Research Involving University of Florida Athletic Association Collegiate Athletes

Modified: January 2017

Background:

Student athletes playing sports under the University Athletic Association are considered a vulnerable research, thus requiring additional safeguards. If you plan to target UAA Collegiate Athletes, please review the additional safeguards and concerns related to this research.

Q: What concerns should I consider with targeting UAA Collegiate Athletes for research?

The first concern is the potential for coercion when UAA athletes are approached by a coach, an athletic trainer, or medical staff involved in that UAA athlete’s playing career. The subject recruitment portion of the protocol must specifically address this concern.

Additionally, the inappropriate release of PHI may have considerable impact on the future playing career of a UAA Collegiate Athlete who is a study subject. Please be very specific regarding how and where the research information is stored, who has access to the information, and who has the ability to release that information.

For that reason, the IRB will generally require that the PI of the study apply for a Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC) from the NIH to protect any identifiable information collected under the study (see Certificate of Confidentiality [insert link]).

Finally, compensation for UAA Collegiate Athletes targeted in research protocols must be specifically approved by the UAA Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), with that information included in the approval letter from the MAC. This must be obtained prior to IRB approval.

Q: Are there any additional approvals required for research targeting UAA Collegiate Athletes?

Yes. Any human subject protocol submitted to any UF IRB that targets UAA Collegiate Athletes must be reviewed and approved by the UAA MAC. The chairperson of the MAC will provide the PI of the study a letter indicating that Committee’s approval. A copy of that letter must be uploaded in the Miscellaneous Attachments section of new protocols submitted in myIRB.

Q: What if a UAA Collegiate Athlete wants to participate in a research project that is not targeting UAA Collegiate Athletes?

There are no special requirements for research that is not targeting UAA Collegiate Athletes as subjects. However, if the study involves compensation of the students, it is advisable to contact the chairperson of the MAC for guidance.