

Welcome to Worlds



All smiles from the Dutch

Few first day upsets

The World Ultimate and Guts Championship 2016 is finally under way, with varying levels of success for the home sides. Great Britain's Women matched Canada's energy in the early going, with captain Jenna Thompson showing the watching world what British players are familiar with by bringing fire on defence with a goal-line block while leading on offence with Becci Haigh and Jacky Verralls. After their promising start, the tide turned in Canada's favour and they ran away with the game 15-8 against a disappointed but not disheartened GB. The Men's team made efficient work of their opener against South Africa, winning 15-4. The GB Women's Masters were equally successful with a 15-5 win over the Czech Republic, a score matched by the GB Mixed team against Hong Kong. The tightest game saw the Men's Masters fall to perennial powerhouse Canada, who boasted some of the players from the gold medal team from WUGC 2008 in

Vancouver. GB weren't overawed, though, and had the disc on offence with the scores at 14-13 after they prevented what would have been the winning goal. Unfortunately for them, and for all the home fans, the result went against the Brits, but their promising start nevertheless bodes well for the tournament.

Away from the home sides, there were few upsets, though Switzerland and Lithuania Men's teams notched wins against France and Latvia respectively, while the USA looked about as imperious as everyone expected - across the Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions their teams conceded five points in four games.

Pool play continues today, with each team playing a full schedule after the pageantry of the opening ceremony truncated yesterday's play. Good luck to all!

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Rain • 17°C/63°F

Tomorrow: Cloudy • 19°C/63°F

Wednesday: Cloudy • 20°C/63°F

Today's Schedule

Pitch	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
09:30	SVK v UAE	FRA v CZE	PHI v COL			JPN v GER		USA v BEL	GBR v DEN	IRL v CHN	POL v NOR	CAN v AUT	
11:10	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed			Mixed		Mixed	Women's	Mixed	Mixed	Women's	
11:30	GER v IRL	SIN v IND	AUS v ITA	AUS v FIN	NZL v POR	COL v ESP	JPN v AUT		NED v IND	FRA v ITA		RUS v PHI	COL v ISR
13:10	Men's	Women's	Women's	Mixed	Mixed	Women's	Men's		Men's	Men's		Women's	Men's
13:30		MEX v SW	GBR v LTU	AUS v BEL	NZL v PHI	DEN v COD	GBR v RSA	CAN v GER		RSA v LAT	DEN v FRA	USA v FIN	SUI v POL
15:10		Women's	Men's	Master M	Master M	Men's	Master M	Master M		Men's	Master M	Master M	Men's
15:30	CAN v GER		COL v ISR	ESP v AUT	GER v SIN	USA v UAE	FIN v NED	NZL v HKG	SUI v DEN	GBR v AUT	AUS v PHI		RUS v ESP
17:10	Women's		Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Master W	Women's	Women's	Women's	Women's		Women's
17:30	SIN v MEX	SWE v DEN		FRA v POL	ITA v SUI		BEL v CHN	NZL v CZE	JPN v IND	GBR v LAT	RSA v LTU	CAN v COD	BEL v IRL
19:10	Men's	Men's		Men's	Men's		Men's	Men's	Men's	Men's	Men's	Men's	Women's

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Pitch
ISR v IND	CAN v ESP		MEX v KOR	JPN v SWE		MEX v HKG	USA v NED	FIN v RSA	FIN v CZE	CAN v GBR	AUS v NED	ESP v IND	09:30
Mixed	Mixed		Mixed	Women's		Women's	Women's	Women's	Master W	Master W	Master W	Master M	11:10
BEL v NZL		CZE v CHN	NZL v IRL	SUI v GER	AUS v ESP		GBR v DEN	HKG v SUI	USA v NZL	JPN v FRA	JPN v SUI		11:30
Men's		Men's	Women's	Women's	Men's		Mixed	Mixed	Master W	Master W	Master M		13:10
USA v SIN	JPN v BEL	CAN v SWE		USA v FRA	FIN v NED	IRL v NOR	FIN v EGY	CHN v POL		FRA v KOR	CZE v MEX	ESP v SIN	13:30
Men's	Women's	Men's		Women's	Women's	Mixed	Men's	Mixed		Mixed	Mixed	Master M	15:10
	BEL v SVK	GBR v SUI	HKG v DEN		FIN v POR	AUS v NZL	RSA v IND	CAN v CZE	PHI v IND	AUS v GBR		SUI v IND	15:30
	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed		Mixed	Mixed	Women's	Master W	Mixed	Master W		Master M	17:10
AUS v ISR	COL v ESP	GER v EGY		IRL v FIN	AUT v NED	SIN v FRA	COL v ITA		JPN v GER		FRA v NZL	JPN v SIN	17:30
Men's	Men's	Men's		Men's	Men's	Women's	Women's		Master W		Master W	Master M	19:10

Player Profile

NAME: Jan Vavrusa
 TEAM: Czech Republic Mixed
 YEARS PLAYED: Nine years

BEST PLAY EVER: I've made a few nice skies.

BEST TOURNAMENT: I think it has to be Windmill.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE UK: I started playing Ultimate in the UK so I like it!

BEST JERSEY AT WORLDS: Of course us!

BEST SWAG AT WORLDS: The French Mixed have guys with walkie-talkies doing tactics, so I will say them.

FRISBEE IDOL: I started playing with Tom 'Mum' Abrams at Warwick and he showed me how extra work makes a difference, and Jordan Berrauld showed me it's more than just a sport.

FAVOURITE HAND SIGNAL: Stall out!



Jan looking like Messi

Winning in the rain



Photo by Graham Shellswell

Spirits not dampened

The heavens opened yesterday morning, and the early games were heavily affected by the downpour. Discs were greasy, the ground was slippery and players confined to the sidelines must have had a pretty miserable time. Despite that, there were some intense and exciting games, including the upset of the tournament so far as the Swiss Women's team defeated the touted Germans on universe point, 15-14.

Men's Masters pool C is worth a mention as well - the Spanish defeated India 11-10 and Singapore 12-10, while Japan defeated Switzerland 14-12. The abundance of close games in that pool suggests it will be very tight for placings but the key game will be Spain facing the Swiss tomorrow morning for second place.

The Guts division is moving along at a quick pace, with every team playing at least four games. The

USA 1 team remains undefeated, the only team to do so, while Japan and the USA 2 team have only one defeat. The home team is faring well, with Great Britain on four wins from six games. They lost to USA 2 in a nail biter, 23-21, but were soundly defeated by USA 1. Still, it's an encouraging start for a team that has never played a competitive Guts championship together and hopefully is a good sign for the medal rounds.

Today is the start of power pools in the Men's and Mixed divisions, as well as Men's Masters. The Women's and Women's Masters will continue with pool play in the absence of power pools, while the Guts division round robin will carry on until Wednesday.

The weather forecast for today is much less damp than yesterday. Enjoy the clouds, they won't drop rain all over you this time!

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Cloudy • 19°C/66°F

Tomorrow: Rain • 18°C/64°F

Wednesday: Stormy • 20°C/68°F

Important Information

Sainbury's is located only a short 10 minute walk from the pitches. Head along the driveway and turn left at the main road. Keep on until you reached a small footbridge across the road. Take the footbridge across the motorway until you get to a grassy right turn going downhill. Head downhill and then you've reached the shopping complex from the back entrance. Keep going straight and you will see the entrance. Any questions, ask our volunteers they will help you to get to Sainbury's! Walking to the centre will help ease pressure on the roads around the venue.



SCHEDULE CHANGES

There have been significant changes to the schedule since DR Congo have unfortunately confirmed that they cannot attend the start of knockouts. Therefore, the Men's division schedule structure has been altered. There have also been a number of pitch alterations in other divisions. Please read the schedule to confirm game times and locations.

Player Profile

NAME: Sarah Harrison
TEAM: Netherlands Women
YEARS PLAYED: About seven years

BEST PLAY EVER: A layout score in sudden death to put my team, Relentless, into the top eight in the UK for the first time.

BEST TOURNAMENT: Got to be Windmill.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE UK: I'm from here! It's nice to see the sun though.

BEST JERSEY: I think Egypt and Israel have nice shirts.

BEST SWAG: The USA always have cool stuff. I like Ireland's as well, with the faded shamrock. Japan's too, other than the jacket!

FRISBEE IDOL: Rohre Titcomb. And I'm hopefully trading kit with her!

FAVOURITE HAND SIGNAL: Definitely stallout!



Sarah in a very bright jersey

Power pools begin



Photo by Claire Baker

High stakes, high excitement

The Mixed and Men's divisions began power pools yesterday as the stakes were raised even higher following the first set of games. There were some huge upsets, none more so than the Czech Mixed defeating the mighty Canada on universe point, 15-14. The Czechs managed a break late in the game and held their nerve on universe, converting a long point to steal the impetus in the group. However, the Philippines then beat the Czechs 15-11 to take top spot from them. The game between the Philippines and Canada tomorrow morning will decide the group and could bring about a three-way tie at the top to decide who takes the top overall seed in the division.

In Men's, Austria scored an upset by defeating Switzerland 14-10, but the Swiss managed to win a tight, intense game against Sweden, 15-14. The most important games in Men's are tomorrow, though, with two tantalising fixtures: Australia face

the United States while Canada face off against Japan. Both games are on the show pitches and will be the main attraction for spectators.

The top four in the Women's division has been set unless something totally unexpected happens - Colombia defeated Australia to join the United States, Canada and Japan in the top four. Those four will almost certainly meet this afternoon to decide the seedings going into quarters.

It's worth mentioning the state of play regarding the United States overall. So far, only one foreign team has defeated the USA in any division - the Japanese, in Guts. They beat USA 2, who then avenged the loss. The other loss was USA 1 defeating USA 2 and I don't think that counts...

Bracket play starts today! Enjoy another tense, exciting day all.

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Clouds • 17°C/63°F

Tomorrow: Rain • 19°C/66°F

Friday: Clouds • 19°C/66°F

Important Information

YOU'RE ALL NOT RUBBISH

Thanks to everyone, including players, spectators and especially volunteers, for your efforts in picking up all rubbish and litter so far. It is much appreciated, and please keep up the good work.

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

There is a spirit board on the spirit desk in the main tent - all teams are encouraged to share their experiences of great spirit with the rest of the community. And remember: keep it clean.

AREA OUT OF USE

Please keep the service area clear - that's the walkway next to the female toilet block that is full of machinery. It's a working area that needs to be kept clear for access by the groundsmen.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

There have been changes to the schedule again, with some games moving to the show pitches and others moved to rest pitch 25. Please check the schedule to ensure that you go to the right place for your game.

VOTING FOR ATHLETES' COMMISSION

A reminder to all players that the elections for the WFDF Athletes' Commission close tomorrow evening, Thursday 23 June. Please return any voting forms to the Executive Director's office, inside the pavillion, **no later than 8pm.**

Volunteer Profile

NAME: Lola Denham

VOLUNTEER ROLE: Scorekeeping

YEARS PLAYED: Eight years.

BEST PLAY EVER: A flick huck down the line for a goal, a few times.

BEST TOURNAMENT: Ex on the Beach in Geneva!

BEST JERSEY: I like India's. It's really bright and cheerful, just like India!

BEST SWAG: I like the USA's, with the long sleeves. It's really good.

FRISBEE IDOL: Jassy Drakulic, the captain of Punt. Also Magali Matsumiya, from Great Britain Mixed.

FAVOURITE HAND SIGNAL: Obviously stall out. It's great!



Lola's shirt knot not shown

On to knockouts



Photo by Andrew Moss

Brackets set in three divisions

Power pools concluded yesterday, and were followed by pre-quarters and crossovers. The final championship brackets are now set in the Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions. The Masters Men's division will have a round of crossover games before quarter-finals, while the Masters Women's division have one game of power pools left before they go right to semi-finals today.

The Men's division features surprise quarter-finalists Belgium, who will face a typically quick Japanese team. The other teams in the final eight are more predictable, with the USA facing Colombia, GB up against Australia and Canada will face Germany.

The Women's division saw a fantastic game between Japan and Canada featuring lead changes, layout blocks and a fantastic greatest for a goal by Canada. Japan prevailed, though, and

will see Australia in the quarter-final today. The Canadians will meet a resurgent Russian side, while unbeaten USA will play Switzerland and Colombia face Germany. The final game should be a great match-up for a spot in semis.

The Mixed division features six of the same teams as the Men's - Colombia, Canada, Japan, GB, Australia and the USA - with the addition of France and the Philippines. France face GB, Canada face Colombia and Australia face Japan, while the Filipinos face the juggernaut American squad.

After today we will know the top four teams in every division other than the Master's Women, where we will know the finalists. The Guts division goes to knockouts as well today, so the stakes are even higher still in every division. Enjoy the games, and stay dry where possible!

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Rain 19°C/66°F

Tomorrow: Showers 19°C/66°F

Saturday: Clouds 17°C/63°F

Rain stops play



Photo by Andrew Moss

Huge effort to reschedule

The brutal storm that battered London did not spare Hertfordshire. All games were called off first thing in the morning yesterday, and when they resumed at 11.30 only two pitches were playable. Priority was given to the quarter-finals of the Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions.

No strict schedule was drawn up, with teams being placed on whatever pitch was available to get through the games as quickly as possible. Later in the day two more pitches were opened, but another deluge meant that they were rendered unplayable. The rain intensified again, more lightning appeared and games were suspended.

However, the teams elected to resume later on in order to make sure that all semi-finals were set ahead of today.

The Women's quarter-finals went to seed, mostly

emphatically. Canada beat Russia 15-8, Japan beat Australia 15-6 and the USA beat Switzerland 15-4. Colombia defeated Germany 15-12, but in truth the Colombians were comfortable in the second half and their place in the semis was rarely in doubt.

Canada and the USA were untroubled in Mixed (although the Philippines did start off 2-0 against the USA), winning to three and nine respectively. Great Britain fell to France 15-8 in an upset, a game that was stopped after half by the lightning. Australia also managed to hold on despite a furious late run from Japan, winning 15-13.

In Men's, the USA soundly defeated Colombia 15-2, while Canada topped Germany 15-12 and the Japanese beat a game Belgium 15-10. The British Men fell to the Aussies 15-11 to cap a bad day for the host country.

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Cloudy • 21°C/69°F

Tomorrow: Storms 19°C/67°F

Sunday: Sun • 20°C/68°F

Finals day is here



Photo by Andrew Moss

Only four games left

The fields had recovered somewhat from yesterday, enough for 11 of the pitches to be used and for all quarter and semi-finals to be held. There were also three finals, and some medals placings decided.

In the Guts division, the dominant USA 1 squad beat Japan in the final comprehensively. In something more of a surprise, the first-time Great Britain team managed to defeat USA 2, who had just come out of a thrilling semi-final with Japan, to earn a bronze medal at the first time of asking.

In the Masters Women's division, the USA defeated Canada 15-10 to earn the first gold of the tournament. The Australian team topped Japan in the bronze medal game 14-12 to round out the medals.

The Masters Men's final was another USA vs Canada match-up. It was exactly the same scoreline, the States triumphing 15-10. In the bronze medal game, Great Britain delighted the home fans by defeating Denmark 15-10 with an excellent performance of their own.

The Women's division final has been set; USA beat Canada 15-10 in one semi, while Colombia stunned the favoured Japanese in the other 10-7. Japan could not pick themselves up after the semi-final and Canada secured the bronze medal.

The USA extended their dominance in the Mixed division, defeating France 15-4 in their semi. Australia defeated Canada 15-12 to ensure the two best teams will meet in the final. Canada secured another bronze here, too.

Finally, in Men's Japan managed to beat Australia with a great second half, final score 15-9. The USA were dominant against Canada with a 15-8 win. Both the final and the bronze game will be tomorrow.

This all means that the United States have yet to lose, in any division (other than their second team losing in Guts). It looks very likely that they will run the table, an unprecedented and hugely impressive feat. Only four games left - enjoy finals day!

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Storms 18°C/66°F

Tomorrow: Cloudy 19°C/67°F