

Giovanni Maria Fares, LL.M., Attorney-at-Law
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Profile

Swiss-qualified lawyer with a rich legal background developed over more than ten years of work experience and education. Specialised in arbitration and sports law, with deep expertise in ethics, safeguarding, governance, disciplinary and regulatory matters. Fluent in four languages.

Work Experience

11.2025 – to date

Executive Director – Gymnastics Ethics Foundation, Lausanne

- Provide strategic and operational leadership for the Foundation, overseeing all day-to-day activities and organisational workflows
- Direct and manage disciplinary proceedings in line with the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) regulations, ensuring fairness, consistency, and procedural integrity
- Represent the Foundation before key internal and external stakeholders, including international sports bodies (e.g., IOC) and partner entities (e.g., IPACS)
- Ensure the implementation and continuous improvement of governance, ethics, and safeguarding frameworks across international gymnastics
- Contribute to the drafting and revision of policies, regulations, and procedural frameworks for the Foundation, the International Federation, and National Federations

03.2020 – 11.2025

Counsel – Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), Lausanne

- Managed more than 800 arbitral proceedings across the full spectrum of sports-related disputes, including disciplinary, doping, match-fixing, ethics and governance matters, as well as complex contractual cases (transfers, employment, sponsorship, image rights, etc.), ensuring efficient case handling from registration to final award
- Scrutinized hundreds of Arbitral Awards and Interim Orders for compliance with the CAS Code, ensuring procedural accuracy and consistency
- Drafted hundreds of Interim Orders on behalf of the Presidents of the CAS Divisions
- Acted as managing counsel during CAS *ad hoc* Divisions in occasion of the Olympic Games (Beijing 2022 and Paris 2024) and other major sports events
- Represented CAS at several conferences and seminars as a speaker and panellist

09.2018 – 02.2020

Senior Associate – CMS von Erlach Poncet SA, Geneva

- Acted as counsel and co-counsel in many commercial arbitration proceedings before key arbitral institutions (ICC, Swiss Arbitration, LCIA, CAS) and *ad hoc* panels
- Acted as tribunal secretary in numerous arbitral proceedings and drafted Arbitral Awards and Interim Orders
- Acted as counsel and co-counsel in numerous court proceedings (District, Cantonal and Federal Courts) in civil and criminal matters, as well in administrative proceedings (in particular with respect to anti-trust matters)
- Advised several national and international entities, as well private clients, on their day-to-day business operations and needs in matters related to commercial, anti-trust, labor, corporate, IP and real estate (including negotiation of deals and contract drafting)

09.2015 – 03.2018

Associate – Respini Jelmini Beretta Piccoli & Fornara Attorneys at Law and Notaries, Lugano

- Acted as counsel in numerous court proceedings (District, Cantonal and Federal Courts) and in many arbitrations (mostly under the former SCAI Rules)
- Advised several national and international entities, as well private clients, on their day-to-day business operations and needs in matters related to commercial, anti-trust, labor, corporate, IP and real estate (including negotiation of deals and contract drafting)

01.2014 – 01.2015

Junior Associate – Respini Jelmini Beretta Piccoli & Fornara Attorneys at Law and Notaries, Lugano

- Legal trainee in civil, public and criminal law

10.2012 – 12.2013 **Legal Counsel – Swiss Competition Commission (COMCO), Berne**

- Worked on investigation (including organisation and execution of several dawn-raids) and merger control proceedings in the construction and energy markets
- Drafted consultation opinions for the Federal Council on anti-trust matters and policies
- Provided opinions to public authorities as well private institutions and individuals

02.2011 – 07.2012 **Junior Legal Counsel – Swiss Federal Railways (SBB AG), Lucerne**

01.2009 – 04.2012 **Paralegal – Kaufmann Rüedi Attorneys at Law Ltd, Lucerne**

06.2007 – 09.2007 **Summer internship – Index Financial Services Ltd, Lugano**

Education

09.2017 – 07.2018 **LL.M. in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution – Queen Mary University of London (with Merit)**

06.2015 – 09.2015 **University of British Columbia, Vancouver**

06.2015 **Admitted to the Swiss Bar – Attorney-at-Law**

09.2010 – 07.2012 **Master of Law (*cum laude*) – University of Lucerne**

09.2006 – 07.2010 **Bachelor of Law – University of Lucerne**

09.2002 – 06.2006 **High School Diploma (Law and Economics) – Liceo Cantonale Lugano**

Speaking engagements

Overview of recent Jurisprudence of the FIFA Tribunal, CAS and the SFT, Associazione Italiana Avvocati dello Sport, Annual Congress, Naples, 2025

Anti-Doping & Match Fixing Rules and Practice in Tennis & Beyond - Clarification & Prevention, Paris Arbitration Week, Paris, 2025

Sports Arbitration Centres, Adapting to a Globalized Sports Landscape, Casablanca Arbitration Days, Casablanca, 2024

Review of Important National and International Jurisprudence in Sports-related Matters, Association Suisse de Droit du Sport Annual Congress, Macolin, 2024

EU Law and Football, Dublin's New Role in CAS Arbitration, The Bar of Ireland, Dublin, 2024

The CAS Ad Hoc Division at the Paris Olympic Games, Associazione Italiana Avvocati dello Sport, Annual Congress, Genua, 2024

CAS and the Football Industry – Contractual, Ethics and Disciplinary Matters, Polish Football Federation Annual Conference, Warsaw, 2024

CAS Leading Cases in Football Transfers, UEFA Football Law Programme, Lausanne, 2024

CAS and Football, Association Internationale des Avocats du Football, Annual Congress, Bordeaux, 2023

Mediation in Sport, Women in Sports Law, Annual Congress, Bordeaux, 2023

L'arbitrato sportivo, Casi recenti e nuove sfide, Association Suisse de Droit du Sport, Regional Conference, Lugano, 2023

Third Parties in CAS Arbitration, CAS Members Seminar, Geneva, 2023

Liquidated Damage Clauses, CAS Members Seminar, Lausanne, 2022

What is the essential toolkit for a first year as an arbitration practitioner?, ELSA Summer Law School, Geneva, 2019

Languages

Italian (native speaker), French (proficiency), German (proficiency), English (proficiency), Spanish (basic understanding)

Memberships

Association Suisse de Droit du Sport (ASDS), Board Member

Association Suisse d'Arbitrage (ASA) Below 40

Swiss Italian Students Association University of Lucerne (IUCIM), Honorary Member

Rotaract Lugano Ceresio