Pool D – Country specific statistics

Brazíl

- Brazil are the only country which have the maximum of nine points after the first three matches in the first group. The Czech Republic in the third group have also taken the maximum points.
- In total, Brazil have won their last 12 World Grand Prix matches, losing only one set (the 3-1 victory against China in the first match this season).
- They have won 20 of their last 21 World Grand Prix matches, only losing to Bulgaria on 10 August 2013.
- Brazil have won 12 of their 15 matches in Brazil in the World Grand Prix. In 2012, they also played in São Paulo, beating Germany and Italy and losing to the United States.
- Thaisa Menezes has the highest average blocks per set (1.10) together with the Czech Republican Veronika Trnkova this World Grand Prix.
- Danielle Lins has the highest average running sets per set average (7.80) of all players this World Grand Prix.

Korea Republic

- Korea have won two of the first three World Grand Prix matches for the first time since 2003, when they eventually won four of their first five matches.
- Korea have now played 15 successive World Grand Prix matches without a 3-0 victory. Only between 1997 and 2000, they had more consecutive matches without a victory in straight sets (20).
- The last time they kept an opponent from scoring a set was against Argentina in 2011.
- Kim Yeon-Koung is top scorer in the first group with 75 points this year. She has also the most aces (10) and the highest ace per set ratio (0.83) of the players in the first group. The ace per set ratio is also the highest of all groups this World Grand Prix season.

Russia

- Russia have won nine of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches, only losing in their last match against Turkey (3-2).
- They have lost the first set in three of their last four matches, only winning set one against Japan last week.
- The last time Russia played in Brazil was in the preliminary round of 2013, when they lost against the United States and Brazil before winning against Poland.
USA

- The United States can lose five of their first six matches for the first time since 1998, when they lost all their nine matches.
- In total, they have lost six of their last eight matches in the World Grand Prix a run that start in the Final Round of last year.
- The United States have won five of their last six matches in Brazil, only losing against Brazil in this span (2013).
Pool D – Head-2-Head

**Russia v USA**

- This will be the 22nd World Grand Prix meeting between these nations.
- The United States have only played more often against China (31 matches) and Japan (24).
- Russia have only played more often against Japan (26 matches), China (26), Brazil (25) and Korea (23rd meeting on Sunday).
- Russia have won 12 of the previous 21 meetings with the United States including the match-up last week.
- These teams also met at the 2010 world championship semifinal, with Russia winning 3-1.
- Evgeniya Startseva (Russia) meets Dinamo Kazan teammate Jordan Quinn Larson-Burbach (USA).

**Brazil v Korea Republic**

- Brazil and Korea have met on 20 occasions in the World Grand Prix. Korea won only two of these meetings of which one was their very first meeting in the World Grand Prix in 1993 (3-2).
- Their other victory came in 2001 when Korea defeated Brazil in straight sets. Brazil are unbeaten in their last seven meetings with Korea since 2001.
- Their last meeting came in the group of the 2012 Olympic Games. Korea defeated Brazil in straight sets. Both teams reached the semifinals of the Olympics, with Brazil winning the gold medal and Korea finishing on a fourth place.
- In this match two twins could face each other: Monique and Michelle Pavão (Brazil) v Jae-Yeong and Da-Yeong Lee (Korea).

**Brazil v Russia**

- This fixture has been played 25 times in the World Grand Prix. Brazil won 14 and Russia 11 of their meetings.
- Both teams have met three times in the World Grand Prix final (1998, 1999 and 2006). Russia only succeeded to defeat Brazil in the 1999 final.
- Brazil and Russia have won the most medals in World Grand Prix history. Brazil have won 15 medals (9 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze) and Russia have won 11 medals (3 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze).
- Russia became World Champion in 2006 and 2010 by defeating Brazil in the final (both in five sets).
- Fernanda Rodrigues and Josefa Fabiola from Brazil and Yuliya Podskalnaya, Svetlana Kryuchkova, Alexandra Pasynkova, Anna Matienko and Yana Shcherban from Russia all play for Dinamo Krasnodar.
USA v Korea Republic

- USA have won 10 of their 17 meetings with Korea of which four came in five sets.
- Their last meeting in the World Grand Prix was back in 2006, with the United States winning in four sets.
- USA proved too strong for Korea in their semifinal meeting at the 2012 Olympic Games. USA defeated Korea in three sets and went home with a silver medal after losing against Brazil in the final.
- Yeon-Koung Kim (Korea) and Alisha Glass both play in Turkey for Fenerbahce.

Brazil v USA

- Brazil have won 11 of their 19 World Grand Prix meetings with USA. In five of their eight victories against Brazil, USA needed five sets.
- The United States won the meetings with Brazil in the World Grand Prix final (2011, 3-0).
- These teams also clashed in the final of the 2012 Olympic Games. Brazil claimed the gold medal by defeating the United States in four sets.
- Nine of the 12 players of Brazil who played in the Olympic final are present in the 2014 World Grand Prix team. Only four of the USA team are in the 2014 World Grand Prix team.

Russia v Korea Republic

- Korea won only three of their 22 encounters with Russia in the competition. One of those victories came in their last meeting at the World Grand Prix in 2011, when Korea defeated Russia in five sets.
- Korea can beat Russia in back-to-back World Grand Prix matches for the first time.
- Russia have always taken at least one set against Korea in all previous 22 World Grand Prix meetings.
- Russia have only played more often against Japan (26 matches), China (26) and Brazil (26).
- Russia have won both previous meetings in the Olympic Games. In the 2000 Group stage they won 3-0 and in the 2004 quarterfinals they also won in straight sets.
Pool E – Country specific statistics

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic lost all three matches in straight sets in Week 1. The only other team to have lost all three opening matches in straight sets this season is Australia in Group 3, which lost their first four in straight sets.
- Dominican can lose four matches in a row in straight sets for the first time since 2012. Their all-time low came in their first World Grand Prix season (2004) when they lost five consecutive matches in straight sets.
- Before this straight-set losing streak, Dominican won seven of their 10 last World Grand Prix matches. In nine of these matches they succeeded to win at least one set.

Germany

- Germany have won 195 sets in World Grand Prix history and could become the third European and the ninth team overall to win at least 200 sets in the competition.
- Their defeat against Korea in last weekend's action was Germany's 100th defeat in the World Grand Prix. Only Korea (109) and Japan (149) have lost more World Grand Prix matches.

Serbia

- With their victory against Korea last weekend, Serbia recorded their 25th win in the World Grand Prix and became the sixth European side to achieve this feat.
- Serbia have won 93 sets in their matches at the World Grand Prix. If they succeed to win seven sets in their next three matches, they become the 14th team to win at least 100 sets in the World Grand Prix.

Turkey

- Turkey won all three matches in the 2014 World Grand Prix, with two of them coming in five sets.
- Two of those three victories came against former World Grand Prix winners USA and Russia.
- Turkey have the best win percentage in the World Grand Prix of all teams in Pool E. Turkey have won 66% of their matches, Serbia 63%, Germany 31% and Dominican Republic 26%.
- Gozde Sonsirma has scored 62 points in the first weekend of Group 1, second to Kim Yeong-Koung (KOR) with 75 points. Gozde is the best receiver of Group 1 with a receiving efficiency of 74%.
Pool E – Head-2-Head

Serbia v Germany

- Serbia and Germany will meet for the second time in competition. Their previous encounter came last weekend with Serbia defeating Germany in straight sets.
- Sanja Malagurski became top scorer for Serbia in this fixture with 20 points, while top scorer for Germany, Maren Brinker and Margareta Kozuch, scored only seven points.
- In this fixture a lot of teammates will meet each other. Lisa Thomsen (Germany) and Suzana Cebic (Serbia) play for Lokomotiv Baku, Mareen Apitz (Germany) and Milena Rasic (Serbia) for Cannes, Danica Radenkovic (Serbia) and Anja Brandt, Carina Aulenbrock and Jana Franziska Poll (all Germany) for Schweriner SC and Tijana Malesevic (Serbia) and Stefanie Karg (Germany) for VK Prostejov.

Turkey v Dominican Republic

- Their only meeting in the World Grand Prix came in last year’s edition in the group phase. Turkey defeated Dominican Republic in five sets.
- Dominican Republic were two sets up before losing the last three sets to Turkey. It marks the only time Turkey came back from lagging two sets behind in the World Grand Prix.
- At the 2010 World Championship these teams met in the first round, with Turkey defeating Dominican Republic (3-2).

Germany v Dominican Republic

- These teams have played six World Grand Prix matches against each other. Germany won four of those matches, Dominican the other two.
- Their last meeting came at the 2012 World Grand Prix with Germany defeating Dominican in straight sets.
- Dominican’s victories over Germany both came in five sets (2005 and 2010).
Turkey v Serbia

- Turkey and Serbia have met once in the World Grand Prix. In 2012 Turkey defeated Serbia 3-1.
- Their last two meetings at a World Championship or Olympic Games were both won by Turkey in straight sets. These came at the 2012 Olympics (group phase) and the 2010 World Championship (second group phase).
- The last three World Grand Prix bronze medals have been won by either Turkey or Serbia. Turkey finished third in 2012 and Serbia claimed the bronze medal in 2011 and 2013.
- Stefana Veljkovic (Serbia) plays for Turkish team Galatasaray and will meet Asli Kalac and Gamze Alikaya in this fixture. Jovana Brakocevic and Jelena Nikolic (both Serbia) also play in Turkey, for Vakifbank and will meet eight of their teammates in this match.

Dominican Republic v Serbia

- Serbia have won both their World Grand Prix meetings with Dominican Republic in straight sets. These matches were played in 2011 and 2013.
- In their 2011 World Cup meeting Dominican Republic recorded a 3-2 win against Serbia.

Turkey v Germany

- Turkey and Germany have both recorded one victory against each other in the World Grand Prix. Germany defeated Turkey 3-1 in their last World Grand Prix meeting in 2012. Turkey defeated Germany 3-1 in their 2008 World Grand Prix meeting.
- These teams have met four times at the European Championship (2003, 2007, 2009 and 2013). Germany are undefeated in these four encounters.
- Christiane Fürst from team Germany plays for Eczacibasi in Turkey and will meet five teammates in this fixture.
Pool F – Country specific statistics

China

- China have lost three of their last four World Grand Prix matches. Before this run they won 13 consecutive matches.
- China have lost 97 World Grand Prix matches and can become the fourth nation to lose a century of matches after Germany, Japan and Korea.
- China have won their last six World Grand Prix matches in Hong Kong, their longest winning streak in this city. The last nation to beat them in Hong Kong is the United States in 2010.
- Li Jing celebrates her 23rd birthday on Saturday 9 August.

Italy

- Italy have played 18 World Grand Prix matches in Hong Kong; second most of all nations behind China (45).
- Italy have only won one of their last 10 World Grand Prix matches in straight sets, which was their opening match of against Dominican Republic last week.
- Nadia Centoni has the highest spike success ratio of all players at the 2014 World Grand Prix (54%).

Japan

- Japan have lost their last seven matches in the World Grand Prix after beating Italy in the Final Round last year. The last time they lost at least eight successive matches was in 2008 (9 matches).
- They have lost their last three World Grand Prix matches in Hong Kong after defeating Brazil in 2001 (3-0).
- Saori Kimura has the second highest receiving efficiency in the first group (66%) only behind Turkish Gozde Sonsirma (74%).

Thailand

- Thailand have only won one of their last five World Grand Prix meetings.
- The last time they lost five matches in a span of six was in 2010.
- Thailand have won only one of their nine World Grand Prix meetings in Hong Kong, which was their last meeting in 2010 (vs Germany, 3-1).
Pool F – Head-2-Head

Japan v Italy

- Italy have won nine of their 16 World Grand Prix encounters with Japan.
- Japan, however, have won five of their last six meetings and are unbeaten in their last three matches.
- These teams also met in the group stage of the 2012 Olympic Games. Italy defeated Japan 3-1 and both teams reached the quarterfinals. Japan finished third and claimed their first Olympic medal in this event since 1984.

China v Thailand

- China and Thailand have met 13 times at the World Grand Prix, with China winning 11 times and Thailand twice.
- China were unbeaten in their first 10 World Grand Prix meetings with Thailand with their first seven matches against them coming in straight sets.
- Thailand won two of their last three World Grand Prix meetings: 2011 (3-1) and 2013 (3-2).

Italy v Thailand

- Italy are unbeaten in their six World Grand Prix meetings with Thailand.
- In their meeting at the 2011 World Grand Prix Thailand were two sets up against Italy, but still lost the match.
- Italy defeated Thailand in straight sets at the 2010 World Championship, the 2009 Grand Champions Cup and the 2007 World Cup.

China v Japan

- These teams have met in 20 World Grand Prix matches. Japan only succeeded to win once, which came at the 2001 edition (3-0).
- China can become the third nation to beat another country at least 20 times in the World Grand Prix. Brazil have defeated Japan 31 times and China 23 times and Cuba have defeated Japan 22 times.
- Japan defeated China 3-2 at the 2012 Olympic quarterfinal and eventually finished third in the competition.
- China beat Japan in the 2011 Asian Championships final, claiming their 12th gold medal in this event, most of all teams.
Japan v Thailand

- Japan defeated Thailand in four of their six World Grand Prix meetings.
- Both victories of Thailand, 2009 and 2012, came in five sets.
- This fixture was the 2013 final of the Asian Championships. Thailand defeated Japan in straight sets and claimed their second Gold medal at the Asian Championships following their 2009 title.

China v Italy

- These nations have met 20 times in the World Grand Prix, with Italy winning 11 times and China nine.
- Italy have won four of the last five meetings, including in last weekend in Sassari.
- Italy defeated China in the 2002 World Championship semifinal. Italy won the final against the United States that year and won their first and so far only world title.
- China have lost three times against Italy in Hong Kong in the World Grand Prix. They only lost more often there against Russia and Cuba in the competition (both 4 times).
Pool N – Country specific statistics

Argentina

- Buenos Aires, Argentina is the host city for this weekend of World Grand Prix play.
- Argentina have won five of their previous 33 World Grand Prix matches. None of these came on home soil.
- Argentina have won one match in this season’s World Grand Prix (3-1 v Cuba). Their highest number of victories in a single World Grand Prix is two (2011 and 2013). They can improve their best mark by winning two or more matches in front of a home crowd.
- Argentina have lost a total of 93 sets in their previous 33 World Grand Prix matches. They could become the 17th nation with at least 100 sets conceded.

Canada

- Canada booked their first ever victory in the World Grand Prix last weekend, beating Argentina 3-2.
- This victory on 2 August was also Canada’s first ever five-setter in the World Grand Prix. The day after, they immediately went the distance again, but lost the deciding set against the Netherlands.
- In their last two World Grand Prix matches, Canada have won more sets (5) than in their nine other matches in the competition combined (4).
- Canada are the only non-Spanish speaking nation in Pool N.

Cuba

- Cuba have lost 349 sets in World Grand Prix play. They can become the sixth team with at least 350 sets conceded.
- Cuba have lost their last 20 World Grand Prix matches, including six this season, which marks their longest losing streak in history. Only two teams have had a longer losing streak in history of the World Grand Prix: Thailand (21) and Chinese Taipei (26). Cuba’s last victory came in June 2012 against Puerto Rico (3-0).
- Cuba is the most experienced World Grand Prix team in Pool N with 223 matches and 138 wins. The other three nations have a combined number of 68 matches (Argentina 33, Peru 24, Canada 11) and nine total wins (Argentina 5, Peru 3, Canada 1).
・If Cuba could book more wins than Russia and USA this weekend, the Cubans will reclaim the outright third place in the all-time wins list in the World Grand Prix. Prior to this week of play, Cuba and Russia have 138 wins in the competition, USA 137. Russia and USA play each other on 8 August.

Peru

・Peru have already won twice in this World Grand Prix (3-0 v Cuba, 3-1 v Canada). In their two previous participations (1994, 2011), they managed to claim only one victory (3-1 v Netherlands in 1994).
・Last weekend, Peru won their first ever match in straight sets in the World Grand Prix (3-0 v Cuba) and played their first ever five-setter (3-2 defeat v Poland).
・Peru’s first win this season came in Lima, their second in Trujillo. Now they will aim for their second ever victory in a foreign country, after beating the Netherlands in Manila (Philippines) in 1994.
・Peru are the only nation in Pool N with at least one straight set win and at least one straight set defeat at the 2014 World Grand Prix.
Pool N – Head-2-Head

Canada v Cuba

- This will be the first ever World Grand Prix meeting between Canada and Cuba.
- Their last meeting at a great tournament came at the 2011 Pan American Games. Cuba defeated Canada in straight sets.
- Cuba have lost their last three World Grand Prix matches against NORCECA sides. Two of those came in this year's Grand Prix against Puerto Rico (3-0 and 3-2).

Argentina v Peru

- These teams will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Argentina and Peru have met twice in the semifinal of the South American Championship (2009 and 2011). In both occasions Argentina defeated Peru.
- This is the third all-South American matchup in World Grand Prix history, after Brazil v Peru in 1994 (3-0) and Brazil v Argentina in 2011 (3-0).
- Thus, both Argentina and Peru can beat a team from their own continent for the first time.

Cuba v Peru

- These teams will play for the fourth time in the World Grand Prix, and for the second time this season. Cuba have won twice, Peru only once. This season's match was played on 2 August, with Peru winning 3-0 in front of a home crowd at Trujillo.
- All three previous World Grand Prix matches between these teams ended in straight sets.
- Prior to this weekend 18 of Peru’s 24 World Grand Prix matches ended in straight sets. After 17 straight sets defeats, they finally managed to win one against Cuba last weekend.

Argentina v Canada

- Canada and Argentina meet for the second time in the World Grand Prix, after last weekend’s meeting in Leuven, Belgium. Canada defeated Argentina 3-2 after being down 2-0 in sets.
- Their victory over Argentina was Canada's first ever World Grand Prix victory coming into this weekend.
- Lucia Fresco (Argentina) meets SC Potsdam teammates Marie-Pier Murray-Methot (Canada) and Brittney Page (Canada). Dana Cranston (Canada) plays for the same team (Istres Ouest Provenence) as Julieta Constanza Lazcano (Argentina).
Peru v Canada

- This will be the second World Grand Prix meeting between the two teams. Peru and Canada were drawn in Pool J of the first weekend of the 2014 competition. Peru defeated Canada 3-1.
- In that match, Lucille Charuk became top scorer for Canada with 12 points, of which five were scored by blocks. Angela Leyva scored the most points (16) for Peru with 15 spikes.
- Peru can equal their balance against North American teams in the World Grand Prix. After losing v USA in both 1994 and 2011, they can book two wins v Canada to break even.

Argentina v Cuba

- Argentina and Cuba will play their fifth World Grand Prix match against each other. Both teams won twice.
- Their last meeting came in the first weekend of the 2014 World Grand Prix in Pool K. Argentina defeated Cuba in four sets. This match was the shortest match played in Group 2 of all four and five set matches (1:31).
- Coming into this weekend, Argentina had five World Grand Prix victories. The only team they have beaten twice is Cuba (2011 and 2014). Dominican Republic (2011), Germany and Kazakhstan (both 2013) are the other three teams Argentina managed to defeat.
- This match features the two most experienced World Grand Prix teams in Pool N. Cuba will play their 226th match in the competition, Argentina their 36th.
Pool O – Country specific statistics

Belgium

- Belgium have a positive balance in their debut season in the World Grand Prix, with four wins and two defeats. Of the other five debutants this season (all in Group 3), only Croatia have achieved this as well.
- Still, Belgium have the fewest victories (4) of all teams in Pool O, after six matches in this season’s World Grand Prix. The Netherlands have six wins, Poland and Puerto Rico five.
- Belgium’s two defeats came against teams they will face again this weekend. Poland beat them in their season opener (3-1) and the Netherlands were victorious last weekend (3-2).
- Belgium have the top scorer in Group 2 in their ranks: Lise Van Hecke has a combined 122 points (108 spikes, 10 blocks, 4 serves).

Netherlands

- Doetinchem, Netherlands is the host city for Pool O in this year's World Grand Prix.
- The Netherlands have won all of their six World Grand Prix matches this season, including four in straight sets. The other two have been five-setters.
- Going back to last season, the Netherlands are on a seven-match winning streak. This is their second-longest run of victories in the competition, after winning 18 straight in 2007-2009.
- The Netherlands have 54 wins and 55 defeats in the World Grand Prix. Victories in their first two matches this weekend could give them a positive balance in the competition.
- Anne Buijs is the most efficient spiker in Group 2 this season with a 47.10% success rate and the most efficient receiver with an 80% success rate.
- Judith Pietersen has served 92 times without a single fault. No other Group 2 player with more than 37 serve attempts has gone without a fault.

Poland

- Poland have started a World Grand Prix campaign with five wins in the first six matches for the second time ever, after 2010. Back then, they won seven of their first eight.
- Only in 2010 (8) and 2007 (7), Poland had more World Grand Prix victories than they have now (5).
- Poland’s Agnieszka Kakolewska leads Group 2 of this season’s World Grand Prix in stuff blocks with 24. No other player has more than 16.
Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico have won five matches in the World Grand Prix this season, as many as in their previous four seasons combined.
- Puerto Rico are on a four match winning streak for the first time in the World Grand Prix.
- Puerto Rico play three European sides this weekend. In World Grand Prix history, three of their 10 victories came against teams from Europe – v Russia in 2009 (3-1), v Germany in 2013 (3-2) and v Pool O rivals Poland last weekend (3-1).
- Puerto Rico are the only Pool O side with a straight sets defeat (v Netherlands) in the World Grand Prix this season.
- Debora Seilhamer has the highest digs-per-set average of all Group 2 players in this season’s World Grand Prix (4.14).
Pool O – Head-2-Head

Belgium v Poland

- After their encounter in the first weekend of the World Grand Prix (Pool J), Belgium and Poland will meet for the second time in the competition. Their first meeting ended in a 3-1 victory for Poland.
- Belgium can beat a European side for the first time in the World Grand Prix. Their four victories came against Peru, Canada (twice) and Argentina, while they got beaten by the Netherlands as well as Poland.
- Katarzyna Zaroslinska (Poland, 21 points) and Lise Van Hecke (Belgium, 24) were their teams’ top scorers in the first mutual match. Van Hecke (122 total points) and Zaroslinska (113) are the two most prolific scorers in Group 2 of the World Grand Prix this season.

Netherlands v Puerto Rico

- The Netherlands and Puerto Rico have met twice in the World Grand Prix. Both meetings ended in straight set victories for the Netherlands.
- One of those meetings occurred in the first weekend of competition. Judith Pietersen (Netherlands, 15 points) and Karina Ocasio (Puerto Rico, 19 points) scored the most points for their teams.
- The Netherlands have been the only team beating Puerto Rico in this season’s World Grand Prix.

Puerto Rico v Poland

- Puerto Rico and Poland meet for the second weekend in a row. Last weekend in Trujillo (Peru), Puerto Rico won 3-1.
- This was Puerto Rico’s first win against Poland in the World Grand Prix, after losing the only other mutual match in straight sets in 2010.
- It also was Poland’s only defeat in this season’s World Grand Prix.
- Poland could become the first European side losing more than once against Puerto Rico in the World Grand Prix.

Netherlands v Belgium

- This will be the second Derby of the Low Countries in the World Grand Prix. The first meeting came last week in Leuven, Belgium. The Netherlands won 3-2 after being 2-0 down in sets.
- These teams have met five times in World and European Championships. The Netherlands have remained unbeaten in these matches, played between 1956 and 2009.
Robin De Kruijf (Netherlands) and Lise Van Hecke (Belgium) both play for Italian club Nordmeccanica Piacenza.
Puerto Rico v Belgium

- Puerto Rico and Belgium meet for the first time in the World Grand Prix. This is this week’s only Pool O feature taking place for the first time – all other nations have met each other at least once.
- Belgium will play against a NORCECA team for the third time in the competition, after beating Canada twice 3-0.
- Puerto Rico are looking to improve their record against European teams. Coming into this weekend, Puerto Rico have won three of their 13 matches against European teams.

Poland v Netherlands

- The Netherlands have won all three World Grand Prix meetings with Poland in straight sets (2007 and two in 2009).
- At the 2009 European Championship both teams met in the semifinal with the Netherlands defeating Poland in four sets. The Netherlands eventually lost the final against Italy.
- Coming into this weekend, Poland have won 189 sets in the competition, one more than the Netherlands (188). Poland have lost 212 sets prior to this weekend’s play, also one more than the Netherlands (211).
- Judith Pietersen (Netherlands) plays at Polish team Atom Trefl Sopot with Zuzanna Efimienko, Klaudia Kaczorowska and Izabela Belcik (all Poland).