d. Find a relevant photo online to attribute to your Title
 - i. You must either hyperlink the artist's name or use a photo from a website that provides images without licensing requirements (for example, <https://openverse.org/>)

3. Brief Description/Introduction

- a. In 1-3 sentences, outline what your blog post will be about, the issue you may analyze, or the question you will answer.
- b. The goal is to give the reader a "roadmap" of what you will be discussing.
- c. Keep in mind that the introduction will also serve as the caption for any Instagram or LinkedIn posts created when the piece is published.

4. Facts/History

- a. Briefly explain the necessary background of your topic.
- b. This section is critical to ensuring the reader understands your topic and can follow your subsequent analysis.
- c. **ALL** sentences must be footnoted and cited to the place where you got the information.

5. Analysis

- a. Analyze your topic from a legal perspective.
- b. This is your opportunity to showcase your understanding of the issue and the law behind it.
- c. **ALL** sentences must be footnoted and cited to the place where you got the information.

6. Conclusion

- a. Express your opinion on the issue and how it connects to your analysis.
- b. Remember to tie your conclusion back to the points you discussed earlier.
- c. Aim to use active voice, but feel free to use passive voice when it reads more naturally.
 - i. [Helpful link for active vs passive voice](#)

7. Student Biography

- a. Provide a short biography of yourself.
- b. You must include:
 - i. your name, class level, and Suffolk email address
- c. You may include:
 - i. school affiliations, hobbies, or other relevant information you wish to share
- d. Limit this to 1-3 sentences maximum.

8. Disclaimer

- a. You **must** add the below disclaimer at the end of your blog post:
 - i. **Disclaimer:** The Suffolk Law Sports & Entertainment Law Association Blog is a student-run publication intended to encourage discussion, analysis, and enjoyment of issues related to sports and entertainment law. The content published on the Blog is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice. The views and opinions expressed are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Suffolk University Law School, the Sports &

Entertainment Law Association, or any affiliated faculty, staff, or students. Nothing on this Blog should be construed as creating an attorney–client relationship.

- b. You are **not** permitted to alter this language in any way.

9. Sources/Footnotes

- a. All citations **must** be in Bluebook format (22nd Edition).
- b. If you have any questions regarding Bluebook rules, do not hesitate to reach out to the Editorial Board.
- c. Internet sources can be cited in the following manner:
 - i. [Author name], [*Article Title*], [WEBSITE TITLE], [URL] (last visited [insert date]).
 - ii. Example: Richard Newby, *The Best '90s Horror Movies*, HOLLYWOOD REP., <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lists/the-best-horror-movies-1990s/> (last visited: [insert date]).
 - iii. Common BlueBook Rules:
 - 1. BB Table 1.3 (pg. 242): States and the District of Columbia
 - a. Citing to different state courts
 - 2. BB Table 6 (pg. 333): Common Names for Abbreviation
 - 3. BB Rule 10 (pg. 100): Cases
 - 4. BB Rule 15 (pg. 154): Books, Reports, and Other Nonperiodic Materials
 - 5. BB Rule 16 (pg. 164): Periodical Materials
 - 6. BB Rule 13 (pg. 140) Legislative Materials
 - 7. BB Rule 17.6 (pg. 181) Short citation forms (*Id.* and *supra*)
 - a. Parentheticals are **not** required but if you chose to do them look to **BB Rule 1.3** for guidance.
 - 8. BB Rule 5.3 (pg. 90-91) Omissions

D. EDITOR FEEDBACK

- 1. Editors will be assigned on a rotating basis after each topic or draft submission.
 - a. Contributors can not request a specific editor.
- 2. All editing communications will be conducted via email.
- 3. Contributors may request a Zoom or in person meeting with their assigned editor to discuss feedback. Editors may approve these requests at their own discretion.
- 4. Timeline for feedback:
 - a. The assigned editor will provide draft feedback within three (3) days of receiving the first draft.

- b. Once contributors have received their feedback from editors, they will have three (3) days to implement the feedback and return the revised draft.
 - i. Editor feedback that is **redlined** must be implemented.
 - ii. Editor feedback that is **suggested in comments** may be implemented.
- c. The editor will then conduct a final review to ensure the submission addresses the feedback and meets the requirements outlined in these guidelines.
- d. If the final draft is approved, it will be published on the seventh (7th) day following initial submission.
- e. If additional edits are required, the editor will notify the contributor and provide further feedback. The contributor will then have three (3) days to revise and resubmit the draft.

E. SELA BLOG OFFICE HOURS:

- 1. Office Hours will be held by the Editorial Board **bi-weekly on Saturdays from 12:30pm-1:30pm**.
- 2. Office hours will start September 19.

F. EDITORIAL BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

- 1. Editor-In-Chief: Willem.Steiner@su.suffolk.edu
- 2. Blog Editor: Skylar.Daray@su.suffolk.edu
- 3. Blog Editor: Patrick.Ferrara@su.suffolk.edu