Club Sports have a long history in the co-curricular life of students here at West Chester University. Numbering around ten as recently as ten years ago, there are now 30 Club Sports currently operating, making up approximately 10% of all recognized clubs and organizations on campus. While this growth has greatly expanded opportunities for student involvement, it has also significantly stressed the resources, both human and financial, to support these organizations. As a result, practices were put in place to regulate the expansion of new clubs into areas where opportunities to participate were already available at the institution, while not negatively impacting those groups that have received recognition in the past.

The following policy was designed to formalize the “practice” of recognizing new and existing club sports that has been adhered to since 2009. Any new club sports desiring to be created must meet the following criteria.

1. **Existing Varsity Sports Team (No compete clause)**
   - **WCU Club Sports Council (the approving body)** will only approve additional club sport teams if there is no existing varsity sport and the campus has the facilities and/or space to accommodate practice and home matches on site. The ONLY Exceptions are those clubs that have been grandfathered in i.e. Women’s Field Hockey, Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s Soccer, Women’s Soccer, Swimming (Co-Rec) and Women’s Volleyball.

2. **NCAA Compliance**
   - In cases where a varsity team exists in a given sport, it is required that full compliance with NCAA regulations for tracking eligibility and follow up with clubs to verify rosters occurs on a regular basis. This compliance process is the responsibility of the club and the Office of Campus Recreation. The club must maintain up to date rosters in the format provided by Campus Recreation, and Campus Recreation will verify the status of the rosters and forward them to the Athletic Department for their review and record keeping.

3. **Space (practice and match)**
   - If general on campus space is needed, adequate time to practice and compete must be available in the existing campus facilities. If “specialized” facilities are needed that are not available on campus, the club is responsible for identifying appropriate off campus facilities and assure that adequate “legal” arrangements (use or services rendered agreements) are created and maintained by the club as well as monitored by WCU Campus Recreation staff and Student Services, Inc.

4. **Staffing**
   - University approved staff must be provided to ensure compliance with University policies regarding monitoring of finances, use of facilities, travel arrangements, engagement of non WCU volunteers (coaches), etc.
   - University approved staff must be present at all matches held on WCU property and must provide regular monitoring of any off campus facilities used by a club.
5. **Insurance** –
   * All recognized organizations must be eligible to be part of the umbrella insurance policy developed by Student Services Inc. created to protect club sport organizations at WCU

6. **Finances** –
   * Any additional funding needed to supplement the exiting funding provided to the Sport Club Council under the guidelines of the Student Government Association must be secured by the club desiring to be recognized, as funding allocations are not based on the addition of new clubs during a “current” year.