

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS

Sports are competitions of physical strength, skill, or endurance against opponents or against an objective standard such as time, height, or distance.

There are a number of systems for classifying sports, based on different criteria.

1. Team – Individual

Team sports are practised between opposing teams, where the players interact to achieve the objective of the game.

Individual sports are based on one-to-one confrontation or timed races.

2. Opponent – Achievement

The objective of opponent sports is to defeat the opponent in combat, court or board games.

Among achievement sports the following categories can be distinguished: target, display, strength and endurance.

3. Environment

This division is based on the environment where the sport is performed, e.g. stadium sports, court games, water sports, etc.

4. Professional – Amateur

Professional Sports are conducted for profit by entrepreneurs who pay athletes depending on their popularity and performance. Professional sports are regulated by leagues or associations that set rules of competition and often are involved in regulating the salaries and working conditions of athletes.

5. Spectator Sports

A spectator sport is one that is characterized by the presence of spectators at matches or competitions. Spectator sports may be professional sports or amateur sports. Car racing is one of the most popular spectator sports in the world.

6. Olympic Sports

The Summer Olympic Games include 28 sports with 38 disciplines, the Winter Games include 7 sports with 15 disciplines. Until 1992, the Olympics also often featured demonstration sports. The objective was for these sports to reach a larger audience; the winners of these events are not official Olympic champions. These sports were sometimes sports popular only in the host nation.

Can you think of any other criteria for classification?