



**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE**

**Bulldog Athletics**

**Sickle Cell Testing Sign up/Waiver**

About Sickle Cell Trait:

- Sickle cell trait is an inherited condition of the oxygen-carrying protein, hemoglobin, in the red blood cells.
- Sickle cell trait is a common condition (> three million Americans).
- Although Sickle cell trait is most predominant in African-Americans and those of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, India, Caribbean, and South and Central American ancestry, persons of all races and ancestry may test positive for sickle cell trait.
- Sickle cell trait is usually benign, but during or after exercise, hypoxia (lack of oxygen) in the muscles may cause sickling of red blood cells (red blood cells changing from a normal disc shape to a crescent or “sickle” shape), which can accumulate in the bloodstream and “logjam” blood vessels, leading to collapse, personal injury and/or DEATH from the rapid breakdown of muscles starved of blood.
- If the UNC Asheville Sports Medicine staff and the student-athlete’s coaches are made aware that a student-athlete has sickle cell trait, then collapse, personal injury and/or DEATH from exercise may be avoided or decreased if the student-athlete follows the directives of the staff and his/her medical professionals. Such directives may include, but not be limited to, reduced or modified activity during practice and/or games.

Sickle Cell Screening:

- If the student-athlete does not have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status, the NCAA recommends that athletic departments offer to screen for the presence or absence of the trait.
- In order to decrease the risk of collapse, personal injury and/or DEATH to its student-athletes, the University of North Carolina Asheville recommends that all its student-athletes who do not know their sickle cell status undergo the screening.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a UNC Asheville Student Athlete am aware of the new NCAA mandate requiring me to either be tested for sickle cell trait, show proof of a prior test or sign a waiver releasing an institution from liability if I decline to be tested.

Therefore, I choose to: (Initial beside choice)

- \_\_\_\_\_ be scheduled for testing prior to competing at UNC Asheville , or
- \_\_\_\_\_ provide proof of a prior test prior to competing at UNC Asheville, or
- \_\_\_\_\_ decline testing and release UNC Asheville from liability during athletic competition.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (parent or guardian name here if student-athlete is under 18) understand and acknowledge that, in order to decrease the risk of collapse, personal injury and/or DEATH to its student-athletes the University of North Carolina at Asheville recommends that all student-athletes have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status. Additionally, I have read and fully understand the aforementioned facts about sickle cell trait and sickle cell trait testing. I understand that exercising without knowledge of sickle cell trait status can increase the risk of collapse, personal injury and/or DEATH during or after exercise. If sickle cell trait status is not known, then I voluntarily and knowingly accept that risk.

I hereby affirm that I have fully and accurately disclosed in writing any prior medical history and/or knowledge of sickle cell trait status to UNC Asheville Sports Medicine staff.

I hereby request that the results of my (the minor's) sickle cell trait test be communicated to the UNCA athletic training staff and the coaches of my (the minor's) sport.

If I decline testing I affirm that I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing (in the case of a minor, the parent or guardian does not wish the minor to undergo sickle cell trait testing). I (or in the case of a minor the parent or guardian) voluntarily agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless, regardless of their negligence, the State of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, its officers, employees, agents and volunteers from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, demands, or causes of action on account of any loss, personal injury or DEATH that might result from this decision to not be screened for sickle cell trait and/or from any incorrect information that I or any person on my behalf provided to UNC Asheville Sports Medicine staff about sickle cell trait status.

I have read and signed this document with full knowledge that I may be giving up rights that I may otherwise be entitled to if I had not signed it. If I have declined testing I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and competent to sign this waiver or the waiver has been signed by my parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
University ID#

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature(if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date