

# Manchester sports lawyer scores FIFA role

A sports lawyer at the Manchester office of Mills & Reeve has become the sole UK-based solicitor to be selected as a FIFA mediator.

Carol Couse, who is a partner in the sports, entertainment and media team, is also one of only four female lawyers globally to be selected as an approved mediator to the 19-strong panel.

Her appointment follows the move by FIFA to implement mediation within the proceedings of its Football Tribunal to enable parties to end disputes with the assistance of a mediator in a swift and efficient manner.

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Carol Couse, who is a fluent Spanish speaker and heads the firm's Latin America desk, advises clients on regulatory and commercial issues in sport, media and entertainment.

She has expertise in football regulatory matters including player transfers, player contracts and on and off field disciplinary matters.

She also appears before dispute resolution forums at a domestic and international level, including before UEFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

She is an accredited commercial and civil mediator and is a sport resolutions mediator and arbitrator.

Carol Couse said: "It is an honour and privilege to be appointed as a FIFA approved mediator alongside eminent sports lawyers across the globe.

“As a firm we are passionate about the benefits of alternative dispute resolution, and the adoption of mediation by football’s global governing body sends a strong positive message to the wider industry.”

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