Westfield State University
Athletics Program Philosophy

University Mission
The mission of the athletics department complements the primary mission of Westfield State, which is to assist its students to develop intellectually and to use their knowledge and skills to improve the social and economic conditions in their communities.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the department’s link to the University mission. Through team participation and Student-Athlete Affairs programming, all student-athletes are provided the opportunity to assume leadership roles in their communities and become involved in meaningful community activities.

The University mission statement, in its entirety, can be found in the Westfield State University Bulletin.

Athletic Department Mission
Intercollegiate athletics are a vital component of the total educational process. The responsibility of the athletics department is to provide the opportunity for all student-athletes to succeed both academically and athletically, with the goal of academic success and graduation.

The athletics department is committed to initiating, stimulating, and improving intercollegiate athletics by promoting physical fitness and sports participation. Leadership development and teaching social responsibility and citizenship are also priorities.

The athletics department is committed to providing the support necessary for its student-athletes to achieve high levels of performance within the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Little East Conference, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

NCAA Division III
Discover  Develop  Dedicate
Westfield State University supports the mission of NCAA Division III to govern in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner, and to integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount.

Athletic Environment
The athletic environment is ultimately one that encourages and teaches social responsibility and citizenship.

Student-athletes are encouraged to follow their passions and discover their potential through participation in all aspects of the University experience and be integral members of the student body.

As a member in good standing of the NCAA, the athletics department promotes the principles of fair play, equitable treatment of men and women, and the recruitment of athletes that reflect our multi-cultural society. The athletics department strongly encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of opportunities for students in varsity, intramural, and club sports.

The athletics department is committed to providing a safe environment for competition. The health and welfare of student-athletes is of primary concern. The athletics department fosters sportsmanship, positive attitudes, and ethical conduct. Student-athletes, fans, and staff members are all expected to represent the University in a positive manner. The athletics department promotes open communication between athletes, coaches, and administrative staff, and supports the tenant that athletic participants are not treated differently from other members of the student body.

Gender Equity
Westfield State University is committed to complying with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which provides that: “No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Students, faculty/staff and third parties (if there is an impact on access to education programs/activities) are covered by Title IX. Areas of coverage include, but are not limited to, university services, programs and activities (on or off campus) such as admissions, financial aid, academic advising, housing, athletics, recreational services, extracurricular opportunities, classroom assignments, grading, discipline, and co-curricular offerings. Title IX has been defined to apply to intercollegiate athletics in three specific areas: Participation, Scholarships (does not apply to Division III) and Treatment of Existing Athletes and Programs.

Westfield State University is committed to an environment that is free of all forms of sexually abusive, harassing or coercive conduct and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or retaliation in any form. Members of the University community who believe that Title IX has been violated should discuss their concerns and/or file a complaint with the University’s Title IX Coordinator: Rafael A. Bones, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources & Affirmative Action, The Horace Mann Center, Room 202, 333 Western Avenue, Westfield, MA 01086; Phone: (413)572-8106; Email: rbones@westfield.ma.edu. Under the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act of 1994, institutions must provide annual reports on issues relating to gender equity and the operating expenses of every varsity athletics team. The reports, compiled by the Westfield State University Athletics Department on an annual basis, are available to the public. For questions about the EADA please contact Nancy Bals, Associate Athletics Director/Senior Women’s Administrator, 413-572-5515, Woodward Center, Room 246, Westfield State University.