

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Setting the pace  
in debating integrity

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024  
Leonardo Royal Hotel St Paul's, London

X #SportRes2024

 **SPORT  
RESOLUTIONS**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

**WINSTON  
& STRAWN**  
LLP





## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

### *Setting the Pace in Debating Integrity*

In line with our previous events, we will be discussing major topics in sport with esteemed panels of sport professionals and industry experts, and with the invaluable support from Winston & Strawn LLP as sole sponsor of the event.

We have again secured a world-class line up of speakers to deliver a day of lively debate, analysis and insight, with moderation led by television presenter and reporter Eilidh Barbour.

We'd like to give special thanks to our event sponsor Winston & Strawn LLP. We trust that you will find the speakers and themes both stimulating and challenging, and look forward to having you at what we believe will be another special annual event for Sport Resolutions.

Please join the Conference conversation by using  **#SportRes2024**

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SPONSOR

Winston & Strawn is delighted to sponsor the Sport Resolutions Annual Conference 2024, an event we have sponsored for the last eight years. We are proud to be associated with this industry leading event and partner with a not-for-profit organisation committed to the highest standards of integrity and transparency in sport. Winston has a long history of forging strong relationships with athletes, player associations, and many other participants in the sports arena through, among other activities, our involvement in many landmark sports industry cases and our strong connection to athletes' rights and sports governance issues. This sponsorship highlights our commitment to promoting the discussion and understanding of legal issues affecting sports, what causes sports disputes and how these disputes can best be resolved. We very much look forward to the 2024 Annual Conference which promises to bring insightful discussions around major topics in sport.

Winston & Strawn LLP has one of the world premier sports law practices. Their work has included some of the most famous legal matters in sports history including *Alston v. NCAA* (the case that culminated in a 9-0 Supreme Court victory for the college players against the NCAA); the US\$2.15B Los Angeles Dodgers acquisition; *McNeil v. the NFL* (the landmark antitrust jury trial that led to the establishment of free agency in the NFL); the multi-billion-dollar construction and permanent financings for SoFi Stadium; and *Morgan v. USSF* (the case that led to a historic equal pay settlement for the players on the Women's National Team).

Winston & Strawn's team represents leading player associations, professional athletes, player classes in antitrust and other litigation, sports ownership groups, sports event organizers, intellectual property licensees and licensors, media companies, sports agents, lenders and underwriters of team and sports facility debt, governmental entities, coaches, competing sports leagues, sponsors, and others involved in disputes in the sports industry. The firm also has a high-quality transactional capability and represents purchasers of sports teams and financiers of stadiums – including financings of some of the most cutting-edge sports facilities in the world such as Real Madrid's 81,000-seat Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

For further information visit: [www.winston.com](http://www.winston.com)

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# CONFERENCE AGENDA

08:00 - 09:00

**WISLaw Networking Breakfast**

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08:45 - 09:20

**Registration / Breakfast**

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09:30 - 09:45

**Welcome by Richard Harry**

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09:45 - 10:45

**Sports' Overlooked Blind Spot:  
Addressing Abuse Against Match Officials**

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10:45 - 11:30

**Waving the REDs Flag**

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11:30 - 12:00

**Coffee Break & Networking**

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12:00 - 13:00

**International Investigations in Sport:  
Catching Wrongdoers**

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13:00 - 14:30

**Lunch & Networking**

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14:30 - 15:30

**Rise, Fall, and Redemption:  
The Dwain Chambers Story**

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15:30 - 16:15

**One Day in December:  
The Future Competitive Landscape in Sport**

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16:15 - 16:30

**Closing remarks by Audley Sheppard KC**

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16:30 - 18:30

**Drinks reception sponsored by Winston & Strawn LLP**

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WINSTON & STRAWN IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

# Sport Resolutions Annual Conference 2024

Winston has one of the world's premier sports law practices and our work has included some of the most famous legal matters in sports history.

## KEY AREAS

Sports disputes · athlete welfare and safeguarding · contract negotiations · collective bargaining agreements · doping allegations · sponsorships and promotions · funding · brand potential and intellectual property rights · sports related financial transactions · stadium financings

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[winston.com/sports](https://winston.com/sports)

**“The Winston team is set apart by their genuine passion and commitment to the underlying root causes of the cases they’re fighting for”**

CLIENT QUOTE, LEGAL 500 2024 (TIER 1, SPORTS)

**“The team’s legal expertise, experience, professionalism, strategic thinking and diversity is head and shoulders above anything I’ve ever experienced”**

CLIENT QUOTE, LEGAL 500 2024 (TIER 1, SPORTS)

**“The group tackles complex and sophisticated matters through thorough research and brilliant strategy”**

CLIENT QUOTE, CHAMBERS 2024 (BAND 2, SPORTS LAW)

## SELECTED CLIENTS

British Elite Athletes Association · Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) · National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) · United States Women’s National Soccer Team (USWNT) · National Basketball Association Players Association (NBAPA) · Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) · North American Soccer League (NASL)





## SESSION DETAILS

### SESSION 1

#### **Sports' Overlooked Blind Spot: Addressing Abuse Against Match Officials**

Allegations of serious offences and abuse against referees is on the rise in both professional and grassroots football, and reportedly in some other sports such as rugby and tennis. Whilst the culture of abuse may stem from societal behaviours, referees are expected to simply accept this as part of their job.

Some may believe that referees operating at the elite level have a degree of protection from aggression and intimidation because of the proliferation of cameras and media coverage. Even if that is the case, referees at grassroots level do not have those same protections.

New FA data shows that allegations of serious offences against referees are on the rise in the grassroots game. Does the problem originate from the lower age groups where children witness aggression from their parents towards referees? Or could it be that the younger age groups mimic what they see professionals do at the elite level?

This behaviour is of course not limited to players but also extends to managers and sometimes even club owners.

Without referees and match officials there would be no sport. If that is so, what are governing bodies doing to protect officials and punish those who behave badly? Recently Steven Reid was fined £5,000 and given a touchline ban for abusing a match referee in a Premier League game. The club was also fined £75,000. Is this enough given the riches of that league. Should the punishment be greater, or different?

In this session we will hear from leading referees and officials to hear their experiences on the field of play and learn of the vitriol and abuse they receive through social media and other channels. We will review steps taken to address this issue and explore what further measures should be implemented to improve what appears to many to be a deteriorating situation.

### SESSION 2

#### **Waving the REDs Flag**

In this session, we will delve into Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (REDs), explaining and detailing the short and long-term health and performance implications associated with this condition. We will explore the prevalence of REDs across various sports and suggest that this physiological imbalance arises from a combination of bio-psycho-social factors.

Dr. Emma Ross will present data on the prevalence of REDs within sports, emphasising the significant risk it poses to our duty of care towards athletes. She will also provide insights into the current status of screening and diagnosis for REDs.

Emma will be joined by Maddie Dunn (Sports Director at the IFSC) who will share her experiences in dealing with REDs in practice at the International Federation of Sport Climbing which has become the first International Federation to introduce comprehensive regulations related to REDs. Additionally Bobby Clay, a former international athlete whose career in athletics was cut short after she was diagnosed with osteoporosis at the age of 19 will also be part of the panel.

### SESSION 3

#### **International Investigations in Sport: Catching Wrongdoers**

During the UEFA European Football Championships, hundreds of specialised officers across 28 countries were targeting organised crime groups looking to earn millions from illegal gambling and related money laundering activities.

INTERPOL announced in 2021 that their Operation SOGA VIII (short for soccer gambling) led to thousands of raids and the arrest of some 1,400 suspects across Asia and Europe. Authorities seized USD 7.9 million in cash, as well as computers and mobile phones connected to nearly USD 465 million in bets.



## SESSION DETAILS

More recently from November 2022 to January 2023 in relation to the World Cup in Qatar, Operation SOGA IX resulted in 1,200 arrests and significant seizures, including USD 2 million in confiscated funds and USD 76 million in digital betting records.

International federations (IFs) have to be constantly vigilant about a broad range of threats, including match-fixing, doping and safeguarding concerns, and must work collaboratively with a variety of bodies and organisations to investigate and collate information about allegations of wrongdoing.

How do IFs go about this process and from where do they get their intelligence and information? How do they address data protection issues? How do they overcome geographical constraints and geo-political realities, particularly in the current climate with the war in Ukraine and instability in the Middle East.

This session will focus on the challenges faced by international federations when conducting their inquiries and the steps they take to overcome difficulties to gather evidence and conclude investigations.

Nigel Mawer (WPBSA Vice Chairman and Head of Integrity) will give a presentation on how WPBSA approaches investigations in Snooker, followed by a panel discussion with Karen Moorhouse (CEO of International Tennis Integrity Agency) and Brett Clothier (CEO of the Athletics Integrity Unit).

### SESSION 4

#### Rise, Fall, and Redemption: The Dwain Chambers Story

In 1997, Dwain Chambers broke the world junior record, becoming the fastest junior globally. He gained sponsorships and celebrity status but faced disappointment with a 4th place at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Seeking answers, he joined an elite sprint group in the US, led by Remi Korchemny and supported by Victor Conte, inadvertently involving himself in the 'BALCO Scandal' and serving a doping suspension in 2003.

Despite backlash and exclusion from lucrative events, Chambers returned, achieving remarkable feats: 3rd fastest time in history for 60m, World Champion in 2010, and multiple British titles. A CAS decision overturned his exclusion from the 2012 Olympics.

Dwain is the only athlete to break 10 seconds for 100m in three decades, compete nationally for four decades, break the over 45's 60m world record, and now aims to break the over 45's 100m world record.

In this session, we delve into Chambers' journey in athletics, his involvement with BALCO, the 2005 interview, and the consequential battle he has had to continue to compete in athletics.

### SESSION 5

#### One Day in December: The Future Competitive Landscape in Sport

On 21 December 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union delivered on the same day preliminary rulings on pivotal cases involving the European Super League, the International Skating Union, and the 'Home-Grown Players' rule.

Across multiple legal principles including competition law, freedom of movement, anti-discrimination, and arbitration, these rulings have profound implications for the regulation of supranational sporting competitions, disciplinary actions, and dispute resolution.

Domestically in the UK, last year also saw competition law and restraint of trade principles considered in the PGA European Tour and the FIFA agents regulations challenge, the latter following the Court of Arbitration for Sport considering the same challenge but finding the other way.

For the existing sporting regulatory framework, these rulings provide invaluable guidance for maintaining the status quo. Conversely, for emerging rival sporting competitions and their investors, the legal battleground is set to challenge protectionist practices.

This session aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of recent landmark decisions in sports law. We will examine these rulings in detail, distill their outcomes, and pinpoint the critical factors shaping the future competitive landscape of both domestic and international sport.



## SPEAKERS



**Eilidh Barbour** @eilidhbarbour  
Presenter

Eilidh is an experienced and versatile sports presenter and reporter. As a reporter, Eilidh is a familiar face across Premier League and FA Cup matches for BBC Final Score and is also the Sky Sports SPL Anchor. As a presenter, Eilidh regularly fronts Football Focus, Final Score, FA Cup draws and highlights, as well as The Women's Football Show for BBC.

Alongside football, she is also the face of BBC's Golf coverage and presents the BBC Women's Six Nations highlights show.

Since 2015 Eilidh has worked at major sporting events, such as the FIFA Women's World Cups, the Euros, the Winter Olympics, as well as The Open, The Masters, PGA Championship and The Ryder Cup over the years.

Eilidh was also part of a historic milestone in 2022, presenting the first Scottish Women's domestic game to be broadcast on Sky Sports. Eilidh is also a regular event host for corporate events and awards ceremonies, and most recently hosting with Sodexo.

Away from the day job, Eilidh can often be found on the golf course or hiking in the Scottish mountains.

### ////////// WISLaw Networking Breakfast – Guest Speaker //////////



**Mathilde Lefranc-Barthe** @WinstonLaw  
Winston & Strawn LLP

Mathilde's focus lies in international litigation and arbitration, where she serves as the head of the Litigation Practice at the firm's Paris office. She has twenty years of experience, representing major corporate entities, evolving mostly in regulated sectors (Health Care, Finance), in high stakes commercial disputes before arbitral tribunals as well as before States courts and authorities. She regularly assists French entities and their affiliates in the context of international investigations and proceedings pending abroad, including for discovery purposes as well as for the application of blocking statutes. Mathilde, who is accredited as a mediator, has developed a strong experience in amicable dispute resolution. Additionally, she manages a diverse portfolio of sports-related matters and has represented athletes in the context of disputes against federations and the IOC before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

### ////////// Session 1 //////////



**Wayne Barnes** @WayneBarnesRef  
Squire Patton Boggs

Wayne joined Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) in January 2022 after ten years at a boutique white collar crime law firm where he conducted detailed investigations into government public tender contracts. Since joining SPB, he has undertaken complex internal investigations for SPB's global network of clients across multiple jurisdictions and has expanded the firm's sport investigation offering. Relevant recent reviews include: an internal investigation into bullying within an Olympic sport, which included recommendations on improved governance; a sensitive investigation into a boardroom leak, again, centering on governance issues; and a review and reconciliation instruction leading to wide-ranging recommendations including the overall of the national governing body's disciplinary structure. Wayne is regularly instructed by national governing bodies, professional sports organisations, commercial sponsors, and rights holders on all aspects of sports law, governance, ethics, and safeguarding.



**Mike Riley** @IrishFA  
Irish Football Association

In 13 years as a Premier League referee, Mike took charge of over 300 topflight matches, including the 2002 FA Cup Final, 2004 League Cup Final and the 2005 Championship play-off final. In 1999 he was appointed to the FIFA International Referees List and over the next 10 years he refereed almost 100 matches across the world, including the Hong Kong Cup Final in 2007. Mike was selected to referee at the 2004 UEFA European Championships in Portugal. His final match on the 27th June 2009 saw him referee the final of the Shell Under 10 tournament in the Westman Islands.

After that game Mike became the Managing Director of PGMOL, the organisation responsible for the 700 elite match officials in England. He continued in this role for 14 years, before stepping down last summer. In that time Mike served on the FIFA Referees' Committee and the UEFA Referee Development Committee.

Mike is now Head of Refereeing for the Irish Football Association, coaches referees from under-represented groups in England and advises a number of businesses and sporting organisations.



**Andrew Nicholas-Wynee** @ITFTennis  
International Tennis Federation

After 7 years as a police officer, Andrew qualified as a Barrister specialising in Family and Court of Protection Law, and was based at St John's Buildings in Manchester and Sheffield from 2000 until late 2023 when he retired.

He began officiating tennis matches at the age of 18, following a very unsuccessful career as a player in North Wales. He first attended Wimbledon in 1982 and officiated there for 20 years. During that time, he umpired 3 Main Draw Finals as well as numerous Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup ties.

In 2002 his career at the Bar allowed his progression from officiating on court to off-court. He has been the Chief Umpire at Queen's Club in London for 12 years and is also the Chief Umpire at Wimbledon, in charge of over 450 officials.

Prior to retirement from the Bar, he took up a post at the International Tennis Federation with responsibility for all major assignments including Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, Olympics and Paralympics as well as being responsible for administering the Code of Conduct for over 3,100 officials worldwide.

Away from tennis, he is an increasingly visible fan at Wrexham FC!

### ////////// Session 2 //////////



**Dr Emma Ross** @thewellhq  
The Well HQ

Scientist, researcher and practitioner Dr Emma Ross is the former Head of Physiology at the English Institute of Sport. She led the UK High Performance System's first ever strategic approach to Female Athlete Health with the SmartHER programme.

Emma is behind several breakthrough initiatives that ensure active women - and their support teams - understand and support the female part of the female athlete. In 2021 she received the Sunday Times Sports Women of the Year Changemaker Award in recognition of her work to improve sport for women.



## SPEAKERS



**Maddie Dunn** @maddie\_dunn  
International Federation of Sport Climbing

A long-term advocate of the far reaching benefits of sport for personal and social development with over 15 years experience within the sports industry, Maddie's professional experience of sporting environments have included national and international stages with National and International bodies as well as other sport non-profits.

Maddie currently works with the International Federation of Sport Climbing in Torino, Italy as Sport Director, with previous roles in Sailing and Rowing and sits on the International Board of 'The True Athlete Project' a charitable organization that promotes the transformative power of sport through holistic and sustainable approaches that enhance the performance, welfare, and impact of athletes, sport, and society.



**Bobby Clay** @bobbsclay  
Former International Athlete

Bobby is a former international athlete specialising in the 1500m and cross country. At the age of 15, she was competing for Great Britain at the World Championships and was considered a rising star of athletics.

In 2015, she won the European U20 1500m title, had a professional contract, and was determined to pursue her Olympic dream. However, due to under-fueling and over-training, she was diagnosed with osteoporosis at just 19 years old, which ultimately ended her career in athletics. Since then, she has made it her mission to shine a light on REDs and give a voice to the person behind the performance.

### Session 3



**Nigel Mawer QPM** @WPBSAofficial  
WPBSA

Nigel is the Vice Chairman and Head of Integrity for the WPBSA and deals with all disciplinary and anti-corruption issues in snooker.

He is the Chair of the Darts Regulation Authority and is the independent regulator of Darts. He has recently set up the Pool Regulation Authority and is its inaugural Chairman. He also works as a freelance specialist advisor in the areas of sport regulation, integrity in sport and anti-corruption. He has considerable experience in investigating and prosecuting match fixing cases. He has worked with most of the main sports on sports integrity and sits on the Sports Betting Integrity Forum and Sports Betting Group in the UK. He is a Sport Resolutions Panel of Arbitrators Special Member.



**Karen Moorhouse** @itia\_tennis  
International Tennis Integrity Agency

Karen joined the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) as CEO in February 2023. Prior to that she was at the Rugby Football League where she was Chief Regulatory Officer and an Executive Director. Karen also served as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Rugby League World Cup hosted in England in 2022. She continues to be a Trustee of Rugby League Cares – the charity responsible for delivering Rugby League's welfare programme.

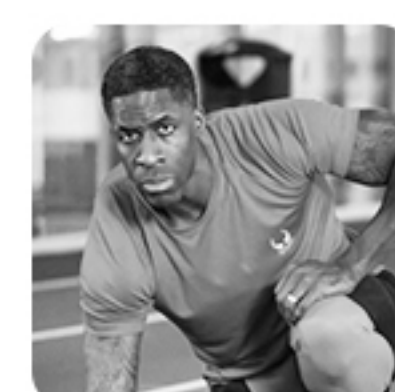


**Brett Clothier** @aiu\_athletics  
Athletics Integrity Unit

Brett Clothier is the Head of the Athletics Integrity Unit, the independent body that manages all integrity related issues for the sport of athletics. The AIU became operational in 2017 following changes to the World Athletics Constitution. These changes enshrined the operational independence of the AIU from World Athletics and put in place an independent Board to oversee its functions.

Mr Clothier has worked in sport integrity for 20 years. Prior to becoming the inaugural Head of the AIU, Mr Clothier worked in Australia as Head of Competition Integrity for the Australian Football League (AFL) and Legal Counsel to the Integrity Services Department of Racing Victoria.

### Session 4



**Dwain Chambers** @dwainchambers  
8 X British 100m Champion & European 60m Record Holder

Dwain Chambers is among the fastest European sprinters in the history of athletics, boasting international medals at both World and European levels. He ran a 100m world junior record of 10.06 s in 1997 and became the youngest ever world medallist in the event at the 1999 World Championships, taking the bronze.

On his Olympic debut at the 2000 Sydney Olympics he was the best European performer in fourth place. He broke the 10-second barrier twice at the 2001 World Championships. However, his career was marred by a two-year ban in 2003 after testing positive for a banned performance-enhancing drug. Consequently, he was stripped of the 100m European title and record he achieved in 2002.

He explored other sports, including American football and rugby before he secured silver at the 2008 World Athletics Indoor Championships, followed by gold at the 2009 European Indoors and he became world champion at the 2010 World Indoor Championships.

Dwain is the only athlete to have broken the 10-second mark for the 100m in three separate decades. He has competed at the top national level in four decades, recently broke the over 45's world record for the 60m event. Currently, he is training to break the over 45's world record for the 100m.

### Session 5



**John Mehrzad KC** @JohnMehrzadKC  
Fountain Court Chambers

John is a highly accomplished barrister specialising in sports law, employment, and commercial disputes. He was appointed as a silk after only 12 full years' practice – the fastest barrister appointee of the 2019 competition. He has earned recognition for his exceptional skills, including being listed in The Lawyer's "Hot 100 2023" and receiving nominations for 'Sports Law Silk of the Year'.

Known for his expertise in injunction applications, trials, and appeals, he handles a wide range of cases involving employment and commercial disputes, often related to restrictive covenants and confidential information. He is also recognised for conducting independent reviews and investigations, such as those for British Cycling and the British Equestrian Federation.

John also frequently acts in sports regulatory disputes, including disciplinaries, equalities and discrimination, safeguarding, selection, classification and doping charges.