



Sport Characteristics

Sport selection is directly related to the importance of matching athletes and partners by ability. Each column in the chart below has sports that are grouped according to similar characteristics and team dynamics. These affect how teams are assembled based upon ability and age considerations; show how meaningful involvement is best achieved; present safety concerns; and describe how teams are to be awarded.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Interdependence; Interactive Confrontation	Interdependence; Non-confrontation	Independent and Interdependent; Non-confrontation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball ▪ Badminton ▪ Cricket ▪ Flag Football ▪ Floorball ▪ Floor Hockey ▪ Football (Soccer) ▪ Handball ▪ Softball ▪ Table Tennis ▪ Tennis ▪ Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alpine Skiing ▪ Bowling ▪ Bocce ▪ Cross Country Skiing ▪ Cycling ▪ Equestrian ▪ Figure Skating ▪ Golf ▪ Kayaking ▪ Powerlifting ▪ Roller Skating ▪ Sailing ▪ Snowboarding ▪ Snowshoeing ▪ Short Track Speed Skating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletics (Track & Field) ▪ Aquatics
Similar ability and age is essential.	Similar ability is preferred, but not essential. Similar age is also preferred, but a greater variance is allowed depending on the sport.	Athletes and partners compete against each other in individual events and are divisioned based on ability.
Player dominance & safety can be issues with these sports.	Player dominance & safety are non-issues in these sports.	Player dominance & safety are non-issues in these sports.
Rules modifications may be necessary to ensure meaningful involvement and a safe environment.	No rules modifications are necessary because of the non-confrontational nature of these sports.	No rules modifications are necessary because of the non-confrontational nature of these sports.
There is high risk of injury in these sports when athletes and partners are poorly matched.	There is minimal risk of injury.	There is minimal risk of injury.
Awards are based on place of finish or participation depending on Unified Sports model.	Awards are based on place of finish or participation depending on Unified Sports model.	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd place finishers earn points for their team. Awards are based on final team scores, not individual events.