



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool A1: Belgium v Brazil

Head-to-Head

- Brazil are unbeaten in their World Grand Prix matches against Belgium.
- Brazil have lost only two sets in the previous five World Grand Prix meetings with Belgium.
- Brazil won in straight sets in 2014 (Final Round) and in both of their group matches in 2015.
- Last year, Brazil won both of their group matches against Belgium by a 3-1 scoreline.

Belgium

- Belgium will participate in the World Grand Prix for the fourth time after appearing in each of the last three.
- Their best result came in their debut year, a sixth place in 2014. They finished 10th in 2015 and 11th last year.
- Nine of Belgium's 11 World Grand Prix victories came away from home, including two in Ankara.
- Belgium have lost 23 matches in their three appearances (2014-2016), as many as Brazil have managed since 2003.

Brazil

- Defending champions Brazil have appeared in 23 of the previous 24 editions of the World Grand Prix, with the exception of 1997. Only China and Japan have participated in more (24).
- Brazil have won the competition a record 11 times, at least five times more than any other country.
- The last time Brazil failed to finish on the podium was in 2007, when they claimed a fifth place. Since then they won the competition five times, finished second three times and claimed one third place.
- Brazil won the gold medal at the Olympic Games of 2008 and 2012, but finished only fifth in Rio de Janeiro last year.
- Natalia Pereira was named last year's most valuable player at the World Grand Prix.



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Pool A1: Turkey v Serbia

Head-to-Head

- Turkey and Serbia will meet for the fifth time in the World Grand Prix. All previous encounters came in the group stages.
- Turkey won the first two meetings with Serbia, 3-1 in 2012 and 3-2 in 2014.
- Serbia won both encounters in 2015, 3-1 and 3-0.
- These teams last met in the bronze medal match at the 2015 European Championship. Serbia won the match in straight sets and finished third behind Russia (gold) and Netherlands (silver).

Turkey

- Turkey will participate in the World Grand Prix for the seventh time and for sixth time in row.
- Their best result in the competition came in 2012 when they finished third behind United States (winner) and Brazil (runners-up).
- Turkey have won five of their previous six opening matches at the World Grand Prix, only failing to do so in 2015 (3-0 against Belgium).

Serbia

- Serbia have participated in the World Grand Prix on six previous occasions, all in the last six editions.
- Their best finish in the competition is a third place which they managed in both 2011 and 2013.
- Serbia finished in eighth place in the last three editions of the World Grand Prix.
- Serbia won their last four matches in last year's competition. Only once they have set a longer winning streak in the World Grand Prix – their last match in 2012 followed by the first five in 2013 (6 total).



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Pool B1: China v Italy

Head-to-Head

- Italy have won 12 of the previous 23 World Grand Prix meetings with China.
- Italy have only beaten Japan (13) more often in the competition.
- Eight of the last 11 World Grand Prix matches between Italy and China were decided in five sets. Italy won five of those eight five-setters.
- These teams also met at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. China won in straight sets in the group stage.

China

- China are one of two teams ever present in the World Grand Prix, alongside Japan. They will both enter their 25th edition of the competition.
- Their sole win in the competition came in 2003. They have also claimed five second places and three third places.
- China are one of three teams to have always finished in the top-8 at the World Grand Prix, alongside Brazil and Russia.
- China won the gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro after beating Serbia in the final.

Italy

- Italy will participate in the World Grand Prix for the 19th time. They have yet to win the competition, after two silver (2004, 2005) and four bronze medals (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010).
- Only Japan (24) have participated more often in the competition without winning the title than Italy (18).
- Italy have failed to win their opening match in the last two editions of the World Grand Prix.



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Pool B1: United States v Russia

Head-to-Head

- United States and Russia have met on 25 previous occasions in the World Grand Prix. USA have a slight edge with 13 wins against Russia's 12.
- Only Brazil (18) have beaten Russia more often in the competition than United States (13).
- United States have won the last four World Grand Prix meetings with Russia, including last year's semifinal.
- United States have won at least one set in their last 19 encounters with Russia in the competition, since the 3-0 group defeat in 1997.

United States

- United States have appeared in 23 of the previous 24 editions of the World Grand Prix, with the exception of 1999. Only China and Japan have participated in more (24).
- They have won the competition six times, only trailing Brazil (11). Four of their six wins came in the last seven editions (2010-2012, 2015).
- Last year, United States lost the final to Brazil in five sets.
- United States have won at least two sets in 29 of their last 30 World Grand Prix matches, combining for a total of 85 sets won in this streak. They managed to lose only 25 sets in these 30 matches.

Russia

- This will be Russia's 21st World Grand Prix participation. They won the competition three times: 1997, 1999 and 2002.
- Only Brazil (18) have claimed more podium finishes in the World Grand Prix than Russia (13).
- Last year, Russia finished in fourth place after losing the bronze medal match to Netherlands in five sets.
- Russia lost only one of their nine World Grand Prix group matches in 2016, the 3-2 defeat to Serbia.



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Pool C1: Japan v Thailand

Head-to-Head

- Japan have won eight of their previous 10 World Grand Prix meetings with Thailand, including each of their last five.
- Thailand's two victories both came in five sets - in 2009 and 2012.
- Thailand beat Japan in the final of the 2013 Asian Championship without losing a single set.

Japan

- Japan are one of two teams ever present in the World Grand Prix, alongside China. They will both enter their 25th edition of the competition.
- Japan have yet to win the competition and have claimed only one podium, a second place in 2014.
- Japan have won only one of their last 10 five-setters in the competition, the 3-2 win against Korea Republic in 2014.

Thailand

- Since their debut in 2002, Thailand have only missed out on the 2007 edition of the World Grand Prix. They will now enter the competition for the 15th time.
- Thailand's best result in the competition is a fourth place in 2012.
- Thailand have won nine of their last 12 five-setters in the World Grand Prix, including two against Japan.
- Thailand (99 defeats thus far) could become the fifth team to lose 100 matches in the World Grand Prix.



FIVB WORLD GRAND PRIX PREVIEWS WEEK 1 – JULY 7 TO 9

Pool C1: Netherlands v Dominican Republic

Head-to-Head

- Netherlands won all their four previous matches against Dominican Republic at the World Grand Prix.
- In the 2009 Preliminary Round Netherlands claimed two straight set wins and in the 2010 Preliminary Round they won 3-2 and 3-0.
- Netherlands lost their last two matches against NORCECA opponents, being beaten twice by United States in last year's Preliminary Round and Final Round (Group Stage).
- The last time Netherlands lost three matches in a row versus NORCECA teams was in 2005, all against Cuba.

Netherlands

- Netherlands have won the World Grand Prix once, in 2007.
- Last year they finished third, their only other medal in the competition. In the five seasons before, they did either not compete (2011 & 2012) or finished 12th (2013), 13th (2015) or 14th (2014).
- In total this will be their 14th participation.
- Netherlands (248) are two sets shy of winning their 250th.
- Last year Netherlands lost their opening match of the World Grand Prix 3-1 to Russia, the team they later beat in the final for third place.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic have been ever present at the World Grand Prix since 2004.
- Their best result was an eight place finish in 2006 and 2010. Last year they finished 13th.
- In total this will be Dominican Republic's 14th appearance in the tournament.
- Last year Dominican Republic lost their opening match 3-2 to Bulgaria, but went on to win all of their following seven matches in Division B.