



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. IX-Health 1.0

SICKLE CELL STATUS AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

UNIT POLICY

A. Policy Statement

North Carolina A&T State University is committed to protecting the health of our student-athletes and providing a safe environment in which they may study, practice, and compete.

1. No student-athlete or prospective student-athlete shall participate in any Department of Athletics sponsored tryout, practice, conditioning, or competition activity without having on file in the Athletics Training office documentation of the result of a sickle cell screening test. This documentation of testing is mandatory. Student-athletes or prospective student-athletes that do not have proof of a sickle cell test will not be released for participation in any athletics event.
2. The student- athlete or prospective student-athlete's sickle cell status shall be communicated to all relevant parties, including, but not limited to:
 - a. the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete,
 - b. parent or guardian if student-athlete or prospective student-athlete is a minor,
 - c. all Department of Athletics training staff,
 - d. all Department of Athletics team physicians,
 - e. Head and Assistant Coaches for the team on which the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete competes,
 - f. all strength and conditioning coaches and staff,
 - g. the Associate Athletics Director for Compliance/SWA,
 - h. Sebastian Health Center physicians and administrators, and
 - i. Other institutional administrators as needed.
3. A student-athlete or prospective student-athlete who has a positive test for sickle cell trait will be allowed to return or initiate Department of Athletics sponsored athletics activities upon:
 - a. Completion of a counseling session with Department of Athletics team physician and athletics training staff,
 - b. Signature of the Acknowledgement of Sickle Cell Status and Risk form (Attachment A), and
 - c. Completion of the Coaches Acknowledgement of Sickle Cell Status form (Attachment B).

4. The athletics training staff will annually identify and inform Head Coaches of individual student-athletes on their respective teams who are sickle cell trait positive, discuss the approved training and conditioning protocol for working with affected student-athletes, and review the medical response plan in place for protecting the health and safety of affected student-athletes.

B. Corrective Action

1. Student-athletes or prospective student-athletes who fail to comply with this policy will be immediately suspended from further athletics participation pending full investigation. A finding of a willful effort to falsify records or deliberately circumvent this policy will result in permanent suspension from athletics participation and immediate loss of athletics grant-in-aid.
2. Coaches or other Department of Athletics staff members who fail to comply with this policy will be immediately suspended from work, with pay, pending full investigation. A finding of willful or negligent failure to comply with this policy will be grounds for immediate termination of employment for cause.

C. Compliance Review

1. The Department of Athletics shall provide annually to the Chancellor's Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics a report which summarize the Department's compliance with this policy for the preceding academic year.
2. The Department of Athletics through the Compliance Director shall annually review this policy and any attendant implementation procedures derived therefrom for continuing compliance with institutional and associational standards, and recommend any changes or revisions thereto.

D. Policy Dissemination

1. Department of Athletics Policy and Procedure Manual;
2. Student – Athlete Handbook;
3. Faculty Handbook;
4. NCA&T Athletics Website

E. Enabling Authority

1. NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5 – Mandatory Medical Examination
2. NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5.1 – Sickle Cell Solubility Test

Approved by Chancellor

Effective Date: Upon approval.

First approved: January 30, 2012

Revised: