

Proposal for “Softball” Emoji

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Selection Factors

- Compatibility
- Expected usage level
- Image distinctiveness
- Completeness

Possible Factors for Exclusion

- Is it overly specific?
- Is it openended?
- Is it already representable
- Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities
- Is it transient?

Category

Example of Softball Emoji



Black and White Images



Introduction

Softball is becoming more popular every year and will even appear in the Olympic Games in 2020. This is a proposal to include a softball emoji in unicode to allow softball players and spectators to express themselves and to fill a gap in the emoji sports section.

Selection Factors

Compatibility

Softball is one of the most popular sports in the United States, and an estimated 40 million Americans (**that's only 1 country's participation**) engage in at least one softball game each year. The history of softball is still unfolding, and the game has undergone numerous modifications since its creation in 1887, **but it is still one of the most preferred sports games in the country and has developed a following in several countries throughout the world, especially in Australia, China, and Japan.** Loved by amateurs and professionals of all ages and athletic backgrounds, the world can only anticipate what is in store for the future of America's other favorite pastime. However, there is no softball emoji for these people to express themselves. The group of softball players and softball player enthusiasts will probably grow when [softball will be an Olympic sport in 2020](#). The Olympic committee even tweeted about extra hashtagsⁱⁱ for softball and the four other newly added sports. Those hashtags are nice for Twitter, but we need a real dedicated softball emoji that everybody in the world can use!

Expected usage level

Frequency – Sport

- Worldwide, millions of people are playing softball. The most popular variants are: Fast-Pitch, Slow-Pitch and Modified.
- Softball is played by male and female players of all ages.
- For a lot of softball players and their families this is not only their sport but also their lifestyle.
- They communicate a lot about softball games and practice with others and need this emoji.
- Softball will reach a whole new audience at the Olympic Games in 2020
- Instagram results
 - Softball: 2.66 Million #softball
- Twitter results
 - Softball: Thousands of related accounts

<https://twitter.com/search?f=users&vertical=default&q=%23softball&src=typd>

- Softball Emoji mentioned on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/search?q=softball%20emoji&src=typd>

Frequency - Other

- Most high schools and colleges have softball teams that would use the softball emoji to promote their softball team.

Multiple usages - Sport

- Used by softball players to tell about their own activity
- Used by supporters to tell about the competition they've watched
- Used by fellow softball players/spectators to tell about a great softball game they watched

Multiple usages - Other

- To tell others about their work / activity / plans
- Used by softball coaches to communicate with their team

Image distinctiveness

There are very few things that need to be taken into consideration when designing the softball emoji.

- A softball is larger than a baseball but for emoji purposes it is not necessary to portray that fact.
- [Softballs are neon yellow typically with red laces](#). Although some softballs have blue laces the most recognized softball is yellow with red laces.
- The baseball emoji could be copied and changed to yellow, it's very simple 😊

Completeness

A softball emoji will fill a gap in the sports section of the emojis.

Possible Factors for Exclusion

Is it open-ended?

In the current emoji set the only other emoji present by which a softball player can use is a baseball. However, due to the color difference of the ball used it does not define the specific sport being referenced.

Is it already representable

No

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

This is not a logo, brand, etc.

Is it transient?

Nope. People have been playing softball since 1887. Softball is here to stay!

Category

We think the emoji should be placed in the sports category.

i <http://www.athleticscholarships.net/history-of-softball.htm>

ii Twitter [automatically adds](#) small (non emoji) images to certain hashtags.