



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

**STATISTICAL PREVIEWS**  
**DAY 1 – AUGUST 30, 2014**

### **The 18th edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship**

- This is the 18th edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship, which started in 1949. Poland are host to the competition for the first time, 40 years after their first place at the 1974 World Volleyball Championship.
- Russia (and Soviet Union) is the only team that has been present at every edition. Bulgaria will participate for the 17th time in the competition and Brazil, Italy and Poland will take part in their 16th World Championship.
- The World Championship will not have any debutants this year. However, Finland (1982) and Belgium (1978) are returning to the competition after decades of absence.
- Russia/Soviet Union have claimed the most World Championship titles with six in total, but not since 1990. Brazil and Italy both follow with three gold medals.
- Czechoslovakia (2), Poland, United States and (East) Germany (all 1) are the only other countries to be named World Volleyball Champions.
- United States, winners of the 2014 FIVB Volleyball World League, are hoping to claim their second World Championship title after 1986. In four of the six editions, the winner of the World League went on to win the World Championship in the same year: Italy in 1990, 1994, Brazil in 2006 and 2010.

### **Brazil aiming for fourth consecutive title**

- Brazil are the three-times defending champions and are looking to become the first nation to win four consecutive World Championship titles.
- The only other country to win three World Championship titles in a row is Italy (1990, 1994 and 1998), who were then dethroned by Brazil.
- Brazil have reached the World Championship final four times in total, losing in 1982 to Soviet Union.
- Brazil have finished in the top six in their last nine participations.

### **Serbia and Italy hoping to continue their top six finishes**

- Serbia have finished in the top 4 in the last four World Championships. In 1998, they finished second, in 2002 and 2006 fourth, and in 2010 they claimed the bronze medal.
- Italy finished in the top 6 in their last six participations. In 1990, 1994 and 1998 they ended up winning the tournament.
- Russia (then the Soviet Union) finished in the top 6 in their first 12 participations, claiming the title six times. In the last five World Championships, Russia won only one medal: silver in 2002.