



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 17-19, 2016

Pool A1: Australia – Belgium (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Belgium have won all of their four World League matches against Australia, all in group 2 in the 2014 edition. The Belgian team won twice by 3-1 and twice in straight sets.
- Australia and Portugal are the only opponents against whom Belgium has a 100% win percentage in the World League.

Australia

- This will be Australia's fourth participation at the World League, after 1999, 2014 and 2015.
- Their best result was a fifth place finish in 2014. Last year, Australia finished in eighth place after winning only two of their 12 matches (victories over Italy and Serbia).
- Only Venezuela (19%) has a lower win percentage at the World League than Australia (23%) of all teams with at least 40 matches in the tournament.
- Australia have won only one of their last six World League matches on home soil (3-2 against Serbia on 5 July 2015).

Belgium

- Belgium will compete at the World League for the third time, after a 11th place on their debut in 2014 and a 12th place in 2015.
- Last year, Belgium reached the group 2 Final Four but lost their semifinal match against Bulgaria (3-1) and the third place decider against Argentina (3-2).
- Belgium could lose four consecutive World League matches for the first time.
- Belgium will participate in group 1 for the first time.



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Pool A1: France – Italy (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- France and Italy have played 38 World League matches against each other, with Italy winning 24 times and France 14.
- Their most recent encounters in the competition came in 2012. Italy won the first match (3-1), but France defeated the Italians in their last three meetings (3-1, 3-0, 3-2).
- It is already France's longest winning streak against Italy in the World League.
- Their most recent meeting came at the 2015 European Championships, with France winning 3-2. France went on to become European champions.

France

- France will participate at the World League for the 21st time.
- They will defend their title, as they won the World League tournament for the first time last year.
- The last team to defend their World League title successfully were Brazil in 2010 after winning in 2009.
- France started the tournament in 2015 in group 2, in which they won all 14 matches including the final against Bulgaria (3-0). They progressed to the final round of group 1, reached the Final Four and won the final against Serbia in straight sets.
- They have lost only one of their last 18 World League matches, against United States in the group 1 final round of 2015 (3-1).
- France booked 11 of their 17 victories last year in straight sets.

Italy

- This will be Italy's 27th World League participation, as they have participated in all previous 26 tournaments. Brazil is the only other ever-present.
- Italy won eight of the first 11 World League editions, but have failed to win the tournament since 2000.
- Last year they finished joint fifth after they finished third in their group 1 final round pool after Poland and Serbia.
- Italy have lost at least two sets in each of their last eight World League matches, losing five matches and winning three times by 3-2.



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 16-18, 2016

Pool B1: Argentina – United States (16 June)

Head-to-Head

- Argentina and United States have faced each other twice in the World League, both in 2013. Each team won once, both by 3-1.
- Their most recent encounter came at the 2015 World Cup, with United States winning 3-1.
- These teams also met four times at the Olympic Games. United States won in 1984, 1988 and 1996, Argentina in 2000. Both teams have qualified for the tournament in Rio de Janeiro.

Argentina

- Argentina will participate at the World League for the 18th time.
- Their best result was a fourth place in 2011. They reached the Final Four, but lost the semifinal against Brazil (3-0) and the third place match against Poland (3-0).
- Last year Argentina finished in 11th place. They reached the Final Four of Group 2, but lost their semifinal in straight sets to later overall World League winners France. They won the third place match against Belgium (3-2).

United States

- United States will compete at the World League for the 19th time.
- They won the World League in 2008 and 2014, beating respectively Serbia and Brazil in the final.
- Last year, United States finished third. They lost the Group 1 semifinals against Serbia (3-2) but beat Poland in straight sets in the third place match.
- United States have reached the Final Four of the World League in three of their last four participations, only failing to do so in 2013 (12th).
- Their last seven matches in the World League have led to a different result: W-L-W-L-W-L-W.



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Pool B1: Brazil – Iran (16 June)

Head-to-Head

- Brazil and Iran have met five times in the World League, all in the 2014 edition.
- Iran won three of those matches, including the only encounter in the final group round (3-1), versus two wins for Brazil. Both teams reached the Final Four in 2014, with Brazil finishing second after losing the final against United States (3-1) and Iran finishing fourth after losing the third place match against Italy (3-0).
- These teams also met twice at the World Cup (1991, 2011) and twice at the Grand Champions Cup (2009, 2013). Brazil won all four of these matches.

Brazil

- Brazil are one of two to have competed in each of the previous 26 editions of the World League, alongside Italy.
- Brazil have won the tournament a record nine times, most recently in 2010.
- Only between 1994 and 2000 they had a longer streak without winning the World League (7 participations), than their five participations since 2010.
- Last year, Brazil reached the final group stage in Group 1, but failed to reach the Final Four. They finished in joint fifth place.
- Brazil have won only one of their last three World League matches in Brazil, beating United States in their last World League match of 2015 (3-1).
- Brazil have the highest win percentage of all teams playing in the World League (77%, won 323 of 419).

Iran

- Iran will participate in the World League for the fourth time, after finishing ninth at their debut in 2013, fourth in 2014 and seventh in 2015.
- In 2014, Iran reached the Final Four, but lost their semifinal against United States (3-0) and their third place match against Italy (3-0).
- Last year, Iran failed to reach the final group stage after finishing third in pool B of Group 1 behind United States and Poland.
- Four of Iran's last five victories in the World League came in straight sets. The exception in this run was the 3-2 win over United States.



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 17-19, 2016

Pool C1: Bulgaria – Poland (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Bulgaria and Poland have met 12 times at the World League, with seven wins for Poland and five for Bulgaria.
- Bulgaria have won their last two World League matches against Poland, both in the 2013 edition.
- They could win three consecutive World League matches against Poland for the second time, after 2004.
- In 2012, these nations played each other in the Final Four semifinals. Poland won 3-0 and went on to win the competition.
- That 3-0 win in 2012 was Poland's most recent World League victory over Bulgaria.

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria will compete in the World League for the 19th time and the 14th time in a row.
- Their best result is a fourth place, which they reached in 1994, 2004, 2006, 2012 and 2013.
- Last year, Bulgaria finished in 10th place. They reached the group 2 final, which they lost to ultimate World League winners France in straight sets.
- Bulgaria have lost six of their last seven opening matches at the World League. The exception in this run was the 3-2 victory over France in 2013.

Poland

- This will be Poland's 19th (consecutive) participation at the World League. They have not missed a edition since their debut in 1998.
- They won the tournament in 2012 after beating United States in the final in straight sets.
- Poland are the reigning world champions. The last reigning world champion to win the World League was Brazil, who won the tournament in 2007, 2009 and 2010 after winning the 2006 World Championship.
- Last year, Poland finished in fourth place. They reached the group 1 Final Four, but lost to France in the semifinals (3-2) and against United States in the third place decider (3-0).
- Poland could lose four consecutive World League matches for the first time since 2013.



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Pool C1: Russia – Serbia (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Russia (including Soviet Union and CIS) and Serbia (incl. Serbia and Montenegro) have faced each other 24 times at the World League, with Russia winning 18 and Serbia 6.
- Their most recent encounters in the tournament came at the 2014 edition. Serbia won the first two matches (both in Serbia), Russia the last two (both in Russia).
- Russia won the first 10 matches with Serbia at the World League (including the first seven versus Serbia and Montenegro), before the Serbian team won their 11th match against Russia at the 2007 tournament.
- Their most recent meeting came at the 2015 European Championship group stage, with Russia winning 3-1.

Russia

- Russia will participate at the World League for the 25th time (incl. Soviet Union and CIS).
- They won the tournament in 2002, 2011 and 2013. In both finals they defeated Brazil.
- Last year, they finished in eighth place which was their worst result in the competition (also 8th place in 2012). They lost 11 of their 12 matches in Group B1 and finished fourth behind United States, Poland and Iran.
- They only won their last match against Iran and could win consecutive matches at the World League for the first time since 2014.

Serbia

- This will be Serbia's 19th participation at the World League (incl. Serbia and Montenegro).
- Their best result is a second place, as Serbia and Montenegro lost the final in 2003 and 2005 and Serbia lost the final in 2008, 2009 and 2015.
- Serbia have lost joint most finals without winning one with Cuba (both five). Brazil also lost five finals but they won nine.
- Last year Serbia lost the final against France in straight sets after beating United States in the semifinals (3-2).
- Four of Serbia's last five matches in the competition were five setters (W2-L2), with the final against France being the exception.