



ULTIMATE FUN: Joe Boyer, left, attempts to block Clint Jordan during play this week. Picture: KIM EISZELE

Sport where spirit scores

By **BRETT STUBBS**

IT is a sport that relies on no umpires or referees, but on the spirit of the contestants.

Ultimate Frisbee is a unique sport which places emphasis on sportsmanship and communication, and it is growing in Hobart.

The Tasmanian Ultimate Association runs a seven-a-side summer roster outdoors, which shrinks to four a side indoors at Hobart College's basketball courts during the cooler months.

It is a huge sport in North America and Europe, combining elements of netball, soccer, gridiron and touch football.

In Hobart at present there are about 50 people involved,

ranging in ages from 15 to 55.

Ultimate even has its own world championships but the aspect that makes it stand alone is the lack of an independent official or arbitrator.

TUA spokesman Tim Phillips said players are expected to know the rules.

"If there's an incident you can contest it," Phillips said.

"The two of you have to sit there and discuss it and a decision will be made to how the game goes on.

"Because there's no referee, they look for a solution to make the game go on and, more often than not, if there's no agreement you just go back to the last pass and start again.

"It makes the game interesting and brings another

challenging dimension to it.

"It's all about people and the spirit of the game and the experienced players really reinforce that into the beginners."

He said the sport should be attractive to parents.

"It's non-contact and it teaches good values and to communicate," he said.

Scoring is by catching the frisbee in the end zone, but that is not the only scoreline at the end of the game.

"Whenever you play a game of Ultimate, at the end of the game you give the opposition a spirit score," Phillips said.

"That's based on how well they played the game.

"Did they play in a sportsmanlike manner? Did they

give their beginner players a lot of opportunities to get involved? Was there no tension or conflict? Were people open to discussing points and disagreements?"

"These are the dimensions that make up the spirit score.

"That's what makes it such a great game."

Phillips said at the end of the league there is a points winner and a spirit winner.

"If we played the league as hard as we could, the beginners wouldn't feel a part of the game," he said.

"It'd be a bit like someone who'd never played rugby going along to a game and basically getting belted.

"You don't want that; you want people involved."