

Weird Sports:

Where Wacky Meets Athletic

Sports come in different levels of “extremeness.” How far would you take a normal sport and change its rules to the point where it’s incredibly fun, but also risky? There are several sports currently in the world that don’t necessarily qualify under the category of “normal sports.” These sports are very out-of-this-world, with wacky rules and crazy objectives. Take a look and enter the world of weird sports.

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Sports Editor

ZORBING

Being One with the Ball

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At first glance, climbing into a large, inflatable ball and rolling down a hill definitely sounds strange. However, those who are in the extreme sports world would jump for a chance to do it. This peculiar sport, called zorbing, means speeding down a grassy slope and the thrill from that is unlike any other.

Although a zorb might sound like an alien from some faraway galaxy, it is actually the plastic sphere that takes ball sports to a whole new level. Riders are strapped inside the zorb against one wall and once released, roll downhill with full momentum. The ball has two layers, thus enabling riders to amusingly bounce and have fun while still being protected from hitting the ground. Another popular aspect of zorbing is hydro zorbing, where buckets of water are added inside the ball around you. Although it is more of a recreational activity, zorbing races are prominent among extreme sports fans.

There are zorbing facilities on all seven continents and in the U.S.; you can even go zorbing in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

First created in New Zealand, zorbing began growing popularity in 1998. The zorb has even been selected as the official symbol of the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014. In any case, this sport is as unique as it is young and continues to become a worldwide phenomenon for being a simple, yet electrifying experience.

BOSSABALL

Backflipping into Summer

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Volleyball has always been the sport seen at the beach on a sunny day, but imagine the mechanics of volleyball and merge it with multiple sports. As you turn your head 180 degrees, you see something that is pretty similar to volleyball but is instead on a large inflatable trampoline.

Here’s the catch: the players aren’t just passing with their arms, they are also passing with their legs, heads and chest.

This sport is called bossaball, and here’s how you would play. There is only one touch with your hands while you can have two touches with any other part on your body. With four players on the court, you are allowed to have six touches before you pass the ball over. To win a game of bossaball, a team must reach a score of 25. Basically, grab all the moves you’ve ever seen in soccer and gymnastics, add huge, trampoline-assisted air time and put it on an inflatable volleyball court. Then see if you can resist playing a game, or three, of bossaball.

This sport was created in 2004 by Filip Eyckmans from Spain, and though doing backflips in the air might sound tedious, the safely pumped inflatable court absorbs almost all impact, which makes falling fun and safe.

Various professional teams like “Bossaball Hungary” play competitively. This new sport has not been fully recognized yet, but by hearing and watching videos on how it’s played, being successful out there shouldn’t be a problem.

CHESS BOXING

Where Mind and Muscle Mix

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If someone asked you to step into a boxing ring, sit down and play chess, would you do it? This sport requires athletes to be both mentally and physically strong. French artist and filmmaker Enki Bilal created the hybrid sport of chess boxing, based on his 1992 comic book *Froid Équateur*.

According to The World Chess Boxing Organization (WCBO), chess boxing combines the number one thinking sport and the number one fighting sport to create the ultimate sport that demands the most from its competitors.

In a chess boxing fight, two competitors play 11 alternating rounds, consisting of six rounds of chess and five rounds of boxing. The winner is decided considering many factors, the number of checkmates or exceeding the time limit in chess, number of knockouts in boxing or the referee’s decisions. If the chess game ends in a tie, the opponent with the higher score in boxing wins. A match may be won either way, so a participant must be skilled as both a boxer and a chess player.

Throughout the years, chess boxing has been a fast growing sport with large followings in Berlin and London. If you have experience in boxing or have a passion for chess, chess boxing might be the sport for you. The WCBO is now recruiting new chess boxing talent on their official website.

UNICYCLE FOOTBALL

Wheeling and Dealing

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One of the most popular sports in society today is American football. But have you ever imagined if the game was tweaked? What if new objects were brought into the game?

Recently, the sport of unicycle football has taken sports to a different level. In fact, an official league has been made in San Marcos, Texas.

For starters, the game is relatively simple. It’s very similar to flag football, which includes flag pulling, throwing and a couple different rules. The only major difference is that players are unicycling instead of running to make plays. This extra catch makes this sport an even bigger challenge as it adds another obstacle to the game of football.

One great simplicity of this sport is that it can be played on any surface. From parking lots to dirt fields to regular grass fields, unicycle football can virtually be played anywhere. To some, the danger factor and the chaos it could cause is evident. However, the people that have been exposed to this sport have found it to be more fun and less dangerous than they originally imagined. This creation of unicycle football is definitely one of the oddest, yet most exciting combinations and blends of different sports.

Perhaps, maybe other popular sports could be combined in the future. We can only wait to see how popular this trend of novelty sports will proliferate.

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