



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 4 – AUGUST 15-17

Pool G – Country specific statistics

Brazil

- Brazil are the only country which have the maximum of 18 points after the first six matches in Group 1.
- In total, Brazil have won their last 15 World Grand Prix matches, losing only one set (3-1 victory against China in the first match this season).
- The last time they had a longer winning streak was between 2008 and 2010, when they set the World Grand Prix record at 27 successive victories.
- They have won 23 of their last 24 World Grand Prix matches, only losing to Bulgaria on 10 August 2013.
- Thaisa Menezes is by far the best blocker in this World Grand Prix with an average of 1.42 blocks per set. Second is Veronika Trnkova from Czech Republic of Group 3 with an average of 1.10.

Dominican Republic

- The Dominican Republic have won their first match in this year's competition against Turkey last week (3-2). Their defeat against Germany also came in five sets, making it the only matches they have won at least one set this season.
- The Dominican Republic will go to 99 World Grand Prix matches this weekend. If they are eliminated after this weekend of play, they will have to wait until next season to become the 13th country with 100+ World Grand Prix matches.
- The Dominican Republic have the best digger in the competition with Brenda Castillo who makes an average of 5.27 digs per set.

Thailand

- Thailand lost their three matches in last weekend's World Grand Prix play and are currently on a four-match losing streak in the competition. Their only win this season came in five sets against Serbia.
- The last time Thailand lost more than four World Grand Prix matches in a row was between 2006 and 2008 (7 matches).
- Thailand have the best setter in the competition with Nootsara Tomkom who has an average of 8.83 running sets per set.



USA

- USA have won their last six World Grand Prix matches played in Bangkok, losing only two sets.
- USA are seven sets shy of recoding 400 sets lost. The only team to have lost 400+ sets in the World Grand Prix is Japan (517). China are currently on 396 sets lost.
- USA can reach the final six teams of the World Grand Prix for the fifth consecutive year.



Pool G – Head-2-Head

Thailand v Dominican Republic

- Thailand and the Dominican Republic have met twice in the competition, with both recording one victory each. In 2008 the Dominican Republic won 3-1 and in 2012 Thailand won 3-0.
- This fixture features the teams who are currently holding the last two places in the ranking of Group 1 – The Dominican Republic are in 11th place with three points and Thailand in 12th place with two points.
- Thailand have lost two of their last 10 World Grand Prix meetings with NORCECA sides (both v USA).
- The two youngest players of Group 1 could meet each other – the Dominican Republic's Gaila Ceneida Gonzalez Lopez (17 years and 51 days on Friday) and Thailand's Moksri Chatchu-On (14-283).

Brazil v USA

- These teams have met 20 times in the World Grand Prix. Brazil won a total of 12 times and have won their last three encounters.
- Their last meeting came last weekend with Brazil defeating USA in straight sets. Thaisa Menezes (12, Brazil) and Kelly Murphy (17, USA) scored the most points for their teams.
- This fixture features the teams who have won the most gold medals in the competition – Brazil have won a total of nine times and USA a total of five times.

Brazil v Dominican Republic

- Brazil have won all of their nine World Grand Prix meetings with the Dominican Republic.
- The Dominican Republic were closest to a victory in their 2008 meeting. They were 2-0 up in sets before losing the match in five sets. In 2006, they also lost a match in five sets.
- The Dominican Republic have lost 156 points more than Brazil in this year's competition.
- Brenda Castillo (Dominican Republic) and Camila Brait (Brazil) are the best diggers of Group 1. Castillo has an average of 5.27 digs per set and Brait an average of 4.79 digs per set.

Thailand v USA

- Thailand recorded only one victory against USA in the World Grand Prix. The other 12 meetings were all won by USA. Thailand's victory came in 2009 at home in five sets.
- USA have lost only once in their last 18 World Grand Prix meetings with Asian sides (against China in 2013).
- Their last meeting at a major tournament was at the 2013 Grand Champions Cup. USA defeated Thailand 3-2.



Dominican Republic v USA

- Dominican Republic and USA have met eight times in the competition. The Dominican Republic recorded only one victory against USA – 3-2 in 2006.
- USA won their last two encounters with the Dominican Republic, in 2011 and 2012, in straight sets.
- These nations also met at the London 2012 Olympic Games, with USA winning 3-0 in the quarterfinals. USA eventually lost the final against Brazil.

Thailand v Brazil

- Brazil are undefeated against Thailand in the World Grand Prix with eight victories. Thailand only succeeded to win one set in these meetings, which was in their first meeting in 2002.
- This fixture features the highest and lowest ranked teams in Group 1 on the FIVB World Ranking – Brazil ranked 1 and Thailand ranked 12.
- Thailand's Nootsara Tomkom is the best setter in Group 1 with an average of 8.83 running sets by set, only 0.83 more than Brazil's Danielle Lins.



Pool H – Country specific statistics

Italy

- Italy have played three World Grand Prix matches in Russia, losing the first one against Russia and winning against Cuba and Thailand in Yekaterinburg in the 2013 group stage.
- Italy can qualify for the Final Round for the second consecutive season. Last year they finished fifth.
- The last time they reached the Final Round in back-to-back seasons was in 2010 and 2011.

Germany

- Germany will play their 148th, 149th and 150th World Grand Prix match and will become the ninth nation to play at least 150 World Grand Prix matches.
- The last time Germany reached the Final Round was in 2009, when they eventually finished third.

Russia

- Russia have won all their six World Grand Prix matches in the Russia. They defeated Kazakhstan, United States and Cuba in Khabarovsk in 2007 and Italy, Thailand and Cuba in Yekaterinburg in 2013.
- Russia have lost their last four World Grand Prix matches and can lose five in a row for the first time ever. They also lost four in a row in 1996 and between 2011 and 2013.
- Before this losing streak they won nine World Grand Prix matches in a row.
- This could be the first time Russia fail to qualify for the Final Round in three successive seasons.

Turkey

- Turkey have won five of their six matches this World Grand Prix season. In the whole of last season, they won six matches in total.
- They can reach the Final Round for the second time following their third place finish in 2012.
- Gozde Sonsirma has the highest receiving efficiency of all players this World Grand Prix season (74%).



Pool H – Head-2-Head

Turkey v Germany

- These teams have met each other three times before in the competition, including last Sunday, when Turkey won 3-1. The first meeting was in 2008, when Turkey also won 3-1. Germany won 3-1 in 2012.
- Last year at the European Championship, Germany defeated Turkey 3-0 in the group stage. Germany eventually lost the final against Russia.
- These teams also met at the last World Championships in 2010, when Turkey won 3-2 in the 5-8 classification round.

Russia v Italy

- Russia have won 11 of the 13 previous World Grand Prix meetings with Italy, including the last meeting which was the only meeting in Russia (Yekaterinburg) in 2013.
- Two years ago at the London 2012 Olympic Games, Russia defeated Italy 3-2 in the group stage. Both teams went on to the quarterfinals, but failed to reach the semifinals.
- Four years earlier, Italy defeated Russia 3-1 at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Like 2012, both teams went on to the quarterfinals, but both failed to reach the semifinals.

Italy v Germany

- Italy have won six of the previous seven World Grand Prix meetings with Germany, only losing in the 2012 preliminary round (3-0).
- At the 2011 European Championship, Germany defeated Italy 3-0 in the semifinals, only to lose against Serbia in the final (3-2).
- The only meeting at the Olympic Games was in 2000, when Germany was victorious in the group stage (3-1).

Russia v Turkey

- The only previous World Grand Prix meeting between these nations was in the first weekend in Ankara of this season. Turkey won 3-2 after Russia came back from a 2-0 deficit.
- Last year at the European Championship, Russia won 3-0 in the quarterfinals. Russia went on to win the tournament.
- These countries also met at the last World Championship in Russia in 2010. Russia won the group stage match 3-1 and went on to become world champions.

Italy v Turkey



- Italy have won both World Grand Prix meetings with Turkey. In 2008 they won by 3-1 in the group stage and in 2013 they defeated them 3-2 in the group stage.
- The only other nation Turkey have played at least twice at the World Grand Prix without winning is Brazil (2 matches).
- Turkey defeated Italy twice at the 2011 European Championship. In both the group stage and bronze medal match they beat them 3-2.

Germany v Russia

- Russia have won 10 of 11 World Grand Prix meetings with Germany. The only time Germany was victorious was in Germany in 2004 (3-2).
- Russia defeated Germany 3-1 at the 2013 European Championship final, which was played in Berlin.
- The only time Germany defeated Russia at an Olympic Games, World Championship or European Championship was at the 2003 European Championship. Germany won 3-0 in the group stage. Germany finished eventually third, Russia fifth.



Pool I – Country specific statistics

China

- China have played 54 matches in Macau in the World Grand Prix, most by a single nation at a specific venue.
- China have won their last six World Grand Prix matches in Macau since losing against Italy in the final 7-8 of the 2011 season.
- Yao Di celebrates her 22nd birthday on Friday.

Japan

- Japan have won their last two World Grand Prix matches in Macau. They have won only four of 17 matches in total in Macau.
- Japan defeated Thailand 3-1 last week ending their nine-match losing streak in the competition.
- Japan host the Final Round and will play in the Final Round in back-to-back years. Last year they finished fourth.

Korea Republic

- Korea have played seven World Grand Prix matches in Macau, winning only the last match there (3-1 against Germany).
- In their other six matches in Macau they won only two sets in total.
- Kim Yeon-Koung is the top scorer in Group 1 with 146 total points. She has 28 points more than number two Chinese Zhu Ting.

Serbia

- Serbia have played five World Grand Prix matches in Macau, losing only one (in 2011 3-0 against USA).
- Serbia need to win two more sets to win their 100th in the World Grand Prix, becoming the 14th nation to win at least 100 sets in the competition.
- They can qualify for the Final Round for the third time following their 2011 and 2013 season. They missed out in 2012.



Pool I – Head-2-Head

Japan v Serbia

- This will be the fourth World Grand Prix meeting between these nations. This will be their first meeting outside Japan.
- Japan won the first meeting 3-1 in 2011. Serbia won the following two matches in straight sets.
- At the 2010 World Championship, Japan defeated Serbia 3-1 in the group stage. Japan eventually finished third in the tournament which was held in Japan.

China v Korea Republic

- China have won nine of their 12 meetings with Korea in the World Grand Prix, including the last four all in straight sets.
- China have taken at least one set in all 12 meetings.
- The only meeting in Macau was won by China (3-1) in 1996.
- At the London 2012 Olympic Games, China defeated Korea 3-2 in the group stage.

Japan v Korea Republic

- This will be the 20th World Grand Prix meeting between these sides. Korea have won the first seven and China the following 12 meetings.
- For Japan this is their longest winning streak against a specific opponent in the competition.
- Korea have also lost 12 consecutive matches against Russia between 1995 and 2001.
- Japan defeated Korea 3-0 in the bronze medal match at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

China v Serbia

- This is the fifth World Grand Prix meeting between China and Serbia. Serbia won the first two meetings (including the only meeting in Macau) and China the last two.
- At the 2012 Olympic Games, China defeated Serbia 3-1 in the group stage.
- Serbia won their meeting at the 2010 World Championship (3-1).



Korea Republic v Serbia

- Serbia have won both meetings with Korea in the World Grand Prix, including on 3 August this season (3-1).
- Kim Yeon-Koung was top scorer of the match with 21 points. Brankica Mihajlovic scored 20 points for Serbia.
- Korea won their meeting at the 2012 Olympic Games (3-1). Korea eventually finished fourth.

China v Japan

- These teams have met in 21 World Grand Prix matches. Japan only succeeded to win once, which came at the 2001 edition (3-0).
- China can become the third nation to beat another country at least 21 times in the World Grand Prix. Brazil have defeated Japan 31 times and China 23 times and Cuba have defeated Japan 22 times.
- Japan defeated China 3-2 at the 2012 Olympic quarterfinal and eventually finished third in the competition.
- China beat Japan in the 2011 Asian Championships final, claiming their 12th gold medal in this event, most of all teams.