Attention All Returning and Prospective Anna Maria College Athletes:

In accordance with new legislation that has been passed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Anna Maria College now requires that all student-athletes provide verification of testing for Sickle Cell Trait. You are required to see your own healthcare provider for the blood test and must provide a copy of those results with your Pre-Participation Physical Exam (PPE) to the Sports Medicine Department. You WILL NOT be cleared without the blood test results. A positive test DOES NOT disqualify you from participation in intercollegiate sports.

What is Sickle Cell Anemia Trait?

Sickle Cell Anemia trait is an inherited blood disorder, which can cause serious health problems during exercise. You are born with sickle cell anemia trait, it is cannot be developed over time or contracted like other diseases.

The sickle gene is most often present in people of African, African-American, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian, Caribbean, South American, and Central American descent. However, persons of all races and ethnicities may test positive for this condition.

During intense exercise and/or states of dehydration, red blood cells change their shape in the bloodstream. This is termed “sickling”. During this process, the amount of oxygenated blood available is reduced and blood vessels may become obstructed, causing problems throughout the body.

Signs of sickling include fatigue, difficulty breathing, leg pain, and sudden weakness.

Environmental conditions such as heat, humidity, and/or altitude can predispose an athlete with sickle trait to an onset of an emergency situation. Internal conditions such as dehydration, asthma, and illness can also increase the incident of sickle cell trait emergencies. These aforementioned emergencies can lead to organ failure, sudden collapse, and/or death.

Please ask your healthcare provider to order a blood test for Sickle Cell Trait. If this preliminary test is positive, further blood testing may be required. Remember to obtain and submit a copy of these results from your healthcare provider.

You may have already been tested for sickle cell trait. Ask your healthcare provider if you have been previously tested. If you have been tested previously, you may submit those testing results instead of being tested again.

If you refuse sickle cell anemia trait testing you will be required to sign a form declaring that you release and waive the right to pursue litigation against Anna Maria College, its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and/or their staff, employees, or administrators for any injury, disability, or death related to Sickle Cell Trait.