



July 9, 2025

Dear Current or Former Player:

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that you are a current or former player in the National Women's Soccer League ("NWSL" or the "League"). You may be eligible to apply for compensation from the National Women's Soccer League Players' Restitution Fund (the "Fund"). This letter includes important information about the Fund and how to apply.

On February 1, 2025, the NWSL entered into a settlement agreement with the Attorneys General of New York, Illinois, and the District of Columbia. In connection with the settlement, the League formed a Players' Restitution Fund to compensate current and former players who experienced Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety (as defined below) while they were employed by the League.

For purposes of eligibility, Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety includes any time a person in a position of power in the NWSL or one of its member clubs engaged in or facilitated inappropriate conduct towards an NWSL player, including discrimination, harassment, sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, bullying, and retaliation related to reports of such conduct. Any current or former NWSL player who experienced Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety is eligible to apply.

The [Honorable Barbara S. Jones \(ret.\)](#), a former federal judge and partner at Bracewell LLP, is the independent Administrator of the Fund. The Administrator is responsible for all aspects of the Fund, including reviewing and assessing applications, setting compensation, and distributing funds. Barbara Jones served as an independent member of a committee that oversaw the NWSL and the NWSL Players' Association's 2022 joint investigation into misconduct in the League. She is sensitive to the experiences many players shared in that investigation.

Should you wish to apply for compensation from the Fund, the application form is attached to this letter. You may also download the application from the NWSL and NWSLPA websites. Please fill out the application form completely and return it by January 5, 2026 to the Administrator by email at: [NWSLplayersfund@bracewell.com](mailto:NWSLplayersfund@bracewell.com) or by mail at:

NWSL Players' Restitution Fund  
c/o Hon. Barbara S. Jones (ret.)  
31 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Suite 1900  
New York, NY 10019

On the application, you will be asked whether you authorize the Administrator to request files or information related to any prior complaints or reports of misconduct you made to the League. No negative inference will be drawn if you decide not to provide this authorization, and no negative inference will be drawn if you do provide this authorization but there is a lack of information in the League's files related to any prior complaints or reports of misconduct you made to the League. The Administrator will make an independent determination regarding the reliability of any information received from the League.

Application materials will be treated as confidentially as possible, consistent with the Administrator's obligations to review claims and implement the Fund Plan. The application will ask whether you authorize the Administrator to share information related to your claim with the League if she determines it is necessary in order to address or prevent misconduct that is ongoing or was committed by current League or club personnel. The Administrator may determine that it is necessary to report a claim of misconduct to the League in order to allow the League to investigate, address, and prevent that misconduct from continuing. If the Administrator determines such a report is necessary, and your application authorized the Administrator to share information with the League, the Administrator may proceed to report the claim to the League. If the Administrator determines such a report to the League is necessary, and your application did not authorize the Administrator to share information with the League, the Administrator (or her designee) will:

- 1) Contact you to explain that the Administrator has determined it is necessary to report the claim at issue to the League in order to allow the League to investigate, address, and prevent misconduct from continuing; and
- 2) Provide you with the following options:
  - a. You may authorize the Administrator to make a report to the League, which can be done verbally and confirmed in an e-mail; or
  - b. You may make your own complaint through any of the reporting channels listed in the League's Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Policy (including an anonymized complaint via the RealResponse Hotline) and provide a copy of such report to the Administrator; or
  - c. In the absence of any authorization by you, the Administrator may report to the League the specific information she deems necessary for the League to investigate, address, and prevent the misconduct from continuing, which will not include your identity unless necessary as determined in the Administrator's discretion. If the Administrator determines it is necessary to disclose your identity, you will be

notified a minimum of 48 hours prior to the Administrator reporting the information to the League.

The League strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone for submitting an application or participating in the Fund. Furthermore, the process is designed so that your identity is not disclosed to the League until you sign the release to accept your compensation, except in limited instances of ongoing misconduct (as discussed above).

Should you choose to apply, you will receive confirmation that your application was received within thirty days. If you do not receive a confirmation within that timeframe, please follow up with the Administrator at the email address above. If you are a current or former player and therefore eligible to participate, your confirmation will include information about next steps, including scheduling an interview with the Administrator's team. Please note that an interview does not guarantee compensation from the Fund. A claim is only eligible for compensation if the Administrator determines based upon the application materials, interview, and any other relevant information, that it is more likely than not that Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety occurred.

If your claim is eligible for compensation, the Administrator will determine the amount of compensation you will be offered from the Fund, taking into consideration factors such as the nature, severity, and duration of the misconduct, number of incidents, and impact on your personal and professional life. No distributions will be made until all claims are received and assessed during the application period. If you receive an offer of compensation, you are under no obligation to accept it. If you do accept the Administrator's offer, you will be required to execute a release agreement before you receive the funds. It is at this point the League will become aware of your participation in the claims process, as the release agreement will be sent to the League.

The application window is open now, and applications will be accepted until January 5, 2026. The Administrator will begin processing claims on a rolling basis as soon as they are received. All claims received by January 5, 2026 will be given equal consideration. The Administrator will have ninety days to complete her assessment of all claims once the application window closes, though she may, in her discretion, assert that an additional ninety days is required to complete the assessment. Within fifteen days after the assessment period concludes, the Administrator will send final determination letters and release agreements to all eligible claimants. Claimants will then have thirty days from receipt of the final determination letter to accept their award and return the release. Funds will be distributed within thirty days of when the Administrator receives the signed release.

Questions about the Fund and the application process may be directed to the Administrator by email at: [NWSLPlayersfund@bracewell.com](mailto:NWSLPlayersfund@bracewell.com) or by telephone at: 646-799-2238. The NWSL encourages any player who believes they may have experienced misconduct covered by this Fund to submit an application.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Berman, Commissioner

