



# Jamie Johnston

**Year of Call:** 2016

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## Sports law

Jamie Johnston is an experienced advocate in, and chair of, sports disciplinary hearings. In recent months he has chaired hearings for UK Athletics, British Cycling and British Canoeing. A number of these included notable complexity, procedural issues and a significant number of allegations.

Jamie has experience in sports disciplinary matters including:

- Allegations of discrimination & racism
- Violent misconduct
- Accusations of cheating
- Social media related misconduct
- Breaches of contract by lottery-funded athletes.

Jamie also brings extensive personal experience in elite sport to his sports law practice. This means that he relates easily and naturally with athletes and coaches. They recognise that his empathy and inherent understanding of their case stems from decades in high-end sport.

As a former professional coach, Jamie has over 20 years of experience working with athletes at every level, from grassroots to international level. He coached numerous junior and senior international hockey players. He worked as a strength and conditioning coach with junior and senior international athletes across five different sports, including a Paris 2024 Paralympic gold medallist.

As an athlete he played national league hockey against numerous internationals and Olympians, and also ran cross-country for Warwickshire. He now competes for the British Triathlon masters team in duathlon.

Jamie has experience in equine matters, especially concerning the mis-selling of dressage horses. He has advised and conducted trials on equine disputes concerning hidden injuries and non-disclosure of behavioural problems.

### Recent sports work has included:

- Code of conduct breaches by an elite, funded athlete
- Advising on prospects for alleged misrepresentation in the sale of a dressage horse
- Appeal against sanction for bans imposed on a coach
- Successfully defending a golfer facing a suspension for alleged cheating
- Acting for a swimming club and its executive in disciplinary hearings alleging breaches of NGB regulations
- Allegations of discrimination by a coach.

## Reported decisions

Graham McCullen v UK Athletics

British Cycling Disciplinary judgment re: Gino Howe

## Recommendations

Jamie Johnston is ranked for Property and Construction in the **Legal 500 2026**/Midlands as a leading Junior.

"Jamie assisted in a dispute arising from a prestigious golf competition involving issues of competition rules, procedural fairness and the governance framework of a golf club.

Jamie quickly understood both the sporting and legal context of the dispute and was able to translate what was a complex and highly fact-sensitive situation into a clear and structured legal strategy. His advice demonstrated a strong grasp of the interaction between sports regulations, contractual terms and the obligations placed on competition committees and officials.

His advice was precise, well organised and persuasive, helping to focus the case on the key issues. He was approachable and practical in his advice, taking time to explain the legal position and the strategic options available at each stage.

Throughout the matter he combined strong legal analysis with a pragmatic and commercially aware approach to litigation strategy. Jamie comes highly recommend to those seeking counsel with expertise in sports law disputes, particularly where competition rules, disciplinary decisions and governance processes are in issue"

### A sports law client

"Jamie and I worked together negotiating a national sport contract. He had great attention to detail; displayed speed with which he picked up the issues; had a very effective and measured negotiating style; and was a pleasure to work with."

### Rod Findlay, Sports lawyer

"Jamie is an excellent chair on our Disciplinary Panel. He takes a logical and pragmatic approach to cases to ensure a fair and easy to understand process for all participants. He is patient, clear, extremely personable and a reliable and valued member of our Panel."

### Legal manager for a sports governing body

## Academic qualifications

- BPTC, University of Law - Outstanding
- GDL, University of Law - Commendation
- BA Hons English, University of Birmingham - 2.1

## Scholarships

- Exhibition Award - Inner Temple
- Paul Methven scholarship - Inner Temple

- Winner of The Times/Herbert Smith Freehills national student advocacy contest

## **Professional qualifications & appointments**

Appointed to the Disciplinary Panels of:

- UK Athletics
- British Cycling