



FIVB WORLD LEAGUE PREVIEWS WEEK 3 – JUN 15-18, 2017

Pool G2: China - Australia (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- China and Australia have met three times before in a major competition.
- Earlier this season, they met for the first time in the World League. Australia won 3-0 in Helsinki, Finland.
- China beat Australia 3-0 at the Asian Championships in 2015.
- China's last victory over Australia at a major global tournament dates back to the 2002 World Championship, when they won 3-1.

China

- China (149) are one short of becoming the fifth team, after Japan, Korea, Cuba and Argentina, to lose 150 World League matches.
- China have won three of their seven 2017 World League matches, the same record as they had at this stage of last year's tournament. They went on to lose their eighth fixture in straight sets against Turkey.
- Only one of China's last 16 World League matches has gone to a fifth set, the 3-2 defeat versus Turkey in their opening fixture of this year's edition.

Australia

- Australia have already qualified for the Group 2 final round as they are hosting the event in Gold Coast.
- Australia have won five of their seven 2017 World League matches. Only in 2014 (7) have they recorded more victories in a single World League campaign.
- Australia could win five consecutive World League matches for the first time. They also had a run of four in a row in that 2014 campaign.
- Australia have won seven of their 10 World League matches that have gone to a deciding set, including both in 2017.



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Pool G2: Japan - Turkey (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Japan and Turkey will meet in the World League for the fourth time.
- Last weekend, Japan won their most recent encounter, 3-1 on home court in Takasaki.
- Turkey had won each of their first two meetings, both of which took place last year.

Japan

- Japan's five-set defeat against Australia in their last fixture ended their four-match World League winning streak, which equalled their best run in the tournament.
- Japan have lost seven of their last eight World League matches that have gone to a deciding set.
- Japan could win five matches in a single World League campaign for only the third time this century, after 2008 and 2015.
- Masahiro Yanagida and Issei Otake (both 90) are Japan's joint-leading scorers in Group 2.

Turkey

- Turkey have lost four consecutive World League matches, after beginning this year's tournament with three wins in a row.
- Prior to this run, Turkey had never lost more than two consecutive World League fixtures.
- Turkey have lost their last three World League matches against AVC opposition, having won their first four fixtures in the competition versus AVC teams.



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Pool H2: Egypt - Portugal (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Last weekend's match between Egypt and Portugal was their first encounter in the World League.
- Egypt triumphed in five sets, 19-17 in the deciding set.
- Lourenco Martins was Portugal's top scorer in this match - 19 points. For Egypt, Ahmed Shafik and Mohamed Masoud each scored 15 points.
- For Egypt, this snapped a losing streak of seven encounters with opponents from Europe in the World League.

Egypt

- Egypt have won only one of their last 10 World League matches, the 3-2 victory against Portugal on 10 June 2017.
- Egypt have suffered five straight-set defeats in those 10 matches.
- Of Egypt's seven 2017 World League matches, four have been decided in straight sets (L4) and the other three in five sets (W1-L2).
- Egypt won the opening set in all three of those five-setters in this year's World League.

Portugal

- Portugal have won two of their seven 2017 World League matches, 3-2 against Japan and 3-1 versus Finland.
- Portugal could win consecutive World League fixtures for the first time since a run of three in a row in June 2014.
- Portugal could equal their total number of wins in last year's World League (3).
- The Ferreira brothers Alexandre (98) and Marco (70) are Portugal's leading scorers in Group 2.



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Pool H2: Finland - Slovenia (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Slovenia beat Finland 3-1 on 2 June. Tine Urnaut (SLO) and Antti Ropponen (FIN) were their teams' top scorers on 18 points each.
- Finland had won their previous two competitive matches against Slovenia, at the European Championships in 2011 (3-1) and 2013 (3-2).

Finland

- Finland have won two of their seven 2017 World League matches, in straight sets against Slovakia and 3-1 versus China.
- Of their five defeats in this year's competition, four were by a 3-1 scoreline (also 3-2 v Korea).
- Finland have won the opening set in 15 of their last 18 World League matches.

Slovenia

- Slovenia have won 13 of their 15 World League matches, with the only defeats against Greece (3-1 on 26 June 2016) and Japan (3-2 on 10 June 2017).
- Slovenia (87%) have the best World League win percentage (Estonia next 83%).
- Slovenia lost the opening set in only one of their 13 World League wins, 3-1 against Venezuela on 19 June 2016.
- Slovenia's 3-0 win against Egypt in their last match was their first straight-set victory of the 2017 World League. They recorded four straight-set wins in their debut campaign last year.



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Pool I2: Czech Republic - Korea (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- All of the last 10 encounters between these countries at major competitions came at the World League.
- Czech Republic won six of the 10, but Korea have won the two most recent meetings.
- Six of the 10 World League meetings between these two have been decided in five sets.
- Czech Republic (all as Czechoslovakia) and Korea have also met seven times at major competitions outside of the World League, with the Czechs winning six times versus one Korean victory (at the 1978 World Championship).

Czech Republic

- Czech Republic have won consecutive matches for the first time in the 2017 World League (both were in straight sets).
- Czech Republic had a run of three consecutive victories in last year's World League, winning three five-setters in three days against Netherlands, Cuba and Slovakia.
- Czech Republic have won 13 of their 18 World League five-setters, with six of those matches being against Korea (W5-L1).

Korea

- Korea have lost consecutive World League matches in straight sets, having won six of their previous eight fixtures in the competition.
- Korea could win more than three matches in a single World League campaign for the first time since 2013 (4).
- Of Korea's last nine World League matches, six have gone to a fifth set. They went on to win five of those six deciders, only losing against Slovenia.
- Korea have lost the opening set in five of their last six World League fixtures.



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Pool I2: Netherlands - Slovakia (17 Jun)

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands and Slovakia have met twice before at a major competition, both times at the 2016 World League.
- Netherlands won both matches by 3-1, the first on a neutral court in Izmir, Turkey (on this exact day last year) and the second away in Bratislava.
- They also met at the European Championship in 2001 and 2007, with Netherlands also winning both matches (3-0, 3-1).

Netherlands

- Netherlands could win five consecutive World League matches for the first time since 2001.
- Both of Netherlands' 2017 World League defeats came in the opening week, 3-1 against China and 3-2 versus Turkey.
- Netherlands have won at least one set in 25 of their last 26 World League matches. The only exception in that run was the straight-set defeat versus Turkey last year. The Dutch recorded eight 3-0 victories in those 26 fixtures.

Slovakia

- All three of Slovakia's 2017 World League defeats have been in straight sets. They had suffered only three straight-set losses in their first three participations in the competition.
- Slovakia have dropped only two sets in the four World League matches they have won this year.
- This is the most victories Slovakia have recorded in a single World League campaign. They won three matches in each of their first three participations in the tournament.
- Slovakia have won only two of their 10 World League matches that have gone to a deciding set.