



College Sports' Multibillion-Dollar House Settlement Has Been Approved, But What Happens Now?

In the News

06.12.2025

As college sports enter a transformative period with the official rollout of revenue sharing and stricter Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) enforcement, Archer attorney **Patrick Afriyie**, a former NFL and Colgate football player spoke to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* about the legal and institutional implications of this shift. The NIL clearinghouse, which opened June 11, sets off a 30-day window for athletes to log qualifying endorsement deals. By July 1, the revenue-sharing era begins, officially marking a new chapter in college athletics where the traditional amateur model is being replaced by a more professionalized system. "There's just been a major change," Patrick told the *Post-Gazette*. "I think when the NCAA lost the lawsuit that allowed players to start capitalizing on their [NIL], that was when they started to lose a lot of their control that they've had and relied upon for decades." He notes that the NCAA's power structure, once built on the principle of amateurism, has been fundamentally eroded, with schools now obligated to navigate a regulatory environment shaped by new compliance systems like the College Sports Commission (CSC) and NIL Go, the digital platform for deal oversight.

The CSC, led by former MLB executive Bryan Seeley, will serve as an enforcement body evaluating NIL agreements against criteria like market value, business validity, and institutional affiliations. While designed to bring fairness and structure, the system faces legal uncertainties, particularly around antitrust laws and the employment status of athletes. Patrick underscores this legal gray area, "If these players are getting paid directly by the schools, I think the argument that they're not employees becomes less and less realistic without some type of exemption." With multiple federal bills now under consideration, including the College SPORTS Act and the SCORE Act, lawmakers are being urged to step in and harmonize the patchwork of state laws that has complicated governance. Patrick also highlights the disparity in institutional capacity to adapt to the new system, suggesting that the evolution of college sports will be uneven across programs, "Some schools have the capacity to do a lot in this ecosystem and some schools may not... who's going to be pushing the ball forward and who may be backing out." On the competitive landscape, Patrick believes this shift could level the playing field, at

least financially, if smaller schools are willing to invest: “I think it is going to 100% get way more competitive with the off-the-field things — NIL contracts and revenue sharing.”

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