

**OAKLAND CITY UNIVERSITY
ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES
Sickle Cell Trait Testing**

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 those of African, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, and South and Central American ancestry, persons of all races, sex and ancestry may test positive for sickle cell trait.
- Sickle cell trait is usually benign, but can be life-threatening, especially during intense, sustained 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 *rhabdomyolysis* which is a collapse from the rapid breakdown of muscles starved of blood.

For more information on Sickle Cell:

http://web1.ncaa.org/web_files/health_safety/SickleCellTraitforSA.pdf

Sickle Cell Trait Testing –

- The **NCAA** mandates that all NCAA student-athletes have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status before the student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate athletics event, including strength and conditioning sessions, practices, competitions, etc.
- The Oakland City University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics does not offer sickle cell trait screening (a blood test) to student-athletes on campus, but these test are available from the Deacones Clinic in Oakland City for a nominal fee.
- Testing should be conducted at the time a student receives their sports physical.
- If you have already been tested for sickle cell trait, please provide a copy of the written results to the Athletic Training Department. If you have not been previously tested and do not agree with to testing, please review the waiver attached to this document.

SICKLE CELL TRAIT TESTING WAIVER

I, _____ hereby agree as follows:
Student-Athlete Name (Printed Name)

I understand and acknowledge that the NCAA and the Oakland City University Athletic Training Policies mandates that all student-athletes have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status and be provided an opportunity for testing. Additionally, I have read and fully understand the aforementioned facts about sickle cell trait and sickle cell trait testing and understand that information is available at the following website:

http://web1.ncaa.org/web_files/health_safety/SickleCellTraitforSA.pdf

I understand that sickle cell trait does not prohibit me from participating intercollegiate athletics. I recognize that ascertaining 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 including any knowledge of sickle cell trait status to the Oakland City University Athletic Training and Medical Staff personnel.

I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing as part of my pre-participation physical examination. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release, forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Oakland City University its Athletic Training Department, Team Physicians, Board of Trustees, its officers, employees and agents from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, damages, actions, or causes of action whatsoever arising out or related to any loss, personal, injury, damage or property loss related to my waiver of this recommended testing.

I am fully aware of the risks and hazards associated with refusing this testing. This is binding on me, my heirs, assigns and personal representatives. I acknowledge that I am 21 years of age or older, or, if I am not, my parent or guardian has also signed this waiver.

I have carefully read this document before signing it. My participation in intercollegiate sports at Oakland City University is voluntary and, prior to choosing to sign this I had an opportunity to consult with my parents, an attorney or counsel of my choice. I further state that I am at least 21 years of age, or if not, my parent/guardian has also signed, and of sound mind.

I understand that the NCAA and Oakland City University recommended that I undergo sickle cell trait testing.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

DOB: _____ Date: _____

Sport(s) Participating In: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ (if student-athlete is under 21 years of age)

Parent /Guardian Printed Name: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____