

NAILA R. RZA
nailasportslaw@gmail.com

Senior international relations and legal affairs professional with 15+ years of experience in international law, sports law, diplomacy, multilateral negotiations, and international legal and institutional cooperation. Extensive experience in sports regulatory and governance matters, including serving as Chair of the Committee on the Status and Transfer of Players of the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA), with responsibility for reviewing and addressing matters related to player status and transfers. Holds an LL.M. in International Law and a Global Executive Master in International Sports Law, complemented by specialized trainings in international sports law and sports arbitration. Experienced in legal and regulatory analysis, interpretation and application of regulations, contractual matters, negotiation, and institutional decision-making.

EDUCATION

Harvard Business School Specialization in Leadership and Management	Online December 2022-March 2024
ISDE - Law Business School Global Executive Master on International Sports Law	Madrid, Spain February 2015-December 2015
Diplomatic School of the Kingdom of Spain MA in Diplomacy and International Relations	Madrid, Spain October 2013-October 2014
Baku State University LL.M. in International Law Graduated with distinction	Baku, Azerbaijan September 2007-June 2009
Western University B.A. in International Law	Baku, Azerbaijan September 2002-June 2006

LANGUAGES

Azerbaijani, Russian (native); Spanish, English, Turkish (fluent).

SPORTS RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arbitrator, European Handball Court of Arbitration	August 2026 - present
Sports Venue Protocol Coordinator and Supervisor, III CIS Games 2025, Baku City Circuit	August 2025 –October 2025

**Chair of the Committee on the Status and
Transfer of Players of the Association of Football
Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA)**

December 2017 – March 2023

**Member of the Committee on the Status and
Transfer of Players of the Association of Football
Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA)**

March 2016 – December 2017

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture
Head of Department, International Cooperation and Protocol

Baku, Azerbaijan
December 2025- present

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
First Secretary, Americas Department

Baku, Azerbaijan
March 2023 – December 2025

**Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the Russian Federation (MFA)**
First Secretary

Moscow, Russia
December 2018 – December 2022

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Second Secretary / First Secretary
First European Department

Baku, Azerbaijan
January 2015 – December 2018

**Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the Kingdom of Spain (MFA)**
Attaché / Third Secretary

Madrid, Spain
February 2011 – February 2014

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Desk Officer/Attaché
Department of International Law and Treaties
Human Rights Protection Unit

Baku, Azerbaijan
November 2006 – February 2011

SPECIALIZED TRAININGS

- McKinsey & Company Forward Learners, 6 months of two levels online course.
- Strategy Execution, Harvard Business School Online, 8 weeks intensive course.
- Power and Influence for Positive Impact, Harvard Business School Online, 6 weeks intensive course.
- International Sports Law Conference/Training, Rome .
- Management Essentials, Harvard Business School Online, 8 weeks intensive course.
- Football Players Contract, London.
- Italian Language at Scuola Leonardo da Vinci, 5 weeks course, Rome.
- 6th International Sport Arbitration Conference, Lausanne.
- Executive Programme in International Sports Law (III Edition), Ravello.

- Foreign Policy of India for Foreign Diplomats organized by the Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- Executive Programme in International Sports Law (II Edition), Ravello.
- Spanish Language and Mexican Culture/Policy 5 months Course, Autonomous University, Mexico city.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Implementation of the FIFA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries in Azerbaijan”, published in Italy by the Sports Law and Policy Center
- “Training compensation in football and its difference with amateur minor compensation in Azerbaijan”, published by sport24.az
- “Regulations of the Committee of Players’ Status and Transfers of AFFA” (main author), published by affa.az
- Monograph for the International Encyclopedia of Laws on “Sports Law in Azerbaijan” (main author). Published online by Kluwer Law International.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Sports Arbitration, Dispute Resolution, Sports Law, International Law, Contract Law, Contractual Matters, Legal and Regulatory Analysis, Interpretation and Application of Regulations, Case Review and Assessment, Evidence and Document Review, Regulatory Compliance, Negotiations, Mediation, Decision-Making, Analytical Reasoning, Legal Research, International Relations, Multilateral Engagement, Strategic Analysis, Problem-Solving, Diplomacy, Stakeholder Management, Confidentiality, Impartiality, Multilingual Communication.