



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JUNE 02-04, 2017

Pool A2: Finland - Slovenia (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Finland and Slovenia have never met before in World League history.
- These nations most recently clashed at the 2013 European Championships, when Finland came from a set down to beat Slovenia 3-1 in the group stage.
- At the 2011 European Championships, Finland qualified for the quarterfinals after beating Slovenia in a five-set thriller (25-18, 21-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-12).

Finland

- Finland will make their 13th World League appearance. They will be present for the 12th successive season.
- Their best finish in the competition is seventh place in 2007.
- Last season, they finished in 17th place.

Slovenia

- Slovenia will make their second World League participation.
- They made their debut last season and finished in 25th place.
- They won seven of their eight matches last year.



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Pool A2: Korea - Czech Republic (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Korea and Czech Republic will meet for the fourth consecutive year in the World League.
- These nations have clashed nine times before in World League history, with Korea winning on three occasions and Czech Republic claiming six victories.
- Two of Korea's three wins over Czech Republic in the World League came in straight sets, including last season's Division B encounter.
- Czech Republic's last World League victory over Korea was on 27 June 2015, when they won 3-1 in the intercontinental round.

Korea

- Korea will make their 19th World League appearance. They will compete for the 12th season in a row.
- Last season, they came 23rd, their lowest finish in the competition.
- Their best finish in the competition is their sixth place finish from 1995.

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic will make their fourth World League participation.
- For the third successive season, Czech Republic will compete in the World League.
- Their best finish in the competition is fourth place at their debut in 2003.



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Pool B2: Australia - Portugal (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Australia and Portugal are set to meet for the first time in the World League.
- These nations previously met at a major tournament five years ago, when Portugal beat Australia 3-1 in the 2002 World Championships group stage.

Australia

- Australia are making their fifth participation in the World League.
- This will be the fourth consecutive season in which Australia take part in the World League.
- Australia's highest finish in the World League is fifth place, which they achieved in 2014.
- Last World League campaign, only Cuba's Dariel Calbo (32 points against Portugal) scored more points in a single match than Paul Carroll's 31 points against Bulgaria on 3 July 2016.

Portugal

- Portugal are making their 14th World League appearance.
- Portugal will make an appearance for the seventh successive World League season.
- Portugal's best finish in the competition is fifth place, set in 2005.
- Manuel Meirinho (17) and Germany's Anton Brehme (17) are the youngest players in this year's World League competition.



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Pool B2: Slovakia - Japan (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- These nations are set to meet for the second time in the World League. Last year, Slovakia claimed a 3-1 victory over Japan in Group B.
- Slovakia and Japan have never clashed in any other major competition.

Slovakia

- Slovakia are making their fourth World League appearance since finishing 24th on their debut in 2014.
- For now, they have been improving on their performance from the previous year, finishing 23rd in 2015 and 21st last year.
- Seven of Slovakia's nine World League wins came in June.

Japan

- Japan will make their 24th World League participation. Since 2001, they have appeared in every season except for 2010.
- Japan's best finish in the competition is sixth place, which they achieved on three previous occasions, in 1990, 1993 and 2008.
- Japan are hoping to rebound from a 24th place finish from last season, their lowest so far in the competition.



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Pool C2: Netherlands - Egypt (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands and Egypt will meet for the second time in the World League. Last year, Netherlands recorded a 3-1 Group B victory over Egypt on 1 July 2016.
- These nations also met at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, when Netherlands claimed a 3-1 win against Egypt in the group stages.
- Netherlands and Egypt also clashed at the 1995 World Cup and the 1978 World Championships. Both encounters finished in a straight-set victory for Netherlands.

Netherlands

- Netherlands are making their 21st World League appearance and will participate for the fifth season in a row.
- Netherlands won the World League in 1996, the same year in which they took gold at the Olympic Games.
- Netherlands won their opening match in each of their last three World League appearances.

Egypt

- Egypt will take part in the World League for the seventh time and for the third season in a row.
- Egypt's best performance in the World League is a 13th place finish, set on three occasions - 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- Egypt have won 11 of their last 17 World League matches (65%), but lost each of their last three fixtures in the competition.



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Pool C2: Turkey - China (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- On 2 July 2016, Turkey beat China in straight sets in these nations' only previous World League encounter (Division B).
- Their only other competitive meeting at world level came at the 1966 World Championships, when Turkey managed to score just 14 points in their 3-0 defeat against China: 15-3, 15-5, 15-6 (consolation round 9-16).

Turkey

- Turkey will make their fourth World League appearance and will participate for the fourth season in a row.
- Turkey are coming off their best finish in the competition, a 16th place finish last season.
- Turkey have won 11 of their last 14 World League matches, including five in straight sets.

China

- China make their 18th World League appearance and their fourth in a row.
- Their best finish in the competition is sixth place, which they achieved in 1996.
- Last season, China finished in 19th place.
- China have won three of their last four matches in the World League, including two by a 3-0 scoreline.