

# CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020

Official Brochure  
Men

[#RoadToTokyo](#)





# Message from the CEV president

Dear Volleyball friends,

It is the ultimate dream of every single sportsperson to compete at the Olympics. This represents the fulfilment of anyone's career in the sport that they love – and the same obviously applies to Volleyball players.

I am confident that all participating teams share the same goal and the excitement that goes with it – as they vie for a spot to compete at the Olympic tournament of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

I very much look forward to witnessing two exciting Olympic qualifying events filled with drama and I am sure that with the help of the local organisers from Germany and the Netherlands and their respective partners and authorities, these events will help us raise the popularity and status of Volleyball even further.

This is the last stop on the road that takes to the Tokyo Olympics, where Volleyball will return 'home' after its Olympic premiere back in 1964. These qualifiers will provide us with an opportunity to start the year 2020 with a real 'bang' after a truly memorable 2019, where we made it a step forward in our efforts to initiate and implement a true Volleyball revolution.

Wishing the best of luck to all participating teams and much fun to all fans, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Aleksandar BORIČIĆ  
CEV President





# Message from the President of the German Volleyball Federation

Dear Volleyball Friends,

First of all, I want to say welcome to the CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020 – Men in Berlin. As the President of the German Volleyball Federation, I feel honoured that Germany will host an Olympic qualifier for the fifth time in a row and does so in the multicultural heart of Europe. I am proud that Germany has taken such an important place among the European Volleyball family in the past years.

In my opinion, giving Berlin the chance to host the Olympic qualification was the perfect choice to strengthen the European spirit of Volleyball. Berlin has proven its status as the only true Capital of European Volleyball. The city has been a host for an endless list of top-level Volleyball as well as Beach Volleyball events. Moreover, it is the home of the Volleyball club with the highest average attendance in the European Cups: the BERLIN Recycling Volleys.

I still feel many emotions when I think about the qualification tournaments hosted in 2008, 2012 and 2016 where Germany could win two times before falling down in a dramatic way in 2016. Despite

that setback, we have seen Volleyball fans coming from everywhere in Europe to enjoy the spirit of Volleyball in Berlin. These are memories the fans will never forget.

I wish to all teams the very best of luck as they pursue their dream of snatching the last ticket to the Olympic Games 2020. I have no doubt that every team will show their best effort to win.

Thanks to all those who are involved in the organisation, especially the city of Berlin, the CEV as well as all partners and sponsors. Hosting an event like the Olympic qualification would not be possible without a strong team that only wants to achieve the best for the development of the sport. I am sure that Volleyball fans will enjoy spectacular days in the Max-Schmeling-Halle.

Yours sincerely,

René Hecht  
President German Volleyball Federation



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# Event Intro



The CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020 – Men is the very last stage of the Olympic qualification process. Italy, Poland and Russia secured their spots in the Volleyball tournament of the XXXII Olympiad by topping the charts of the intercontinental qualifiers they hosted in the summer of 2019 in Bari, Gdansk and St. Petersburg. Other teams already qualified for Tokyo 2020 are hosts Japan as well as Argentina, Brazil and United States.

The top eight teams from the European Ranking released after completion of EuroVolley 2019 are eligible to contest the CEV continental Olympic qualifier.





These feature in two Pools, A and B, with hosts Germany as the head of Pool A and all remaining teams seeded as per their ranking and the serpentine system. After completion of a single round robin in each pool, the top two teams will play crossed semis, followed by a winner-takes-it-all final, where a much-coveted ticket to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will be at stake.

A continental Olympic qualifier returns to Berlin after a similar event held there in January 2016. At that time, Russia secured the only ticket available to Rio 2016, while France and Poland continued their journey at an intercontinental event in Japan where they eventually qualified for the Games in Brazil. However, this time there is no 'second chance' and only the winners of the tournament will fulfil their Olympic dream.

With the top teams and players in Europe set to compete and so much at stake on the #RoadToTokyo, fans can expect a great show on the court – as well as off the court. The CEV will be joining forces with the organisers to continue the success story from EuroVolley 2019 when it comes to sport presentation, fan engagement and overall event experience.

Pool A 	Pool B 
<b>Germany</b>	<b>France</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>

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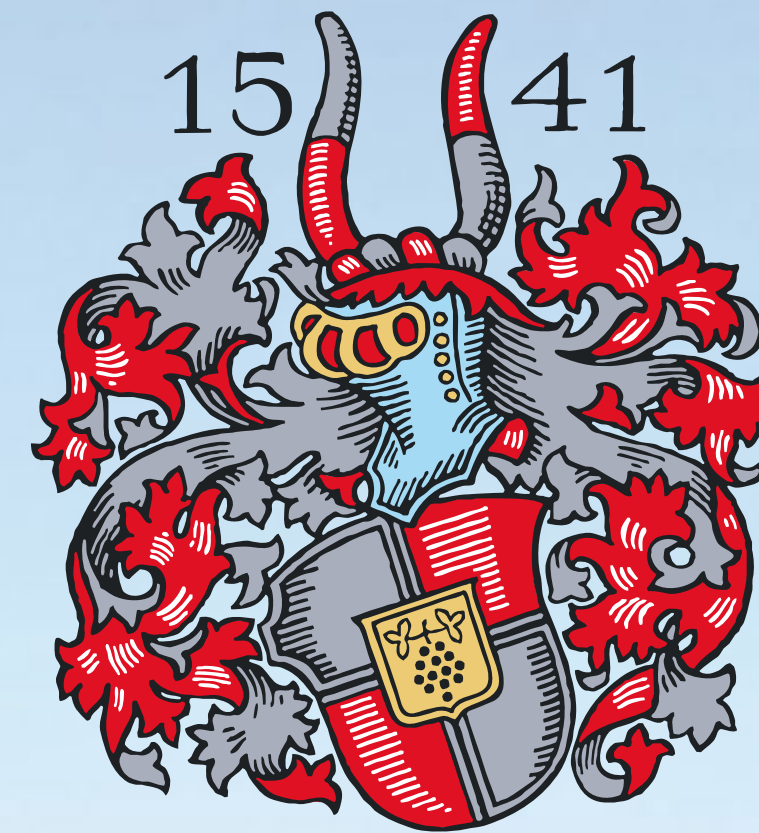
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# Germany



The hosts of this Olympic qualifying event, Germany have had a truly successful decade, with their major accomplishments including bronze from the 2014 World Championship in Poland, gold from the inaugural Baku 2015 European Games and silver from EuroVolley 2017. The last time Germany qualified for the Olympics – in 2012, they reached the quarterfinals in London. More recently, they lost in the quarterfinals of EuroVolley 2019 to eventual bronze medal winners and reigning World Champions Poland.

Their undisputed superstar is György Grozer, who announced his retirement from the national team after failing to qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympics – only to return a year later to help Germany claim a historic second place at the European Championship in Krakow.

Lukas Kampa, captain: "It is very important for us to play at home. We do not have to travel, the preparation is similar to the last tournaments and we are familiar with all conditions on site. I already had the chance to play two Olympic qualification tournaments in front of our home crowd. These are the moments which push us on a world-class level."

Pool A



# Germany

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	FROMM Christian	Outside spiker	1990	113	207
2	KRICK Tobias	Middle blocker	1998	104	211
3	SCHOTT Ruben	Outside spiker	1994	85	192
5	REICHERT Moritz	Outside spiker	1995	88	195
6	KALIBERDA Denys	Outside spiker	1990	95	193
8	BÖHME Marcus	Middle blocker	1985	116	212
9	GROZER György	Opposite	1984	105	200
10	ZENGER Julian	Libero	1997	80	188
11	KAMPA Lukas (c)	Setter	1986	90	193
12	BREHME Anton	Middle blocker	1999	96	205
13	HIRSCH Simon	Opposite	1992	96	204
14	KARLITZEK Moritz	Outside spiker	1996	85	191
17	ZIMMERMANN Jan	Setter	1993	82	193
18	STEUERWALD Markus	Libero	1989	90	184

Head Coach: GIANI Andrea

# Belgium



The 'Red Dragons' rise to the international elite has been truly impressive. Belgium finished fourth at EuroVolley 2017 – to account for their best result ever in any major competition. They continued their development with a 10th place at the 2018 World Championship co-hosted by Italy and Bulgaria but they suffered a little setback at the last EuroVolley when they lost to the real sensation of the tournament – Ukraine – in the 8th Finals.

Belgium can count on a group of players who have been sticking together for quite a while – and this can be an additional asset for the team captained by Sam Deroo.

Sam Deroo, captain: "It will be obviously a very tough tournament with the first, second and fourth-placed teams of the last EuroVolley among others. It is some sort of a mini European Championship, where only the first place counts to qualify to the Olympics, the dream of every athlete who takes himself seriously. Our chances are not enormous but they are there and with that goal in mind, we will try to become the surprise package in Berlin."

Pool A



# Belgium

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	TUERLINCKX Hendrik	Opposite	1987	86	195
3	DEROO Sam (c)	Outside spiker	1992	105	203
4	D'HULST Stijn	Setter	1991	75	187
5	GROBELNY Igor	Outside spiker	1993	77	194
6	STUER Lowie	Libero	1995	80	194
8	VAN DE VELDE Arno	Middle blocker	1995	94	210
9	VERHEES Pieter	Middle blocker	1989	110	205
10	D'HEER Wout	Middle blocker	2001	80	202
11	COX Jolan	Opposite	1991	72	194
14	RIBBENS Jelle	Libero	1992	79	185
16	VALKIERS Matthias	Setter	1990	92	194
17	ROUSSEAUX Tomas	Outside spiker	1994	90	199
18	THYS Elias	Middle blocker	1998	90	201
21	KLINKENBERG Kevin	Outside spiker	1990	94	197

Head Coach: BAEYENS Dominique

# Slovenia



Slovenia have become a sort of Volleyball sensation – and they did so for the first time in 2015, when they reached the gold medal match of EuroVolley, eventually losing to France. After securing top honours from the Groups 3 and 2 of the FIVB World League, in the summer of 2019 they won the FIVB Challenger Cup to secure their participation in the 2020 edition of the elite FIVB Volleyball Nations League.

The best, however, was yet to come for a nation that made their World Championship debut in 2018, reaching a remarkable 12th place. While co-hosting the record-breaking EuroVolley 2019, Slovenia stunned the reigning European and World champions, Russia and Poland, to progress to the gold medal match – which they eventually lost to Serbia. If they were to qualify for the Olympics, Slovenia would achieve this feat for the first time ever – thus matching their colleagues from handball who have competed at the Olympics three times (2000, 2004 and 2016).

Jan Kozamernik, middle blocker: "EuroVolley showed once more that we are a real team and that the connection we have among players is functioning really well. When we manage to use this connection while we are playing, we are capable of achieving great results. We will enter the Olympic qualification tournament with positive feelings. I believe the goals always need to be set very high, so our goal is to qualify for the Olympic Games. Without this goal, it would not have any sense to compete. We will have another chance to prove ourselves and if any time, now is the moment to qualify for Tokyo. I strongly believe we can do it."

Pool A



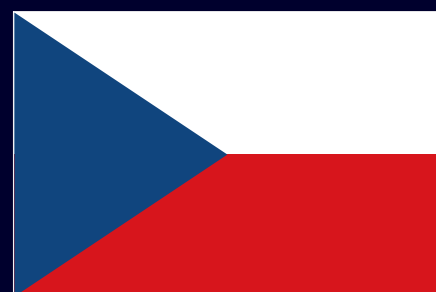
# Slovenia



Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	STERN Tonček	Opposite	1995	93	200
2	PAJENK Alen	Middle blocker	1986	93	203
4	KOZAMERNIK Jan	Middle blocker	1995	100	205
6	GASPARINI Mitja	Opposite	1984	93	202
9	VINCIC Dejan	Setter	1986	93	200
10	ŠTALEKAR Sašo	Middle blocker	1996	102	214
12	KLOBUCAR Jan	Libero	1992	89	195
13	KOVAČIČ Jani	Libero	1992	83	186
14	STERN Ziga	Outside spiker	1994	86	193
15	VIDEČNIK Matic	Middle blocker	1993	90	203
16	ROPRET Gregor	Setter	1989	91	191
17	URNAUT Tine (c)	Outside spiker	1988	90	200
18	CEBULJ Klemen	Outside spiker	1992	94	202
19	MOŽIČ Rok	Outside spiker	2002	76	191

Head Coach: GIULIANI Alberto

# Czech Republic



The Czech Republic have inherited the results of the former Czechoslovakia, a true Volleyball powerhouse, especially in the 50s and 60s. However, since the peaceful breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993, no Czech team has managed to qualify for the Olympics. After reaching the quarterfinals in 2017, the Czechs made it to the 8th Finals of EuroVolley 2019, losing in straight sets to eventual gold medal winners Serbia.

The Czech Republic have a group of relatively young players, such as Donovan Dzavoronok and Michal Finger, who have gained valuable experience in some of the most competitive leagues in Europe.

Jakub Janouch, captain: "We are very pleased that we can fight for a place to compete at Tokyo 2020. Even though we are not the favourites of the qualification tournament and only one team will secure the spot, we are ready to perform at our best and will fight for a good result."

Pool A



# Czech Republic

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	MONIK Milan	Libero	1988	92	190
3	MACH Radek	Middle blocker	1984	101	206
5	ZAJICEK Adam	Middle blocker	1993	92	201
7	MICHALEK Petr	Outside spiker	1989	80	190
9	PATOCKA Vojtech	Middle blocker	1993	93	197
11	SULISTA Petr	Outside spiker	1993	88	199
12	PFEFFER Daniel	Libero	1990	80	184
13	GALABOV Jan	Outside spiker	1996	89	191
15	VASINA Lukas	Outside spiker	1999	81	196
17	JANKU David	Outside spiker	1995	90	193
18	JANOUCHEK Jakub (c)	Setter	1990	88	194
20	BARTUNEK Lubos	Setter	1990	80	190
23	INDRA Patrik	Opposite	1997	95	200
25	POLAK Josef	Middle blocker	1999	88	202

Head Coach: NEKOLA Michal



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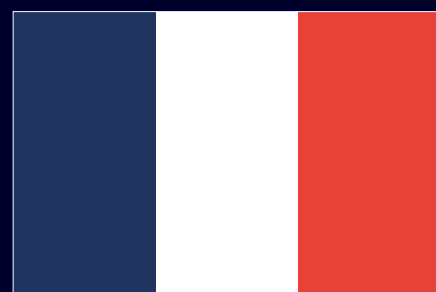
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# France



France have competed at the Olympics as many as four times – with their best result, an eighth place, achieved in 1988 in Seoul. They most recently competed at the Olympics in Rio, where ‘Les Bleus’ failed to make it out of their pool.

France are one of the most successful teams of the last decade – with fourth place at the 2014 World Championship followed by gold medals a year later in the FIVB World League as well as at the European Championship. France repeated their World League success in 2017 and reached the final of the inaugural Volleyball Nations League in 2018.

With the help of their charismatic outside hitter Earvin Ngapeth and rising star Stephen Boyer, France finished fourth at EuroVolley 2019, losing a dramatic semi-final to Serbia and the bronze medal match to Poland in front of a sell-out crowd in Paris.

Julien Lyneel, outside hitter: “We will have to find our fighting spirit from the very beginning of the preparation as we will not have much time to spend together before the start of the competition. It is the most important event of the last four years. If we find back our team spirit and put as much intensity as we did at EuroVolley, we will be able to seize our chance. We cannot have any regrets once the tournament ends.”

Pool B



# France

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	GREBENNIKOV Jénia	Libero	1990	87	188
4	PATRY Jean	Opposite	1996	94	207
6	TONIUTTI Benjamin (c)	Setter	1989	75	183
7	TILLIE Kévin	Outside spiker	1990	85	200
8	LYNEEL Julien	Outside spiker	1990	88	192
9	NGAPETH Earvin	Outside spiker	1991	93	194
10	LE ROUX Kevin	Middle blocker	1989	95	209
11	BRIZARD Antoine Arthur Fabien	Setter	1994	96	196
13	WINKELMULLER Julien	Opposite	1994	85	196
14	LE GOFF Nicolas	Middle blocker	1992	112	206
16	BULTOR Daryl	Libero	1995	94	197
19	LOUATI Yacine	Outside spiker	1992	92	198
21	CHINENYEZE Barthélémy	Middle blocker	1998	82	202
23	CARLE Timothée	Outside spiker	1995	89	195

Head Coach: TILLIE Laurent

# Serbia



The reigning European champions after their sensational campaign at EuroVolley 2019, where they played only two five-setters throughout the whole tournament, Serbia are bidding to return to the Olympics after failing to qualify for the Rio 2016 Games. The former Yugoslavia – whose results Serbia has inherited – claimed gold in Sydney back in 2000, four years after securing bronze in Atlanta.

Three-time European champions Serbia last competed at the Olympics in London – where they finished a disappointing fifth in their pool and ninth overall.

Star players such as Uros Kovacevic, Aleksandar Atanasijevic, Marko Podrascanin and Srecko Lisinac have what it takes to help Serbia fulfil their dream of competing at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics after failing in their first attempt to achieve this feat in the summer of 2019 when they lost 0-3 to Italy in an intercontinental qualifier held in Bari.

Uroš Kovačević, the MVP of EuroVolley 2019 and CEV Male Player of the Year 2019: “The tournament will be very tough, especially since we will be facing some very strong opponents. I only hope that we will be healthy and in good shape. In that case, I am confident that we will succeed.”

Pool B



# Serbia



Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	KOVACEVIC Uros	Outside spiker	1993	94	198
3	MITIC Mihajlo	Setter	1990	85	202
4	PETRIC Nemanja (c)	Outside spiker	1987	95	203
6	PEKOVIC Nikola	Libero	1990	77	176
7	KRSMANOVIĆ Petar	Middle blocker	1990	101	205
8	IVOVIC Marko	Outside spiker	1990	89	194
9	JOVOVIC Nikola	Setter	1992	82	199
14	ATANASIJEVIC Aleksandar	Opposite	1991	99	202
16	LUBURIC Drazen	Opposite	1993	90	202
17	MAJSTOROVIC Neven	Libero	1989	90	193
18	PODRASCANIN Marko	Middle blocker	1987	101	204
20	LISINAC Srecko	Middle blocker	1992	90	205
22	STANKOVIC Mihajlo	Outside spiker	1993	93	200
23	VUĆIĆEVIĆ Božidar	Opposite	1998	105	205

Head Coach: KOVAČ Slobodan

# Bulgaria



The 'Lions' from Bulgaria have been a force to reckon with for decades. Bulgaria have competed at the Olympics as many as eight times – including at the inaugural event in Tokyo back in 1964 and their best result to date is the silver medal they won in Moscow in 1980. They most recently competed at the Olympics in London, where they finished fourth after losing the bronze medal match to Italy.

Superstar Tsvetan Sokolov, who has left Italy to play in Russia for Zenit KAZAN, will be trying to revive Bulgaria's hopes of playing a leading role on the international stage after the team lost in the 8th Finals of EuroVolley 2019 to co-hosts and eventual silver medallists Slovenia.

Teodor Salparov, star player and libero of the team: "I am trying to stay in good shape and this shows my commitment towards the Olympic qualifier. We are going to Berlin with the main goal of giving our best and fighting to the last. There are no impossible things and everyone has their own chance. I hope that we are lucky in this Olympic qualification and we can leave some sort of legacy to the younger players."

Pool B



# Bulgaria

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
3	DIMITROV Dobromir	Setter	1991	89	197
4	ATANASOV Martin	Outside spiker	1996	88	199
5	GOTSEV Svetoslav	Middle blocker	1990	103	205
6	PENCHEV Rozalin	Outside spiker	1994	83	197
7	CHERNOKOZHEV Velizar	Opposite	1995	119	215
8	SKRIMOV Todor	Outside spiker	1990	87	191
9	SEGANOV Georgi	Setter	1993	83	198
12	YOSIFOV Viktor (c)	Middle blocker	1985	97	205
13	SALPAROV Teodor	Libero	1982	80	187
14	TODOROV Teodor	Middle blocker	1989	108	208
17	PENCHEV Nikolay	Outside spiker	1992	90	196
19	SOKOLOV Tsvetan	Opposite	1989	113	206
20	GROZDANOV Aleks	Middle blocker	1998	90	206
21	KARAKASHEV Petar	Libero	1991	75	183

Head Coach: PRANDI Silvano



# The Netherlands



The so-called 'Lange Mannen' follow in the footsteps of the legendary group of players, who claimed Olympic silver in 1992 in Barcelona and gold in Atlanta four years later. Dutch people chose the 1996 Olympic gold medal match versus Italy as the 'sporting moment of the XX century' across all sports. Their last Olympic appearance dates back to 2004 – when the Olympics took place in Athens and the Netherlands finished the tournament in ninth place. After struggling to match that level for quite a while, the Netherlands have recently done well, especially at the 2018 World Championship, where they claimed the 8th place.

In 2019, the Netherlands were among the four countries to co-host EuroVolley, where – despite a great performance by their star player Nimir Abdel-Aziz – they lost to Germany in the 8th Finals.

Nimir Abdel-Aziz, captain: "I expect the Olympic qualifier to be a very tough tournament. The strongest European teams, which are not already qualified, will all be present, and there is only one ticket to earn. Our pool with Serbia, France and Bulgaria is very strong. Serbia are the reigning European champions, while France and Bulgaria are top teams as well. We are the underdogs in this pool, but we will give our full 100 percent. We will have to see if that is good enough to cause a surprise."

Pool B



# The Netherlands

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	KEEMINK Wessel	Setter	1993	81	197
3	VAN GARDEREN Maarten	Outside spiker	1990	89	200
4	TER HORST Thijs	Outside spiker	1991	94	204
5	VAN DER ENT Luuc	Libero	1998	97	208
6	DRONKERS Just	Libero	1993	78	187
8	PLAK Fabian	Middle blocker	1997	92	198
9	GOMMANS Ewoud	Outside spiker	1990	93	202
11	MAAN Jelte	Outside spiker	1986	86	190
12	SMIT Tim	Middle blocker	1989	89	201
14	ABDEL-AZIZ Nimir (c)	Opposite	1992	86	201
15	VAN SOLKEMA Gijs	Setter	1998	88	193
16	TER MAAT Wouter	Opposite	1991	90	200
17	PARKINSON Michaël	Middle blocker	1991	102	203
18	ANDRINGA Robbert	Outside spiker	1990	85	192

Head Coach: PIAZZA Roberto

# CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020

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