

Full-Season Suspension A 'Big Favor,' Says Alex Rodriguez

Alex Rodriguez may have sued Major League Baseball and the [Major League Baseball Players Association](#) (or MLBPA) against his reason season suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement, but it seems the Yankees third batsman is coming to terms with the fact that he will not be playing Major League Baseball in 2014.

The New York Yankees third baseman however expressed confidence that he will be back. Rodriguez remarked the full-season [doping suspension](#) he is scheduled to serve this year may actually turn out to be a "big favor" as he has been playing for 20 years without a timeout. According to the translation of a video at a promotional event in Mexico City, Rodriguez said he believes 2014 will be a good year to rest physically, mentally, and to prepare for the future and to start a new chapter of his life. A-Rod, who will be 39 when he is eligible to make a comeback, expects to return to the Yankees in 2015 and said there are three years left in his contract starting in 2015, and he expects to play very well and finishes his career in New York.

These remarks of Rodriguez were his first ever since an arbitrator upheld most of a 211-game suspension by Major League [Baseball](#), reducing it to a full season of 162 games and the postseason. Alex Rodriguez has decided to continue his fight against the doping battle and his lawyers filed suit in a federal court, taking aim at Major League Baseball, the players union, and the arbitrator who heard his case, asking a judge for vacating his punishment. Ron Berkowitz, Rodriguez's spokesman, said this process has been taxing both mentally and physically throughout the past eight months and Alex will abide by the rulings of the federal judge – whatever he decides – and get ready for 2015 should the judge rule against him.

Arbitrator Fredric Horowitz found the baseball star using three banned substances each year from 2010 to 2012 and making two attempts for obstructing MLB's investigation of the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic.

It is widely believed by some legal experts that the chances of a federal judge throwing out the decision reached by Fredric Horowitz, MLB's chief arbitrator are bleak to say the least. It is not common for judges to intervene in cases where private parties – the league and the union – have agreed to an arbitration process for handling disputes and a judge will act only if Alex Rodriguez could prove that Horowitz was unfair or biased.

In another development, a Major League Baseball Players Association lawyer has revealed that Rodriguez wanted the union to pursue extraordinary remedies outside of arbitration to stop attempts for disciplining the New York Yankees third baseman. Attorney Daniel Engelstein also urged that two Rodriguez lawsuits in Manhattan federal court be combined into a single case. The attorney said Alex Rodriguez accused the MLBPA of acting arbitrarily by not complying with Rodriguez's demands that the union pursue extraordinary remedies outside of the arbitration process to 'stand up' to MLB and to stop it from acting in a manner Rodriguez characterized as improper.