

West Virginia University Sickle Cell Trait Form for NCAA Intercollegiate Athletics

About Sickle Cell Trait:

- Sickle cell trait is not a disease. Sickle cell trait a common condition (> three million Americans), inherited condition of the oxygen-carrying protein, hemoglobin, most predominant in African-Americans and people of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, and South and Central American ancestry, but can occur in persons of all races and ancestry.
- Sickle cell trait is more of a normal variant than a true disease. There are many high level athletes who participate in intercollegiate and professional sports with sickle cell trait who never have problems. However, problems, including exertional rhabdomyolysis, renal failure and death can occur. Complicating factors include extreme exertion, increased heat, altitude and dehydration.
- Please see the NCAA's website for more information regarding sickle cell trait including a video and the NCAA fact sheet.
<http://www.ncaa.org/health-and-safety/medical-conditions/sickle-cell-trait>

NCAA/West Virginia University Sickle Cell Trait Compliance:

- The NCAA requires that all student-athletes have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status.
- West Virginia University requires that all student-athletes who are unable to confirm their sickle cell trait status undergo sickle cell trait testing or sign a waiver acknowledging the risks prior to participation in any intercollegiate athletic activity. Student-athletes must 1) show proof of a prior test with results; 2) have a blood test to check for sickle cell trait; or 3) sign a testing waiver declining options 1 and 2. Whichever option is chosen, it must be completed before the athlete participates in any intercollegiate athletics event, including strength and conditioning sessions, practices, competitions, etc.
- Most persons born after 1978 were tested for this trait at birth. Check with your pediatrician or family doctor first for a record of this testing.
- Testing positive for the trait does not prohibit student-athletes from participating in intercollegiate athletics.
- **THE COST OF THE TESTING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE.**

In Summary, all West Virginia University student-athletes must choose one of the following three options:

- Provide documented proof of your sickle cell trait status prior to participation at WVU (either by obtaining previous records or getting lab tested)
- Obtain a blood test upon your arrival at WVU
- Sign the Sickle Cell Trait Testing waiver.

Test Results or Sickle Cell Trait Testing Waiver

After reviewing the above information and the NCAA Fact Sheet for Student-Athletes I have elected to (please check and fill in) **CHECK ONLY ONE BOX:**

- Copy of athlete's newborn sickle cell testing result attached. Date: _____
- Copy of recent sickle cell screening test result attached. Date: _____
- SICKLE CELL TESTING WAIVER:

I, _____ understand and acknowledge that by signing this waiver I understand and
(Student-Athlete Name)

acknowledge that the NCAA and West Virginia University require that all student-athletes have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status. Additionally, I certify that I have read and fully understand the aforementioned facts about sickle cell trait testing and have had the opportunity to review the NCAA website for further information about sickle cell trait and sickle cell trait testing.

Recognizing that my true physical condition is dependent upon an accurate medical history and a full disclosure of any symptoms, complaints, prior injuries, ailments and/or disabilities experienced, I hereby affirm that I have fully disclosed in writing any prior medical history and/or knowledge of sickle cell trait status to West Virginia University Athletic Department.

I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing and I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless West Virginia University, its officers, employees, agents, and their successors from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims demands, or causes of action, including attorneys fees, arising from any loss or personal injury that might result from my non-compliance with the requirements of the NCAA and West Virginia University to be tested.

I have read and signed this document with full knowledge of its significance. I further state that I am at least 18 years of age and competent to sign this waiver.

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Date _____ ID# _____

Student-Athlete (Print Name) _____ SPORT(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____