



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEW WEEK 2 – AUGUST 1-3

Pool A – Country specific statistics

Japan

- Japan will make their 22nd World Grand Prix appearance. Japan and China are the only countries who have participated in every single World Grand Prix since 1993.
- Japan have never reached the podium in the history of the World Grand Prix. Their best result is a fourth place in 1994, 1997 and 2013. Their win-loss record in the competition is 88-146.
- Japan have a win-loss record of W12 L9 in World Grand Prix opening matches.
- Japan are currently on a four-match losing streak in the competition.

Russia

- This is Russia's 18th World Grand Prix participation, the most of all European teams.
- Russia have played 200 matches in the competition, winning 136 of them. Russia are currently undefeated in their last seven World Grand Prix matches.
- Russia have won the World Grand Prix three times (1997, 1999 and 2002) and have reached the podium 11 times.
- They have won 12 of their last 14 Grand Prix opening matches. Last year's opening match ended in defeat.

Turkey

- Turkey will be participating in their fourth World Grand Prix, after 2008, 2012 and 2013.
- Their best Grand Prix result came in 2012 when they finished third in the competition.
- Turkey's Grand Prix win-loss record is 20-12.
- They have won all three opening matches in the competition.

USA

- This will be USA's 21st participation in the World Grand Prix. They were only absent in the 1999 edition of the competition. USA's win-loss record in the competition is 136-90.
- USA won the competition five times (1995, 2001, 2010, 2011 and 2012) and finished third twice (2003 and 2004). USA and Netherlands are the only teams to have never lost a World Grand Prix final.
- USA have won their last four World Grand Prix opening matches.

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- In their last 53 World Grand Prix matches USA have lost only seven matches, with four coming in the last five.



Pool A – Head-2-Head

USA v Russia

- USA and Russia have met 20 times in the World Grand Prix, Russia won 11 times and USA nine times.
- Their last meeting came in last year's edition with USA defeating Russia 3-1. USA have won only three of their last nine World Grand Prix meetings.
- Evgeniya Startseva (Russia) meets Dinamo Kazan teammate Jordan Quinn Larson-Burbach (USA).

Turkey v Japan

- These two teams have met in four World Grand Prix matches, with both teams winning twice.
- The first and last meeting were both won by Japan, 3-2 in 2008 and 3-1 in 2013. Turkey defeated Japan twice in the 2008 World Grand Prix, 3-0 and 3-1.
- Japan defeated Turkey twice at a World Championship with a 3-1 set score (2006 and 2010).

Russia v Japan

- Russia and Japan have met 25 times in the competition, with Japan winning nine times and Russia winning 16 times.
- Japan defeated Russia in their first five encounters, their longest winning streak against Russia. Russia won their next 11 meetings, which marks their longest winning streak against Japan.
- Japan won their last encounter in straight sets, their only straight set win over Russia.
- At the 2012 Olympic Games this fixture was played in the preliminary round with Russia winning 3-1.

Turkey v USA

- Both teams have met three times in the World Grand Prix. Turkey won their first meeting in 2008 3-1, USA defeated Turkey 3-1 in their next two matches (2008 and 2012).
- USA won their 2012 Olympic Games meeting in the preliminary round in straight sets.
- Christa Harmotto (USA) meets Eczacibasi teammates Asuman Karakoyun (Turkey), Neslihan Demir (Turkey), Büsra Cansu (Turkey), Güzde Yılmaz (Turkey) and Seyma Ercan (Turkey).
- Alisha Glass (USA) meets Fenerbahce teammates Eda Erdem DüNDAR (Turkey), Seniye Merve Dalbeler (Turkey) and Seda Tokattioğlu (Turkey).



Japan v USA

- Japan and USA have met in 23 World Grand Prix matches, with Japan winning only six of them.
- USA have won their last seven meetings with Japan, which marks their longest winning streak against Japan.
- Their last meeting came in the Final Round of last year's competition, with USA winning in five sets.
- Japan won a bronze medal at the 2010 World Championship by defeating USA in five sets.

Turkey v Russia

- These teams have never met in the history of the World Grand Prix.
- Russia defeated Turkey in straight sets in the 2013 European Championship quarterfinal. Two years ago, in the 2011 European Championships quarterfinal, the roles were reversed and Turkey defeated Russia 3-0.
- Turkey is placed 11th on the World Ranking, while Russia holds the sixth place.



Pool B – Country specific statistics

Germany

- Germany make their seventh consecutive World Grand Prix appearance and their 15th in total.
- Germany's win-loss record in the competition is 43-98.
- Their best result in the World Grand Prix is a third-place finish in both 2002 and 2009. The Germans have never finished in the top five outside of these two years.
- Germany have won only two of their previous 14 opening matches. Their only opening day victories came in 2009, when they beat USA 3-0, and last year when they beat Kazakhstan 3-1.

Korea Republic

- This is Korea's 17th World Grand Prix participation. They were present in only three of the last seven World Grand Prix's.
- Korea's win-loss record in the competition is 53-103.
- Their best result is a third place in the 1997 World Grand Prix. They have reached the Final Round five times.
- Korea have won seven of their 16 opening matches at the Grand Prix. They have won only one opening match in their last six participations.

Serbia

- Serbia participate in their fourth World Grand Prix, after 2011, 2012 and 2013. Serbia's Grand Prix win-loss record is 23-14.
- Their best Grand Prix results came in 2011 and 2013 when they finished third in the competition.
- Serbia are the highest ranked team in a debut season – third in 2011 (inaugural 1993 World Grand Prix not included).
- Only in last year's competition, Serbia won their opening match – 3-0 v Dominican Republic.

Thailand

- This is Thailand's 12th participation in the World Grand Prix. Since their Grand Prix debut in 2002, they were only absent in the 2007 edition.
- In 2012 Thailand finished fourth in the competition, their best result in team history.
- Thailand's win-loss record in the competition is 28-76.
- Thailand only won their opening World Grand Prix match in 2009, 2011 and 2012.



Pool B – Head-2-Head

Serbia v Germany

- Serbia and Germany have never met in the World Grand Prix.
- Both teams met in the 2011 European Championship final. Serbia defeated Germany in five sets to become European champion for the first time in team history.
- Their last meeting came at the 2011 World Cup, where Germany defeated Serbia 3-2.
- In this fixture a lot of teammates will meet each other. Lisa Thomsen (Germany) and Suzana Cebic (Serbia) play for Lokomotiv Baku, Mareen Apitz (Germany) and Milena Rasic (Serbia) for Cannes, Danica Radenkovic (Serbia), Anja Brandt, Carina Aulenbrock and Jana Franziska Poll (all Germany) for Schweriner SC, and Tijana Malesevic (Serbia) and Stefanie Karg (Germany) for VK Prostějov

Korea Republic v Thailand

- Korea and Thailand have met three times in the World Grand Prix, all in the preliminary round. Korea defeated Thailand twice in straight sets (2003 and 2006). Thailand defeated Korea in five sets in their 2004 encounter.
- Their last meeting came at the Olympic Qualification Tournament in 2012 when Korea defeated Thailand 3-0. Only Korea qualified for the Olympic Games in 2012.

Korea Republic v Germany

- Korea have won six of their nine World Grand Prix encounters with Germany.
- Their last meeting came in 2012 when Germany defeated Korea in straight sets.
- Only one meeting needed five sets to decide the winner. Germany defeated Korea in the 2001 World Grand Prix.

Serbia v Thailand

- These two teams have met twice in the World Grand Prix. Serbia defeated Thailand in straight sets in 2011. Thailand won their 2012 meeting in four sets.
- Serbia and Thailand have also met twice in an Olympic Qualification Tournament. In 2012 Serbia won in straight sets and in 2008 Thailand won in straight sets.



Korea Republic v Serbia

- Korea and Serbia have met only once in the competition. In 2011 Serbia defeated Korea in straight sets.
- Serbia have defeated Korea twice at an Olympic Qualification Tournament (2008 and 2012), twice at a World Cup (2007 and 2010) and at the 2010 World Championship.
- With only one set won in six matches in main tournaments, Korea are looking for their first victory over Serbia.

Thailand v Germany

- Both teams have met in seven World Grand Prix encounters. Germany won six of their meetings and have a set win-loss victory of 19-5 against Thailand.
- Their last meeting came in last year's World Grand Prix with Germany winning in straight sets.
- Thailand's victory over Germany (3-1) came in the 2010 World Grand Prix.
- Turkey is placed 11th on the World Ranking, while Russia holds the sixth place.



Pool C – Country specific statistics

Brazil

- This is Brazil's 21st World Grand Prix participation. They were only absent in 1997.
- Brazil won the tournament a record nine times and will enter this year's Grand Prix as reigning champion. In nine of their last 10 participations, Brazil have reached the final of the competition.
- Their worst performance at the World Grand Prix is a seventh place in 2003.
- Brazil have the best win-loss record of all participating teams (202-51).
- They have lost only four of their last 44 matches at the World Grand Prix.
- Brazil lost their last opening match 15 years ago. In 1998, Italy proved too strong over five sets.
- Brazil have not lost a set in their last nine World Grand Prix matches, which marks the longest straight-set winning streak in team history.

China

- China will make their 22nd World Grand Prix appearance. China and Japan are the only countries who participated in every single World Grand Prix since the inaugural 1993 edition.
- They have reached the final five times, including last season. Only in the 2003 World Grand Prix, China claimed the Gold medal.
- China have finished in the top-5 in all World Grand Prix editions except 2011 (8th).
- China have played more World Grand Prix matches (262) than any other country, with a win-loss record of 167-95.
- China have lost only three of their 21 opening matches at the Grand Prix.
- In last season's Grand Prix, China lost only one match: the final against Brazil (3-0).

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic will enter their 11th World Grand Prix (Won 24-Lost 66). They have never finished higher than the eighth place (2006, 2010).
- Their most successful year in terms of World Grand Prix victories was 2013, when the Dominicans won six of their nine matches.
- They have won their opening match at the World Grand Prix only twice (2006 and 2012).
- Of their 24 victories in the World Grand Prix, Dominican Republic won 11 in five sets. Only six of them came in straight sets and seven in four sets.



Italy

- Italy will make their 16th appearance in the World Grand Prix. The only European country with more appearances is Russia, who take part for the 18th time.
- Italy's win-loss record in the competition is 90-81.
- Their best result in the World Grand Prix is a silver medal in both 2004 and 2005.
- Italy have won nine of their 15 opening matches at the competition.
- Last year, Italy won six of their first seven World Grand Prix matches. In their last seven Grand Prix matches they only won twice.



Pool C – Head-2-Head

Brazil v China

- Brazil and China have met 32 times in history of the World Grand Prix, with Brazil winning 22 times and China 10 times. Only Brazil and Japan have met more often in the competition (35 times).
- The last nine encounters have been won by Brazil, with six of those meetings ending in straight sets. China have succeeded in winning only four sets in these last nine meetings.
- The last time China defeated Brazil at the World Grand Prix was in 2008 (3-2).
- Both teams have met once in a World Grand Prix final. Last year Brazil defeated China 3-0.

Italy v Dominican Republic

- Italy have won 10 of their 12 encounters with Dominican Republic.
- Dominican's victories both came in five sets, with the last being at last year's competition.
- Their last World Grand Prix meeting came in 2013, when Dominican Republic defeated Italy in five sets.
- Both teams also met at the 2012 Olympic Games, with Italy defeating Dominican Republic 3-1.

China v Dominican Republic

- These two teams have met ten times in the World Grand Prix. Dominican Republic recorded only one victory against China. This win came in five sets at the 2010 World Grand Prix.
- Seven of China's nine victories against Dominican Republic came in straight sets.
- Dominican Republic have won only five sets in ten meetings with China.

Brazil v Italy

- Brazil and Italy have met on 21 occasions in the World Grand Prix. Italy have won only four of these meetings.
- Brazil are currently on a six-match winning streak against Italy. Italy's last victory came in the Preliminary round of the 2010 World Grand Prix.
- Brazil and Italy have met twice in the final of the competition (2004 and 2005). In both finals Brazil defeated Italy.
- Caterina Bosetti (Italy) meets Molico/Nestlé teammates Camila Brait (Brazil), Thaisa Menezes (Brazil) and Adenizia Silva (Brazil).



Dominican Republic v Brazil

- Brazil are undefeated in eight encounters with Dominican Republic, with the latter winning only five sets.
- In their last meeting, at the 2013 World Grand Prix, Brazil defeated Dominican Republic in four sets.
- 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.

Italy v China

- This fixture has been played 19 times in the World Grand Prix. Italy won 10 of these meetings and China nine.
- Their last encounter came in last year's competition in the Final Round. China defeated Italy in five sets.
- Six of their last seven meetings went to five sets. Both teams won three of those five sets. The other match, in the 2010 World Grand Prix, was won by Italy in straight sets.
- Turkey is placed 11th on the World Ranking, while Russia holds the sixth place.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 2 – AUGUST 1 TO 3

Pool L – Country specific statistics

Argentina

- Argentina defeated Cuba in four sets, which marks only their fifth win in 30 World Grand Prix matches and their first victory in less than five sets.
- Their two other matches in the opening weekend of the competition, against Puerto Rico and Netherlands, ended in straight set losses.
- Lucia Gaido is currently Group 2's best receiver with a receiving efficiency of 53.97%.

Belgium

- After Belgium lost their debut match of the World Grand Prix against Poland in four sets, they defeated Puerto Rico and Canada in straight sets.
- Belgium's Lise van Hecke scored 24 points in her debut World Grand Prix match against Poland, 17 points more than any of her teammates.
- After three matches, Frauke Dirickx is the best setter in Group 2 with an average of 8.10 per set.

Canada

- Canada lost all three matches in the opening weekend of the World Grand Prix. Puerto Rico and Poland defeated Canada in four sets, Belgium needed only three sets.
- Canada have lost all of their World Grand Prix matches in team history – two participations, eight matches.
- The only other teams searching for their first World Grand Prix victory are Algeria and Australia.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have won all three matches and are the only team to close out the opening 2014 World Grand Prix weekend without losing a single set.
- Netherlands have either won (6) or lost (3) their last nine World Grand matches in straight sets. The last time Netherlands played more than three sets was in their 3-1 defeat against China on 4 August 2013.
- Judith Pietersen and Femke Stoltenborg are Group 2's best servers with an average of 0.78 per set. Netherlands also have the best digger of Group 2 with Myrthe Schoot (average of 4.89 per set).



Pool L – Head-2-Head

Netherlands v Argentina

- This will be the second meeting between Netherlands and Argentina in the World Grand Prix, after meeting in the opening weekend of the competition.
- Both teams were drawn in Pool K this season, with Netherlands defeating Argentina in straight sets.
- Of all matches in Group 2 that were played out in three sets, this match saw the most points with a total of 138.

Belgium v Canada

- Both teams will meet for the second time in World Grand Prix history, after meeting in the opening weekend of the competition.
- In Pool J, Belgium defeated Canada in straight sets, which marked Canada's eighth World Grand Prix defeat in eight matches.
- With only six points Jaimie Thibeault became top scorer for Canada in this match. No other player became top scorer for her team with less than seven points in the opening weekend of the World Grand Prix.

Argentina v Canada

- Argentina and Canada have never met in the World Grand Prix.
- Argentina have won only three of their eight encounters with NORCECA sides in the World Grand Prix. These victories came against Cuba in 2011 and 2014 and Dominican Republic in 2011.
- Canada have played twice against a South American side at the World Grand Prix. Brazil defeated Canada in 2003 in straight sets and Peru defeated Canada in 2014 in four sets.
- Lucia Fresco (Argentina) meets SC Potsdam teammates Marie-Pier Murray-Methot (Canada) and Brittney Page (Canada).

Netherlands v Belgium

- This will be the first ever 'Derby of Low Countries' in the World Grand Prix.
- Netherlands and Belgium have met in three European Championships – 1975, 2007 and 2009 – with Netherlands winning all three of them.
- In their last encounter at a World Championship (1978), Netherlands defeated Belgium in straight sets.
- Lise Van Hecke (Belgium) and Robin De Kruijf (Netherlands) play together for Piacenza in Italy.



Canada v Netherlands

- Canada and Netherlands will meet for the first time in World Grand Prix history.
- Their most recent encounter at a great tournament came at the 2002 World Championship. Netherlands defeated Canada in straight sets.
- Netherlands have lost only once in their last 13 World Grand Prix meetings with NORCECA sides.
- Myrthe Schoot (Netherlands) will meet Dresdner SC teammate Shanice Marcelle (Canada).

Argentina v Belgium

- This will be the first meeting between Argentina and Belgium at the World Grand Prix and at a great tournament.
- Argentina have won only one of their 13 World Grand Prix matches against a European side. This win came in last year's competition against Germany (3-2).
- Argentina is ranked 18th in the World, four places higher than Belgium (22nd).



Pool M – Country specific statistics

Cuba

- Cuba lost all of their matches in the World Grand Prix opening weekend. Netherlands and Puerto Rico defeated Cuba in straight sets; Argentina needed four sets to defeat Cuba.
- Cuba are now on a 17-match losing streak in the World Grand Prix, their longest in team history. Only four teams have had a longer losing streak in history of the World Grand Prix: Kazakhstan (18), United States (20), Thailand (21) and Chinese Taipei (26).
- Cuba only succeeded to score 44 points in their match against Netherlands, the fewest points scored by a team in all opening weekend matches this season.

Peru

- Peru recorded their second win in World Grand Prix team history by defeating Canada in four sets. Their only other victory was against Netherlands in 1994.
- Peru can win two matches in one edition of the World Grand Prix for the first time.
- By winning one set in one of the next matches, Peru will equal their total number of sets won (5) in their two previous World Grand Prix participations combined.

Poland

- Poland won all of their matches in the World Grand Prix opening weekend for the second time in their 11 participations (following 2010).
- With a win against Cuba, Poland can win five World Grand Prix matches in a row for the first time since 2009-2010, when they recorded six consecutive victories.
- Poland's Katarzyna Zaroslinska is top scorer of the competition with 64 points so far.

Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico defeated Argentina and Cuba in the opening weekend of the World Grand Prix. Their victory against Argentina was their second World Grand Prix victory in a row, after defeating Germany in last year's last match.
- If Puerto Rico need one more victory to win three matches in one World Grand Prix edition for the first time.
- Karina Ocasio is the best spiker of Group 2 with a success rate of 43.81%.



Pool M – Head-2-Head

Poland v Cuba

- Poland and Cuba have met three times in the World Grand Prix, with Cuba winning their first two meetings and Poland winning the last in 2011.
- Cuba won their first meeting in 2006 in five sets, after Poland won the first two sets.
- These teams were drawn in the same group of the 2008 Olympic Games. Cuba defeated Poland 3-1. Cuba finished first in the group and were defeated in the bronze medal match by hosts China.

Peru v Puerto Rico

- This will be the first ever meeting in the World Grand Prix between these teams.
- Peru and Puerto Rico have met three times at the Pan American Games, with Puerto Rico winning all of them. In the 2011 edition they were drawn in the same pool and later met in the final for the fifth place.
- Peru defeated Puerto Rico at the 1974 World Championship in straight sets.

Poland v Puerto Rico

- Poland and Puerto Rico will meet for the second time in World Grand Prix history. Their first meeting was in 2010 and ended in a straight sets victory for Poland.
- Both teams also met in an Olympic Qualification Tournament. In 2008 Poland defeated Puerto Rico 3-0.

Peru v Cuba

- Peru and Cuba have met twice in the World Grand Prix – 1994 and 2011 – with Cuba winning both matches in straight sets.
- Both teams have met several times at the Pan American Games. Peru's only win (3-1) came at in 1987 in the preliminary round. In the tournament's final Peru and Cuba clashed again, with Cuba claiming the title after winning in straight sets.
- Their most recent meeting came at the 2012 Olympic Qualification Tournament. Cuba proved too strong for Peru (3-0). Both teams did not qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games.



Cuba v Puerto Rico

- This will be the third World Grand Prix meeting between Cuba and Puerto Rico after 2012 and 2014.
- These two teams were drawn together in Pool K of the opening weekend of this year's World Grand Prix. Puerto Rico defeated Cuba in straight sets.
- In 2012 Cuba won their match against Puerto Rico in three sets, their last victory before their 17-match losing streak.
- Both matches almost had an equal amount of points scored in the match. In 2012 the set scores were 25-17, 25-17, 25-21 (75-55) and in 2014 the scores were 25-20, 25-17, 25-17 (75-54).

Peru v Poland

- Peru and Poland will meet for the second time in the World Grand Prix. Their last meeting came last week in Pool J when Poland defeated Peru in four sets.
- This match became the closest match in Group 2 with Poland scoring 96 points and Peru 90 points.
- Katarzyna Zaroslinska scored 27 points in Poland's match against Peru. No other player has scored more points in one match this World Grand Prix opening weekend.



Pool R – Head-2-Head

Mexico v Kazakhstan

- These teams registered similar results in Week 1 of Group 3 play – both won once in straight sets and lost twice in four sets.
- These teams have never met in main tournament matches.
- Two of the three most prolific diggers in Group 3's Week 1 play are wearing a Mexico shirt – Kaomi Solis (first, 2.64 per set) and Lisbeth Sainz (third, 2.45).

Czech Republic v Algeria

- Czech Republic come into Week 2 as the only Group 3 nation with the full nine points after three matches. With three wins, they already have more than in their only other World Grand Prix (two wins in 2013).
- Against Bulgaria last week (3-2 Bulgaria win), Algeria won their first ever set, and their first point in World Grand Prix. They have been beaten in straight sets in all 11 other World Grand Prix matches thus far.
- Czech Republic's Veronika Trnkova had the most stuff blocks (18) and the second-most block attempts (54) of all Group 3 players in the first week.

Mexico v Czech Republic

- These teams played a match in the 1st Group Stage of the 2002 World Championship. Czech Republic won in five sets.
- Czech Republic played three World Grand Prix matches against NORCECA nations, of which they won one – 3-0 v Puerto Rico on their debut match in 2013. They lost 3-1 v Dominican Republic and 3-0 v USA, also in 2013.
- Lucie Smutna (Czech Republic, 7.64) and Claudia Lisbeth Resendiz Lopez (Mexico, 7.09) had the highest sets average per set in Week 1 of Group 3 play.

Kazakhstan v Algeria

- Kazakhstan and Algeria have never played each other in the World Grand Prix. They have played each other during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Kazakhstan won 3-1 in the Group Stage.
- Kazakhstan have won one match in Week 1. In four previous World Grand Prix appearances, they always won exactly one match per year.



- The oldest and the youngest player in Group 3 of the World Grand Prix meet – on the day of this match, Inna Matveyeva (Kazakhstan) is 35 years and 204 days of age, substantially more than double the age of Yasmine Abderrahim (Algeria, 15-108).

Algeria v Mexico

- Last week, these teams played their only mutual match in a main tournament. Mexico won 3-0.
- Despite losing in straight sets v Mexico last week, Algeria collected 64 total points. In no other straight sets defeat in the World Grand Prix, they had more points. In their only match in which they won sets (3-2 loss v Bulgaria), they scored 100.
- Nawal Mansouri (Algeria) has been the most efficient receiver in Group 3 in Week 1 (53.75% success rate).

Czech Republic v Kazakhstan

- These teams also met in Week 1 at Almaty, Kazakhstan. This time they around, they play at Brno, Czech Republic.
- Czech Republic won 3-1 last week by scoring 101 points. They also scored 101 v Croatia last weekend. In their only other World Grand Prix season (2013), they managed to reach 100 only once, in a 3-2 defeat v Japan (107).



Pool R – Head-2-Head

Australia v Bulgaria

- Australia and Bulgaria meet for the first time at the World Grand Prix, and for the first time in 32 years in a main competition. In 1982, they played a World Championship Qualifier, which Bulgaria won 3-0.
- Bulgaria are the only Pool S side with three victories in the competition thus far. Two of these have been five-setters.
- With a victory against Australia, Bulgaria can become the 16th nation with at least 10 World Grand Prix victories.
- Australia is the only World Grand Prix participant without a set won in the competition. Like Algeria did last weekend, Australia can manage to win their first ever World Grand Prix set(s) in a match v Bulgaria.

Croatia v Kenya

- Both teams are in their debut season in the World Grand Prix. Each of them collected two victories in the first weekend. One other debutant achieved that feat well – Belgium in Group 2.
- Kenya became the first African nation to win a match at the World Grand Prix by beating Mexico in four sets in their first match last week.
- These teams have met once at the Olympic Games. At Sydney 2000, Croatia won 3-1 in a Group match.

Bulgaria v Kenya

- Bulgaria and Kenya also met last week. Bulgaria inflicted Kenya their only defeat last weekend (3-2).
- Both five-setters in Group 3 last weekend involved Bulgaria, who won them both.
- Two of the three top scorers in Group 3 after one week of play are facing each other – scoring leader Mercy Moim (Kenya, 61 pts) and number three Nasya Dimitrova (Bulgaria, 53).
- Moim (22 pts) and Dimitrova (21) also were their teams' top scorers in the match they played against each other last weekend.

Australia v Croatia

- These nations also met last week. Australia got beaten 3-0, scoring 47 points, the fewest for them in their three World Grand Prix matches last weekend.
- Set 2 in last weekend's match between these nations ended 25-12 in Croatia's favour. This was the biggest winning margin in a single set in Group 3 of the World Grand Prix this season.
- At the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Croatia beat the host nation 3-1 in the Group Stage. This has been the only mutual main tournament match between them.



Kenya v Australia

- These teams have met once in a main tournament. At the 2000 Olympics, Kenya lost 3-1 to the hosts.
- This will be the second main tournament meeting between an African nation and Australia. The only other match has been the aforementioned encounter against Kenya in Sydney.
- After week 1, one Australian player leads a statistical category in Group 3 of this World Grand Prix – Eliza (Karley) Hynes averages the most aces per set (0.56, or 5 aces in 9 sets). Kenya's Mercy Moim is third in this ranking (0.33, or 4 aces in 12 sets).

Croatia v Bulgaria

- Among all teams in Group 3 in Week 2, these two have the longest history of matches played. They have met seven times in main tournaments, of which Croatia won six and Bulgaria one. However, Bulgaria's win came in their most recent encounter – 3-0 at the 2012 Olympic Qualification Tournament.
- Bulgaria are already secured of a Final Four berth as the hosts. Croatia can join them by placing either among the top four nations, or among the top three if Bulgaria fall out of the top three.
- Several teammates face each other in this match. Karla Klaric (Croatia), Mira Todorova and Dobriana Rabadzhieva (both Bulgaria) all play for Volera Zürich, while Samanta Fabris (Croatia) and Hristina Ruseva (Bulgaria) wear the same colours at Liu Jo Volley Modena.