



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool A1: Brazil v Serbia

Head-to-Head

- Brazil have won four of their previous five World Grand Prix meetings with Serbia. They won 3-2 in 2012 and recorded straight set victories in 2013, 2015 and 2016.
- Serbia won their last encounter with Brazil, a 3-2 win in last year's competition. For Brazil, that was one of only two defeats in the World Grand Prix last year, alongside a 3-0 loss against China.
- For Serbia, that marked their first victory over Brazil in any of the major competitions.

Brazil

- Brazil started their 2017 World Grand Prix season with a straight sets victory against Belgium.
- The defending World Grand Prix champions have now won their last eight matches in the competition.
- They have won five of their last six World Grand Prix matches in straight sets.

Serbia

- Serbia started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with a straight sets victory against Turkey.
- Combined with last season, Serbia have now won five World Grand Prix matches in a row. This is their longest winning run in the competition since six in 2012-2013.
- Serbia have not started a World Grand Prix season with consecutive victories since 2013.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool A1: Turkey v Belgium

Head-to-Head

- Turkey and Belgium will meet for the fifth time at the World Grand Prix.
- Turkey won 3-1 in the 2014 Final Round and 3-0 in last year's group stage. Belgium recorded two group stage wins, 3-0 in 2015 and 3-1 in 2016.
- These teams also met at the last European championship. Turkey beat Belgium in straight sets in the group stage.

Turkey

- Turkey started off their 2017 World Grand Prix season with a 3-0 defeat against Serbia on Friday.
- Combined with last season's results, Turkey have now lost five matches in a row in the competition. This is their longest losing run in the competition since seven straight in 2015.
- Each of Turkey's last five defeats in the World Grand Prix were by either 3-0 or 3-1.

Belgium

- Belgium started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-0 defeat against titleholders Brazil on Friday.
- Belgium have now lost nine of their last 10 in the World Grand Prix, including each of their last three.
- Belgium have won only three of their last 24 in the competition. Two of those three victories were matches played in Turkey. Their last World Grand Prix victory came against Turkey.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool B1: China v Russia

Head-to-Head

- China and Russia will meet for the 30th time at the World Grand Prix. Russia have won 18 of the previous 29 versus 11 victories for China.
- Russia have only met Brazil (30) more often in the World Grand Prix, while China faced both United States and Brazil both 36 times.
- Their last encounters in the tournament came in 2015, when China won both in the preliminary round (3-1) and in the final round (3-0) but Russia finished above them (second versus fourth).
- In 2002, they faced each other in the final of the tournament with Russia winning 3-1, claiming their third title.
- In all major competitions, China have won their last three matches versus Russia since the 3-2 defeat at the 2014 World Grand Prix.

China

- China beat Italy 3-1 in their opening match. They profited from 34 errors by Italy.
- Xiangyu Gong was China's top scorer against Italy on 13 points. Nine of her teammates also scored at least one point.
- Last year China won their first eight matches of the World Grand Prix.
- They won their first two matches of the season in four of their last five World Grand Prix campaigns.

Russia

- Russia lost their opening match 3-2 to United States, despite a 2-1 lead after three sets and 35 errors by USA.
- The last time they lost their first two matches was in 2013, when a defeat against United States was followed up with a loss versus Brazil.
- Russia have now lost their last two World Grand Prix matches by a 3-2 scoreline, as they lost 3-2 to against Netherlands in last year's final 3-4 match.
- They can play three consecutive five-setters for the first time since a run of three in August 2009, which included a 3-2 loss to China.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool B1: Italy v United States

Head-to-Head

- Italy and United States have met 18 times at the World Grand Prix, with 10 victories for USA and eight for the Italians.
- United States have won seven of their last eight World Grand Prix matches against Italy, with the exception being the 3-2 defeat in the final round in 2013.
- Their last encounter in a major competition came at the 2016 Olympic Games, when United States won 3-1 in the group stage on their way to the bronze medal.
- In 2002, these sides faced each other in the final of the World Championship. Italy won after five sets to claim their only world title to date.

Italy

- Italy lost 3-1 in their opening match against China, gifting them 34 points from errors.
- Indre Sorokaite scored a match-high 14 points against China. In total 11 Italian players scored points in that match.
- Italy also started their 2015 and 2016 World Grand Prix tournaments with a defeat, but then won their second matches in these campaigns.

United States

- United States beat Russia 3-2 in their opening match, despite 35 errors.
- Kelly Murphy scored 19 points in that match, most by any player from either team.
- USA began last year's campaign with two wins, and finished the 2016 World Grand Prix losing 3-2 against Brazil in the final.
- The last time USA started a World Grand Prix tournament with two five-set matches was in 1996, when they needed a deciding set in their first four games.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool C1: Dominican Republic v Japan

Head-to-Head

- Japan have lost only one of their previous eight World Grand Prix matches against Dominican Republic, the 3-0 defeat in 2008.
- Dominican Republic have won only four sets in the other seven World Grand Prix encounters with Japan, the 3-1 losses in 2010 and 2011 and the five-set defeat in 2006.
- Their last meeting came at the 2016 Olympic Qualification Tournament. Japan won in straight sets and eventually qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, where they reached the quarterfinals.

Dominican Republic

- On Friday, Dominican Republic suffered a 3-0 defeat at Netherlands to start off their 2017 World Grand Prix season.
- This ended a seven match victory streak for them in the World Grand Prix. Last season, Dominican Republic won promotion to Group 1.
- Dominican Republic have now started each of their last five World Grand Prix seasons with a defeat.

Japan

- Japan started their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign with a 3-2 victory against Thailand on Friday.
- Last season, Japan started with a victory, but then lost four on the trot. They also lost the final two matches of their 2016 World Grand Prix season.
- For the first time since 2014, Japan won a World Grand Prix match that was decided in a fifth set. They had lost five such matches in a row.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool C1: Netherlands v Thailand

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands are unbeaten in their previous five World Grand Prix meetings with Thailand. They won in straight sets in 2005 (twice), 2010 and 2016, and 3-1 in 2009.
- Netherlands beat Thailand in straight sets at the 2016 Olympic Qualification Tournament. They eventually qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro where they finished in fourth place.
- Netherlands also beat Thailand at the last world championship, 3-0 in 2014.

Netherlands

- Netherlands started off their 2017 World Grand Prix campaign by brushing aside Dominican Republic 3-0 in front of a home crowd in Apeldoorn on Friday.
- Netherlands have now won their last three World Grand Prix matches played in the Netherlands.
- Against Dominican Republic, Celeste Plak was the home side's leading points scorer on 17.

Thailand

- On Friday, Thailand suffered a 3-2 defeat against Japan to start their 2017 World Grand Prix season.
- Combined with last season, Thailand have now lost their last seven World Grand Prix matches.
- Thailand have not lost more than seven in a row since 2004-2006, when they dropped 21 consecutive World Grand Prix matches.