

Geneva College

Sickle Cell Trait Form

About Sickle Cell Trait

*Sickle cell trait is an inherited condition affecting the oxygen-carrying substance, hemoglobin, in the red blood cells.

*Sickle cell trait is a common condition (> three million Americans)

*Although Sickle cell trait occurs most commonly in African Americans and those of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, and South and Central American ancestry, persons of all races and ethnicities may test positive for this condition.

*Unlike persons with actual sickle cell disease, those with sickle cell trait usually have no symptoms or any significant health problems. However, sometimes during very intense, sustained physical activity, as can occur with collegiate sports, certain dangerous conditions can develop in those with sickle cell trait, leading to blood vessel and organ (kidneys, muscles, heart) damage that can cause sudden collapse and death. Some of the settings in which this can occur include timed runs, all out exertion of any type for 2 to 3 continuous minutes without a rest period, intense drills and other bursts of exercise after doing prolonged conditioning training. Extreme heat and dehydration increase the risks.

*Student athletes who are positive for the trait will not be prohibited from participating in intercollegiate athletics at Geneva College.

Sickle Cell Trait Testing

The NCAA requires that all member institutions have student-athlete sickle cell trait status on their file prior to any athletic participation. Student-athletes have the following options: 1) show proof of sickle cell testing; or 2) sign the Sickle Cell Testing Waiver provided below. Whichever option is chosen, it must be completed before the student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate athletic event, including strength and conditioning sessions, try-outs, practices, or competitions.

1) Copy of student-athlete's sickle cell trait testing results attached. Date _____

-OR-

2) Sickle Cell Testing Waiver:

I, _____, understand and acknowledge that the NCAA mandates 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.

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 Geneva College Athletics.

I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing and I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Geneva College, its officers, employees and agents from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, demands, or causes of action on account of any loss or personal injury that might result from my noncompliance with the mandate of the NCAA.

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

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

Date