

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
)	NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)	
CONNOR HICKMAN,)	Case No. 2025-CP-10-06396
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	<u>ORDER GRANTING EX PARTE</u>
)	<u>TEMPORARY RESTRAINING</u>
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC)	<u>ORDER</u>
ASSOCIATION,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

On this day, the Court considered Plaintiff Connor Hickman's ("Hickman") Verified Complaint and Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order filed November 17, 2025.¹ The Court, having reviewed the pleadings, affidavits, relevant law, and supporting evidence, finds that it clearly appears that if the Court does not issue the temporary restraining order, Hickman will be irreparably harmed because he would be foreclosed from joining his teammates in their remaining games of competition at the College of Charleston ("the College"), causing Hickman to lose the opportunity to participate in the men's basketball season between the date of issuance of this Order and the time the Court can hear the Preliminary Injunction, including but not limited to -

1. Missing the opportunity to participate in Division I basketball and the corresponding attention and renown that comes with that opportunity;
2. Losing his athletic scholarship that allows him to attend graduate school at the College;
3. Losing the opportunity to participate in the revenue-sharing opportunities afforded him by the College; and

¹ All findings of fact and conclusions of law indicated in this Order are made for the purpose of ruling on this motion only.

4. Impairing his competitive development and prospects to play professional basketball during this time period.

The Court further finds that there is evidence that the College's basketball season started November 2, 2025; that Hickman has already been forced to miss the first four games of the 2025 – 2026 season; that the College is scheduled to play four additional games over the next eight days, to include three games at an invitational tournament in St. Thomas, USVI; and that it clearly appears that Hickman will be irreparably harmed if he is not able to join his teammates because of the lost development and opportunity to become integrated with his new team.

The Court further finds that the balance of equities weighs in favor of Hickman, in that (i) the risk of harm to Hickman by the absence of a temporary restraining order outweighs the harm to the NCAA; (ii) the public interest weighs in favor of issuing a temporary restraining order; and (iii) it is clear from the evidence that good cause exists for the consideration of Hickman's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order on an *ex parte* basis before notice is given and hearing is had in order to prevent imminent, irreparable harm to Hickman.

Therefore, the Court is of the opinion that Hickman is entitled to the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order on an *ex parte* basis and that such order is necessary to protect Hickman's rights and interests. This Order is necessary because of the immediate need to allow Hickman to join his team for regular season competition, to allow him to effectuate his revenue-sharing agreement with the College, and to prevent irreparable harm to Hickman's college and professional basketball career.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that this Court hereby issues a Temporary Restraining Order, pending a hearing on Hickman's application for Preliminary Injunction, against the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and its officers, directors, committees, agents,

representatives, employees, and those acting in concert with them (collectively, the “NCAA”), immediately enjoining them as follows, while this Order is in effect:

1. The NCAA is hereby restrained and enjoined from enforcing, applying, or attempting to enforce the November 6, 2025 denial of his hardship waiver appeal declaring Hickman ineligible to compete in the 2025 – 2026 men’s basketball season of competition at the College;
2. The NCAA is hereby restrained and enjoined from threatening, initiating, or imposing any penalty, sanction, or adverse eligibility determination against Hickman or the College of Charleston, its coaches, athletes, or staff, for allowing Hickman to participate in games of competition during the pendency of this Order;
3. The NCAA is hereby restrained and enjoined from enforcing or attempting to enforce the NCAA Rule of Restitution in connection with this Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this temporary restraining order shall remain in effect until the earlier of either, this Court hearing Plaintiff’s application for a Preliminary Injunction, or the expiration of 10 days from the date of signing, unless extended by the Court or agreement of the parties. The Court sets Hickman’s application for a Preliminary Injunction for virtual hearing² for 10:00 AM on the 25th day of November, 2025, and notice of such hearing shall be issued to the parties by the Clerk of this Court. Pursuant to SCRCP Rule 65(c), the Court waives a security bond pending the preliminary injunction hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Honorable Dale E. Van Slambrook

This 18th day of November 2025 at 4:25 p.m.
Moncks Corner, South Carolina

² The virtual hearing instructions can be found at South Carolina Judicial Website at SCCOURTS.ORG. Click “Courts” then “Circuit Court”, then “Judges” then select “The Honorable Dale E. Van Slambrook” then “virtual courtroom” on the day the hearing is scheduled.



Charleston Common Pleas

Case Caption: Connor Hickman VS National Collegiate Athletic Association
Case Number: 2025CP1006396
Type: Order/Temporary Restraining Order

And It Is So Ordered!

s/Dale E. Van Slambrook S.C. Circuit Court Judge
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