

## **Abstract in English language**

The thesis is dedicated to the issue of the legal status of athletes, with the greatest emphasis placed on professional athletes engaged in team sports. Under the current legal framework in the Czech Republic, professional athletes are generally considered self-employed individuals, which does not correspond to the global trend of granting employee status through employment contracts.

The intention of this thesis is not only to describe the current state of legal regulation in the Czech Republic but also to propose possible directions for future legislative efforts, as the current state cannot be considered satisfactory. The thesis will address this issue from the perspective of professional team sports in general, as well as from the perspective of a specific sports sector, which will provide an opportunity for practical application of general findings. This sector will be ice hockey, through which the thesis will also compare Czech legal regulation with that of Switzerland, where the employment relationship between professional athletes and sports clubs is characteristic.

The thesis is divided into seven parts. The first part defines basic concepts related to sports law and sports in general, providing necessary groundwork for understanding the subsequent sections. The second part presents the systematics of legal regulation of the issue, both nationally and internationally. The following three parts focus on sports contracts in general and the status of professional athletes in team sports in the Czech Republic, with subsequent application of general theses to ice hockey. The penultimate part provides a comparison of the legal regulation of athletes' status in Switzerland for the purpose of comparison. Even in this segment, the focus is primarily on ice hockey. In the pivotal final part, the author, through key aspects of labor law, will attempt to propose possible future legal regulation that would grant employee status to professional athletes.