

NWSL PLAYERS' RESTITUTION FUND FAQs

Q: Who is eligible to file a claim?

A: Current and former players are eligible to apply for compensation if they experienced "Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety" during their time in the League. "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.

Q: Who will administer the Fund?

A: [The Honorable Barbara S. Jones \(ret.\)](#) of Bracewell LLP will serve as the independent third-party administrator of the Fund. Her appointment was approved by the League and the Attorneys General of New York, Illinois, and the District of Columbia. Barbara Jones previously served as an independent member of a committee that oversaw the NWSL and the NWSL Players' Association's 2022 joint investigation into and report on misconduct in the League conducted by the Covington and Weil Gotshal law firms (the "NWSL/NWSLPA Joint Investigative Report").

Q: When can I submit my claim?

A: The application window is open as of July 9, 2025, and applications will be accepted through January 5, 2026. All applications submitted by January 5, 2026 will be given equal consideration, meaning, preference is not given to an application based upon when it was submitted.

Q: How do I apply?

A: The application is available on the League's website, and copies were mailed and emailed to players' last known addresses. Applications may be submitted electronically to NWSLPlayersfund@bracewell.com or by mail to the Administrator at the following address:

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

Q: What will happen after I submit an application?

A: Claimants who submit an application will receive a confirmation that it was received. If the claimant is an eligible current or former player, the confirmation will include information about next steps, including scheduling an interview. If the claimant is not an eligible current or former player, the confirmation will state that the claimant is not eligible, and the claim will not be considered. Claimants should follow up with the Administrator

at NWSLPlayersfund@bracewell.com if they do not receive a confirmation within 30 days of submitting an application.

All eligible current and former players will be interviewed, but an interview does not guarantee eligibility for compensation. A claim is only eligible for compensation if the Administrator determines, based upon the application materials and interview, that it is more likely than not that the claimant experienced Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety.

Q: When will my claim be processed?

A: The Administrator will begin assessing claims as soon as they are received and will do so on a rolling basis. After the application window closes on January 5, 2026, the Administrator will have 90 days to complete her assessment of all claims, though she may, in her discretion, assert that an additional 90 days is required to complete the assessment. No distributions will be made until the assessment period ends and all claims have been assessed.

Q: What will the Administrator consider when evaluating my claim?

A: If the claimant is an eligible current or former player, the Administrator will assess whether Serious Misconduct Involving Player Safety is more likely than not to have occurred. The Administrator will make this assessment by reviewing the application and any supporting documentation (which may include the NWSL/NWSLPA Joint Investigative Report), interviewing the claimant, and interviewing or otherwise communicating with other witnesses as necessary.

Q: How much compensation is available?

A: The NWSL provided a total of \$5,000,000 for the Fund. As agreed by the League and the Attorneys General of New York, Illinois, and the District of Columbia, up to \$1,000,000 from the Fund has been set aside for claims against the League that were settled prior to the establishment of the Fund. The Administrator will evaluate all claims and determine how much of the total Fund to distribute to each eligible claimant. All costs of the Administrator will be paid by the League separately from the Fund.

Q: How will I be notified about the resolution of my claim? Will I have to sign something to receive my payment?

A: Within 15 days of finalizing the distribution amounts, the Administrator will issue to each player who submitted a claim a letter of final determination informing each claimant of their award amount, providing the release form required should the player choose to accept the award, and explaining the release form. This will be sent by both electronic and certified mail. Claimants are under no obligation to accept the award.

Q: How long will I have to decide whether to accept the Administrator's award? When can I expect to receive my payment?

A: Claimants will have 30 days to accept the award and return the release. Once the signed release is received, the Administrator will have 30 days to issue payment to the claimant.

Q: Can I submit an application anonymously?

A: No. In order to effectively and fairly consider claims, claimants must be identified.

Q: Do I need a lawyer to file my application?

A: No. A claimant does not need to retain an attorney to submit an application, nor will any priority be assigned to an application submitted by a claimant who has retained an attorney.

Q: Will my application be treated confidentially?

A: 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 claimants whether they authorize the Administrator to share information related to their 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 the claimant's 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 the claimant did not authorize the Administrator to share information with the League, the Administrator (or her designee) will:

- 1) Contact the claimant 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 the claimant with the following options:
 - a. The claimant may authorize the Administrator to make a report to the League, which can be done verbally and confirmed in an e-mail; or
 - b. The claimant may make their 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 the claimant, 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 the claimant's identity unless necessary as determined in the Administrator's discretion. If the Administrator determines it is necessary to disclose the claimant's identity, the claimant 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, except in limited instances of ongoing misconduct described above, the process is designed so that a claimant's identity is not disclosed to the League until a claimant signs a release to accept compensation.

Q: Where can I ask other questions?

A: All questions concerning the Fund should be directed to the Administrator either by telephone at 646-799-2238 or by email at NWSLPlayersfund@bracewell.com.