Student-athlete Name: ___________________________ ___________________________

DOB: ___/___/___

Age: _______                           Sport: ____________________________________

UAlbany ID# _____________________________

**Sickle Cell Trait Testing Information**

The NCAA recommends that its member colleges and universities test student-athletes to confirm their Sickle Cell Trait status if that information is not already known.

**BACKGROUND:** Sickle Cell Disease is tested for at birth (blood sampling) and any person with this condition would be made aware of it long before entering college. Conversely, Sickle Cell Trait refers to a condition where a person may carry only one gene for Sickle Cell Disease. People with Sickle Cell Trait usually have no symptoms. However, people with Sickle Cell Trait have been known in rare situations to suffer symptoms similar to people with the full disease. With conditions of dehydration, high altitude and vigorous exercise athletes with Sickle Cell Trait may experience the sickling phenomenon seen in Sickle Cell Disease where red blood cells change shape (Sickle), and as a result move more slowly through blood vessels. As a result an athlete may experience muscle injury which can lead to kidney damage (Rhabdomyolysis), Splenic Infarct (lack of oxygen to the spleen) and possible sudden death.

Approximately 1% of the entire population has this condition. It is more common in African Americans (8%) and those of Middle Eastern or Indian Descent.

In April 2010, the NCAA determined that all in-coming Division 1 student-athletes (i.e., student-athletes who are beginning their initial year of eligibility and student-athletes trying out for a team, including transfers) must either:

- be tested for Sickle Cell Trait as part of their mandatory pre-participation physical examination;
- show proof of a prior sickle cell test; or
- decline the test and sign a waiver releasing the University from liability.

If found to have the trait student-athletes are allowed to compete but advised to take special precautions in situations of high altitude, dehydration potential and/or vigorous exercise.
Any student-athlete declining the test for Sickle Cell Trait must sign a declination acknowledging their awareness of the condition, their understanding of the possible severe consequences of refusing testing and releasing the University from any liability. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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I understand that the NCAA and University at Albany recommend that all student-athletes be tested for Sickle Cell Trait. I understand that whether or not I get this test done that I will be able to participate in Division 1 athletics at University at Albany. I understand further that while my medical information will remain confidential, a positive test result will be communicated to the appropriate coaches and trainers.

I have read the above information regarding Sickle Cell Trait and acknowledge and understand the possible severe risks and consequences associated with declining the test. I have had the opportunity to discuss any questions I may have regarding Sickle Cell Trait testing with a University athletics representative.

___ I agree to sickle cell trait testing.

___ I decline sickle cell trait testing and hereby release the University at Albany and its officers and employees from any and all liability relating to my sickle cell status.

_________________________________  ___________________________________
Student-athlete Signature               Printed Name
(Or signature of legal guardian if student-athlete less than 18 years of age)

Date: ___/___/___