

Roberts Wesleyan College Sports Medicine

Sickle Cell Information and Waiver

FACTS ABOUT SICKLE CELL TRAITS

- ❖ Sickle cell trait is an inherited condition of the oxygen-carrying protein, hemoglobin, in the red blood cells.
- ❖ Sickle cell trait is a common medical condition most predominate in African-Americans, but persons of all races and background may test positive for sickle cell trait.
- ❖ Sickle cell trait is generally benign and over 3 million of Americans with sickle cell trait live healthy normal lives. However, 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). The sickled red blood cells can accumulate in the blood stream and block blood vessels in muscles, kidneys, and other organs resulting in severe damage to the involved tissues and even death.

SICKLE CELL TRAIT TESTING

- ❖ NCAA and Roberts Wesleyan College mandates that all student-athletes have sickle cell trait testing, show proof of sickle cell testing, or sign a waiver demonstrating that the student-athlete understands the importance of the test, yet declines, before any student-athlete participates in any intercollegiate athletics events, including exercises, practices, competitions, etc.
- ❖ Roberts Wesleyan College Sports Medicine determines it is in the best interest of its student athletes to have knowledge of their sickle cell trait status. Testing is offered at the Student Health Center through a local laboratory for a nominal fee. Results will be reported to the student-athlete, Student Health Center, the Athletic Staff and team physicians.
- ❖ If student-athlete has been tested for sickle cell trait at birth or recently, please provide a copy of the written results to the Athletic Training Department. If student-athlete was not tested and declines testing, the student-athlete will be allowed to participate in athletic events only after signing the Sickle Cell Trait Testing Release and Waiver Liability.

SICKLE CELL TRAIT TESTING RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I, _____, understand and acknowledge that the NCAA and Roberts Wesleyan College mandates that all student-athletes undergo sickle cell trait testing, or show proof of testing or status. I understand the information provided to me by Roberts Wesleyan College concerning sickle cell trait and testing.

I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing and I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Roberts Wesleyan College, its officers, employees, representatives, affiliates and agents from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, demands, causes of action, that I, my assignees, heirs, guardians, next of kin, or spouse may now have, or may have in the future, for any loss, injury, or death relating to my voluntary declination of sickle cell trait testing.

I have read and signed this document with full understanding of its significance. I further state that I am at least 18 years of age and competent to sign this waiver, or if I am under the age of 18, my parent/guardian is required to sign this document.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

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

Date

Parent/Guardian Print Name