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WFDF 2016 World Ultimate and Guts Championship Reaches Quarterfinal Stage

The WFDF 2016 World Ultimate and Guts Championship reached the quarterfinal stage of the event beginning today, with the top seeds in each division of play remaining largely intact.

The preliminary and play-off rounds of the WUGC 2016 are being held at the University College London (UCL) Sports Ground in London Colney. The tournament organizing committee, headed by UK Ultimate CEO Simon Hill and Tournament Director Jon Pugh, set up 27 high-quality grass competition pitches that cover a total area of 143 acres. The opening ceremony was held on Sunday 19 June. The final day's gold medal games will be held on Saturday 25 June at Allianz Park stadium, home of Rugby's reigning Premiership Champions, Saracens RFC.

"It's been an action-packed week so far," stated WFDF President Robert "Nob" Rauch. Despite a number of incredibly close and spirited games, there have been few upsets in the first four days of play and we are heading into the play-off rounds with most of the top seeds intact. Spectators at the stadium or through broadcast should be treated to a great day of Ultimate at the finals on Saturday. As our largest World Championship ever, it has also been exciting to welcome for the first time a number of countries to our premier event."



Swiss player makes the catch against his Italian defender at the WFDF 2016 World Ultimate Championship in London. Credit: Neil Gardner, Ultiphotos

Slightly more than 3,000 athletes are participating in the event, representing 115 Ultimate teams from 39 countries. Competition is being held in five divisions: mixed gender (30 teams), men's (31), women's (26), men's masters (17), and women's masters (11). In addition, there are 8 teams competing in the discipline of Guts Frisbee.



WFDF President Robert "Nob" Rauch at the Opening Ceremony. Credit: Jolie J. Lang, Ultiphotos

For Ultimate in the mixed division, Canada (seeded 1) will play Colombia (10), Australia (2) takes on Japan (3), USA (4) faces off against Philippines (7), and Great Britain (5) goes up against France (8). In the men's division, it will be USA (1) vs. Colombia (10), Great Britain (2) vs. Australia (7), Canada (3) vs. Germany (4), and Japan (5) vs. Belgium (8). In the women's division, Japan (1) will play Australia (5), USA (2) takes on Switzerland (6), Canada (3) faces off against Russia (13), and Colombia (4) goes up against Germany (11). Semi-final matchups will be held Friday and the finals played on Saturday.

In the masters' division of Ultimate, play is now at the semi-final level, with the finals to be held Friday. In the men's masters, Canada (1) will face off against Great Britain (8) and the USA (4) will take on Denmark (5). In the women's masters, it will be USA (1) vs. Japan (4) and Canada (2) vs. Australia (3).

For Guts, play resumes Friday with a semi-final “play in” round for the fourth and fifth place teams after round robin play, Great Britain and Germany 1. The winner of that game will take on USA1 in the first semi-final game, with Japan vs. USA2 in the other semi-final. The winners of the semi-finals will compete for the gold medal at 1700 BST later in the day.

Over two dozen games have already been livestreamed throughout the week. The game streams are available at <http://livestream.com>, at <http://wfdf.org/live>, the WFDF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/worldflyingdisc>, WFDF’s youtube channel at www.youtube.com/wfdfchannel, and the World Games channel at <http://channel.theworldgames.org/>. A two hour broadcast will be televised in North America on Saturday 25 June on CBS Sports Network from 1600-1800 EDT.



Team USA Woman extends for the catch despite great defense by Great Britain. Credit: Jolie J. Lang, Ultiphotos

A total of 39 countries are competing in the 2016 WUGC. These are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, People’s Republic of China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and USA.

What is Ultimate?

Ultimate is a non-contact, self-refereed team sport played with a flying disc (aka a Frisbee). Two teams of seven players compete on a playing field about the same length as an American football field, but narrower. At each end of the playing field there is an end zone. Each team defends one end zone. They score a goal if one of their players catches the disc in the opposite end zone. The player with the disc is called the thrower. The thrower may not run with the disc. Instead they move the disc by passing to teammates in any direction. The defensive team gets possession of the disc if an offensive team’s throw is not caught by a player of the same team. Then the defensive team becomes the offensive team and can try to score in the opposite end zone. A key element of the game is that there are no referees and players make their own calls on the field, under a code known as “spirit of the game.”

What is Guts Frisbee?

Guts is played by two teams of five players each. The playing field consists of two parallel goal-lines 15 m in length and 14 m apart. The teams stand in line opposite each other. Each team defends a goal-line. The disc is thrown back and forth between the teams. The object is to throw the disc through the line of defending players. The throwing team scores a point when the other team does not catch a correctly thrown disc. The receiving team scores a point when the disc is not thrown correctly. When a correctly thrown disc is caught by the other team, no points are scored. The team that first reaches 21 points wins the game.



About WFDF:

The World Flying Disc Federation (“WFDF”) serves as the international governing body of all flying disc (frisbee) sports. WFDF is made up of the National Associations (“Members”) that govern their respective disc sports in over 65 countries. WFDF is the International Federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for Flying Disc sports, a member of the Association of Recognised International Federations (ARISF), a member of SportAccord and the International World Games Association, is recognized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) registered corporation in the State of Colorado, USA, and it is a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency code. WFDF estimates that over 7.5 million people globally play disc sports competitively.

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