



CHAPTER

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FIVB VOLLEYBALL WORLD GRAND PRIX 2016 PREVIEW & COMPETITION INFORMATION

FIVB World Grand Prix 2016: Preview

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GROUP 1 PREVIEW:**Kiraly to lead the USA to 2020**

Karch Kiraly, the man responsible for the US women's team, is a star coach and one of volleyball's biggest ever names. 'King Karch' – who is the only player to have won both volleyball and beach volleyball gold – will lead the team looking to defend their title in this year's FIVB World Grand Prix. Volleyball's most celebrated player recently extended his contract to incorporate the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Together with Rio 2016, this offers two opportunities to guide USA to its first ever Olympic gold

"It's been a tremendous honour to lead this special group of intelligent, powerful hard-working, dedicated women, and the great staff that supports them. And it's a double honour to prepare a home Olympic Games, knowing we'll have the opportunity to carry that work forward in the next quadrennial", said Kiraly.

One year after winning the World Grand Prix title on home soil in Omaha, Kiraly who first became US coach in 2012, has his stars back on board as they strive to win the prestigious tournament for the seventh time. The squad includes 'The

Governor' Jordan Larson Burbach, captain Christa Dietzen, Kimberly Hill, Alisha Glass and Kelsey Robinson. The key members will play an important role in the long-running duel with record winners Brazil.

The tournament is particularly important for 10 time winners, Brazil as they prepare for the Olympic Games in their home country. Appropriately, the opening preliminary round of this year's competition will take place in Rio de Janeiro, from June 9 to 12. After Olympic gold in 2008 and 2012, star coach Jose Roberto 'Ze Roberto' Guimaraes is building his campaign around experienced stars like 'Sheilla', 'Thaia' and 'Fabiana'. The top scorer in last year's final Juciely Cristina Barreto, is also on board. "Although we have a lot of experience, we must avoid getting too tired, so the physical aspect is crucial if we want to grab gold at the Olympics and the Grand Prix," says coach Ze Roberto.

Although all eyes are on the battle between USA and Brazil – the two nations have won eight titles each in the FIVB World Grand Prix since 2008 – European champions Russia are looking to have the last word. Yury Marichev's team includes last year's top scorer Nataliya Goncharova who scored 124 points helping her country scoop silver. The

27-year-old has made a name for herself over the past two years as one of the sport's most prolific spikers and will be keen to add to her already impressive medal haul.

She will be ably supported by the likes of Tatiana Kosheleva and libero Anna Malova as Russia strive to win its first World Grand Prix title for 14 years.

The star coach of the fourth title contender, China, is 'Jenny' Lang Ping. She once again fields an experienced team that also features many young stars following China's spectacular triumph in the FIVB World Cup. The squad includes World Cup MVP Zhu Ting, as well as Liu Yanhan, who was the second-highest scorer in the final of last year's FIVB World Grand Prix with 92 points.

Japan's squad will, as usual, be led by captain Saori Kimura while back among the world's best teams in Group 1 are former World Grand Prix winners the Netherlands, with coach Giovanni Guidetti at the helm. He has named familiar figures like Anne Buijs, Lonnecke Slöetjes and playmaker Maret Balkestein-Grothues in his team. While Guidetti's former team, Germany, is without stars like Christiane Furst and Margareta Kozuch, coach of the Italian team, Marco Bonitta has everyone on board including experienced players like Francesca Piccinini, Antonella Del Core, Serena Ortolani, Valentina Diouf and rising stars like Paolo Egonu.

The revitalised Serbian team also lines up with all its stars at the 24th staging of the FIVB World Grand Prix including Jovana Brakocevic, Jelena Nikolic and captain Maja Ognjenovic. The World Grand Prix Group 1 debutants, Belgium will be led by outstanding hitter Lise van Hecke, who plays her club volleyball in the Brazilian league while Turkey's squad features Naz Aydemir. Thailand's Nootsara Tomkom and her team mates will be looking to spring a surprise against larger teams like USA, Brazil and Russia, during the Finals.

Hosts Thailand and the top five ranked teams of the preliminary round ranking table will play in the Finals, which will take place from July 6 to 10 in Bangkok. The twelve Group 1 teams were drawn in nine preliminary pools of four teams with teams in each pool competing in round robin format. The preliminary action will be

staged over three weeks between June 9 and 26, with tournaments in China, Macau, Brazil, Russia, USA, Italy, Turkey, Hong Kong and Japan.

GROUP 2 PREVIEW:**Moim to lead Kenya in pursuit of next sensation**

Kenya's Group 3 victory at last year's World Grand Prix tournament was without doubt one of the biggest success stories in the history of international volleyball. As Mercy Moim's team looks to build on last year's triumph, all eyes are on Kenya as they make their Group 2 debut in this year's tournament.

Captain Moim, who scored 127 points for coach David Lungaho's team in last year's competition, will lead her team as it faces its next challenge. Her motto is: "Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe." This year's appearance in the FIVB World Grand Prix is undoubtedly one of the highlights in the history of Kenyan volleyball. Moim: "We can't wait to compete in the World Grand Prix Group 2 and to play some of the best teams in the World Cup. With God, everything is possible."

However, Kenya is undoubtedly the outsider among the eight teams in Group 2, who will battle for promotion to Group 1 in order to join the top 12 teams in the world. One of the hot favourites is definitely the Dominican Republic, currently ranked number seven in the world and that finished fifth at the World Championship in 2014. This year's line up includes superstar Brenda Castillo, the defender with the lightning-quick reaction time who was named 'Best Libero' at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Opposite Gina Mambru is charged with scoring the points to propel the team from the Caribbean back into Group 1 of the FIVB World Grand Prix.

The Dominican Republic will be challenged by several top 20 squads, including Argentina, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Bulgaria and will face stern competition from successful volleyball nations like Poland and the Czech Republic. Argentina, who have already secured their ticket to the





Olympics, will feature plenty of international experience at the FIVB World Grand Prix with the likes of Leticia Boscacci, Julieta Lazcano and Lucia Fresco, who play their club volleyball abroad. Puerto Rico will bank on Karina Ocasio's scoring flair, while Canada will rely on stars like Tabitha Love, Jennifer Cross and captain Lucille Charuk, who have enjoyed success on the club scene in Germany. They will be led once again by German coach, Arnd Ludwig.

Alexander Waibl, another German coaching the Czech Republic, has called on many players who ply their trade at top foreign clubs including Lucie Smutna, Michaela Mlejnkova, captain Tereza Rossi – who won the European Champions League with Italian club Pomi Casalmaggiore – and others with international experience. Having missed out on qualification for the Olympics, Poland are already looking ahead to 2020. In this year's World Grand Prix Polish squad, only Berenika Tomsia and captain Joanna Wolosz have World Championship experience while superstar Katarzyna Skowronska-Dolata will not be making an appearance.

Meanwhile, Bulgaria will put top players like captain Elitsa Vasileva, Gergana Dimitrova and Petya Barakova at the forefront of their offence as they host the Group 2 Final Four in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, from June 18 to 19.

The preliminary round will be played over two weeks from June 3 to 12, with Tucuman (Argentina) and Zielona Gora (Poland) hosting matches in the first week and Olomouc (Czech Republic) and Wloclawek (Poland hosting) in the second.

GROUP 3 PREVIEW:

Cuba looking for a return to the top

Cuba's women's team, 'Las Morenas del Caribe', have a stellar past record with three consecutive Olympic gold medal wins between 1992 and 2000. They also won the inaugural FIVB World Grand Prix in Hong Kong in 1993, while a second title in this prestigious competition followed in 2000. However, it is now 10 years since Cuba's last podium place in 2006, which saw them take the bronze medal, and they are now looking for a return to former glory with a young team. But the Caribbean superstars must first work their way back to the top of the FIVB World Grand Prix having found themselves in Group 3.

Hopes are resting on 16-year-old Melissa Teresa Vargas Abreu, who is currently regarded as one of volleyball's biggest talents. Much will depend on the performance of the powerful hitter, but the young star was side-lined with

a shoulder injury during the World Cup in Japan last year. Hopes are high this time around given the potential of the players called to the squad and the once world-class nation is one of the favourites in the eight-team Group 3.

Croatia boasts more experience, with a host of international stars among their ranks including Ana Grbac, Mira Topic, Jelena Alajbeg and captain Mia Jerkov and few teams in Group 3 are expected to be able to stop the Croatians. Although the team that finished runner-up in the European Championship on three occasions has huge potential, they must find cohesion under the leadership of new coach Miroslav Aksintijevic.

Last year, the final in this group featured Peru, who suffered a surprise 3-1 defeat to Kenya. Angela Leyva, who was the best scorer for Peru in 2015, will once again be looking to help her team gain promotion to Group 2 for in this year's tournament. The team, which won gold at the Women's World Championship in 1978, 1994 and 1998 as well as silver in 1986, will be led by experienced playmaker Mirtha Uribe.

Apart from the favourites Cuba, Croatia and Peru, the preliminary round will feature Algeria, Australia, Colombia, Kazakhstan and Mexico. Following the Group 2 model, Group 3 will also be played out over two weeks from June 3 to 12,

with Algiers (Algeria) and Bendigo (Australia) acting as hosts in the first week, followed by Cali (Colombia) and Chiclayo (Peru) in the second week of preliminary round action.

Algeria are still in transition after a huge revamp of their line-up. Their star Lydia Oulmou is still on the roster, but she will pass on the baton to young captain Safia Boukhima to lead the future Algerian squad. Looking back at Colombia's high performance last year, Amanda Coneo and Cindy Maria Ramirez are expected to be in top form in this year's competition.

Mexico will count on Andrea Rangel, who is considered one of the country's best players, while Australia will bank on Sophie Godfrey's scoring support in their third appearance in the World Grand Prix. They also feature a player who plays her club volleyball at Italian club 'Liiga Ploki', in the form of Rhiannon Rosalind Tooker.

Kazakhstan's squad will be led by Olga Nassedkina, who boasts a wealth of World Championship and Olympic experience. Playmaker Radmila Bresneva's team is looking forward the Final Four, which Kazakhstan will host from June 18 to 19 in Almaty. The winner will be promoted to Group 2 next year.



PRELIMINARY ROUND OVERVIEW

The 28 teams in the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix 2016 are distributed into three groups, split across 17 pools. A total of 102 matches will be played in the preliminary round.

GROUP 1	WEEK 2	POOL A1 (Ningbo, China)	POOL B1 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)	POOL C1 (Kaliningrad, Russia)
		China	Brazil	Belgium
		Germany	Italy	The Netherlands
		Thailand	Japan	Russia
		USA	Serbia	Turkey
	WEEK 3	POOL D1 (Macau, China)	POOL E1 (Long Beach, USA)	POOL F1 (Bari, Italy)
		Belgium	Germany	Italy
		Brazil	Japan	The Netherlands
		China	Turkey	Russia
		Serbia	USA	Thailand
	WEEK 4	POOL G1 (Ankara, Turkey)	POOL H1 (Hong Kong)	POOL I1 (Kyoto, Japan)
		Belgium	China	Japan
		Brazil	Germany	Russia
		Italy	The Netherlands	Serbia
		Turkey	USA	Thailand

GROUP 2	WEEK 1	POOL A2 (Tucuman, Argentina)	POOL B2 (Zielona Góra, Poland)
		Argentina	Canada
		Bulgaria	Czech Republic
		Dominican Republic	Poland
		Kenya	Puerto Rico
	WEEK 2	POOL C2 (Olomouc, Czech Republic)	POOL D2 (Włocławek, Poland)
		Canada	Argentina
		Bulgaria	Kenya
		Czech Republic	Poland
		Dominican Republic	Puerto Rico

GROUP 3	WEEK 1	POOL A3 (Algiers, Algeria)	POOL B3 (Bendigo, Australia)
		Algeria	Australia
		Kazakhstan	Colombia
		Mexico	Croatia
		Peru	Cuba
	WEEK 2	POOL C3 (Cali, Colombia)	POOL D3 (Chiclayo, Peru)
		Australia	Algeria
		Colombia	Croatia
		Kazakhstan	Cuba
		Mexico	Peru

COMPETITION FORMULA FOR THE PRELIMINARY ROUND

GROUP 1

First, second and third week will consist of 18 matches per week, with a total of 54 matches, divided into three pools (three different locations).
The pool composition is determined by the FIVB, through a drawing of lots and confirmed during the World Grand Prix Council.
Each Pool will consist of four teams. Within each pool the Round-Robin system will be applied.
The FIVB, together with each organiser, will communicate the order of play for each pool.

GROUP 2

First and second round will consist of 12 matches per week, with a total of 24 matches, divided into 4 pools.
The pool composition is determined by the FIVB, through a draw of lots.
Each Pool will consist of four teams. Within each pool the Round-Robin system will be applied.
The FIVB, together with each organiser, will communicate the order of play for each pool.

GROUP 3

First and second round will consist of 12 matches per week, with a total of 24 matches, divided into 4 pools.
The pool composition is determined by the FIVB, through a draw of lots.
Each Pool will consist of four teams. Within each pool the Round-Robin system will be applied.
The FIVB, together with each organiser, will communicate the order of play for each pool.

COMPETITION FORMULA FOR THE FINALS

Group 1

The 2016 World Grand Prix Finals will be organised in Bangkok, Thailand. The host team, plus the top five ranked teams after the preliminary rounds will qualify for the final round. Two pools of three teams will play the Finals over five days: Round Robin play, followed by the fifth and sixth place match, semifinals and final. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the semifinal. The third place team from each pool will play for fifth and sixth place, while the two losers from the semifinals will play for third and fourth place, while the winners of the semifinals will play for first and second place.

Group 2

The final round will be organised in Varna, Bulgaria. For the final round, the host team plus the top three ranked teams after the preliminary rounds will qualify for the final round. The final round will be played over two days with a semifinals and Finals.

Group 3

The Group 3 final round will be organised in Almaty, Kazakhstan. For the final round, the host team plus the top three ranked teams after the preliminary rounds will qualify for the final round. The final round will be played over two days with a semifinals and Final.

SQUAD SIZES

A maximum of 14 players are allowed to play in the match of the World Grand Prix Preliminary Round and Finals.

MATCH POINT DISTRIBUTION		
Match won	3-0, 3-1	3 points
Match won	3-2	2 points
Match lost	2-3	1 point
Match lost	0-3	0 points

TIE BREAKING CRITERIA

Teams even on points after the Preliminary Round will be classified according to the number of matches they have won, sets ratio and then points ratio, changing from the previous system of using points ratio before sets ratio. The following tie breaking criteria will be applied one after the other until the tie has been broken.

1 Set quotient – In the case of equality in the number of matches won gained by two or several teams, they will be classified in descending order by the quotient resulting from the division of the number of all sets won by the number of all sets lost.

2 Points quotient – If the tie persists as per the set quotient the teams will be classified in descending order by the quotient resulting from the division of all points scored by the total of points lost during all sets.

3 If the tie continues as per the point quotient between two teams, the priority will be given to the team, which won the last match between them.

4 When the tie in point quotient is between three or more teams a new classification of these teams in the terms of 12.1 and 12.2 will be made taking into consideration only the matches in which they opposed to each other.












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ASICS PROUDLY SUPPORTS KERRI WALSH JENNINGS AND FIVB



JUNE 3 - 5		JUNE 10 - 12		JUNE 17 - 19		JUNE 24 - 26	
GROUP 2	POOL A2	GROUP 1	POOL A1	GROUP 1	POOL D1	GROUP 1	POOL G1
	 ARG Argentina		 CHN China		 BEL Belgium		 BEL Belgium
	 BUL Bulgaria		 GER Germany		 BRA Brazil		 BRA Brazil
	 DOM Dominican Republic		 THA Thailand		 CHN China		 ITA Italy
	 KEN Kenya		 USA United States		 SRB Serbia		 TUR Turkey
GROUP 2	POOL B2	GROUP 2	POOL B1	GROUP 1	POOL E1	GROUP 1	POOL H1
	 CAN Canada		 BRA Brazil		 GER Germany		 CHN China
	 CZE Czech Republic		 ITA Italy		 JPN Japan		 GER Germany
	 POL Poland		 JPN Japan		 TUR Turkey		 NED Netherlands
	 PUR Puerto Rico		 SRB Serbia		 USA United States		 USA United States
GROUP 3	POOL A3	GROUP 2	POOL C1	GROUP 1	POOL F1	GROUP 1	POOL I1
	 ALG Algeria		 BEL Belgium		 ITA Italy		 JPN Japan
	 KAZ Kazakhstan		 NED Netherlands		 NED Netherlands		 RUS Russia
	 MEX Mexico		 RUS Russia		 RUS Russia		 SRB Serbia
	 PER Peru		 TUR Turkey		 THA Thailand		 THA Thailand
GROUP 3	POOL B3	GROUP 3	POOL C2	GROUP 2		GROUP 2	
	 AUS Australia		 CAN Canada				
	 COL Colombia		 BUL Bulgaria				
	 CRO Croatia		 CZE Czech Republic				
	 CUB Cuba		 DOM Dominican Republic				
GROUP 3		GROUP 3	POOL D2	GROUP 2		GROUP 2	
			 ARG Argentina				
			 KEN Kenya				
			 POL Poland				
			 PUR Puerto Rico				
GROUP 3		GROUP 3	POOL C3	GROUP 2		GROUP 2	
			 AUS Australia				
			 COL Colombia				
			 KAZ Kazakhstan				
			 MEX Mexico				
GROUP 3		GROUP 3	POOL D3	GROUP 2		GROUP 2	
			 ALG Algeria				
			 CRO Croatia				
			 CUB Cuba				
			 PER Peru				

JUNE 3 - 5




TUCUMAN,
ARGENTINA

Pedro Parra

Club sportivo Floresta

Capacity: -




ZIELONA GÓRA,
POLAND

Hala Sportowo-Widowiskowa

Mosir Zielona Gora

Capacity: 5,000




ALGIERS,
ALGERIA

Salle Omnisport

Belkhdar Tahar

Capacity: 2,000




BENDIGO,
AUSTRALIA

Bendigo Stadium

Capacity: 3,000


JUNE 10 - 12



NINGBO,
CHINA

Beilun Sports & Arts Centre


Capacity: 8,000



RIO DE JANEIRO,
BRAZIL

Carioca Olympic Park


Capacity: 16,000



KALININGRAD,
RUSSIA

DS Yantarny


Capacity: 7,000



OLOMOUC,
CZECH REPUBLIC

Sport Hall Up Olomouc


Capacity: 1,900



WŁOCŁAWEK,
POLAND

Osir Wloclawek


Capacity: 3,500



CALI,
COLOMBIA

Coliseo Evangelista Mora

Capacity: 3,340




CHICLAYO,
PERU

Coliseo Cerrado De Chiclayo

Capacity: 5,000


JUNE 17 - 19



MACAU,
CHINA

Macao Forum


Capacity: 4,054



LONG BEACH,
USA

Walter Pyramid

Capacity: 5,000




BARI,
ITALY

Pala Florio

Capacity: 5,000


JUNE 24 - 26



ANKARA,
TURKEY

Baskent Volleyball Hall


Capacity: 7,600



HONG KONG

Hong Kong Coliseum

Capacity: 12,500



KYOTO,
JAPAN

Shimadzu Arena Kyoto

Capacity: 6,500

JUNE 3 - 5

POOL, HOST, HALL		Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match		
GROUP 2	POOL A2 TUCUMAN, ARGENTINA PEDRO PARRA (CLUB SPORTIVO FLORESTA)	Friday, June 3	1	18:10	21:10	DOM	vs	BUL
			2	21:10	00:10 +1 day	ARG	vs	KEN
		Saturday, June 4	3	18:10	21:10	KEN	vs	BUL
			4	21:10	00:10 +1 day	ARG	vs	DOM
		Sunday, June 5	5	18:10	21:10	DOM	vs	KEN
			6	21:10	00:10 +1 day	ARG	vs	BUL
	POOL B2 ZIELONA GÓRA, POLAND HALA SPORTOWO-WIDOWISKOWA MOSIR ZIELONA GORA	Friday, June 3	7	17:10	16:10	CZE	vs	PUR
			8	20:10	19:10	POL	vs	CAN
		Saturday, June 4	9	17:10	16:10	PUR	vs	CAN
			10	20:10	19:10	POL	vs	CZE
		Sunday, June 5	11	17:10	16:10	CZE	vs	CAN
			12	20:10	19:10	POL	vs	PUR
GROUP 3	POOL A3 ALGIERS, ALGERIA SALLE OMNISPORT BELKHAR TAHA	Friday, June 3	1	14:00	13:00	KAZ	vs	PER
			2	16:00	15:00	ALG	vs	MEX
		Saturday, June 4	3	14:00	13:00	PER	vs	MEX
			4	16:00	15:00	ALG	vs	KAZ
		Sunday, June 5	5	14:00	13:00	KAZ	vs	MEX
			6	16:00	15:00	ALG	vs	PER
	POOL B3 BENDIGO, AUSTRALIA BENDIGO STADIUM	Friday, June 3	7	17:40	07:40	CRO	vs	CUB
			8	20:40	10:40	AUS	vs	COL
		Saturday, June 4	9	16:10	06:10	COL	vs	CRO
			10	19:10	09:10	AUS	vs	CUB
		Sunday, June 5	11	13:10	03:10	CUB	vs	COL
			12	16:10	06:10	AUS	vs	CRO



JUNE 10 - 12

POOL, HOST, HALL		Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match		
GROUP 1	POOL A1 NINGBO, CHINA BEILUN SPOTS AND ARTS	Friday, June 10	1	15:00	07:00	GER	vs	USA
			2	19:30	11:30	CHN	vs	THA
		Saturday, June 11	3	15:00	07:00	USA	vs	THA
			4	19:30	11:30	CHN	vs	GER
		Sunday, June 12	5	15:00	07:00	THA	vs	GER
			6	19:30	11:30	CHN	vs	USA
	POOL B1 RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL ARENA CARIOCA OLYMPIC PARK	Thursday, June 9	7	14:10	17:10	BRA	vs	ITA
			8	17:15	20:15	JPN	vs	SRB
		Friday, June 10	9	14:10	17:10	BRA	vs	JPN
			10	17:15	20:15	ITA	vs	SRB
		Sunday, June 12	11	10:05	13:05	BRA	vs	SRB
			12	12:35	15:35	ITA	vs	JPN
	POOL C1 KALININGRAD, RUSSIA DS YANTARNY	Friday, June 10	13	16:40	14:40	TUR	vs	BEL
			14	19:10	17:10	RUS	vs	NED
		Saturday, June 11	15	16:40	14:40	TUR	vs	NED
			16	19:10	17:10	RUS	vs	BEL
		Sunday, June 12	17	16:40	14:40	NED	vs	BEL
			18	19:10	17:10	RUS	vs	TUR
GROUP 2	POOL C2 OLOMOUC, CZECH REP. SPORT HALL UP OLOMOUC	Friday, June 10	13	15:10	13:10	BUL	vs	DOM
			14	18:10	16:10	CZE	vs	CAN
		Saturday, June 11	15	15:10	13:10	DOM	vs	CAN
			16	18:10	16:10	BUL	vs	CZE
		Sunday, June 12	17	15:10	13:10	CAN	vs	BUL
			18	18:10	16:10	CZE	vs	DOM
	POOL D2 WŁOCŁAWEK, POLAND OSIR WŁOCŁAWEK	Friday, June 10	19	17:10	16:10	KEN	vs	PUR
			20	20:10	19:10	POL	vs	ARG
		Saturday, June 11	21	17:10	16:10	PUR	vs	ARG
			22	20:10	19:10	POL	vs	KEN
		Sunday, June 12	23	15:10	14:10	POL	vs	PUR
			24	18:10	17:10	ARG	vs	KEN
GROUP 3	POOL C3 CALI, COLOMBIA COLISEO EVANGELISTA MORA	Friday, June 10	13	17:00	22:00	KAZ	vs	AUS
			14	19:30	00:30 +1	COL	vs	MEX
		Saturday, June 11	15	16:00	21:00	MEX	vs	KAZ
			16	18:30	23:30	COL	vs	AUS
		Sunday, June 12	17	16:00	21:00	MEX	vs	AUS
			18	18:30	23:30	COL	vs	KAZ
	POOL D3 CHICLAYO, PERU COLISEO CERRADO DE CHILAYO	Friday, June 10	19	16:35	21:35	CRO	vs	CUB
			20	19:05	00:05 +1 day	PER	vs	ALG
		Saturday, June 11	21	15:35	20:35	ALG	vs	CRO
			22	18:05	23:05	PER	vs	CUB
		Sunday, June 12	23	16:35	21:35	CUB	vs	ALG
			24	19:05	00:05 +1 day	PER	vs	CRO

JUNE 17 - 19

POOL, HOST, HALL		Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match		
GROUP 1	POOL D1 MACAU, CHINA MACAU FORUM	Friday, June 17	19	16:00	08:00	BRA	vs	SRB
			20	20:00	12:00	CHN	vs	BEL
		Saturday, June 18	21	14:30	06:30	BRA	vs	BEL
			22	17:00	09:00	CHN	vs	SRB
		Sunday, June 19	23	13:00	05:00	BEL	vs	SRB
			24	15:30	07:30	CHN	vs	BRA
	POOL E1 LONG BEACH, USA THE WALTER PYRAMID	Friday, June 17	25	17:10	00:10 +1 day	TUR	vs	JPN
			26	19:10	02:10 +1 day	USA	vs	GER
		Saturday, June 18	27	17:10	00:10 +1 day	TUR	vs	GER
			28	19:10	02:10 +1 day	USA	vs	JPN
		Sunday, June 19	29	15:10	22:10	JPN	vs	GER
			30	17:10	00:10 +1 day	USA	vs	TUR
	POOL F1 BARI, ITALY PALA FLORIO	Friday, June 17	31	17:30	15:30	RUS	vs	NED
			32	20:30	18:30	THA	vs	ITA
		Saturday, June 18	33	17:30	15:30	THA	vs	RUS
			34	20:30	18:30	NED	vs	ITA
		Sunday, June 19	35	17:30	15:30	NED	vs	THA
			36	20:30	18:30	RUS	vs	ITA

JUNE 24 - 26

POOL, HOST, HALL		Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match		
GROUP 1	POOL G1 ANKARA, TURKEY ANKARA-BASKENT VOLLEYBALL HALL	Friday, June 24	37	14:30	11:30	ITA	vs	BRA
			38	17:30	14:30	TUR	vs	BEL
		Saturday, June 25	39	14:30	11:30	BRA	vs	BEL
			40	17:30	14:30	TUR	vs	ITA
		Sunday, June 26	41	14:30	11:30	ITA	vs	BEL
			42	17:30	14:30	TUR	vs	BRA
	POOL H1 HONG KONG HONG KONG COLISEUM	Friday, June 24	43	18:30	10:30	GER	vs	USA
			44	20:30	12:30	CHN	vs	NED
		Saturday, June 25	45	13:15	05:15	USA	vs	NED
			46	15:45	07:45	CHN	vs	GER
		Sunday, June 26	47	13:15	05:15	NED	vs	GER
			48	15:45	07:45	CHN	vs	USA
	POOL I1 KYOTO, JAPAN KYOTO SHIMADZU ARENA	Friday, June 24	49	16:00	07:00	SRB	vs	RUS
			50	19:00	10:00	JPN	vs	THA
		Saturday, June 25	51	15:00	06:00	THA	vs	RUS
			52	18:00	09:00	JPN	vs	SRB
		Sunday, June 26	53	15:00	06:00	SRB	vs	THA
			54	18:00	09:00	JPN	vs	RUS



JUNE 3 - 5

RESULTS

Match No.	Pool	Match	Score	Sets
1	A2	DOM - BUL	-	
2		ARG - KEN	-	
3		KEN - BUL	-	
4		ARG - DOM	-	
5		DOM - KEN	-	
6		ARG - BUL	-	
7	B2	CZE - PUR	-	
8		POL - CAN	-	
9		PUR - CAN	-	
10		POL - CZE	-	
11		CZE - CAN	-	
12		POL - PUR	-	
1	A3	KAZ - PER	-	
2		ALG - MEX	-	
3		PER - MEX	-	
4		ALG - KAZ	-	
5		KAZ - MEX	-	
6		ALG - PER	-	
7	B3	CRO - CUB	-	
8		AUS - COL	-	
9		COL - CRO	-	
10		AUS - CUB	-	
11		CUB - COL	-	
12		AUS - CRO	-	

POOL A2

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL B2

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL A3

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL B3

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

JUNE 10 - 12

RESULTS

Match No.	Pool	Match	Score	Sets
1	A1	GER - USA	-	
2		CHN - THA	-	
3		USA - THA	-	
4		CHN - GER	-	
5		THA - GER	-	
6		CHN - USA	-	
7	B1	BRA - ITA	-	
8		JPN - SRB	-	
9		BRA - JPN	-	
10		ITA - SRB	-	
11		BRA - SRB	-	
12		ITA - JPN	-	
13	C1	TUR - BEL	-	
14		RUS - NED	-	
15		TUR - NED	-	
16		RUS - BEL	-	
17		NED - BEL	-	
18		RUS - TUR	-	
13	C2	BUL - DOM	-	
14		CZE - CAN	-	
15		DOM - CAN	-	
16		BUL - CZE	-	
17		CAN - BUL	-	
18		CZE - DOM	-	
19	D2	KEN - PUR	-	
20		POL - ARG	-	
21		PUR - ARG	-	
22		POL - KEN	-	
23		POL - PUR	-	
24		PUR - POL	-	
14	C3	KAZ - AUS	-	
15		COL - MEX	-	
16		MEX - KAZ	-	
17		COL - AUS	-	
18		MEX - AUS	-	
19		COL - KAZ	-	
19	D3	CRO - CUB	-	
20		PER - ALG	-	
21		ALG - CRO	-	
22		PER - CUB	-	
23		CUB - ALG	-	
24		PER - CRO	-	

POOL A1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL B1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL C1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL C2

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL D2

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL C3

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL D3

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		



JUNE 17 - 19

RESULTS

Match No.	Pool	Match	Score	Sets
19	D1	BRA - SRB	-	
20		CHN - BEL	-	
21		BRA - BEL	-	
22		CHN - SRB	-	
23		BEL - SRB	-	
24	E1	CHN - BRA	-	
25		TUR - JPN	-	
26		USA - GER	-	
27		TUR - GER	-	
28		USA - JPN	-	
29	F1	JPN - GER	-	
30		USA - TUR	-	
31		RUS - NED	-	
32		THA - ITA	-	
33		THA - RUS	-	
34		NED - ITA	-	
35		NED - THA	-	
36		RUS - ITA	-	

POOL D1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL E1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL F1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

JUNE 24 - 26

RESULTS

Match No.	Pool	Match	Score	Sets
19	G1	ITA - BRA	-	
20		TUR - BEL	-	
21		BRA - BEL	-	
22		TUR - ITA	-	
23		ITA - BEL	-	
24	H1	TUR - BRA	-	
25		GER - USA	-	
26		CHN - NED	-	
27		USA - NED	-	
28		CHN - GER	-	
29	I1	NED - GER	-	
30		CHN - USA	-	
31		SRB - RUS	-	
32		JPN - THA	-	
33		THA - RUS	-	
34		JPN - SRB	-	
35		SRB - THA	-	
36		JPN - RUS	-	

POOL G1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL H1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		

POOL I1

Rank	Team	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		



GROUP 1 FINALS JULY 6 - 10		BANGKOK, THAILAND
		Huamark Indoor Stadium
		Capacity: 13,000
GROUP 2 FINALS JULY 18 - 19		VARNA, BULGARIA
		Palace of Culture and Sport
		Capacity: 6,000
GROUP 3 FINALS JULY 18 - 19		ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
		Baluan Sholak Sports Palace
		Capacity: 4,000

GROUP 1 FINALS

Host country: Thailand

Thailand made their FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix debut in 2002 and have participated in all but the 2007 edition since. Their best World Grand Prix performance came in 2012 when they finished fourth in Ningbo, China.

In 2013, Thailand finished 13th in the World Grand Prix but celebrated victory in the Asian Championships for the second time after their 2009 success. They also triumphed at the 2012 Asian Cup and have 11 victories at the South East Asian Games, where they have taken gold in each of the last seven tournaments.

The year 2016 will mark a significant milestone for Thailand as they host the World Grand Prix Finals for the first time, after successfully hosting several preliminary round pools in earlier editions.

Host City: Bangkok

Bangkok is the country's capital known for its busy metropolis, its ornate shrines and vibrant street life. Thailand is known as a volleyball-loving country, while Bangkok has made its name as a centre for top-level international sports competitions like the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix. Thousands of people will gather in the city to see world-class volleyball athletes play. This year, Bangkok will host three other teams in the Preliminary Round, but also welcome the top five teams in the competition in the Group 1 Finals. In club volleyball, Bangkok is home to Asian champions Bangkok Glass VC. The club recently brought home the title from the 2015 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship in Vietnam.

Venue: Huamark Indoor Stadium

The FIVB World Grand Prix Finals will take place at the Huamark Indoor Stadium. The indoor stadium has a capacity of about 13,000 and is used for boxing bouts, concerts, volleyball and other indoor sports events in Bangkok. It hosted World Grand Prix Preliminary Round pools for three consecutive years from 2013 to 2015 – all attracting numerous spectators.

GROUP 2 FINALS

Host Country: Bulgaria

After winning the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Group 3 Finals in 2014, Bulgaria have built on that success in recent years. They first joined the World Grand Prix in 2013 and ended up in ninth place, then they finished second in the Preliminary Round of Group 3 in 2014, before their home victories against Kazakhstan and Czech Republic in Samokov saw them win promotion for the 2015 edition. Last year, Bulgaria finished fifth out of eight teams in Group 2.

Bulgaria have been a consistent podium finisher in the European Volleyball League with bronze medals in 2009, 2011 and 2013, and silver medals in 2010 and 2012. Bulgaria's greatest successes came over three decades ago when they took the bronze medal at the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games and the gold medal at the 1981 European Championship.

Host City: Varna

Varna, dubbed the seaside capital of Bulgaria, has hosted matches of the World League Intercontinental Round in 2011, 2013 and 2014 as well as the World League Group 2 Finals in 2015, but this will be the first time the World Grand Prix will be played in the city. In 2013 the home crowd at the completely sold-out Palace of Culture and Sports got a rare chance to support both the women's and the men's national teams of Bulgaria in action, when Varna hosted the Final Four tournament of the 2013 CEV Volleyball European League - Women as well as an FIVB World League double header between Bulgaria and Poland. The country's third largest city also hosted the 2013 CEV U22 Beach Volleyball European Championship.

Venue: Palace of Culture and Sport

The Palace of Culture and Sports is a multifunctional complex located in the heart of Varna. It is one of the symbols of the city and over the years has hosted many cultural and sporting events. The building was completed in 1968 and has a capacity of 6,000.

GROUP 3 FINALS

Host Country: Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan are making their seventh FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix appearance. In 2015, they were ranked sixth in Group 3. Their best result was 10th place on their debut in 2007.

Kazakhstan has a rich volleyball tradition with some notable players from the Kazakhstan region who won international championships with the Soviet Union teams. After the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the new national side made their debut in 1993 at the Asian Championship with a fifth place finish. Twelve years later they won a silver medal, and in 2012, they added an Asian Cup bronze. They became known in international volleyball when they qualified for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Kazakhstan hosted preliminary round legs of the World Grand Prix in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015. This year, Kazakhstan will host their first World Grand Prix Finals in Group 3.

Host City: Almaty

Almaty is a major commercial and cultural centre of Kazakhstan. The former capital of Kazakhstan is a world-renowned centre for sports. Almaty gained international recognition from hosting prestigious events such as the Asian Winter Games in 2011, World Boxing Championships, World Cups in Judo and Ski Jumping, professional cycling races, and the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix in 2013.

Venue: Baluan Sholak Sports Palace

The FIVB World Grand Prix Final will be played at the Baluan Sholak Sports Palace in Almaty, the former capital of Kazakhstan. The stadium was built in 1967 and was renovated from 2009 to 2011 for the 2011 Asian Winter Games. It is named after Baluan Sholak, a celebrated Kazakh composer, singer, poet and wrestler. The stadium has a seating capacity of 4,000 and has top-level support facilities.

FINALS MATCH SCHEDULE



POOL, HOST, HALL		Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match	
GROUP 3	FINAL ROUND ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN BALUAN SHOLAK SPORTS PALACE	Saturday, June 18	25	12:10	06:10	3RD	vs 2ND
			26	15:10	09:10	1ST	vs 4TH
		Sunday, June 19	27	12:10	06:10	L-25	vs L-26
			28	15:10	09:10	W-25	vs W-26

Final round will be played in a Play-off format, with Semi-finals and Finals (1st and 2nd place / 3rd and 4th Place

GROUP 2	FINAL ROUND VARNA, BULGARIA KOLODRUMA HALL	Saturday, June 18	25	16:10	13:10	3RD	vs 2ND
			26	19:10	16:10	1ST	vs 4TH
		Sunday, June 19	27	16:10	13:10	L-25	vs L-26
			28	19:10	16:10	W-25	vs W-26

Final round will be played in a Play-off format, with Semi-finals and Finals (1st and 2nd place / 3rd and 4th Place

GROUP 1	FINAL ROUND BANGKOK, THAILAND HUAMARK INDOOR STADIUM	Wednesday, July 6	55	15:00	08:00		vs	
			56	18:00	11:00		vs	
		Thursday, July 7	57	15:00	08:00		vs	
			58	18:00	11:00		vs	
		Friday, July 8	59	15:00	08:00		vs	
			60	18:00	11:00		vs	
		Saturday, July 9	61	15:00	08:00	J1	vs K2	
			62	18:00	11:00	K1	vs J2	
		Sunday, July 10	63	12:00	05:00	5TH	vs 6TH	
			64	15:00	08:00	3RD	vs 4TH	
			65	18:00	11:00	1ST	vs 2ND	



FINALS MATCH RESULTS



RESULTS											
Group (Host)	Date	Match No.	Local Time	GMT Time	Match		Score		Sets		
3 ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN	July 18	25	12:10	06:10	3rd	vs 2nd					
		26	15:10	09:10	1st	vs 4th					
	July 19	27	12:10	06:10	L-25	vs L-26					
		28	15:10	09:10	W-25	vs W-26					
2 VARNA, BULGARIA	July 18	25	16:10	13:10	3rd	vs 2nd					
		26	19:10	16:10	1st	vs 4th					
	July 19	27	16:10	13:10	L-25	vs L-26					
		28	19:10	16:10	W-25	vs W-26					
1 BANGKOK, THAILAND	July 6	55	15:00	08:00		vs					
		56	18:00	11:00		vs					
	July 7	57	15:00	08:00		vs					
		58	18:00	11:00		vs					
	July 8	59	15:00	08:00		vs					
		60	18:00	11:00		vs					
	July 9	61	15:00	08:00	J1	vs K2					
		62	18:00	11:00	K1	vs J2					
	July 10	63	12:00	05:00	5th	vs 6th					
		64	15:00	08:00	3rd	vs 4th					
		65	18:00	11:00	1st	vs 2nd					



24TH
EDITION

102

MATCHES
IN THE PRELIMINARY
ROUND

28
TEAMS

4 WEEKENDS OF
POOL PLAY

Finals in:

THAILAND (GROUP 1)
BULGARIA (GROUP 2)
KAZAKHSTAN (GROUP 3)

**FIVB'S ANNUAL SHOWCASE
OF TOP WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
BROADCAST LIVE WORLDWIDE**

20

HOST CITIES
INCLUDING FINALS

US\$ **2.785m**
IN PRIZE MONEY

70

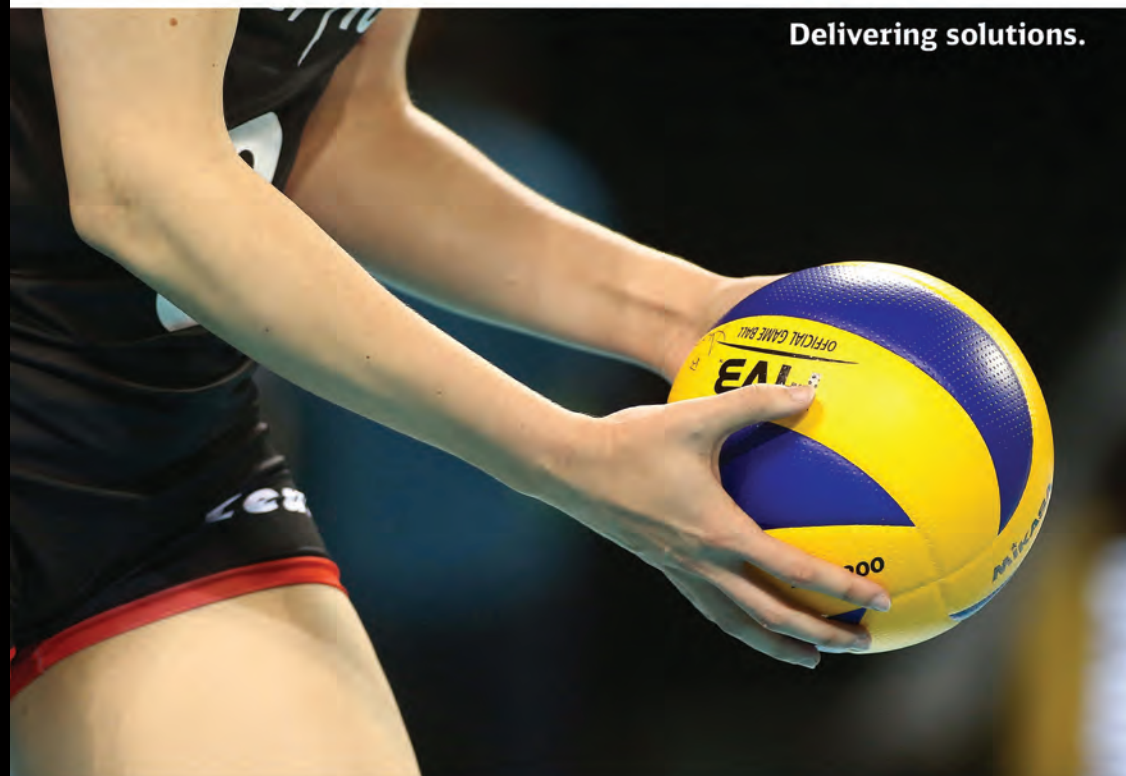
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