About Sickle Cell Trait:

- Sickle cell trait is an inherited condition of the oxygen-carrying protein, hemoglobin, in red blood cells.
- Although sickle cell trait is most predominant in African-Americans and those of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, and South and Central American ancestry, persons of all races and ancestry may test positive for sickle cell trait.
- Sickle cell trait is usually benign, but during intense, sustained exercise, hypoxia (lack of oxygen in the tissue) may cause red blood cells to change shape from a normal disc shape to a crescent or “sickle” shape. Such cells can accumulate in the bloodstream and “logjam” blood vessels, blocking circulation to muscles, as well as the heart, leading to a collapse from the decreased circulation of blood.
- More information is available by contacting Mary Irving, MS, ATC, Associate Athletic Director at 518-255-5126.

Sickle Cell Trait Testing:

- Effective August 1, 2013 for incoming (first year and transfer) student-athletes and August 1, 2014 for all student-athletes, the NCAA mandates that all Division III institutions either:
  1. Confirm the sickle cell trait status of a student-athlete or provide education while test results are pending (a copy of the applicable NCAA Bylaws are attached); or
  2. Receive a signed waiver from the student-athlete declining to be tested and acknowledging the institution provided education regarding sickle cell trait status.

To comply with this requirement, SUNY Cobleskill requires that all student-athletes do one of the following prior to participating in any athletically related activity, including required strength and conditioning sessions, practices, competitions, etc.:

1) Be tested for sickle cell trait status and engage in mandatory education related to sickle cell trait status prior to participation while test results are pending;

2) Show proof of a prior test and provide documented results of that test to the institution; or
3) sign the attached waiver declining confirmation of sickle cell trait status, acknowledging the risks of injury or illness resulting from sickle cell trait, and releasing SUNY Cobleskill from liability arising therefrom.

- If the student-athlete chooses to have sickle cell trait status testing in the form of a blood test performed by some entity other than the institution’s prescribed testing agency, results must be reported to a SUNY Cobleskill Sports Medicine Staff.

- If the student-athlete chooses not to be tested for sickle cell trait prior to participation, s/he must complete the following waiver and return it to Mary Irving, Associate Athletic Director.
SICKLE CELL TRAIT TESTING WAIVER

I, _______________________________ , am a student-athlete in the sport(s) of __________________________ at SUNY Cobleskill. I am aware that participation in intercollegiate athletics at SUNY Cobleskill involves the risk of personal injury. I am also aware that if I have sickle cell trait, I am at an increased risk for serious illness or injury, including death, especially during physical exertion. I acknowledge that the NCAA and the SUNY Cobleskill Department of Intercollegiate Athletics mandate that all student-athletes be tested for sickle cell trait or show the results of a prior test in order to confirm the student-athlete’s sickle cell trait status, before participation in intercollegiate athletics. Additionally, I have received educational material regarding sickle cell trait and have read and fully understand the aforementioned facts about sickle cell trait and sickle cell trait status testing. I have had a full opportunity to ask questions concerning sickle cell trait (and testing for sickle cell trait) and to discuss the risks associated with participation in intercollegiate athletics at SUNY Cobleskill. Any questions or concerns I had were addressed to my satisfaction. I understand the risks involved if I choose not to be tested for sickle cell trait and the implications of declining confirmation of my sickle cell trait status, and I knowingly assume such risks.

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 including knowledge of sickle cell trait status to SUNY Cobleskill Sports Medicine personnel.

Notwithstanding the above, if I refuse sickle cell trait status testing and if SUNY Cobleskill believes, in its reasonable judgment, that I may be developing symptoms that could be related to sickle cell trait, SUNY Cobleskill may require testing in order to ensure my safety and may withhold me from practice and/or competition until I agree to sickle cell trait testing, such testing has been conducted, and the results have been evaluated by SUNY Cobleskill or its designee.

I do not wish to undergo sickle cell trait testing as part of my pre-participation physical examination and I agree that in consideration for being granted the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics at SUNY Cobleskill without agreeing to be tested for sickle cell trait, and in full recognition and appreciation of the risks associated therewith, I, for myself, my executors, administrators and assigns, do hereby release and forever discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the State of New York, State University of New York, SUNY Cobleskill its officers, employees and agents from any and all costs, injuries, liabilities, expenses, claims, demands, or causes of action on account of any loss or personal injury that might arise out of or that may in any way be related to such athletic participation, whether caused by my negligence or carelessness or the negligence of SUNY Cobleskill or otherwise.

I represent and certify that I am at least 18 years old and that I have read, understood and agree to be legally bound by the foregoing agreement, waiver, and release (if I am under age 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign this form).

Date: ___________________________  If under 18 years old:
Parent/legal guardian name (print): __________________________
Sport(s): __________________________  Parent/legal guardian signature: __________________________

Student-Athlete name (print): __________________________
Student-Athlete signature: __________________________
17.1.6.4.1 - Confirmation of Sickle Cell Trait Status.
An institution shall confirm the sickle cell trait status of student-athletes, before participation in intercollegiate athletics in one of the following manners: *(Adopted: 1/1913 effective 8/1/13, for all incoming (first year and transfers) student-athletes; 8/1/14, for all student-athletes.)*

(a) Documentation. The student-athlete may provide documented results of a sickle cell solubility test administered prior to participation;

(b) Pending Documentation. A student-athlete who has taken a sickle cell solubility test but whose results are not yet confirmed, may participate provided the student-athlete engages in mandatory education as set forth in Bylaw 17.1.6.4.1.1 and receives appropriate precautions as set forth by the institution; or

(c) Waiver. The student-athlete may sign a waiver declining confirmation of sickle cell trait status if:

(i) Prior to signing a waiver, the institution provides the student-athlete education regarding the implications of exercising the waiver option; and

(ii) Prior to athletics participation, a student-athlete who signs a waiver under this provision engages in mandatory education as set forth in Bylaw 17.1.6.4.1.1.

17.1.6.4.1.1 - Mandatory Sickle Cell Trait Status Education.
Each student-athlete shall be provided education regarding sickle cell trait status. Student-athletes who have been tested, but do not have confirmed results documented or have signed a waiver per Bylaw 17.1.6.4.1(c), shall be provided additional education regarding the risks, impact and precautions associated with sickle cell trait. *(Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, for all incoming (first year and transfers) student-athletes; 8/1/14, for all student-athletes.)*