



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

Pool A3: Slovenia – Qatar (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first ever official meeting between Slovenia and Qatar.
- It will also be Slovenia's first ever match against a side not belonging to the CEV at a world level tournament (World League, World Championship, Grand Champions Cup, Olympic Games, World Cup).
- For Qatar it is also their first encounter with a non-AVC side at a world level tournament (World League, World Championship, Grand Champions Cup, Olympic Games, World Cup).

Slovenia

- This will be Slovenia's first participation at the World League.
- Slovenia will be the 18th CEV side to participate at the competition.
- Slovenia came second at the 2015 European Championship. They defeated Poland (3-2 in quarterfinals) and Italy (3-1 in semifinals) to reach the final, which they lost in straight sets against France.

Qatar

- For Qatar, it will also be their first participation at the World League.
- Qatar and Chinese Taipei will be the seventh and eighth AVC sides to participate at the World League.
- Qatar have lost their last two official matches, against Japan (3-1 in semifinals) and China (3-2 in third place match) at the 2015 Asian Championships, and could lose three in a row for the first time since the 2011 Asian Championships.



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Pool A3: Tunisia – Venezuela (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Tunisia and Venezuela have met five times at a major tournaments, but this will be their first encounter at the World League.
- Tunisia won their first two matches against Venezuela (World Championship in 1970 and 1974), but the Venezuelans have won the three most recent meetings.
- Their most recent encounter came at the 2015 World Cup. Venezuela prevailed in five sets.

Tunisia

- Tunisia will participate for the third time at the World League.
- At their debut in 2014 they finished 27th and in 2015 they finished 30th. In both cases they became joint last in the league.
- Last year, they finished fourth in the Intercontinental Round behind Montenegro, Turkey and Puerto Rico.
- Tunisia have won only two of their 12 World League matches, in 2014 against Mexico (3-2) and last year versus Puerto Rico (3-1).

Venezuela

- This will be Venezuela's eighth participation at the World League.
- Their best result was a seventh place in 2005, when then finished third in their pool after the eventual winners Brazil and fifth placed Portugal.
- Last year, they finished in 30th place and joint last place. They lost five of their six matches in the Intercontinental Round with Spain, Egypt and Kazakhstan, only defeating the Kazakhs in their last match of the tournament.
- Venezuela could win consecutive World League matches for the first time since they defeated Japan twice in 2005. Venezuela have not won consecutive matches against different opponents before.
- They have the lowest win percentage at the competition of all teams with at least 30 matches played (19%).



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Pool B3: Mexico – Spain (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Mexico and Spain will meet at the World League for the first time.
- Mexico have lost their last seven matches against CEV sides (all competitions), since a 3-2 victory over Turkey at the 2014 World League.
- Spain have won only one of their last 10 encounters with NORCECA teams, the 3-2 victory against Puerto Rico at the 2014 World League.

Mexico

- Mexico will participate at the World League for the third time.
- In 2014, competing in Group 3, they finished in joint 25th place alongside Spain, while in 2015, competing in Group 3, they failed to win any of their matches and finished in 30th and joint last place..
- At their debut in 2014, they started with victories over Tunisia (3-0) and Turkey (3-2) but have since failed to win any of their other 10 matches in the competition.

Spain

- This will be Spain's 14th participation at the World League.
- Their best result in the tournament is a fifth place in 1999, 2002 and 2003. On all three occasions they reached the Final Round, but failed to reach the Final Four.
- Spain came in 25th at their last two World League participations in 2014 and 2015.
- Spain won their first five matches in 2015, but lost their last group match against Egypt by 3-1 which saw the Africans reaching the Final Four of Group 3.



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Pool B3: Montenegro – Germany (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the first match on the highest level between Montenegro and Germany.
- Germany won their last match against former Serbia and Montenegro at the European Championship. In 2001 they beat Serbia and Montenegro in five sets.
- For Montenegro, it will be their second CEV opponents at the highest level after they faced Turkey in last year's World League. They won once (3-1) and lost once (3-2) against the Turkish team.

Montenegro

- Montenegro will participate at the World League for the second time.
- At their debut in 2015, they finished in 22nd place. They won five of their six group matches with Tunisia, Puerto Rico and Turkey and progressed to the Final Four of Group 3.
- They defeated China in the semifinals of that Final Four (3-1), but lost the final against Egypt (3-2).
- Only Brazil (77%) have a higher win percentage at the World League than Montenegro (75%).

Germany

- For Germany, it will be their 12th participation in the World League.
- Their best result in the competition was their fifth place of 2012.
- Germany did not participate last year. They last competed in the 2014 edition, in which they finished 16th. They won five of their 12 matches in a group with France, Japan and Argentina and failed to reach the final round.
- Germany have won their opening match in the competition at four of their five last participations. The exception in this run was the defeat against Italy in 2013 (3-0).



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Pool C3: Chinese Taipei – Puerto Rico (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Chinese Taipei and Puerto Rico will meet at the World League for the first time.
- It will be the first meeting with a NORCECA side for Chinese Taipei since a straight sets defeat against Cuba at the 2008 World Olympic Qualification Tournament.
- Puerto Rico have lost their last eight matches against AVC sides since a 3-1 win over Australia at the 2010 World Championship.

Chinese Taipei

- Chinese Taipei will make their debut at the World League.
- Chinese Taipei participated at the 1986 World Championship, where they finished 15th. They won only one of their six matches, against Venezuela (3-1).
- The team also competed at the World Olympic Qualification tournaments in 2000 and 2008, but failed to qualify for the Olympic Games on both occasions. They lost against Netherlands, France and Canada in 2000 and against Germany, Spain and Cuba in 2008.

Puerto Rico

- This will be Puerto Rico's fourth participation at the World League, after 2011, 2014 and 2015.
- Their best result is a 16th place in their debut season in 2011. However, at that edition only 16 teams competed: Puerto Rico lost all their matches in a pool with Brazil, United States and Poland.
- Victory wise their best result came in 2014, as they won their Intercontinental Round matches against Spain and Slovakia but failed to reach the Final Round.
- Last year, Puerto Rico finished third in their group with Montenegro, Turkey and Tunisia. They only defeated Tunisia in their final match.
- Puerto Rico could win consecutive World League matches for the first time.



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Pool C3: Kazakhstan – Greece (17 June)

Head-to-Head

- Kazakhstan and Greece will meet for the first time in an official match.
- Kazakhstan have lost their last eight matches against CEV sides, taking only three sets from those matches.
- Greece are on their longest losing streak against AVC sides at the World League, as they lost against Japan in 2003 and twice versus China in 2015. All those defeats were in five sets.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan return to the World League after making their debut in 2015.
- They won their first ever match in the competition against Venezuela in the Intercontinental Round of Group 3, but lost their remaining five (twice Spain, twice Egypt, once Venezuela) and eventually finished in joint 28th place.
- Kazakhstan won their last two matches at the 2015 Asian Championship against India (3-1) and Pakistan (3-0).

Greece

- Greece will participate in the World League for the 12th time.
- Their best result in the competition came in 2004, when they finished in fifth place. They finished second in their pool with later winners Brazil, Spain and Portugal, winning five of their seven matches.
- Last year, Greece returned to the World League for the first time since 2005. They finished in joint 25th place.
- Five of Greece's six matches at the 2015 World League were five-setters, including their two defeats. The exception was their straight sets win over Mexico.
- Greece could lose consecutive World League matches on home soil for the first time since the two defeats against Brazil in 2004.