

NWSL PLAYERS association

NWSLPA RATIFIES HISTORIC FIRST CBA IN WOMEN'S SOCCER HISTORY

Tonight, the NWSL Players Association ratified the first-ever Collective Bargaining Agreement in NWSL history. Subject to approval by the NWSL Board of Governors, Players will report to preseason camp tomorrow with the safety, security, and protections of a collectively bargained contract that sets NWSL on a positive trajectory for the future.

“From our inception, the Players Association has put players first,” said President Tori Huster. “Our mission in this historic CBA was to put this same philosophy at the center of NWSL’s future. With the amount of care and attention that we have given this process since Fall 2020, we are proud that players can confidently enter the tenth season of the NWSL in a better position than ever before.”

More than 30 current NWSL players devoted hundreds, perhaps more than a thousand, hours to securing this landmark agreement.

“The strength, resilience, and solidarity of this extraordinary group of players and people is what secured this landmark agreement,” said Executive Director Meghann Burke. “Players drove every decision in this process. Over more than 40 bargaining sessions, these players stood strong and stood together, right up to the moment of ratification. This is a historic moment not only for our sport and our League, but for all working people who stand up and stand together.”

Just a few of the major wins of the CBA include:

Compensation:

- 160% increase in minimum salary to \$35k, with 4% year over year increases
- Step-ladder increases in 2022 salaries to protect players above the minimum in 2021 401K plan with matching contributions from League commencing in 2023 Minimum standards for housing stipends

Free Agency:

- Free Agency starting in 2023 (6 Service Years)
- Free Agency starting in 2024 (5 Service Years)
- Restricted Free Agency starting in 2024 (3 Service Years)
- 4 weeks severance pay + 30 days housing & health insurance for waived players

Player Safety:

- Robust workers comp coverage
- Up to 6 months paid mental health leave
- 8 weeks paid parental leave (birth or adoption)
- Clean, private nursing facilities for parents
- Professional minimum staffing standards for healthcare professionals
- No more playing on fields that require substantial conversion to the dimensions of a soccer field

The NWSLPA will make the entirety of the ratified Collective Bargaining Agreement publicly available on its website in the coming weeks.

The NWSLPA is grateful to our brothers and sisters in the labor movement who paved the way for us to get here, and to our fans and partners for their unwavering support. We want to especially thank our legal team of Deb Willig, Jessica Caggiano, and Larry

Goodman of Willig, Williams & Davidson. There is no one else we would have wanted to spend more than 400 hours on a Zoom with. Happy birthday, Deb.

To the Players who came before us: We stand on your shoulders. We hope we made you proud.