

## NFL PLAYERS' DISABILITY CLASS CASE RECEIVES PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

*Leveling the Playing Field: Federal Judge clears path for nationwide settlement involving disability benefit evaluations for former NFL players.*

**Montgomery, AL (June 3, 2026)** – A federal judge in Baltimore has preliminarily approved a nationwide class action challenging the use of race-based adjustments in testing used for disability determinations in the disability benefit plans for NFL players.

U.S. District Judge Julie Rebecca Rubin granted preliminary approval of a non-opt-out class action under ERISA, appointed Beasley Allen as lead counsel along with co-counsel Thomas O. Sinclair of Sinclair Law Firm, approved the named plaintiffs as class representatives, and set a final approval hearing for September 16.

The case centers on a testing adjustment known as “race norming,” which alters neurocognitive scores based on race.

The Plans directed physicians who were assessing players for cognitive impairment not to use race adjustments in June of 2021 but did not rescore decisions made prior to that directive. Now, as part of this class action settlement, Beasley Allen and co-counsel have negotiated with the Plans for a race-neutral approach to be used in reassessing those prior tests.

“Today’s ruling is an important step to ensure that race norming is not used in testing and making sure these former players are treated fairly,” said Dee Miles, Principal at Beasley Allen.

Filed largely under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the case seeks system-wide relief ensuring all affected players can benefit from the change to the Plans’ review of testing data from physicians.

As part of the proposed resolution, former players’ prior scores will be reassessed without race-based adjustments. While the full value of the case will not be known until that process is complete, it will provide complete relief to all the players who ultimately were impacted by these race-based adjustments.

“This is a meaningful victory for these players and for accountability in how cognitive testing is used in disability benefits determinations,” Miles added. “We’re proud to be part of the solution to this issue and of the team effort behind this case. We are now focused on seeing it through to final approval.”

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