

# FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix™ – Macao 2016

The FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macao 2016 is held from 17 to 19 June at the Macao Forum. As one of the legs of the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix™ 2016, four elite women's volleyball teams – China, Brazil, Belgium and Serbia – compete in the event and demonstrate their skills to Macao citizens and volleyball fans worldwide.

Created in 1993, the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix is a competition whose format was modeled on the highly successful World League, the equivalent competition for men's volleyball. Eight teams participated in the inaugural edition of the event. Since then the competition has gained continuous popularity, and this year 28 participating countries from 5 continents will be split into three different groups according to their playing level. China, as one of the powerhouses of women's volleyball, contest in Group 1 of the competition together with 11 other teams. The preliminary round of Group 1 is played over three weeks, and in each week the 12 participating teams are split into pools, with four teams in each pool playing in different cities. This year, the Macao leg is played in the second week of the competition. After the conclusion of the preliminary round, the five best teams together with this year's host Thailand will qualify for the finals in Bangkok from 6 to 10 July.

In 1994, Macao became one of the host cities of the FIVB World Grand Prix, and this year Macao is hosting the event for the 20<sup>th</sup> time. In 2001, Macao was selected as the host city for the final round of the competition for the first time. The eight strongest teams at that time – USA, China, Russia, Cuba, Brazil, Japan, Korea and Germany – gathered in Macao to participate in the finals from 22 to 26 August at the Macao Forum. 10 years later in 2011, FIVB again awarded the hosting rights of the FIVB World Grand Prix finals to Macao, with teams from USA, Brazil, Serbia, Russia, Japan, Thailand, Italy and China competed at the Macao East Asian Games Dome from 24 to 28 August.

With the support of the local fans, the China women's volleyball team are fighting to become the champion of the Macao leg and to seek qualification for the finals of this year's World Grand Prix. In addition, as the year's tournament will be held before the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics, all teams are making the most of the opportunity to undergo final preparation for the Games. Volleyball fans are eagerly anticipating high-class performance and evenly-matched contests from the participating teams in the competition in Macao.

## **General Information**

**Event title:** FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix™ Macao 2016

**Venue:** Macao Forum

**Date:** 17 (Fri) to 19 (Sun) June 2016

**Organizers:** Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Government, Volleyball Association of Macao, China

**Sanctioned by:** International Volleyball Association (FIVB)

**Teams:** China, Brazil, Belgium and Serbia

Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Government