

# PFL PLAYOFFS



**LAS VEGAS, N.V. – October 31, 2019** – The 2019 Professional Fighters League (PFL) Playoffs continued at MGM’s Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas with light heavyweight and heavyweight action on Halloween night. Where #1 seeded light heavyweight **Emiliano Sordi** picked up two early finishes, one by knockout and another by submission, to advance to the 2019 PFL World Championship. PFL light heavyweight newcomer **Jordan Johnson** avenged the only loss of his career en route to NYC. Heavyweight **Jared Rosholt** was unfazed by semifinal opponent changes, earning two victories and setting up a showdown against #5 seed **Ali Isaev** at Madison Square Garden.

“This was a historic playoff run for PFL, bringing a fight twice in one night format to the fight capital of the world for the first time,” said Peter Murray, CEO of the PFL. “The atmosphere at MGM’s Mandalay Bay was electric, and our athletes flourished under the bright lights, giving fans the fight action they crave. We’re excited to take over NYC on New Year’s Eve for the 2019 PFL World Championship. The ball won’t drop until six belts are raised and six millionaires made.”



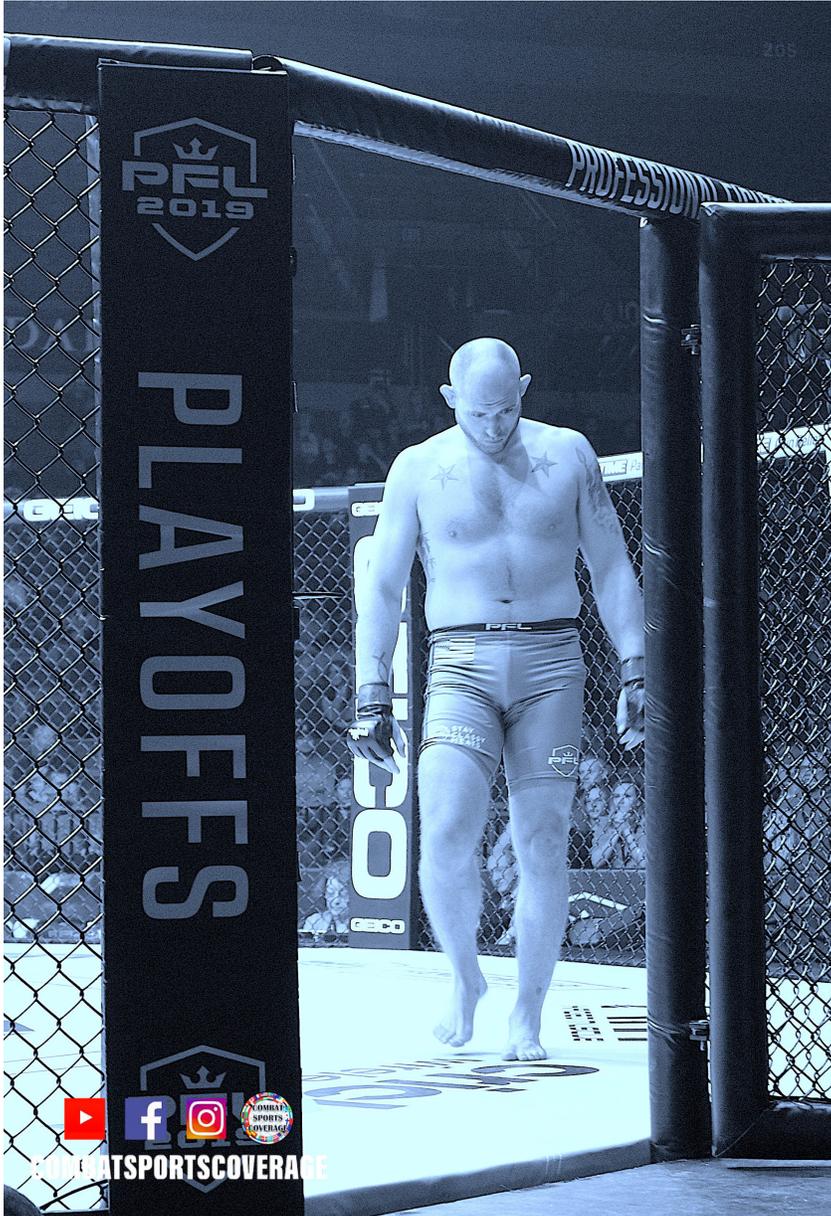
## Light Height 2019 Finalist

The top half of the light heavyweight playoff bracket featured #1 **Emiliano Sordi** taking down #8 Sigi Pesaleli just 1:13 into the first round by TKO. The Argentinian “He-Man” continued to show his finishing ability, adding a 20th win by stoppage to his resume. Sordi’s superior striking forced Pesaleli to the ground and he continued unleashing strikes until the referee stepped in and called the fight.

In the semifinals, Sordi continued to put on a show, submitting Ataev by rear-naked choke in the first round, the 21st win by stoppage of his career, with the last three coming in the first round. With the submission, **Sordi punched his ticket to New York City to fight for the light heavyweight division 2019 season title and \$1 million prize.**

The bottom half of the bracket featured #7 **Jordan Johnson** defeating #2 Maxim Grishin by majority draw, forcing a tiebreaker where all three judges picked Johnson as having the better overall performance. Johnson advanced to the semifinals and avenged his only career loss, which came at the hands of Grishin earlier this season at PFL 3.

## Light Height 2019 Finalist



#6 Rashid Yusupov defeated #3 Vinny Magalhaes with a devastating first round KO, upsetting the 2018 light heavyweight runner-up. In the semifinals, **Jordan Johnson** again went the distance defeating Yusupov by unanimous decision in a dominating performance. In the second round, Johnson moved on the offensive and pressed Yusupov's back to the cage for takedowns and ground control. His dominant ground game continued in the third and final round. In his first run with the PFL, **Johnson advanced to the light heavyweight championship and will face #1 Sordi on New Year's Eve for \$1 million and the division title.**

I believe Sordi will be the favorite heading into this fight vs Jordan. But Jordan Johnson showed he has a great wrestling game with very strong cardio and cant be underestimated. But sordi is very well rounded with both his Playoff wins coming by 1st round finish both by different types of finishes.

## Heavyweight 2019 Finalist



Starting off heavyweight quarterfinal action, #5 **Ali Isaev** took down #4 Kelvin Tiller by unanimous decision. Isaev dominated the match, taking down “Mama’s Boy” Tiller each round and controlling the fight on the ground. Isaev remains undefeated with a 7-0 record entering the semifinals. In the semifinals, **Ali Isaev** grinded through each three, five minute rounds to eventually defeat Denis Goltsov by TKO in the final seconds of round three. Isaev caught Goltsov with a late third round hook, allowing Isaev to unleash a raid of strikes causing the referee to call the fight right before the ring of the bell. **Remaining undefeated in his career at 8-0, Isaev has locked in his spot to the PFL World Championship in New York City.**

## Heavyweight 2019 Finalist



On the other half of the heavyweight bracket, #7 Jared Rosholt pulled a decisive comeback win over #2 Muhammed DeReese by first round TKO. In the opening moments of round one, Rosholt secured DeReese's back and rained down punches until the referee was forced to call the fight. Rosholt advanced to the heavyweight semifinals for the second season in a row and earned his first TKO since 2015. In the semifinals, Rosholt defeated Tiller by unanimous decision, booking a spot in the 2019 PFL World Championship. In their second fight of the night, Rosholt overpowered Tiller with his wrestling and takedown approach. Rosholt won each round, taking down Tiller and almost submitting him in each round. **After three straight upset victories, Rosholt heads to New York to face Ali Isaev for a chance to win \$1 million and the heavyweight title.**



**PFL MMA** action returns for the 2019 PFL World Championship on December 31, New Years Eve, at Hulu Theater in Madison Square Garden. All six divisions will compete in six title fights for \$1 million and the divisional belt. The 2019 PFL World Championship will air from 7PM - 11PM EST on ESPN2.

## My Last thoughts

Overall PFL showed they have amazing fighters and team behind them. I also love how PFL does the old school tournament but also something new with pre season fights. But I do love the tournament base playoffs with Fight twice in one night to move forward. It show how tough and strong these fighters really are. I think both the 205 and heavyweight 2019 season fights will great fights and the winners should be among the top 5 in the world any organizing.