



Results from day one of the World Championships

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What is underwater rugby?

A short film
History of the sport
The rules

Links

Schedule of the competition

The 9th CMAS UWR Championships Helsinki 2011 official website

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Intense competition in Group play produces some classic underwater rugby matches and an unforgettable feel-good story.

When teams are close in strength the scores are typically low and the margin of difference is in the low single digits. When the gap in skills, strength and strategy is significant the scores can be very large and unequal.



This was clearly the case in Helsinki on day one, as the German women triumphed 2 – 0 over Colombia and Norwegian women nipped Sweden 1 – 0. On the men's side Denmark went down against German 1 – 2 in a hard fought contest.

However, four of the nine day-one matches ended with the winning team in double digits while the losing opponent suffered a shutout. The most striking example of this was the Austrian men's 50 – 0 victory over South Africa. There were, however, clear reasons for the disparity. This was not only the South African team's first ever World Championship, but their first real competition ever in accordance with CMAS International Rules.

"We play with truck tires for goals," explained one of the South Africans, "and in the first 15 minutes we'll have to learn what has taken other nations 15 years." Almost all of Cape Town based team's practice games take place in an unheated outdoor pool, during the summer months.

The South Africans, who never stopped fighting, received a standing ovation from the poolside crowd. That evening an hour and half before the last bus back to the hotel, the South Africans received an emergency coaching clinic by volunteers from Finland and Sweden who taught them the principles of goal tending and player rotation.

South Africa - National Team



And now just in via a Facebook iPhone entry by South African player Tim Stiff: "Thanks for all the support and tips to improve our game, especially to the Finns. We managed to improve our position from 50-0 against Austria to 24-0 against Colombia."

Day 1 16.8.2011

		Group			
		Blue	White		
1	9.00	Men A Finland	Colombia	(0-0)	4-0
2	10.00	Men B Turkey	Spain	(3-1)	6-1
3	11.00	Women ESweden	Norway	(0-0)	0-1
4	12.00	Men C Norway	Italy	(7-0)	19-0
5	13.00	Men D Denmark	Germany	(1-2)	1-2
6	14.00	Men A Austria	South Africa	(25-0)	50-0
7	15.00	Women FGermany	Colombia	(1-0)	2-0
8	16.00	Men B Sweden	Switzerland	(11-0)	22-0
9	17.00	Women EDenmark	Spain	(11-0)	21-0



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