

Flying Disc Emoji Proposal

To: Unicode Consortium
Author: Devin Bayer <dev@doubly.so>
Date: 2016-12-24

Introduction

This document is a proposal for a new sports-related emoji that represents a FLYING DISC. The FLYING DISC, often referred to by the brand name “Frisbee”, is a popular toy and component of several sports where it often serves a similar role to a ball.

Besides the FLYING DISC being a culturally recognisable icon, The *International Olympic Committee (IOC)* has officially recognised the *World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)* since 2013 as the international governing body of all flying disc sports, including ultimate, beach ultimate, disc golf, freestyle, guts, and individual events.¹

Factors for Inclusion

A. Compatibility

1. This is a new character and not used in any existing systems.

B. Expected usage level

1. Frequency

- i. Current google search result counts for related words are:

- A. Frisbee - 23 million
- B. “Flying Disc” - 1.3 million
- C. Ultimate Disc - 45.8 million
- D. “Disc Golf” - 7.3 million

- ii. The annual reports by the *Sport & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)* show that there are 4.4 million Ultimate Frisbee players in 2015² and to give an idea, has similar participation rates to gymnastics, volleyball and field hockey.³

- iii. Google Trends shows that usage of the term “Frisbee” (the more colloquial version of FLYING DISC) compared favourably to other well known sporting equipment like “Hockey Stick” and “Tennis Racket”. See Appendix B for a screenshot.

2. Multiple usages

- i. There are no known metaphorical meanings attached to the FLYING DISC emoji.

C. Image distinctiveness

¹ <https://www.olympic.org/news/ioc-session-receives-updates-on-implementation-of-olympic-agenda-2020>

² https://www.sfia.org/reports/444_Ultimate-Frisbee-Participation-Report-2016

³ <http://sludgeonline.blogspot.nl/2013/10/ultimate-frisbee-participation-sfia.html>

1. Despite being a flat disc with a similar appearance to a “🪁”, PLATE, a flying saucer (UFO), or “💿”, COMPACT DISC, the proposed emoji poses no visual ambiguity with those other characters.

D. Completeness

1. The proposed pictograph represents another distinct category of sports, games and sporting equipment with cultural significance that cannot currently be approximated by any other sporting emoji.

E. Frequently requested

1. There are no known petitions for requesting the FLYING DISC emoji.

Factors for Exclusion

F. Overly specific

1. The FLYING DISC emoji represents a broad category of sports and cannot be considered a more specific version of any existing emoji.

G. Open-ended

1. The recommendation below is to aim for a specific size and shape of a flying disc, that which is used by the sport of Ultimate. In practice most flying discs look very similar, especially in the sizes common with emojis. Discs used by disc golf have less of a distinctive rounded edge, being smaller and flatter, thus less visually identifiable and also vary more within the category.

H. Already representable

1. There is no obvious manner to represent flying disc sports with existing emoji.

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

1. The FLYING DISC is not a company logo or strongly associated with a brand. The word “Frisbee” is a trademark of the Wham-O corporation, but the large majority of flying discs are not produced or associated with Wham-O.

J. Transient

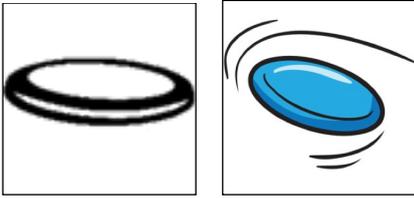
1. As mentioned above, flying disc sports are growing in popularity and have been recently recognised by the IOC. The game Ultimate has been around in its modern form since 1968⁴ and the FLYING DISC itself first marketed commercially in 1938⁵.

⁴ Leonardo, Pasquale Anthony; Zagoria, Adam (2005). *Ultimate: The First Four Decades*. Joe Seidler. ISBN 0976449609

⁵ Morrison, Fred; Phil Kennedy (January 2006). *Flat Flip Flies Straight! True Origins of the Frisbee*. Wethersfield, CT: Wormhole Publishers. ISBN 978-0-9774517-4-6

Images

The emoji should represent a spinning, flying disc with the approximate specification of the *USA Ultimate (USAU) Disc Technical Standard*, which specifies the official size and weight of USAU and the *WFDF* approved discs⁶. For example:



Ordering

The FLYING DISC emoji should be added somewhere in the **Sport Symbols** category, perhaps after “🎾”, TENNIS PADDLE AND BALL.

Additional Information

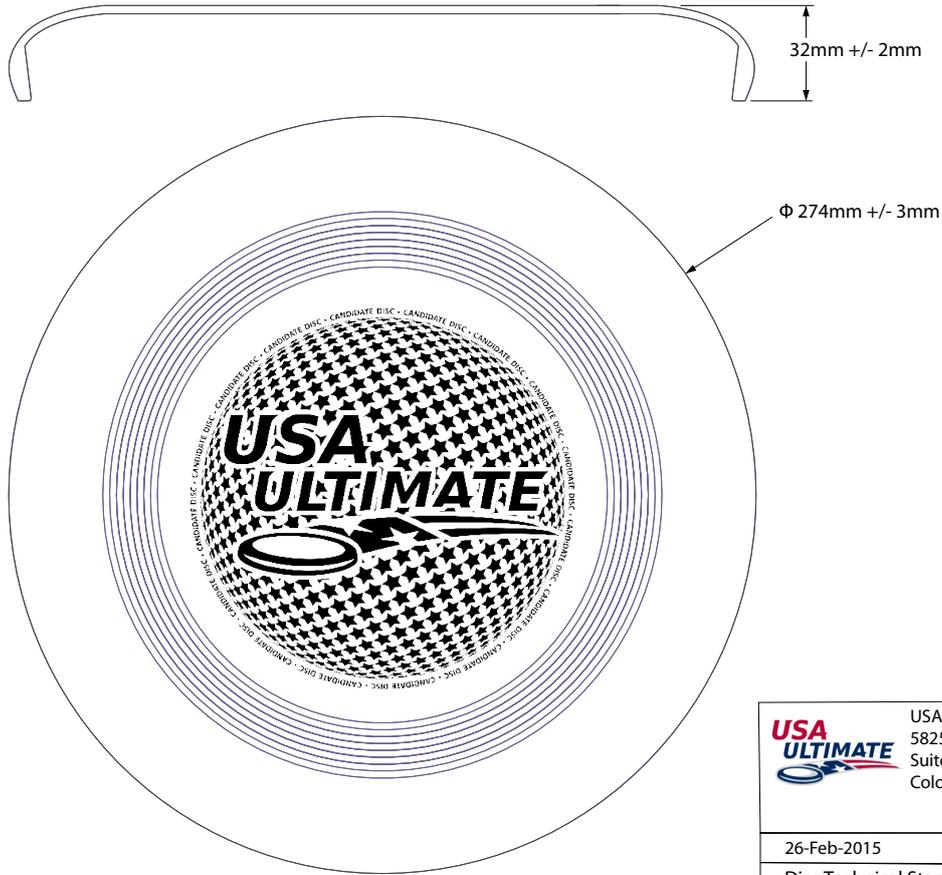
Suggested annotations:

1. flying disc
2. frisbee™
3. ultimate (sport)
4. disc golf

⁶ <http://www.wfdf.org/sports/equipment>, see also Appendix A: Disc Specification

Appendix A: Disc Specification

DSWG-002-01



	USA Ultimate 5825 Delmonico Dr. Suite 350 Colorado Springs, CO 80919	
	26-Feb-2015	Drawn M Licata
Disc Technical Standard		
Drawing Number DSWG-002-01		

Notes: \triangle 175 +/- 3 g \triangle Linear Low Density Polyethylene \triangle 1-2% Titanium Dioxide

Appendix B: Google Trends for Sporting Equipment

● Frisbee Search term	● Hockey Stick Search term	● Tennis Racket Search term	+
--	--	--	---

Worldwide ▼ Past 5 years ▼ All categories ▼ Web Search ▼

