

Industrial and Systems Engineering Seminar

Frontiers in Sports Analytics: Randomness vs. Uncertainty

Wednesday, October 29

3:15 PM – Refreshments before the Seminar

3:30 PM – Graduate Seminar

Mechanical Engineering Room 4125 A & B



Joel Sokol

Associate Professor

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This talk focuses on one specific trend in sports analytics that is leading to extremely valuable new insights: the use of newly-available data to discover that some observed behavior previously treated as random effects is sometimes merely uncertainty, and can be modeled accordingly. In addition to a general overview, the talk will include some of my and others' recent and ongoing work in professional sports, college sports, and the business of sports.

BIO: Joel Sokol is Fouts Family Associate Professor, and Director of Georgia Tech's interdisciplinary Master of Science in Analytics degree. His primary research interests are in sports analytics and applied operations research. Dr. Sokol has worked with teams or leagues in all three of the major American sports, his LRMC method for predictive modeling of the NCAA basketball tournament is an industry leader, and his non-sports research has won the EURO Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize. Dr. Sokol has also won recognition for his teaching and curriculum development from IIE and the NAE, and is the recipient of Georgia Tech's highest awards for teaching. He currently serves as INFORMS Vice President of Education, and is a past Chair and founding officer of the INFORMS section on sports operations research. Dr. Sokol's PhD in operations research is from MIT, and his bachelor's degrees in mathematics, computer science, and applied sciences in engineering are from Rutgers University.