Ferris State University

Athletic Department

Sickle Cell Trait Status Policy

Ferris State University’s Athletic Department requires student athletes (SAs) to comply with NCAA rule requiring SAs to know their sickle cell trait status. In order to be medically cleared for athletic participation, SAs must satisfy one of the following options at the time of the Pre-Participation Physical Exam:

1. Provide results of a prior sickle cell solubility test; or
2. Obtain a sickle cell solubility test for sickle cell trait screen; or
3. Sign a written waiver that declines submission of prior test results and sickle cell solubility testing.

**Provide Results of Prior Sickle Cell Trait Testing:**

All states have newborn screening programs that identify sickle cell trait status at birth. Michigan began newborn testing for sickle cell trait status in 1987. SAs may contact their pediatrician, birth hospital, or primary care provider and ask if they have sickle cell screening results on file. SAs may then request a written copy of their sickle cell solubility test result and submit it to FSU Athletics at the fax number or address below.

**Obtain a Sickle Cell Solubility Test:**

If SAs were not tested or cannot provide the results of a previous sickle cell solubility test, they may be tested at **FSU Birkam Health Center** or through their own family physician**.** The cost for sickle cell trait screening is the responsibility of the student-athlete. SAs must bring their written sickle cell solubility test results to their Pre-Participation physical exam or send the results to FSU Athletics at the fax number or address below.

**Decline Submission of Results and Testing:**

If SAs do not submit the results of a previous sickle cell solubility test and decline a sickle cell solubility test, they may sign the FSU Sickle Cell Trait Testing Waiver. A parent or guardian must also sign if SAs are under the age of 18 at the time of their Pre-Participation Physical Exam.

All FSU student-athletes are required to provide sickle cell solubility test results, obtain a sickle cell solubility test, or sign the Sickle Cell Trait Testing Waiver **BEFORE** any participation in FSU Athletics. This includes practices, conditioning, weight training, etc.

If a SA has the sickle cell trait, it will not affect their participation in the sport. Any information provided by the SA relating to their sickle cell trait screening will remain confidential and will be provided only to FSU employees who have a need to know, including but not limited to FSU coaches and staff.

SAs may mail or fax their sickle cell solubility test results to the FSU Athletic Department prior to their Pre-Participation Physical Exam date to:

Athletic Training Room phone: 231.591.2872

013 Sports Complex

Ferris State University fax: 231.591.2869

Big Rapids, MI 49307

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