



## **Richard Smith QC**

**Silk:** 2001  
**Call:** 1986  
**Email:** richard.smith@guildhallchambers.co.uk

**Practice:**  
**Sports Law**  
**Crime**

**Sports Law**

In an ever-changing professional sporting world where issues of misconduct, doping, and regulatory irregularity are common place, Richard has continued to practice in sports related disciplinary and regulatory matters since taking Silk in 2001. His involvement continues across a wide spectrum of sports, including rugby, horse racing, football, boxing, and swimming.

His advice and advocacy has extended to involvement with Clubs, Professional Bodies, and individual participants, principally at professional level, but also including amateur sports and sportsmen.

For some time Richard has been instructed as Counsel to the England Rugby Team. He appeared for the RFU before the International Rugby Board Disciplinary Tribunal during Rugby World Cup 2003 in the infamous "16 men on the pitch" incident. In addition, Richard was appointed Counsel to the British Lions 2005, and was instructed by the RFU to attend Rugby world Cup 2007 in France.

His considerable experience in the criminal courts has also enabled Richard to advise and successfully defend sportsman charged with criminal offences – most notably an international sportsman charged with sexual offences, and fraudulent practices by jockeys and trainers in horse racing.

Richard's experience in the field is now recognised and called upon by a number of Governing Bodies who have invited him to adjudicate on disciplinary matters. He has also advised on the drafting of sporting regulations.

Richard has lectured to Sporting Bodies and Solicitors alike, both home and abroad, on the subject of sports discipline. He is described in Chambers and Partners Directory as a "*Leading Silk on the Western Circuit...hailed by clients as one of those silks who soon earns the respect of all parties*". Legal 500 notes Richard is "*a leading sports law practitioner...a heavyweight silk*"

**Education:**

King's College, London  
Inns of Court School of Law (85-86)

**Appointments:**

Recorder (2000)  
Chairmen's List of the Sport Resolutions Panel  
British Boxing Board of Control Independent Doping Panel  
Football Association Appeal Board Chairman

**Professional memberships:**

British Association for Sport and Law  
Criminal Bar Association



## **Directory recommendations:**

### **Chambers and Partners 2010**

#### Crime

The *“Tremendously talented Richard Smith QC has a great deal of natural flair, and is particularly good in cases where a hard-hitting approach is called for.”* He leads the set and prosecutes and defends murder, manslaughter and serious sexual allegations.

### **Chambers and Partners 2009**

#### Crime

The *“thorough and approachable”* Richard Smith QC’s practice utilises his experience in both criminal and sports disciplinary matters. He typically works on cases involving murder, manslaughter and serious sexual offences. *“A swash-buckler in court”*, he is a solicitors’ favourite as he is *“very good at communicating with ordinary people.”*

#### Sports

Richard Smith QC of Guildhall Chambers has many supporters; sources particularly praised his efforts in rugby-related matters.

### **Legal 500 2006 & 2007**

Noted as a 'leading sports law practitioner as well as a heavyweight silk'

### **Clerk:**

Please contact Lucy Northeast ([lucy.northeast@guildhallchambers.co.uk](mailto:lucy.northeast@guildhallchambers.co.uk))