

Teams overview - Press accreditation starts on 16th Nov - Schedule published

Volley Ballification Olympic Qualification





















Eight teams, one ticket!

The best eight teams those are still not qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will fight for one ticket in Berlin.

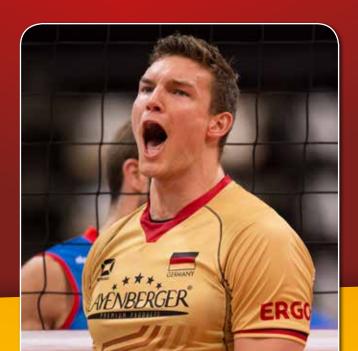
Germany (World Ranked-9/European Ranked-4): Germany is the host and has the chance to qualify for the Olympic Games for the third time in a row. In 2008 (Dusseldorf) and 2012 (Berlin) the team fulfilled their dreams in front of an amazing home crowd and hopes for another sensational support in this edition. "It will be a very tough tournament but we play at home. So everything is possible", said captain Jochen Schöps after a disappointing European Championship in Bulgaria and Italy that ended on an eight place.

Poland (World Ranked-2/European Ranked-4): Poland hosted and won the 2014 World Championship for the second time and belongs to the favourites in Berlin. The team finished fifth at the London 2012 Olympic Games but they had to suffer some disappointments in the recent past as they missed their ticket to Rio de Janeiro at the World Cup in Japan and finished the European Championship in Bulgaria and Italy on the fifth place.

Russia (World Ranked-3/European Ranked-1): Russia is still volleyball superior and can boast a long tradition of success. However, 2015 they finished the World League on bottom of their Group with only one win. After this

result the Russian Federation reactivate the golden Olympics coach Vladimir Alekno to lead the defending champion to an another gold medal at the European Championship in Bulgaria & Italy. It didn't work. Russia had to admit a clear defeat in the quarterfinals against Italy. But the Olympic Champion has already proved that they can achieve their best performance at the right time.

Bulgaria (World Ranked-7/European Ranked-3): Bulgaria played a great European Championship by finishing their pool on the first place and eliminating Germany in the quarterfinal. Due to some injuries two of the best players were missing there. Bulgaria is a team with a lot of experience that want to make the 3rd consecutive qualification for the Olympic Games.





France (World Ranked-10/European Ranked-7):
France is without a doubt the best team of the year 2015 and won the World League as well as the European Championship in Bulgaria & Italy to celebrate the greatest successes in their history. Despite the impressive rise in the recent past the French failed to qualify for the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. But it seemed that the players of Laurent Tillie are able to make their first Olympics appearance since 2004 as they finished it on a ninth place in Athens. If they can stay injury-free and continue the way of playing in 2016, France belongs to the favourites in Berlin.

Serbia (World Ranked-12/European Ranked-6): "Serbia has one of the most talented squads in the World with a lot of young and very good players", says Vital Heynen about the team that qualified for the last two editions of the Olympic Games in Beijing 2008 (fifth) and London 2012 (ninth). The team showed also an outstanding performance at this year's World League edition and was only stopped by France in the final. At the European Championship Serbia had to suffer a setback and lost the quarterfinal against the future winner France again.

Belgium (World Ranked-21/European Ranked-9): The Belgium's improve their performances year by year. The further progress was made as the Red Dragons won

the 2013 European League title. After that they impressed again by qualifying for the 1st World League Group in 2015 for the first time. "I don't want to play against them", said German coach Vital Heynen. Both teams met already in the first knock-out game at the European Championship that the German Team won in straight sets.

Finland (World Ranked-18/European Ranked-8): Qualifying for the European Olympic Qualification is a victory in itself for Finland. The Finns are always close to the big teams but never made the final step. But they can count on a big fan support.





Schedule in Berlin

Preliminary round*

05 January: FIN-RUS (15.00) / BEL - GER (18.00) / SRB-POL (20.30) 06 January: BUL-FIN (15.00) / GER-SRB (18.00) / RUS-FRA (20.30) 07 January: POL-BEL (15.00) / BUL-RUS (18.00) / FRA-FIN (20.30) 08 January: SRB-BEL (14.00) / FRA-BUL (17.00) / POL-GER (20.00)

Final round

09 Januar: Semifinal 1 (16.30) / Semifinal 2 (19.30) **10 January:** Bronze game (13.30) / Final (16.30)

Presse accreditation

The accreditation period will start at 16th November and run until the 22nd December. Journalists can apply an accreditation on presse.golympia.org. If you have any questions please contact the press department of the German Volleyball Federation at presse@volleyball-verband.de.

Tickets

Tickets are available on <u>www.ticketmaster.de</u>. Download the official ticket information (<u>CLICK HERE</u>) to get all infos about the ticket sale for the Olympic Qualification in Berlin.

Check out all information on www.GOlympia.org