



**FIVB**  
VOLLEYBALL  
**MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**POLAND 2014**

**STATISTICAL PREVIEWS**  
**DAY 9 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2014**

**Pool A: Australia - Venezuela (7 September)**

**Head-to-Head**

- Venezuela (with 10 participations) and Australia (with 5 participations) have never met at the World Championship or any other major tournament.
- Australia have won one of their four matches against South American teams at major tournaments, a 3-1 vs Chile at the 1982 World Championship.
- They lost 3-0 against Argentina on Saturday.
- Venezuela have won three of their 11 World Championship matches against teams from the Asian Confederation, including their last encounter, a 3-1 win against Iran in 2006.

**Australia**

- Australia's win against Cameroon on 31 August, remains their only win in their last 15 World Championship matches.
- They can lose two matches in straight sets in a row for the first time since 2006.
- Australia's win percentage of 11% is less than half of Venezuela's 23%.
- They have lost 13 of their 26 matches without winning a set.

**Venezuela**

- Venezuela have lost six of their seven matches since the start of the 2010 World Championship by a 3-0 scoreline. They have only beaten Cameroon (3-1) in this run.
- They have lost 44 of their 77 total World Championship matches in straight sets.
- Venezuela have a W5-L2 record in five-set matches at the World Championship, winning their last three fifth-set deciders.
- Their last five-set match was against Egypt (3-2) in 1986.



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## **Pool A: Poland - Argentina (7 September)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- These teams have met three times at the World Championship. The first two meetings were won by Argentina (1986 and 1998).
- Their most recent meeting came in 2006 with Poland defeating Argentina in straight sets.
- Poland are unbeaten in their last 22 matches against Argentina at major tournaments.
- Before this winning streak started in 2002, Argentina had won their previous five meetings (1986- 2002).

### **Poland**

- Poland can win five matches in a row for the first time since 11 in 2006.
- Against Cameroon, they dropped their first set this tournament. In 2006, they lost their first set only in their seventh match.
- Poland have won 21 of their 26 World Championship matches in this century (2002- 2014)
- Damian Wojtaszek celebrates his 26th birthday on the day of this match.

### **Argentina**

- Argentina have won five of their last six matches at the World Championship.
- They have won two matches in a row in straight sets. The last time they had three straight-set wins in a row was in 1990 (four matches).
- Argentina have won one (Japan 1998) and lost two (France 1986, Japan 2006) matches against host nations.
- Nicolás Uriarte and Facundo Conte both play for Polish team PGE SKRA Belchatow.



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### **Pool A: Serbia - Cameroon (7 September)**

#### **Head-to-Head**

- This will be the first World Championship meeting between these two teams.
- Serbia (as Serbia and Montenegro) have won their only encounter with an African side, 3-0 against Tunisia in 2006.
- Cameroon have won one set in their five matches against European teams at World Championships, in Saturday's 3-1 defeat against Poland.

#### **Serbia**

- Serbia can win four matches in a row at the World Championship, like they did in 2010.
- They have won eight of their last 10 World Championship matches.
- Serbia can win back-to-back matches in straight sets for the first time since a run of four in 2002.
- They can record their 30th straight-sets win at the World Championship.

#### **Cameroon**

- Cameroon's six-match losing streak is already their longest in World Championship history.
- They have won two of their 15 matches at the World Championships, winning 11 sets in these matches.
- Cameroon have won two sets in 2014. They won four sets in 1990 and five in 2010.



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## Pool B: Tunisia - Finland (7 September)

### Head-to-Head

- Finland have won both meetings with Tunisia at the World Championship (1970 and 1982) in straight sets.
- Tunisia won their only other encounter at a major tournament at the 1958 European Championship exactly 56 years ago (September 7, 1958). Finland were two sets up to love before losing three in a row.
- Tunisia are winless in their 24 meetings at the World Championship with European sides and have won only five sets in total.

### Tunisia

- Tunisia can lose eight consecutive matches for the first time since 19 defeats in 1974-1982
- They have lost four of the last five matches that needed a fifth set.
- Tunisia gave away 41 points from errors to Cuba in Saturday's 3-2 defeat.

### Finland

- Finland can lose three World Championship matches in a row for the first time since a streak of four defeats in 1982.
- If they lose they will have recorded streaks of at least three defeats at all seven World Championship campaigns they have played in.
- Finland can also clinch their third win at the 2014 championship. They had won three or four matches at every edition they have played in since only one win in 1962.



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## **Pool B: Germany - Korea Republic (7 September)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- Both teams have defeated each other once at the World Championship. In 1956 Germany (GDR) won in straight sets and in 1982 Korea Republic won in straight sets.
- The last time Germany and Korea met at a major tournament was in the 1994 World League, with both sides winning twice.

### **Germany**

- Germany can win four matches in a row for the first time since four wins in 2006.
- That is their longest winning run as unified Germany
- They have won two matches in a row by a 3-1 scoreline. The last time they recorded three wins in a row by the same scoreline was in 1974-1978, when GDR won three consecutive matches in straight sets

### **Korea Republic**

- Korea Republic can lose four matches in a row for the first time since six defeats in 1998.
- They can play two five-set matches in a row for the first time since three in a row in 1956.
- They have won six of their 16 five-set matches.



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## **Pool B: Brazil - Cuba (7 September)**

### **Head-to-Head**

- This match have been played 12 times at the World Championship, with Brazil winning five times and Cuba the other seven times.
- Their last six encounters ended in W-L-W-L-W from Cuba's perspective.
- Four years ago these teams played in the final, with Brazil claiming their third title by beating Cuba in straight sets.
- Brazil have lost their last two meetings with Cuba at great tournaments, 3-0 at the 2012 World League and 3-2 at the 2011 World Cup.

### **Brazil**

- Brazil can record their 98th win in World Championship history. The former Soviet Union (excluding Russia) had won 97 matches.
- They can win nine matches in a row.
- Brazil have lost only four of their 33 World Championship matches in this century.
- They could end up playing two five-set matches in a row for the first time since 1990.

### **Cuba**

- Cuba can win three matches in a row after losing the previous three.
- They have won 18 of their last 19 matches that went into a fifth set decider.
- Cuba are three sets away from their 200th set loss
- Rolando Cepeda Abreu (24) and Javier Ernesto Jimenez Scull (23) scored most points against Tunisia. No Cuba player had scored more points in 2014 World Championship match.



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### Pool C: Egypt - Mexico (7 September)

#### Head-to-Head

- This will be the first match between both teams at the World Championship.
- They have met once at a major tournament, at the 1977 World Cup. Mexico won in straight sets.
- Egypt have won two of their seven matches against NORCECA teams at the World Championship.
- Mexico have won both meetings with African sides at the World Championship. Tunisia were defeated 3-0 in 1974 and 3-2 in 1982.

#### Egypt

- Egypt have lost their last eight matches at the World Championship, already their worst run.
- They have lost nine of their 12 matches that were decided in the fifth set.
- The last time they had to play two five-set matches in a row was in 2006.

#### Mexico

- Mexico can lose seven matches in a row for the first time since their record run of nine defeats in 1978-1982.
- Four of their last six defeats came by a 3-0 scoreline.
- Their last win was a 3-0 victory against Venezuela in 2010.
- Mexico's last six wins in World Championship matches were either by a 3-0 score or a 3-2 score, both on three occasions.
- Their last win by a 3-1 score came against Venezuela in 1978.



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### **Pool C: Canada - China (7 September)**

#### **Head-to-Head**

- China won both World Championship meetings with Canada in straight sets (1974 and 1982).
- Canada have won their last two matches against China at a major tournament in five sets: 1999 and 2003 World Cup.
- Canada have won four of their last six matches against Asian teams at the World Championship.
- China have lost four of their last six matches against NORCECA teams at the World Championship.

#### **Canada**

- They can win a team record four matches in a row for the second time after four wins in 1974.
- Canada can win three matches in a row in straight sets for the first time in World Championship history.
- Frederic Winters plays in China for Beijing BAIC Motors team.

#### **China**

- China have lost three of their four matches at the 2014 World Championship.
- They have lost six of their last eight at the World Championships.
- They can lose three matches in a row in straight sets for the first time since five consecutive straight-set defeats in 1986-1994.



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### **Pool C: Russia - Bulgaria (7 September)**

#### **Head-to-Head**

- Bulgaria have won only two of their 13 World Championship matches against Russia. These two victories, in 1970 and 2002, both came in straight sets.
- Four years ago these teams met in the classification round 5-8 with Russia winning 3-1.
- Russia (including CIS, URS) have won 52 of their 62 encounters Bulgaria at major tournaments and are currently on an eight-match winning streak.
- Bulgaria's last win at one of these tournaments came at the 2011 World League in the Intercontinental Round.

#### **Russia**

- Russia can win eight matches in a row for the first time since URS won 29 matches in a row 1979-1986.
- They have won 12 of their last 14 World Championship matches.
- Russia have won four of their last five matches in straight sets and five of their last seven, losing only two sets in these seven matches.

#### **Bulgaria**

- Bulgaria can win three World Championship matches in a row. They last did this in 2010.
- They can play at least three five-set matches at a single World Championship for the first time since 2002. They had two five-setters in 2002, 2006 and 2010.
- Bulgaria are one win short of the record 97 wins that the former Soviet Union collected. Brazil can win their 98th match on Sunday.
- Teodor Todorov and Todor Aleksiev play in Russia for Gazprom-Yugra.



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## Pool D: France - Belgium (7 September)

### Head-to-Head

- In their only clash at the World Championship (1978), France defeated Belgium in straight sets.
- France have won five of their seven matches against Belgium at major events, including a straight-sets win in this year's World League semifinal of the Group 2 Finals.
- Belgium's last win vs France (3-1) came at the 2011 European Championship.

### France

- France can collect their 66th win, which would equal their number of defeats (66) at the World Championship.
- They have won four of their last five matches.
- France have won 14 and lost only four of their 18 matches at World Championship and World League in 2014.
- Three of these four defeats came in their last three five-set matches. They have won one match that was decided in a fifth set, against Argentina in the World League.

### Belgium

- Belgium have lost four of their last five World Championship matches and seven of their last nine.
- They have won match at the 2014 World Championship, two short of the three they won in their previous World Championship campaign in 1978.
- They have suffered at least one straight-sets defeat at each of their previous seven World Championships. Their last straight sets-defeat in a competitive match in 2014 came against France in the World League semifinal of the Group 2 Finals.



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## Pool D: Iran - Puerto Rico (7 September)

### Head-to-Head

- Iran and Puerto Rico will meet for the first time at the World Championship and at a major tournament.
- Iran clinched their first win against a NORCECA side at the World Championship when they beat USA 3-2 on 2 September. They had lost their previous three matches.
- Puerto Rico have won one of their five World Championship matches against Asian teams, against China in 2006.

### Iran

- Iran can win three matches in a row at the World Championship for the second time, after three in 1970.
- The 1970 edition was also the only previous championship in which Iran managed to win four matches. They can collect their fourth win of the 2014 edition by beating Puerto Rico.
- Iran have won only two of their 26 matches in straight sets. The last time was against Venezuela in 1970.

### Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico ended their six-match losing streak with a win against Italy and they can now win two matches in a row for the first time since 2010, right before that six-match losing run began.
- The two wins in 2010 is also the only time Puerto Rico won two matches at a single World Championship.
- Puerto Rico's win vs Italy was also the first time Puerto Rico won a set at these championship. Their previous set win came in a 3-1 defeat against Italy in 2010.



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### **Pool D: Italy - United States (7 September)**

#### **Head-to-Head**

- These teams have met six times at the World Championship. United States won the first two in 1966 and 1982, but Italy won the last four, in 1998 (2), 2006 and 2010.
- At the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Italy defeated USA 3-0 in the quarterfinal.
- Their most recent meeting at a major tournament came at the 2014 World League Finals. Again, Italy won in straight sets, but USA ended up winning the gold medal while Italy took bronze.

#### **Italy**

- Italy have lost two of their four matches in 2014, the same as their total defeats in their nine matches in 2010.
- They have lost four of their last six matches at the World Championships.
- Italy have lost one or more sets in each of their last 11 matches at the World Championships. They had run of 12 matches in which they lost at least one set in 1966-1970.

#### **United States**

- USA's last eight matches at the World Championships have resulted as follows: W-L-W-L-W-L-W-L.
- They have won two and lost two of their first four matches in Poland, whereas they began their 2014 World League by winning their first seven matches en route to the title.
- They have won 13 of their 34 matches against other (former) World Championship winners.