



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

Pool A3: Spain - Mexico (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Spain and Mexico have met once before in the World League. On 17 June 2016, Spain beat Mexico 3-2 (15-12 in final set).
- Spain have a W13-L19 record against teams from North and Central America in the World League.
- Mexico have a W2-L8 record against European sides. They beat Turkey in 2014 and Germany in 2016.

Spain

- Spain are making their 15th World League appearance. For the fourth season in a row, they will make their presence.
- Last season, Spain finished in 32nd place, their lowest final rank ever in the World League.
- Their best performance is a fifth place finish, which they achieved in 1999, 2002 and 2003.

Mexico

- Mexico made their World League debut in 2014 and will now participate for the fourth year in a row.
- Mexico's finishes in the World League have been regressing so far: 26th in 2014, 30th in 2015 and 34th last season.
- Mexico have lost 15 of their last 16 World League matches. The only exception in that run was the 3-1 win over Germany on 19 June 2016.



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Pool A3: Qatar - Greece (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- On 25 June 2016, Qatar recorded a 3-0 World League victory over Greece (Division C) in these nations' only previous meeting at world level.

Qatar

- Qatar will make their second participation in the World League.
- Last season, Qatar finished in 31st place on their World League debut.
- Bojan Djukic was Qatar's top scorer in Group 3 in 2016 on 65 points.
- Qatar have won their last two World League matches (against Puerto Rico and Greece), both in straight sets.

Greece

- Greece will make their 13th World League appearance.
- They came 27th last season, their lowest finish ever in the competition.
- Their best performance in the competition was their fifth place finish in 2004.
- Rafail Koumentakis was Greece's top scorer in Group 3 in 2016 on 99 points.
- Athanassios Terzis (38) and Tunisia's Mahdi Ben Cheick (38) are the oldest players in this year's World League competition.
- Greece have won six of their last eight World League matches. Their last four victories all came by a 3-1 scoreline.



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Pool B3: Montenegro - Tunisia (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- This will be the fourth meeting between Montenegro and Tunisia in the World League.
- Tunisia won the most recent encounter, 3-2 in 2016 (22-25, 25-27, 31-29, 26-24, 19-17). With 245 total points, this was the highest scoring match in the entire 2016 World League.
- Montenegro won both encounters in 2015, both by a 3-0 scoreline.

Montenegro

- Montenegro are participating in the World League for the third time, after 2015 (22nd) and 2016 (29th).
- They won their first five matches in their debut year 2015 and then claimed another five wins in their next nine matches.
- Marko Bojic led all players in points in last year's Group 3
- Slobodan Bojic played for S.C. Sfaxien in Tunisia in 2016/17.

Tunisia

- Tunisia will be competing in the World League for the fourth year in a row. Their highest finish was a 27th place in 2014.
- Tunisia have won their last three World League matches, including a 3-2 victory over Montenegro.
- Only Nikola Lakcevic (MNE, 65) had more digs in Group 3 in 2016 than Tunisia's Tayeb Korbosli (48) and Ismail Moalla (41).
- Mahdi Ben Cheick (38) and Greece's Athanassios Terzis (38) are the oldest players in this year's World League competition.



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Pool B3: Chinese Taipei - Estonia (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Chinese Taipei and Estonia will meet for the first time at world level.

Chinese Taipei

- Chinese Taipei will be making their second appearance, after making their World League debut last season.
- They finished their debut season in 28th place.
- Chinese Taipei played their first World League match on 17 June 2016 and defeated Puerto Rico 3-0.
- Yen Chen Fu (198cm) is Chinese Taipei's tallest player in this year's World League competition.
- Chinese Taipei are the only team in the 2017 World League without a player taller than 200cm.

Estonia

- Estonia are one of two World League debutants this season. The others are Austria.
- Estonia won the 2016 European League to qualify for this year's World League edition. They beat FYR Macedonia 3-0 in the final.
- Estonia will make their first appearance ever at world level.
- Robert Täht was their highest scoring player in the 2016 European League on 118 points in eight matches.



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Pool C3: Kazakhstan - Germany (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Last year, Germany beat Kazakhstan 3-0 in the World League, in the nations' only previous meeting at a major tournament.

Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan will make their third World League appearance.
- They appeared in the previous two seasons. In 2015, they came 28th, last season 35th.
- Last season, Kazakhstan lost five of their six World League matches, including four by a 3-0 scoreline.
- Vitaliy Vorivodin was their highest scoring player in Group 3 in 2016 (69 points).

Germany

- Germany made 12 previous World League participations and that includes three appearances as West Germany.
- Last season, they finished in 26th place, their lowest ever final rank in the competition.
- Their best World League result is a fifth place finish, which they achieved in 2011.
- Anton Brehme (17) and Portugal's Manuel Meirinho (17) are the youngest players in this year's World League competition.



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Pool C3: Venezuela - Austria (02 June)

Head-to-Head

- Venezuela and Austria will meet for the first time in a major competition.

Venezuela

- Venezuela will make their ninth appearance in the World League and a third in a row.
- They finished in 30th place in each of the previous two seasons.
- Venezuela's best result in eight previous World League participations is a seventh place finish in 2005.
- Venezuela have won two of their last three World League matches, both victories came in five sets.

Austria

- Austria are one of two countries making their World League debut this season. The other newcomers this season are Estonia.
- Austria will make their first appearance at world level since the 1962 World Championships.