

Richard Liddell QC

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Has very good technical knowledge and is extremely effective at client service. He takes a rigorous approach to his work.

- Chambers & Partners

Richard Liddell QC's practice primarily covers four areas: commercial disputes (including insurance coverage and international arbitration), professional liability claims, construction and engineering litigation and sports law.

Many of his cases have an international dimension and he is frequently instructed in commercial and construction disputes in the Middle East before the DIFC Courts (where he has rights of audience) and in arbitration claims.

Rick is currently instructed to advise on various coverage issues arising from the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition to acting as an advocate and adviser, Rick is also regularly appointed as Arbitrator.

Rick took silk in 2020 and is recommended as a leading practitioner in the legal Directories for Professional Negligence, Construction and Sports law. Quotes from the Directories include:

"A superb advocate"; "We received amazing feedback for him from our clients"; "A team player and is excellent on his feet"; "Intelligent and meticulous"; "Very bright"; "Charismatic"; "Very personable"; "Good under pressure"; "He is very well liked by clients, works hard and has a very amicable manner"; "Extremely user-friendly and proactive"; "Solicitors note his collaborative approach and the ease with which he integrates into a team. His expertise spans the entire range of professional indemnity work"; "He manages difficult clients well"; "Very good on dispute strategy and tactics" and "Good at cutting through the noise to get at the points that matter." [Professional Negligence]

"Extremely talented"; "A very able courtroom performer and shrewd tactician"; "has the ability to pick up and analyse complex technical information"; "demonstrates particular strength in cases concerning architects, specialist consultants and civil and structural engineers. He regularly acts as sole counsel in adjudications and arbitration and has appeared as junior counsel in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He is becoming steadily more involved in disputes occurring in the Middle East and East Asia". [Construction]

"He's a talented performer in the courtroom"; "A welcome addition to the front Bench - a brilliant sports law lawyer with exceptional professional regulatory skills as part of his all-round talent. A vast array of sports-related experience and expertise. Tactical nous. Excellent manner with clients"; "Extremely talented in this field, having acted across a number of sports. A powerful advocate and a joy to work with"; "He is highly skilled, knows his brief and is not aggressive, but is certainly highly effective"; "Proving himself to be a rising star at the Bar for horseracing cases." "A very competent barrister with a broad sports practice." [Sport]

He prides himself on being an incisive and responsive barrister and a user-friendly team player. He places particular emphasis on having a command of the detail but without getting bogged down in trivia and being able to provide the best practical and commercial solution to legal problems.

He has wide advocacy experience and appears before the Commercial Court, Chancery Division, TCC and appellate courts as well as in sports disciplinary tribunals, including the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Rick relishes his role as an advocate.

Rick also has a very strong arbitration practice and is currently involved in a number of high-value ICC and LCIA Arbitrations with seats in Dubai, Paris, London and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM). The subject matter of his arbitration practice ranges from construction disputes to insurance coverage disputes to sports law and he is experienced in acting in arbitration claims where the governing law is not English law.

Rick has been involved in numerous other high-profile cases, including *Aspect v Higgins* (Supreme Court), *Mengiste v Endowment Fund* (CA), *Elvanite v AMEC* (TCC), *Linklaters Business Services v How Engineering Services Ltd & Ors* (TCC), *The Innovator Litigation* (substantial multi-party Commercial Court litigation), *Amec Group Ltd v Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.* (multi-million pound construction insurance litigation), *Mandrake v Countrywide* (Chancery Division and CA), *The TAG litigation* and the *Hillside Girl Inquiry* (Horseracing corruption hearing).

Rick is also recognised and regarded for offering expertise in the fields of sports law and sports disciplinary law. He is regularly instructed by World Rugby and has acted for numerous other international and domestic governing bodies, including the IAAF, England Netball and England Lacrosse. His cases include acting for an Olympic Gold Medalist in a selection appeal to British Rowing, the National Governing Body for Rowing; successful high profile doping appeals on behalf of the International Association of Athletics Federations at CAS; acting for a Spanish football club in a CAS appeal; advising a professional footballer on a doping appeal to the FA; advising rugby players in doping appeals and disciplinary cases; and acting in FA Rule K Arbitrations.

Rick also regularly sits as an arbitrator and was recently a member of an English Football League Arbitration Panel (together with Sir David Foskett and Andrew Smith) which determined an appeal brought by a League Two Football Club against a decision of a Disciplinary Commission. He is also frequently appointed as a sole arbitrator in FA Rule K Arbitrations.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Richard Liddell.

Transparency Statement

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Areas of Expertise

Sports Law

“A welcome addition to the front Bench – a brilliant sports law lawyer with exceptional professional regulatory skills as part of his all-round talent. A vast array of sports-related experience and expertise. Tactical nous. Excellent manner with clients.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

“He has a great understanding of the world of sports disputes and he is able to draw on a host of past experience to help guide a case.” – *Chambers & Partners, 2021*

“Excellent at assessing the best strategic options.” – *Legal 500, 2020*

“Extremely talented in this field, having acted across a number of sports. A powerful advocate and a joy to work with.” – *Chambers & Partners, 2020*



Richard is a highly regarded sports law barrister. He acts for both athletes/players and governing bodies and has appeared in appeals in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Richard's cases have spanned the following sports: athletics, badminton, boxing, cricket, eventing, football, hockey, horseracing, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, rugby union and shooting.

Richard is instructed in sports commercial disputes, disciplinary matters and sports arbitrations, including anti-doping cases and safeguarding matters. He also advises on sports-regulatory and welfare issues; and has advised on the implications of the Equality Act 2010 (which provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all) in the context of a group of players with a particular disability.

Richard was one of a handful of 'specialist advocates' on the pro bono panel for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and acted in a number of matters in the lead up to the London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo (2021) Olympics.

Recent cases include:

- Court of Arbitration for Sport: Acted for a Spanish football club in an appeal from a Decision of the FIFA Players' Status Committee.
- Court of Arbitration for Sport: Acted for World Rugby in an anti-doping appeal brought by an international level player.
- SAIDS Arbitration: Acted for the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport in anti-doping proceedings brought against a Springbok player.
- Rugby Football Union Disciplinary Panel: Acted for one of the Barbarians FC rugby players in disciplinary proceedings brought by the RFU for breaches of the COVID-19 protocols and regulations.
- UK Anti-Doping: Acted for an elite level athlete (runner) who was being investigated by UKAD for a potential breach of the Anti-Doping Rules (but was ultimately persuaded not to charge the athlete).
- National Safeguarding Panel: Acted for a national governing body in an arbitration commenced by a sports coach who was challenging findings of fact in a report by two independent investigators.
- Sitting as a specialist arbitrator in various football matters, including the recent high-profile Wigan FC appeal.

Richard has previously acted for the IAAF in anti-doping appeals; the British Horseracing Authority in cases of corruption and financial impropriety; and has been retained in various sports commercial litigation cases.

Richard also lectures on sports law issues and is a member of the International Bar Association, BASL (the British Association for Sport and Law). He is also on the Editorial Board of LawInSport.

Qualifications & Memberships

He is a member of COMBAR, PNBA, the Chancery Bar Association and the British Association for Sport and Law. He is also a member of the IBA and IPBA.

Education – M.A. (Cantab.) LL.M. (Cantab.)

Insights

Sporting Event Cancellation Insurance: Will it play ball or be kicked into touch?

25 March 2020

Many events, including music, theatre, conferences and exhibitions have been cancelled or postponed in the wake of COVID-19 and more will follow.

Shareholder Disputes in Sport

24 July 2019

As the law of unfair prejudice in the conduct of companies' affairs has developed, sports clubs (particularly football and rugby



clubs) have proved to be fertile sources of disputes between shareholders. In this article, we examine unfair prejudice petitions which have concerned the sports sector to look at the effects of those decisions and at what we can learn not just about the sorts of shareholder disputes which arise in sports clubs but also what we can learn from those decisions and apply to shareholder disputes in other contexts.

Sport and anti-doping – the year in review 2018/19

16 May 2019

Richard Liddell and William Harman of 4 New Square wrote an anti-doping update for Law In Sport on 16th May 2019. Its primary focus is UK anti-doping, decisions in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and developments relating to the major international anti-doping bodies.

Orascom TMT Investments S.À.R.L v. Veon Ltd [2018] EWHC 985 (Comm)

14 May 2018

The Commercial Court has recently criticised the practice that is commonly adopted for presenting challenges under sections 67 & 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996. Ben Elkington QC and Rick Liddell review the decision:

GDPR and Sport: make sure that you're on the ball!

11 May 2018

Richard Liddell, Kendrah Potts and William Harman look at some of the principal enforcement risks facing sporting bodies under the new regime described by the ICO as a “game-changer” and consider how the GDPR might feed into existing facets of sports dispute resolution.