



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

Pool A2: Netherlands – Slovakia (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands and Slovakia will meet for the first time in the World League.
- These nations most recently clashed in a competitive match at the 2007 European Championship, when Netherlands recorded a 3-1 second group stage win over Slovakia.
- Netherlands have won 15 of their last 21 World League matches against fellow CEV countries. In this span, they only lost against Belgium (L3) and Portugal (L3).
- Slovakia have lost their last four World League matches against CEV opponents, since a 3-1 group stage win over Spain on 6 June 2014.

Netherlands

- Netherlands will participate for the 20th time in the World League. They won the tournament in 1996 and finished joint 13th last season.
- Netherlands is one of eight countries to have won the World League, alongside Brazil (9), Italy (8), Russia (3), United States (2), France (1), Poland (1) and Cuba (1).
- Netherlands have won their opening match in four of their last five World League participations, only failing to beat Canada (3-1 loss) in their 2013 opener.
- Netherlands finished their 2015 World League campaign with a 3-0 win over Belgium. They can record back-to-back straight set victories for the first time in the competition since a run of three in 2010.

Slovakia

- Slovakia will make their third World League appearance, after 2014 (24th) and 2015 (23rd).
- Slovakia have lost both their previous two World League matches in Turkey: 3-0 against Turkey (2014) and 3-1 against China (2014).
- Slovakia won their final match of last year's World League, a 3-2 victory over China. They can win consecutive matches for the second time in the competition after a run of two in June 2014.



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Pool A2: Turkey – Portugal (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Turkey and Portugal have never met in a competitive match.
- Turkey have won three of their last five matches against CEV sides in all competitions, losing against France and Bulgaria in the European Games.
- Portugal have won only one of their last 14 matches against European teams in all competitions, only beating Netherlands in last year's World League.

Turkey

- Turkey take part in the World League for the third time after finishing 22nd in 2014 and 25th last year.
- In 2014, they lost the final of Group 3 against Cuba in Bursa (TUR) and in 2015, they finished second in their finished second in Pool F and did not qualify for the Final Round.
- Turkey have won three of their four World League matches in Turkey. They only lost against Cuba in the final of Group 3 in 2014.
- They won their last three matches in the World League last year and can win four in a row for the second time following five successive wins in 2014.

Portugal

- Portugal participate for the 13th time in the World League. Their best result came in 2005, when they finished fifth.
- Last year, they finished 18th, their worst result in all 12 previous participations. They won only one of their 12 matches, 3-2 against Netherlands.
- They have lost 12 of their last 13 World League matches, dating back to their last match in 2014.
- Of teams having played at least 100 World League matches, only Korea (23%) and Japan (23%) have won a lower percentage of matches than Portugal (24%).



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Pool B2: Cuba – Korea (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Cuba have won 43 of 44 competitive matches against Korea. Their only defeat came in the 2011 World League, a match which was played in Korea (3-0).
- In the World League Cuba have won 28 of 29 meetings with Korea.
- Their last meeting was in the 2014 World Championship, when Cuba won 3-1 in the first round.
- Cuba have won the last four official meetings after the defeat in the 2011 World League.

Cuba

- Cuba are participating for the 26th time in the World League, only having missed out at the first edition in 1990.
- They won the tournament in 1998, but have not finished in the top-10 in each of the last three seasons.
- Last year they finished 18th, finishing fourth in Pool C behind Bulgaria, Argentina and Canada.
- They won three of their 12 matches last season, twice against Argentina and one against Canada.

Korea

- Korea will participate for the 18th time at the World League, with their best result coming in 1995, finishing fifth.
- Last year they finished 18th, like Cuba, finishing fourth in their Pool behind France, Japan and Czech Republic.
- They won two of their 10 matches last year, beating Czech Republic and Japan once.
- They have now lost their last six World League matches and can lose seven in a row for the first time since 2011-2012, when they lost 13 in a row.
- Korea have the worst win percentage of all teams having played at least 100 World League matches (22.9%, Japan follow with 23.2%).



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Pool B2: Japan – Finland (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- These teams have met three times before in a competitive match. Japan defeated Finland on all three occasions.
- The first was at the 1966 World Championship and the other two were at the 2013 World League. Both World League matches were played in Japan.
- Finland have won three of their last five matches against AVC teams.

Japan

- Japan are participating for the 23rd time at the World League. Their best result is a sixth place in 1990, 1993 and 2008.
- Last year, they finished 13th, after finishing second in Pool D, behind France and ahead of Czech Republic and Korea.
- Only Korea have a worse win percentage of all teams having played at least 100 World League matches (22.9%). Japan have a winning percentage of 23.2%.
- Japan have won one of their last four World League matches, 3-0 against Czech Republic.
- They have won their last two World League matches on home soil and can win three in a row for the first time since 2008 (four).

Finland

- Finland are participating for the 12th time at the World League. Their best result was in 2007, when they finished seventh.
- Last year, they finished 15th, when they finished ahead of Portugal and behind Belgium and Netherlands in Pool E.
- They won four matches and lost eight in the 2015 World League, but won their last two (both against Portugal). They can win three in a row in the competition for the first time since 2011.
- Finland needs one more victory to reach their 50th in the World League.



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Pool C2: China – Canada (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- China and Canada will clash for the first time in the World League.
- These nations most recently met in a competitive match on 5 June 2016, when Canada beat China in five sets at the World Olympic Qualification Tournament. John Gordon Perrin scored 27 points in that match.
- Canada defeated China 3-0 at the 2014 World Championship.
- China's last victory over Canada in a competitive match came at the 2004 World Olympic Qualification Tournament (3-0) on 30 May 2004.

China

- China will participate for the 16th time in the World League. Their best result came in 1993 and 2008, when they finished in seventh place.
- China have won 11 of their last 12 intercontinental round matches in the competition and are unbeaten in their last seven since a 3-0 defeat against Slovakia on 14 June 2014.
- China lost their last two matches in last year's World League (classification round) and can lose three in a row for the first time in the competition since a run of six consecutive defeats in 2010.
- China have won their last four intercontinental round matches in the World League against NORCECA countries since a 3-1 loss against United States on 5 July 2009.

Canada

- Canada will make their 10th World League appearance and their fifth in a row. Their best result came in 2013, when they finished in fifth place.
- Canada have lost their last three World League matches and can lose four in a row for the first time in the competition since a run of nine straight defeats in 2012.
- Canada have won their opening match in each of their last six World League participations. Their last defeat in a World League opener came in 1999, when Brazil proved too strong (3-1).



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Pool C2: Czech Republic – Egypt (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Czech Republic and Egypt will meet for the first time in the World League.
- Czech Republic have never faced CAVB opposition before in the competition.
- Egypt have won only six of their previous 28 World League matches against CEV countries, including the last three against Spain, Slovakia and Montenegro.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic will appear in a fourth World League after a fourth place finish in 2003, a 16th place in 2014 and a joint-15th place in last year's edition.
- Czech Republic have lost all of their previous three World League opening matches, all with a 3-1 scoreline.
- Three of Czech Republic's last four 3-0 wins in the World League all came on home soil.
- Czech Republic won their final match of last year's World League edition 3-0 against Japan and can record back-to-back straight set victories for the second time in the competition since June 2003.

Egypt

- Egypt will make their sixth World League appearance, after 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2015.
- Egypt have won two of their previous five World League opening matches: 3-2 against Poland in 2008 and 3-2 against Finland in 2010.
- Egypt have won eight of their last nine World League matches, including their last seven. Their last defeat in the competition came in last season's opener against Spain (3-2).
- Egypt won more matches in last year's World League (7) than in all their 48 WL matches prior to 2015 (6).