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ORANGE COUNTY
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BY: S. Benfield

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

File No. 26CV002919-670

CAMERON FENS,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION,

Defendant.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

THIS MATTER came before the undersigned at a 19 November 2026 hearing via Webex in the Orange County Superior Court upon the motion of Plaintiff Cameron Fens ("Plaintiff") for a temporary restraining order ("TRO") under Rule 65(b) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff was represented by Samuel B. Hartzell. Defendant National Collegiate Athletic Association ("Defendant") received notice of the motion and was represented by Thomas R. Woodrow. The Court, having considered the Verified Complaint and the exhibits referenced therein, the Affidavit of Michael Malone, the Affidavit of Carroll P. Jones III, M.D., the memorandum filed by Plaintiff with the motion and the certification of counsel in the motion, the list of authorities submitted by the Defendant, other relevant authority, and the arguments of counsel, hereby finds and concludes:

1. The Court has subject-matter and personal jurisdiction. Grounds for personal jurisdiction over Defendant exist under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-75.4(1)(d), because Defendant is engaged in substantial activity within this State.
2. Venue is proper in Orange County under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-82, because Plaintiff resides here.
3. The Court may grant injunctive relief under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1-485 and Rule 65, and may declare the parties' rights under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-253 and 1-254.

4. The Court applies the standard for a preliminary injunction, which "will be issued only (1) if a plaintiff is able to show likelihood of success on the merits of his case and (2) if a plaintiff is likely to sustain irreparable loss unless the injunction is issued, or if, in the opinion of the Court, issuance is necessary for the protection of a plaintiff's rights during the course of litigation." *A.E.P. Indus., Inc. v. McClure*, 308 N.C. 393, 401, 302 S.E.2d 754, 759–60 (1983) (emphasis omitted).
5. Plaintiff has shown a likelihood of success on the merits of his Fourth Cause of Action. NCAA's Amended Bylaw 12.6 limits eligibility to five academic years and contains no four-season limit. Nothing in Defendant's Bylaws indicates the amended rule only applies to students who have eligibility under the prior (Four-in-Five) Rule.
6. Plaintiff has shown a likelihood of success on the merits of his First through Third and Fifth Causes of Action, which challenge the 20 October 2026 decision of the Defendant. In that decision, Defendant denied Plaintiff's request for a hardship waiver that would have restored Plaintiff's 2024-25 season such that it would not count as one of his available seasons of competition. That decision denied relief beyond the 30 percent limit without addressing medical misdiagnosis and rested on a medical clearance by trainers who had not obtained imaging.
7. Plaintiff is likely to sustain irreparable loss unless this Order issues and the Order is necessary to protect his rights during the course of this litigation. The balance of the equities also favors Plaintiff. If he is wrongly kept off the court, he will lose games in his final season that no judgment can restore. Plaintiff will be deprived of the opportunity to demonstrate his capabilities to professional teams in a competitive setting. On the other hand, if Plaintiff is wrongly allowed to play, Defendant's injury will be slight and unlikely to result in compensable harm.
8. The Court has considered whether to require security under Rule 65(c) and determined that no security should be required. The restraint will do the

NCAA no material damage, and the NCAA is unlikely to suffer damages if it is later found to have been wrongfully restrained. *See Keith v. Day*, 60 N.C. App. 559, 561–62, 299 S.E.2d 296, 297–98 (1983).

9. Good cause exists and the parties consent to extend this Order to 30 November 2026 for a hearing on a motion for preliminary injunction or for dissolution or modification of the TRO.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for a temporary restraining order is ALLOWED, and that the National Collegiate Athletic Association, its officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are RESTRAINED from:

(a) treating or declaring Cameron Fens ineligible to participate, practice, or compete in the 2026–27 season, or rejecting, refusing, or overturning UNC's certification of his eligibility, on the ground that the 2024–25 season counts as one of his four seasons of competition;

(b) treating or declaring Cameron Fens ineligible to participate, practice, or compete in the 2026–27 season, or rejecting, refusing, or overturning UNC's certification of his eligibility, on the ground that he competed in four seasons under the four-season limit of former Bylaw 12.6; and

(c) taking any action against UNC, its coaches, or its staff under Bylaw 12.9.4.2 or any other rule or vacating or striking Cameron Fens's individual records and performances or UNC's team records or performances, at any time because of his practice or competition while any order entered in this action was in effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event the NCAA denies Cameron Fen's pending appeal in NCAA Case No. 1263004, that decision shall not permit the NCAA to take any action herein restrained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order takes effect upon entry.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is returnable, and Plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction will be heard on Monday, 30 November 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Battle Courtroom of the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough, North Carolina. For good cause and with the consent of the parties, this order shall remain in effect until the Court issues a ruling on the motion for preliminary injunction, or until 5:00 p.m. on 1 December 2026, whichever comes first. No bond is required in the interim.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff shall serve a copy of this Order on the NCAA by email to its counsel and in a manner provided for service of process, and that this Order shall be filed forthwith in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court and entered of record. 11/19/2026 4:54:16 PM

This the 19 November 2026 at 4:50 p.m.

ALYSON A. GRINE
RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE