



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

Pool A2: Bulgaria - Kazakhstan

Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Kazakhstan will meet for the second time in the World Grand Prix. In 2014, Bulgaria won 3-1 in Group 3.
- Bulgaria have only met Croatia (3) and Kenya (2) multiple times in the competition without losing.
- Bulgaria also won their meeting at the world championship two months later, a 3-0 victory.
- Kazakhstan are searching for their first win against a team representing the European Volleyball Confederation. They lost all previous 21 matches.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria will participate in their fifth World Grand Prix. Their best result came in their debut year in 2013, a ninth place.
- Bulgaria have only failed to win a single set in three of their 31 World Grand Prix matches.
- Bulgaria ended their 2016 campaign with two defeats, against Poland and Puerto Rico. They have never lost three successive matches in the competition.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan will appear in their eighth World Grand Prix and in their fifth successive edition.
- Their best finish results from their debut year, a 10th place in 2007.
- Kazakhstan won five matches at the 2016 World Grand Prix. They managed only nine wins in their other six campaigns combined.



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Pool A1: Korea v Germany

Head-to-Head

- Korea have faced Germany 10 times at the World Grand Prix: W7-L3.
- They most recently met in the Preliminary Round in 2014, when Korea won 3-1.
- In their last six matches at the World Grand Prix the winner alternated: Germany-Korea-Germany-Korea-Germany-Korea.
- Both teams are making their 18th appearance in the World Grand Prix.

Korea

- Korea will make their first participation since 2014, when they finished ninth.
- Their best result in the competition is a third place, in 1997.
- They have not finished better than ninth since 2003, when they finished sixth.
- In their last World Grand Prix campaign in 2014, Korea won their opening two matches against Thailand and Germany respectively.

Germany

- Germany have finished on the podium of the World Grand Prix twice: third in 2002 and 2009.
- Last year they finished 12th, their second-worst result behind their 13th place in 2011.
- Germany can lose 10 successive World Grand Prix matches. Their record number of consecutive losses in the tournament is 14 from 1995-2001.
- Their last three losses came in straight sets, against United States, China and Netherlands respectively.



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Pool B2: Argentina v Canada

Head-to-Head

- Argentina and Canada have met three times in the World Grand Prix.
- Canada won twice, 3-2 in 2014 and 3-1 in 2015, while Argentina managed one victory, 3-1 in 2014.
- These teams also met at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto. Argentina won 3-1 in the group stage and went on to reach the quarterfinals.

Argentina

- Argentina will participate for the seventh time in the World Grand Prix. Their best result came in their debut, a 14th place in 2011.
- Argentina are hoping to win their opening match for the third campaign in a row. Last year they beat Kenya in straight sets and in 2015 they won 3-1 against Croatia.
- Last year, Argentina avoided a straight set defeat, the first campaign they managed to do so.
- Argentina have failed to win each of their last five five-setters in the competition. Before this streak they won each of their first four.

Canada

- Canada will appear in the World Grand Prix for the fourth season in a row. Their only other participation came in 2003, when they managed their best result in the competition (11th).
- Canada have won only four matches in the competition, but three of those came against teams representing the South American Volleyball Federation - Argentina (2) and Peru (1).
- Canada have lost their last eight World Grand Prix matches, since the 3-1 win against Argentina in 2015.



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Pool B2: Croatia - Poland

Head-to-Head

- Croatia and Poland will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- These teams have met four times at the European championships. Croatia won their first meeting, 3-0 in 1999, but lost their last three: 3-0 in 2001, 3-1 in 2005 and 3-0 in 2009.
- Croatia are hoping to win their first World Grand Prix match against a fellow CEV team.

Croatia

- Croatia will participate for the fourth time in the World Grand Prix, after 2014, 2015 and 2016. They have never finished higher than a 20th place (2015).
- Croatia have won seven of their last eight World Grand Prix matches, only losing to Peru (3-1). Of their first 14 matches in the competition they won only five.
- Croatia have lost both of their two previous five-setters in the competition, against Czech Republic in 2014 and against Bulgaria in 2015.

Poland

- Poland have been present in the World Grand Prix ever since making their debut in 2004.
- Their best result in the competition is a sixth place in 2007 and 2010.
- Poland are hoping to win their opening match for the fourth campaign in a row, after beating Belgium (3-1) in 2014, Bulgaria (3-0) in 2015 and Canada (3-1) in 2016.



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Pool C2: Czech Republic v Colombia

Head-to-Head

- Czech Republic and Colombia will meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix.
- Czech Republic are unbeaten in their World Grand Prix matches against teams representing the South American Volleyball Federation. They beat Argentina twice.
- Colombia have lost their only previous World Grand Prix meeting with a European side, 3-0 against Croatia.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic will participate for the fifth time in the World Grand Prix. Their best result came in their debut year, a 14th place in 2013.
- Czech Republic are one of 13 countries to have a positive balance in the World Grand Prix (ahead of tournament) as they have won 16 and lost 15 of their matches.
- Czech Republic have won two of their four opening matches, 3-0 against Puerto Rico in 2013 and 3-1 against Croatia in 2014.

Colombia

- Colombia will be present at the World Grand Prix for the third time, after placing 23rd in 2015 and 24th in 2016.
- Colombia (W10-L6) and Brazil (W238-L56) are the only South American teams with a positive balance in the competition (ahead of the tournament).
- Nine of Colombia's 10 World Grand Prix victories have come in straight sets with the exception of the 3-1 win against Kazakhstan last year. They have yet to win a five-setter.



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Pool C2: Peru v Puerto Rico

Head-to-Head

- Peru and Puerto Rico will meet for the second time at the World Grand Prix. In 2014, Puerto Rico won in straight sets.
- These teams also met in the group stage of the 2015 Pan American Games. Again, Puerto Rico won by a 3-0 scoreline.
- Puerto Rico have won four and lost four World Grand Prix matches against South American sides. All four defeats came against powerhouse Brazil.
- Peru have won their last four World Grand Prix matches against teams representing NORCECA.

Peru

- Peru will appear at the World Grand Prix for the sixth time after 1994, 2011, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- Their best result in the competition came in 1994 when they placed 11th.
- Last year, Peru lost only one of their eight matches in the World Grand Prix, a 3-1 defeat against Croatia.
- Peru have won their last three five-setters in the competition.

Puerto Rico

- This will be Puerto Rico's eighth participation in the World Grand Prix. Their best result came in their debut year, a 10th place in 2009.
- Last year, Peru lost only one of their eight matches in the World Grand Prix, a 3-1 defeat against Dominican Republic.
- Puerto Rico are hoping to win their opening match at the World Grand Prix for the fourth year in a row.