

The first tournament of the 2019 Western Cape Goalball League was held on 25 May 2019 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Six clubs are participating in this league. Two teams will get a bye during each tournament. For this league, two changes were made to IBSA rules.

For the first change, each half of a game will start with a three minute power play. For these three minutes, the usual ten second rule is reduced to seven seconds, forcing players to play a quicker game. In addition to the teams playing a quicker game, each goal scored in the power play, will count as two.

Additionally, for this league, the use of sighted players and mixed teams (male and female players) are permitted. Presently, only UCT (University of Cape Town) uses sighted players make use of this rule. They are also the only club using a mixed team.

The University of Stellenbosch (also called Maties and defending champions), played in the opening game against Eerste Rivier. After a halftime score of 11-4 in the favour of Maties, Eerste Rivier made a comeback with two power play goals along with another after the power play ended bringing closing the gap to 11-9. Despite the Eerste Rivier's strong comeback, Maties managed to hold on their lead and won the game, 17-11.

The University of South Africa (UNISA), who lost in the 2018 finals against Maties, won their first game of the season against UCT (University of Cape Town), with a final score of 12-1 due to a power play goal scored in the second half.

After our first tournament the organizers recognized two facts. The power play and doubling of goals in the power play created a higher final score, but did not really have an influence on the amount of goals scored if you compare it with the average goals scored during other times of the game. Secondly, after the referee indicated that power play is over, the teams kept going on to play a quicker game - maybe not a bad thing for spectators.

The next tournament will take place in Worcester on 8 June 2019.

SCORES

Maties 17 Eerste Rivier 11

UNISA 12 UCT 1

Eerste Rivier 19 UCT 9

Maties 14 UNISA 4

Maties 11 UCT 1

Eerste Rivier 25 UNISA 18

Log standing:

PLACE	TEAM	GOAL DIFFERENCE	LOG POINTS
1	Maties	9	+26
2	Eerste Rivier	6	+11
3	UNISA	3	-6
4	UCT	0	-31
5	GUGC	0	0
6	Worcester	0	0

Submitted by:

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