

- **The NFLPA Is Always Working to Improve Benefits and Procedures:** Even outside of the formal collective bargaining process, the NFLPA continues to seek improvements in benefits and in the process.
 - The NFL/NFLPA recently announced an agreement that automatically grants disability benefits to eligible former players who receive social security disability benefits.
 - Because of this change, additional players will now receive NFL disability benefits, and players already receiving social security benefits will not have to be examined by a Plan doctor.
 - The NFLPA has suggested other major changes that could eliminate difficult decisions on effective dates and causation for many players, and allow the Plan to process applications faster.

B. DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD STATISTICS

- **Eligibility and Award Statistics:** This has been considerable misinformation reported about the disability award and eligibility statistics, which we would like to clarify below:
 - From 1993 to June 2007, 42.6% of individuals who have applied for NFLPA/NFL disability benefits were awarded disability benefits of some kind. Social security is awarded at roughly 47%
 - As the table below demonstrates, 428 applicants have received disability benefits - of the 1004 who have received a final decisions - which brings the approval rate to 42.6%.
 - There are currently 317 former players who are receiving some kind of disability benefit under the Plan. Since 1993, 41 former players who were awarded disability began receiving their pension when they reached retirement age, and therefore no longer receive disability payments. The remaining players who no longer receive disability have either passed away, or no longer qualify for disability since their initial award because the benefit expired, or because the Plan has determined that they are no longer disabled.
 - Of the 1052 people who applied in this period, many were already receiving a pension or were not vested (had not played 3 or more seasons), and therefore were ineligible when they applied for disability benefits.