

# 2009 FIVB World League Media Kit



July 10-11  
Hoffman Estates, Ill.

## USA vs. Italy



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## Media Information

**What is World League?** The FIVB's (Federation Internationale de Volleyball) premier annual international men's competition, the FIVB World League consists of six intercontinental rounds of tournaments. Each of the 16 teams is vying for a share of the over USD \$20 million prize money and a place in the final round in Belgrade, Serbia, from July 22-26. The teams will each play three rounds at home and three away, each round consisting of two matches against the same team on separate days over the same weekend.

The World League was created in 1990 as part of the intensive marketing program that would become a distinctive mark of the FIVB's activities near the end of the century.

The idea was to promote the sport of volleyball by establishing an annual competition that would appeal to audiences all over the world. At that point, international competitions involving top volleyball teams (i.e., the Olympic Games and World Championship) took place only in four-year cycles, and were usually confined to a host city or nation. By contrast, the World League was designed to be played on a one-year basis, with a system of rotating cities that allowed every team to host a number of matches in the preliminary round. Further restrictions on participation, such as mandatory local broadcasting, ensured massive TV and media coverage.

At the turn of the century, the World League was fully consolidated as a major international volleyball event. Generous rewards in cash - from 1990 to 2004, the total sum spent on prize money jumped from \$1 to \$13 million dollars - made up for the competition's relative lack of tradition and prestige in the eyes of the national federations.

**Press Director:** B.J. Evans (cell: 719-649-2389; e-mail: [bj.evans@usav.org](mailto:bj.evans@usav.org))

**USA Volleyball World League Web Site:** [www.usavolleyball.org/national/08WL.asp](http://www.usavolleyball.org/national/08WL.asp)

**FIVB World League Web Site:** [www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/WorldLeague/2008](http://www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/WorldLeague/2008)

The FIVB World League web site includes the post-match box and **statistics, match description, press conference quotes** and **high resolution photos** available for editorial publication.

**Match Times:** Each match starts at 7 p.m. on July 10-11.



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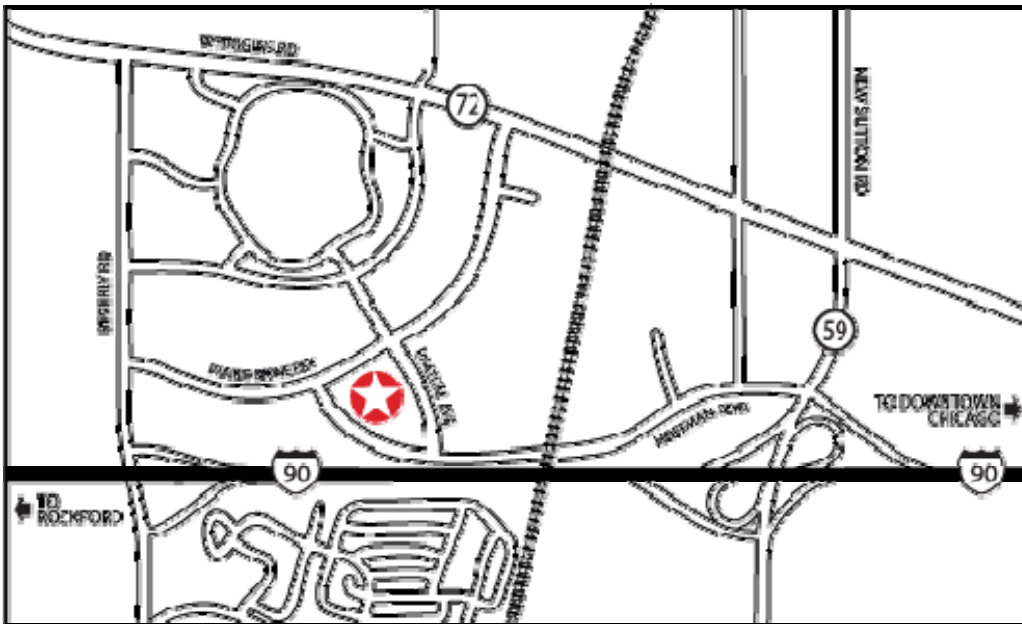
**Match Venue:** The Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

**Parking:** There is plenty of parking available at the venue and pre-credentialed media will be on a list to park for free.

**Credentials:** Please pick up your credentials at will call. Be prepared to show your ID.

**Directions:**

The Sears Centre Arena is located in the Prairie Stone Business Park, immediately north of the Northwest Tollway and west of Illinois Route 59.



**Sears Centre Arena**  
5333 Prairie Stone Parkway  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

**From the East:**

Take I-90 West (the Northwest Tollway) to the New Sutton Rd. (Route 59) exit and go straight. The building will be on your right.

**From the West:**

Take I-90 East (the Northwest Tollway) to the New Sutton Rd. (Route 59) exit. Turn left onto New Sutton Rd. and go north to the next traffic light. At the light, make a left turn into Hoffman Boulevard. The building will be on your right.



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**Host Hotel: Chicago Marriott Northwest**

4800 Hoffman Boulevard  
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60192 USA  
Phone: 1-847-645-9500  
Fax: 1-847-645-9600

The award-winning staff at Chicago Marriott Northwest wants to offer you a gracious welcome! Located in the upscale suburb of Hoffman Estates and near Schaumburg, our hotel makes every stay a pleasure. Business travelers appreciate our convenient location at the Prairie Stone Office Park and Sears Centre, as well as thoughtful amenities such as full-service Business Center and high-speed Internet. After a busy day, unwind in the lounge or retreat to the luxurious comfort of your Concierge Level guest room. Vacationers and families will also love this Chicago Marriott hotel, close to Medieval Times, Greater Woodfield Mall and Arlington Racetrack. Enjoy a day of fun and then a delicious meal at RiverCity Grille, serving American fare in a casual atmosphere. Stay fit on the road at our indoor lap pool and fitness center, or try an in-room exercise package on your schedule. For a special occasion or impressive meeting, we offer 14,000 square feet of event space, certified planners and custom catering.

**Post-Match Interviews**

Team locker rooms are closed to the media. There will be a press conference held 5-15 minutes after the match. The coach and team captain will be at the press conference automatically. Any other player must be requested before the end of the match. Interpreters for international players will be available. Media who want to speak to a player or coach on the court immediately after the match must contact the press director.

**Photo Areas**

Credentialed photographers are free to go where necessary around the arena, but must stay behind the low signs around the court and may not stand behind the team bench area or the scorer's table. Please stay out of the way of TV cameras and fans.

**Statistics**

Statistics will be available after each set and at the end of each set and will be delivered to press row by a runner. Final statistics will be available a few minutes after the end of the match.

**THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!**



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### Italy Preliminary Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Age	Ht.	Wt.	Club	Hometown
1	Roberto Cazzaniga	Opp	29	6-7	187	Samgas	Villasanta
2	Simone Parodi	OH	23	6-5	181	Marmi Lanza	San Remo
3	Mauro Gavotto	Opp	30	6-7	194	Acqua Paradiso Gabeca	Cuneo
4	Loris Mania	L	30	6-3	168	Acqua Paradiso Gabeca	Gorizia
5	Valerio Vermiglio	S	33	6-3	183	Lube Banca Marche	Messina
6	Davide Saitta	S	22	6-2	181	Sisley	Catania
7	Michal Lasko	Opp	28	6-8	220	Marmi Lanza	Wroclaw
8	Giorgio De Togni	MB	23	6-7	187	Antonveneta	Ferrara
9	Matteo Martino	OH	22	6-6	185	Lube Banca Marche	Alessandria
10	Giacomo Sintini	S	30	6-5	181	RPA-Luigibacchi.it	Lugo
11	Cristian Savani	OH	27	6-4	183	RPA-Luigibacchi.it	Castiglione delle Stiviere
12	Andrea Bari	L	29	6-1	163	Itas Diatec	Senigallia
13	Francesco Fortunato	MB	31	6-7	212	Bre Banca Lannutti	Cassola
14	Gabriele Maruotti	OH	21	6-5	181	Antonveneta	Fregene
15	Emanuele Birarelli	MB	28	6-7	209	Itas Diatec	Senigallia
16	Cosimo Marco Piscopo	MB	25	6-9	209	Itas Diatec	Gagliano del Capo
17	Andrea Sala	MB	30	6-8	212	Acqua Paradiso Gabeca	Gallarate
18	Matej Cernic	OH	30	6-4	176	Stamplast	Gorizia
19	Dragan Travica	S	22	6-6	198	Trenkwalder	Zagabria (Croatia)

**Head coach:** Andrea Anastasi

**Team manager:** Alberto Gavazzi

**Assistant coach:** Andrea Gardini

**Doctor:** Piero Benelli

**Therapist / trainer:** Christian Lamberti



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**United States Preliminary Roster**

No	Name	Pos	Age	Ht	Wt	Hometown	College
1	Matt Anderson	OH	22	6-9	190	West Seneca, N.Y.	Penn State
2	Sean Rooney	OH	26	6-9	220	Wheaton, Ill.	Pepperdine
3	Evan Patak	Opp	25	6-7	250	Pleasanton, Calif.	UC Santa Barbara
4	David Lee	MB	27	6-8	232	Alpine, Calif.	Long Beach State
5	Rich Lambourne	L	34	6-3	198	Tustin, Calif.	BYU
6	Paul Lotman	OH	23	6-7	225	Lakewood, Calif.	Long Beach State
7	Donald Suxho	S	33	6-5	216	Korce, Albania	USC
8	Andrew Hein	MB	24	6-11	220	Carol Stream, Ill.	Pepperdine
9	Jonathan Winder	S	23	6-8	200	Irvine, Calif.	Pepperdine
10	David Smith	MB	24	6-7	190	Saugus, Calif.	UC Irvine
11	Brook Billings	Opp	29	6-5	210	Santa Barbara, Calif.	USC
12	Tom Hoff	MB	36	6-8	207	Park Ridge, Ill.	Long Beach State
13	Clay Stanley	Opp	31	6-9	230	Honolulu, Hawai'i	Hawai'i
14	Kevin Hansen	S	27	6-5	205	Newport Beach, Calif.	Stanford
15	Russell Holmes	MB	26	6-8	210	Fountain Valley, Calif.	BYU
16	Jayson Jablonsky	OH	23	6-5	196	Yorba Linda, Calif.	UC Irvine
17	Delano Thomas	MB	26	6-7	210	Sacramento, Calif.	Hawai'i
18	Scott Touzinsky	OH	27	6-6	194	St. Louis, Mo.	Long Beach State
19	Alfee Reft	L	26	5-10	176	Oxnard, Calif.	Hawai'i

**Head Coach:** Alan Knipe (Huntington Beach, Calif.)  
**Team Manager:** Rick McLaughlin (Santa Barbara, Calif.)  
**Assistant Coach:** Gary Sato (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
**Therapist/Trainer:** John Hawks IV (Huntington Beach, Calif.)  
**Technical Coordinator:** Christopher Jackson (Phoenix, Ariz.)  
**Medical Support:** Aaron Brock (Storm Lake, Iowa)  
**Team Doctor:** Dr. William Briner



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## Italy Team Profile

The first success of the Italian Men's National Team was the bronze medal won at the European Championships in 1948, but it was only in the early 1970s, after winning gold at the World University Games in Turin, that Italy remained consistently near the top of the volleyball tree, attending every Olympic Games from 1976 onwards.

In 1978, Italy was the host country of the FIVB Men's World Championship and a team led by Carmelo Pittera won the silver medal.

Then in 1984, the Italian team won the bronze medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, with Silvano Prandi coach of the Italians.

In 1985, Italy claimed the silver medal at the Junior World Championships in Italy.

In 1989, with Julio Velasco now the leader of the "azzurri," Italy began a long series of victories: the first European title was secured in Stockholm, while a second-place finish was won at the World Cup in Japan.

Italy then won the World Championship in Brazil in 1990, defeating Cuba in the final. It also won World League for the first time and gold at the Goodwill Games.

Italy won its second World League in 1991 and finished second behind Russia at the European Championships in Berlin. The following year there was a third successive triumph in the World League.

In 1993, Italy set off on another series uninterrupted successes. The Velasco boys conquered Europe, winning the continental title in Finland and prevailed in the first edition of the World Champions Cup, and then in 1994 defeated the Netherlands in the World Championship Final in Athens, gained the World League title for the fourth time and crowned a remarkable run at the World Super Four event.

Again, the "azzurri" team claimed gold at the 1995 edition of the World League. Italy, playing with a very young crew including many new athletes, beat Brazil in the Final, despite playing in front of 25,000 home fans in Rio de Janeiro.

In September, Gardini and Co. won the European Championships in Athens for the third time and in December increased the number of victories in their Roll of Honour by winning the World Cup with a perfect record. They also won the Centennial Match versus the World All-Stars team.

The Velasco era ended in 1996. The Italians missed out on the Olympic gold medal in the Final of the Atlanta Games, surrendering to the Dutch in a tie-break. But the Italian team still took second place in the World League and first place in the FIVB World Super Six.

Led by Brazilian Bebeto, Italy played a major role in international Volleyball in 1997: it conquered the World League Finals in Moscow and claimed the bronze medal at the European Championships in Eindhoven. In 1998, a fourth-place finish was secured in World League before a third World Championship title was won in Japan.

At the beginning of 1999, there was a new change on the bench with the arrival of Andrea Anastasi. In Mar del Plata, Italy claimed the World League for the seventh time. In Vienna, Italy beat Russia to win its fourth European Championship, and in the World Cup in Tokyo the Italians claimed bronze.

In the 2000 edition of the World League, Italy won their eighth gold medal, defeating Russia. At the Olympic Games in Sydney, Italy took bronze.

There were then two silver medals for the azzurri in 2001, one in the World League and one in the European Championship. In 2002, they finished fifth in the World Championship and fourth in the World League.

The year 2003 started with new coach Gianpaolo Montali and the team took third in World League, gold in the European Championship and second in the World Cup.

In 2004, Italy won the World League silver medal and Olympic Games silver medal before another gold medal at the European Championships the following year.

There has been no additional silverware since then, with the team finishing fourth at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and seventh in the 2008 FIVB World League.



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## Italy Head Coach Andrea Anastasi



Andrea Anastasi was born in Poggiorusco, a province of Mantova, on Oct. 9, 1960. He is married and has two children.

When he was playing for the Italian Junior National Team, his trainer used to call him the "Dwarf" due to his relatively small stature (181cm) compared to the giants he was surrounded by.

Anastasi enjoyed a long career as a player. As a member of the Italian National Team he played 141 matches (starting with an Italy vs. All Stars match on Feb. 8, 1981). He won the World Championship in 1990, the European Championship in 1989 and the World League in 1990, ending his career as a National Team player in Athens, where he won the Mediterranean Games in 1991. In Italy, he played in several cities, including Parma, Modena, Falconara and Treviso.

In 1994, he started his coaching career in the Italian Championship, series A2, with the Bipop Brescia Team. From 1995-1999, Anastasi coached the Gabeca Montichiari Team. Under his guidance, the team always competed in the playoffs.

Anastasi is the 19th trainer of the Italian National Team. He began training the Italian National Team during the first match of the 1999 World League, on May 28 in Sydney.

He enjoyed a successful first season as a coach, finishing first in the World League held in Mar del Plata, first at the European Championships in Vienna, and third in the World Cup in Japan, which booked the team a spot at the Olympic Games in Sydney.

In his second season as National Team coach, he won the World League in Rotterdam and the bronze medal at the Olympic Games. His winning ways did not abate in 2001, as he guided his team to second place in the World League and second at the European Championship in Ostrava.

Anastasi stepped down from his role as trainer in 2002 after Italy finished a disappointing fifth at the World Championships in Argentina.

From 2006-2007 he led the Spanish National Team, which won the European Championship in Moscow in 2007.

On Oct. 16, 2007, the Italian Volleyball Federation brought Anastasi back to coach the National Team until the 2010 World Championships.

Most recently, Anastasi coached Italy to 4th place at the Beijing Olympics.



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## Standings as of July 6

### Pool A

Rk	Code	Country	Points	Matches		Points			Sets		
				Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Ratio	Won	Lost	Ratio
1	USA	USA	18	6	2	728	665	1.095	20	11	1.818
2	ITA	Italy	14	5	3	666	599	1.112	17	11	1.545
3	NED	Netherlands	11	3	5	603	637	0.947	13	15	0.867
4	CHN	China	5	2	6	563	659	0.854	7	20	0.350

### Pool B

Rk	Code	Country	Points	Matches		Points			Sets		
				Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Ratio	Won	Lost	Ratio
1	SRB	Serbia	16	5	3	694	658	1.055	17	13	1.308
2	ARG	Argentina	12	4	4	780	799	0.976	18	18	1.000
3	FRA	France	11	4	4	744	755	0.985	17	17	1.000
4	KOR	Korea	9	3	5	774	780	0.992	15	19	0.789

### Pool C

Rk	Code	Country	Points	Matches		Points			Sets		
				Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Ratio	Won	Lost	Ratio
1	CUB	Cuba	19	6	2	754	685	1.101	22	10	2.200
2	RUS	Russia	14	5	3	724	702	1.031	18	14	1.286
3	BUL	Bulgaria	10	3	5	735	758	0.970	14	18	0.778
4	JPN	Japan	5	2	6	654	722	0.906	9	21	0.429

### Pool D

Rk	Code	Country	Points	Matches		Points			Sets		
				Won	Lost	Won	Lost	Ratio	Won	Lost	Ratio
1	BRA	Brazil	21	7	1	696	577	1.206	23	6	3.833
2	POL	Poland	11	4	4	612	621	0.986	13	15	0.867
3	FIN	Finland	11	4	4	686	719	0.954	14	17	0.824
4	VEN	Venezuela	5	1	7	644	721	0.893	9	21	0.429

**Note:** Match won 3-0 or 3-1: 3 points for the winner, 0 point for the loser  
Match won 3-2: 2 points for the winner, 1 point for the loser. In case of tie, the teams will be classified according to the following criteria: number of matches won, points ratio and sets ratio



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FIVB World League Results				
Year	Final Round Host	Champions	Runners-up	3rd place
1990	 <a href="#">Osaka, Japan</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>
1991	 <a href="#">Milan, Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>
1992	 <a href="#">Genova, Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">United States</a>
1993	 <a href="#">São Paulo, Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>
1994	 <a href="#">Milan, Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>
1995	 <a href="#">Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>
1996	 <a href="#">Rotterdam, Netherlands</a>	 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>
1997	 <a href="#">Moscow, Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>
1998	 <a href="#">Milan, Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>
1999	 <a href="#">Mar del Plata, Argentina</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>
2000	 <a href="#">Rotterdam, Netherlands</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>
2001	 <a href="#">Katowice, Poland</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>
2002	 <a href="#">Belo Horizonte, Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a>
2003	 <a href="#">Madrid, Spain</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Serbia and Montenegro</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>



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2004	 <a href="#">Rome, Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Italy</a>	 <a href="#">Serbia and Montenegro</a>
2005	 <a href="#">Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Serbia and Montenegro</a>	 <a href="#">Cuba</a>
2006	 <a href="#">Moscow, Russia</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">France</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>
2007	 <a href="#">Katowice, Poland</a>	 <a href="#">Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>	 <a href="#">United States</a>
2008	 <a href="#">Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</a>	 <a href="#">United States</a>	 <a href="#">Serbia</a>	 <a href="#">Russia</a>

### Medals Summary

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 Italy	8	3	2	13
2	 Brazil	7	2	4	13
3	 Cuba	1	5	2	8
4	 Russia <sup>[1]</sup>	1	4	6	11
5	 Netherlands	1	1	1	3
6	 United States	1	0	2	3
7	 Serbia <sup>[2]</sup>	0	3	2	5
8	 France	0	1	0	1

**Note:** 1. Russia played from 1990 to 1991 as the Soviet Union and in 1992 as CIS

2. Serbia played from 1990 to 1991 as SFR Yugoslavia, from 1992 to 2002 as FR Yugoslavia and from 2003 to 2006 as Serbia and Montenegro



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## International Volleyball Fact Sheet

**Introduction:** Volleyball has major international competitions every year and, at its highest level, is a physically demanding sport played by some of the world's most elite athletes. Of course, volleyball is also a popular recreational activity enjoyed by more than 38 million persons in the United States (more than any team sport but basketball) and more than 800 million persons globally, making it the world's most popular participant sport. This fact sheet is designed to provide more understanding about international volleyball and its major competitions, including the Olympic Games.

**International Governing Body:** The international governing body for volleyball is the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. The FIVB is the world's largest sports federation, with more than 200 member nations. Under the direction of its president, Dr. Ruben Acosta of Mexico, the FIVB oversees the administration of volleyball throughout the world and is responsible for producing several major events, including the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cup, World League and World Grand Prix.

**National Governing Body:** The national governing body (NGB) for volleyball in the United States is USA Volleyball, formerly known as the United States Volleyball Association. Founded in 1928, USA Volleyball is responsible for the administration of all forms of volleyball in the United States, including producing the annual USA Open Volleyball Championships, Junior Olympic Championships and the USA Outdoor National Championships. As mandated by the 1978 Amateur Sports Act, USA Volleyball is responsible to the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and the FIVB for training and nominating the teams which represent the United States in the Olympic Games and other important volleyball competitions worldwide.

**Major Competitions:** The four major events on the international volleyball calendar are the Olympic Games (men and women, indoor and beach), World Championships (men and women, indoor and beach), World Cup (men and women, indoor), World League (men, indoor) and World Grand Prix (women, indoor). All events are conducted quadrennially, with the exceptions of the annual World League/Grand Prix and the biennial Beach World Championships.

**World Rankings:** Following the decision of the FIVB Board of Administration, a new system of point attribution based on a new scale has been implemented for the FIVB World Ranking of Volleyball National Teams. The following competitions are now included:

- Senior World Championships included for four years - 25 percent reduction each year. Points are also granted for the qualification matches, to the best non-qualified teams.
- Olympic Games included for four years – 25 percent reduction each year. Points are also granted for the qualification matches, to the best non-qualified teams.
- World Cup included for two years - 50 percent reduction the second year.
- Senior Continental Championships included for two years - 50 percent reduction the second year; points are also granted for the qualification matches to the best non-qualified teams.
- Men's World League / Women's World Grand Prix included for one year.
- Junior World Championships included for two years - 50 percent reduction the second year.
- Junior Continental Championships included for two years - 50 percent reduction the second year.

Following are the top 20 teams in the FIVB World Rankings as of Jan. 15, 2009:

Men	Women
1. Brazil	1. Brazil
<b>2. USA</b>	<b>2. USA</b>
3. Russia	3. Cuba
4. Bulgaria	4. Italy
5. Serbia	5. China
6. Italy	6. Japan
7. Poland	7. Serbia
8. China	8. Russia
9. Japan	9. Poland
10. Spain	10. Korea
10. Puerto Rico	11. Turkey
12. Argentina	12. Germany
13. Germany	13. Dominican Rep.
14. Australia	14. Kazakhstan
14. Venezuela	15. Netherlands
16. Egypt	16. Kenya
17. France	17. Peru



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18. Korea	18. Algeria
18. Cuba	19. Thailand
20. Tunisia	19. Puerto Rico

**Olympic Games:** Volleyball made its debut in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Twelve teams in both the men's and women's draw earn the right to compete:

For the 2008 Olympics, China, as the host country, gets an automatic berth. Eleven other countries must qualify. Three countries will qualify at the 2007 World Cup. After that, countries can qualify at their zone qualifiers, or at other international qualifying events.

**Past Olympic Champions (Men)**

- 1964: Soviet Union (USA, ninth)
- 1968: Soviet Union (USA, seventh)
- 1972: Japan, (USA, DNQ)
- 1976: Poland (USA, DNQ)
- 1980: Soviet Union (USA, DNQ)
- 1984: USA
- 1988: USA
- 1992: Brazil (USA, third)
- 1996: Netherlands (USA, ninth)
- 2000: Yugoslavia (USA, 11<sup>th</sup>)
- 2004: Brazil (USA, fourth)
- 2008: USA

**Past Olympic Champions (Women)**

- 1964: Japan (USA, fifth)
- 1968: Soviet Union (USA, eighth)
- 1972: Soviet Union (USA, DNQ)
- 1976: Japan (USA, DNQ)
- 1980: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)
- 1984: China (USA, second)
- 1988: Soviet Union (USA, seventh)
- 1992: Cuba (USA, third)
- 1996: Cuba (USA, seventh)
- 2000: Cuba (USA, fourth)
- 2004: China (USA, fifth)
- 2008: Brazil (USA, second)

**World Championships:** The World Championships are held every four years in the second year after the Olympics. The site, usually separate for the men's and women's competitions, is determined by the FIVB based on bids received from interested cities. The 24 berths for the men and women are gained in the following manner:

- Host country
- Defending world champions
- FIVB determines the appropriate number of qualification spots for each continent/zone based on performance at the previous World Championships.

**Past World Champions (Men)**

- 1949: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)
- 1952: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)
- 1956: Czechoslovakia (USA, sixth)
- 1960: Soviet Union (USA, seventh)
- 1962: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)
- 1966: Czechoslovakia (USA, 11<sup>th</sup>)
- 1970: East Germany (USA, 18<sup>th</sup>)
- 1974: Poland (USA, 14<sup>th</sup>)
- 1978: Soviet Union (USA, 19<sup>th</sup>)
- 1982: Soviet Union (USA, 13<sup>th</sup>)
- 1986: USA
- 1990: Italy (USA, 13<sup>th</sup>)
- 1994: Italy (USA, third)
- 1998: Italy (USA, ninth)
- 2002: Brazil (USA, ninth)
- 2006: Brazil (USA, 10<sup>th</sup>)

**Past World Champions (Women)**

- 1952: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)
- 1956: Soviet Union (USA, ninth)
- 1960: Soviet Union (USA, sixth)
- 1962: Japan (USA, DNP)
- 1966: Japan (USA, second)
- 1970: Soviet Union (USA, 11<sup>th</sup>)
- 1974: Japan (USA, 12<sup>th</sup>)
- 1978: Cuba (USA, fifth)
- 1982: China (USA, third)
- 1986: China (USA, 10<sup>th</sup>)
- 1990: Soviet Union (USA, third)
- 1994: Cuba (USA, sixth)
- 1998: Cuba (USA, 13<sup>th</sup>)
- 2002: Italy (USA, second)
- 2006: Russia (USA, ninth)

**World Cup:** The World Cup is held every four years, in the year prior to the Olympic Games. Though originally held at various sites, it has been hosted by Japan since 1977. Prior to 1991, the World Cup took place in the year immediately following the Olympics. The 12 berths in the



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World Cup for men and women are gained in the following manner:

- Host country (Japan- Men and Women)
- Defending World Cup champion
- Winners of the five zone championships
- The highest-placed team (of each zone) not qualified for the Olympic Games in accordance with the ranking of the zone championships.

**Past World Cup Champions (Men)**

1965: Soviet Union (USA, DNP)  
1969: East Germany (USA, DNP)  
1973: Soviet Union (USA, seventh)  
1977: Soviet Union (USA, 10th)  
1981: Soviet Union (USA, DNQ)  
1985: USA  
1989: Cuba (USA, fourth)  
1991: Soviet Union (USA, third)  
1995: Italy (USA, fourth)  
1999: Russia (USA, fourth)  
2003: Brazil (USA, fourth)  
2007: Brazil (USA, fourth)

**Past World Cup Champions (Women)**

1973: Soviet Union (USA, sixth)  
1977: Japan (USA, seventh)  
1981: China (USA, fourth)  
1985: China (USA, DNQ)  
1989: Cuba (USA, DNQ)  
1991: Cuba (USA, fourth)  
1995: Cuba (USA, seventh)  
1999: Cuba (USA, ninth)  
2003: China (USA, third)  
2007: Italy (USA, third)

**Zone Championships:** The volleyball world is divided into five international zones. The United States is in the NORCECA (North America Central America Caribbean) Zone, with championships held every other year at various sites. The other zones are Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. The frequency of zone championships competition varies in each of the five sections. Any nation in a particular zone may participate in its zone championships whenever such a competition is conducted.

**Past NORCECA Champions (Men)**

1969: Cuba (USA, third)  
1971: Cuba (USA, second)  
1973: USA  
1975: Cuba (USA, third)  
1977: Cuba (USA, fifth)  
1979: Cuba (USA, fifth)  
1981: Cuba (USA, second)  
1983: USA  
1985: USA  
1987: Cuba (USA, second)  
1989: Cuba (USA, third)  
1991: Cuba (USA, second)  
1993: Cuba (USA, second)  
1995: Cuba (USA, second)  
1997: Cuba (USA, second)  
1999: USA  
2001: Cuba (USA, second)  
2003: USA  
2005: USA  
2007: USA

**Past NORCECA Champions (Women)**

1969: Mexico (USA, sixth)  
1971: Mexico (USA, third)  
1973: Cuba (USA, third)  
1975: Cuba (USA, second)  
1977: Cuba (USA, third)  
1979: Cuba (USA, second)  
1981: USA  
1983: USA  
1985: Cuba (USA, second)  
1987: Cuba (USA, second)  
1989: Cuba (USA, third)  
1991: Cuba (USA, second)  
1993: Cuba (USA, second)  
1995: Cuba (USA, second)  
1997: Cuba (USA, second)  
1999: Cuba (USA, second)  
2001: USA  
2003: USA  
2005: USA  
2007: Cuba (USA, second)

**World League and World Grand Prix:** The World League features the top 12 men's volleyball teams in the world in competition for a total purse that has grown to \$15 million since the inaugural season in 1990. Teams



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are divided into three, four-team pools and each country playing the other teams in their pool four times (twice at home, twice on the road). The winner and runner-up in each pool advance to a seeded playoff round. The regular season is usually played in May and June with playoffs in early July.

2003: China (USA, third)  
2004: Brazil (USA, third)  
2005: Brazil (USA, eighth)  
2006: Brazil (USA, seventh)  
2007: Netherlands (USA, seventh)  
2008: Brazil (USA, fourth)

The World Grand Prix is the women's counterpart to the World League, and offers a total purse of \$2 million to its 12-team field. Teams play in different four-team pools each weekend, at round-robin tournaments hosted by cities throughout Asia. The three teams with the best records join the host country for the Grand Prix Finals. The regular season is played in August and early-September with playoffs in mid-September.

#### Men's World League Champions

1990: Italy (USA, fourth in pool)  
1991: Italy (USA, third in pool)  
1992: Italy (USA, first in pool, third overall)  
1993: Brazil (USA, fifth in pool)  
1994: Italy (USA, fourth in pool)  
1995: Italy (USA, fourth in pool)  
1996: Netherlands (USA, DNP)  
1997: Italy (USA, DNP)  
1998: Cuba (USA, DNP)  
1999: Italy (USA, DNP)  
2000: Italy (USA, first in pool, sixth overall)  
2001: Brazil (USA, third in pool, tied-ninth overall)  
2002: Russia (USA, DNP)  
2003: Brazil (USA, DNP)  
2004: Brazil (USA, DNP)  
2005: Brazil (USA, DNP)  
2006: Brazil (USA, 10<sup>th</sup>)  
2007: Brazil (USA, first in pool, third overall)  
2008: USA (USA, first in pool)

#### Women's World Grand Prix Champions

1993: Cuba (USA, seventh regular season)  
1994: Brazil (USA, fifth regular season)  
1995: USA  
1996: Brazil (USA, fifth)  
1997: Russia (USA, eighth)  
1998: Brazil (USA, eighth)  
1999: Russia (USA, DNP)  
2000: Cuba (USA, sixth)  
2001: USA  
2002: Russia (USA, sixth)