

Spencer Turner

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

International & Travel, Personal Injury, Sport, Fraud, Industrial Disease, Clinical Negligence, Data Protection and Information Law

Spencer has a busy practice in sports disputes, personal injury, clinical negligence, international and travel law, industrial disease, information law, and group litigation. He is regularly instructed in complex and high-profile matters for claimants and defendants, both as led and as sole counsel across all of his core practice areas and before a range of different courts and tribunals. He is a sought-after junior barrister who is often praised for his diligence, excellent client care, strong advocacy and ability to work well in teams.

The legal directories recognise Spencer's expertise across a broad range of practice areas where he is ranked as a 'rising star' or 'up and coming' in personal injury, industrial disease, insurance fraud, international personal injury, clinical negligence and sports law. They variously describe him as "great" with "impressive advocacy", "already having developed a practice that exceeds his seniority", "absolutely superb", and "thorough, professional and well-liked by clients".

Spencer's sports disputes practice sees him regularly instructed on behalf of sports governing bodies, players/athletes, clubs, coaches and agents across the full range of sports matters. His personal injury, clinical negligence, industrial disease and travel work involves cases of the utmost severity, and he has experience of large-scale litigation, being led, and acting as sole counsel.

Sport

Spencer is recognised as an established junior in sports law. He is one of just two juniors ranked as a 'rising star' of the sports Bar in the most recent edition of the Legal 500 where he is described as "very thorough and precise in his advice, and careful in analysis", with "impressive" advocacy. He is also noted in the Legal 500 for his "particular expertise in high-value clinical negligence claims arising out of sporting injuries."

He is regularly instructed on behalf of players/athletes, governing bodies, agents, coaches and insurers across a range of sports including football, rugby union, rugby league, tennis, boxing and athletics. His experience spans the full range

of sports law matters including selection, doping, safeguarding, governance, disciplinary proceedings, commercial disputes and cases involving serious personal injury or clinical negligence. He has a range of experience acting in proceedings before different sports tribunals and he also sits as a Disciplinary Panel Member for the England Boxing Disciplinary Panel and is a Panel Member of the Sports Resolutions Pro Bono Panel.

Concussion, Serious Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence in Sport

Spencer acts for both claimants and defendants in concussion, serious personal injury and clinical negligence claims arising out of elite level sport. He is ranked as a 'rising star' in sport, personal injury and clinical negligence in the Legal 500 which makes him uniquely experienced in this area of law.

Spencer is one of the 'go-to' juniors at the sports law Bar in high profile concussion litigation. He is currently instructed (led by William Audland KC) by the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association in a claim brought by over 100 former players, who allege that they suffered a range of neurodegenerative injuries as a result of negligent governance of the game.

He is frequently instructed by insurers in respect of policy coverage issues arising out of personal accident policies in elite level sport and advises in respect of claims made against policies by various former professionals.

Alongside his work in concussion in sport, Spencer is a genuine specialist in serious personal injury or clinical negligence claims arising out of elite level sports. He has experience of handling issues such as loss of career earnings, the adequacy of training regimes and medical treatment which arise in such cases. His recent work includes:

- Instructed as junior counsel (led by William Audland KC) by the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association in a claim brought by over 100 former players, who allege that they suffered a range of neurodegenerative injuries as a result of negligent governance of the game.
- Instructed by a national governing body in respect of a claim made by an international rugby union player under a group personal accident policy.
- Acting for a Premier League footballer in a claim against a surgeon in respect of alleged negligent medical treatment following a fibula fracture. The claim is currently valued in excess of £6 million.
- Acting for a Premier League footballer in a claim against a Premier League club following the effective end of his career aged just 21 as a result of alleged medical negligence.
- Acting for a former Premier League and England U21 footballer in a clinical negligence claim arising out of treatment following an Achilles tendon injury.
- Acting for a Premier League footballer against his former club in a claim arising out of the alleged negligent reconstruction of an ACL following injury.
- Acting for a Championship footballer against his club in relation to a claim for an untreated symphysis infection which led to the player's early retirement.
- Acting for a WSL player who sustained serious injuries in a road traffic collision which led to her missing years of her career.
- Acting for a WSL2 player in a claim brought against her former club for an alleged failure to properly diagnose an injury and provide adequate rehabilitation.
- Acting for a League 1 player in a claim against his former club for an alleged failure to properly diagnose an injury suffered during a Carabao Cup match.
- Acting for a professional player who suffered serious injury following an over the ball tackle during a match.
- Advising in a serious injury case caused by the alleged negligent design of a racetrack.
- Acting in a serious injury case involving a professional cyclist which includes a 'loss of career' claim.

Safeguarding and Abuse

Spencer acts in safeguarding matters across all sports and in civil claims arising out of historic sexual abuse. He has experience of acting in safeguarding proceedings, investigations and in providing advice to sports regulators on all aspects of safeguarding, including in respect of the implementation and operation of safeguarding policies. He is able to

provide urgent initial advice on serious safeguarding matters (including in relation to any interim safeguard) where necessary.

Spencer has particular experience in civil claims arising out of sexual abuse in a sporting context. He is well versed in limitation, liability, causation and quantum issues that arise in such claims. Recent instructions include:

- Acting for a former professional player in a historic sexual abuse claim against an elite level tennis coach.
- Acting in safeguarding proceedings before the Independent Complaints Process set up by British Gymnastics.

Anti-Doping, Disciplinary and Selection Disputes

Spencer provides representation of athletes and sports personnel before the National Anti-Doping Panel in relation to the full range of anti-doping matters. His clinical negligence and serious injury experience mean that he is comfortable cross-examining medical and scientific experts.

Spencer also represents both clubs and participants before a wide range of governing bodies. His experience includes proceedings relating to both on and off field conduct. Spencer also sits as a Panel Member for the England Boxing Disciplinary Panel. His work also sees him involved in selection disputes and he is able to provide urgent initial advice and representation in such cases given their usual time sensitive nature.

Examples of recent instructions include:

- Representing a Rugby Union player charged with anti-doping offences including failure to provide a sample.
- Representing a professional heavyweight boxer charged following a professional bout after providing an adverse analytical finding for exogenous testosterone.
- Acting for a Team GB athlete who provided an out of competition sample containing a banned anabolic steroid.
- Acting for a winter sports athlete who was alleged to have tampered with the anti-doping process.
- Acting for an athlete who undertook a prohibited activity during a prior ban for an anti-doping rule violation, namely assisting a professional boxer licensed by the British Boxing Board of Control in preparation for a bout.
- Acting for a football manager in relation to a misconduct charge before the FA.
- Advising in a selection dispute involving a professional rower.

Commercial Disputes and Arbitration

Spencer acts in various commercial disputes between participants in sport. He has recently been instructed in respect of several matters which involved negotiating and drafting several commercial agreements between different sporting participants as well as breach of contract claims and debt recovery actions. Spencer also appears as counsel and in sports arbitrations including in arbitrations under Rule K of the FA Rules and section 9 of the EFL Regulations. Recent instructions include acting in a claim made by a Premier League player against his former club in a Rule K arbitration.