

CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020

Official Brochure
Women

[#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



Samenwerken



Message from the President of the Dutch Volleyball Federation Nevobo

Dear Volleyball fans,

I am incredibly proud that we are about to host yet another event of great allure in The Netherlands: the CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020 for women. This tournament is a new highlight in the rich Volleyball history of The Netherlands, for both the Dutch and the European fans.

The last years, our event team proved to master the skill of organising major tournaments such as the 2015 CEV Volleyball European Championship Women, the 2018 CEV DELA Beach Volleyball European Championship and more recently, EuroVolley 2019 Men. Together with the professional staff of the CEV, I am sure they will deliver once again a tournament to remember.

Besides hosting major events, we are committed to give Volleyball the value it deserves every day. Nationally and internationally, we are working side by side to make our beloved sport grow.

This specific tournament will decide which European team may defend the continent's pride at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Not often, the goal of a tournament is so clear: only the first place counts. All eight participants are aiming for the same, a place in Olympic history. This formula guarantees entertainment, top Volleyball, happiness and drama. I cannot wait for it to start on January 7!

Together in Apeldoorn, we will energise people and energise the future of Volleyball. Enjoy!

Peter Sprenger
President Dutch Volleyball Federation Nevobo



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Event Intro

The CEV Tokyo Volleyball European Qualification 2020 – Women is the very last stage of the Olympic qualification process. Italy, Russia and Serbia secured their spots in the Volleyball tournament of the XXXII Olympiad by topping the charts of the intercontinental qualifiers they contested in the summer of 2019 in Catania, Kaliningrad and Wroclaw. Other teams already qualified for Tokyo 2020 are hosts Japan as well as Brazil, China 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 the Netherlands 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.

In January 2016, at a similar Olympic qualifier held in Ankara, Russia secured the only ticket available to Rio 2016, while the Netherlands and Italy 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 
The Netherlands	Turkey
Bulgaria	Germany
Poland	Belgium
Azerbaijan	Croatia

The Netherlands



The Netherlands have competed at the Olympics three times, making their debut in 1992. They achieved their best result in history at Rio 2016, when they finished just off the podium in fourth place, losing the bronze medal match to USA. After securing two consecutive EuroVolley silver medals in 2015 and 2017, the Netherlands lost 0-3 to Turkey in the quarterfinals of EuroVolley 2019, thus failing to reach the top four of a major international competition for the first time since 2014. As a result, Italian Giovanni Caprara replaced USA's Jamie Morrison at the helm of the team, with the hope to use the home-court advantage to the fullest in order to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Robin de Kruijf, middle blocker: "I think for a lot of players the national team is more important than the club team. You get to represent your country. This is what I like about the national team, the honour that you feel when playing for your country. I hope we will shine as a team during the Olympic qualifier in January."

Pool A

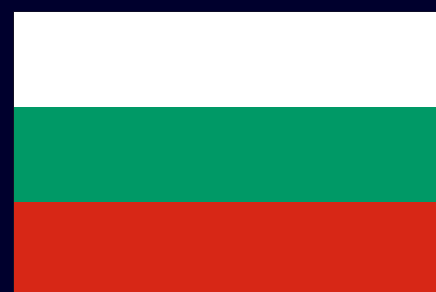


The Netherlands

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	KNIP Kirsten	Libero	1992	70	176
3	BELIEN Yvon	Middle blocker	1993	70	188
4	PLAK Celeste	Outside spiker	1995	84	190
5	DE KRUIJF Robin	Middle blocker	1991	79	193
6	BALKESTEIN-GROTHUES Maret (c)	Outside spiker	1988	74	184
7	LOHUIS Juliet	Middle blocker	1996	77	190
8	MEIJNERS Floortje	Opposite	1987	77	192
9	SCHOOT Myrthe	Libero	1988	70	183
10	SLÖETJES Lonneke	Opposite	1990	76	192
11	BUIJS Anne	Outside spiker	1991	75	191
12	BONGAERTS Britt	Setter	1996	68	185
14	DIJKEMA Laura	Setter	1990	70	184
19	DAALDEROP Nika	Outside spiker	1998	72	189
22	KOOLHAAS Nicole	Middle blocker	1991	77	198

Head Coach: CAPRARA Giovanni

Bulgaria



The 'Lionesses' from Bulgaria made their only Olympic appearance in 1980, when they finished third in Moscow behind the Soviet Union and East Germany. A year later, they became European champions on home soil. Their biggest achievements in recent times are the gold-medal winning performance they delivered in the summer of 2018 in the European Golden League Finals as well as in the FIVB Challenger Cup. As for EuroVolley 2019, despite a slow start, Bulgaria managed to reach the quarterfinals where they lost to eventual gold medal winners Serbia.

Elitsa Vasileva, star player and captain: "It will be very difficult for us at the European Olympic qualification, but it is not impossible to succeed. It is certainly more difficult than at the European Championship, as some of the best teams will focus a lot more on this event. You certainly cannot afford not to be at 100%. We cannot afford a bad match in this tournament. The chances are there, but it is up to us to seize them."

Pool A



Bulgaria

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	DIMITROVA Gergana	Outside spiker	1996	71	184
2	DIMITROVA Nasya	Middle blocker	1992	70	189
3	PETROVA Kristiana	Libero	1997	70	181
7	KITIPOVA Lora	Setter	1991	69	182
8	BARAKOVA Petya	Setter	1994	71	178
10	TODOROVA Mira	Middle blocker	1994	70	188
11	RUSEVA Hristina	Middle blocker	1991	73	190
12	KARAKASHEVA Mariya	Outside spiker	1988	67	182
14	MILANOVA Aleksandra	Outside spiker	2001	72	180
15	TODOROVA Zhana	Libero	1997	55	170
16	VASILEVA Elitsa (c)	Outside spiker	1990	73	192
18	CHAUSHEVA Silvana	Opposite	1995	74	188
20	KRIVOSHIISKA Mariya	Middle blocker	2001	76	187
23	RACHKOVSKA Vangeliya	Outside spiker	1997	70	185

Head Coach: PETKOV Ivan

Poland



Poland have competed at the Olympics as many as three times, including at the Olympic premiere of Volleyball in 1964 in Tokyo. They claimed bronze medals both in 1964 and 1968 and last qualified for the Olympics in 2008 when they finished the tournament in Beijing in 9th place.

Poland's most successful, 'golden' era was at the dawn of the new millennium, when they secured back-to-back EuroVolley crowns in 2003 and 2005, followed by bronze in 2009. After taking some time for the re-building their team, they finished fourth at EuroVolley 2019, losing to Turkey in the semis and to Italy in the bronze medal match.

Malwina Smarzek-Godek, opposite hitter: "We have made a great progress as a team over these last few years and we keep confirming that in every game we play. We know that we are capable of reaching for the qualification even though it is a very hard task. Honestly, I think each match in the Netherlands is going to be "all or nothing", but we want to fight and we will – for sure. I think that as a team we are ready for the Tokyo 2020 qualifying tournament and to battle for the ticket to Japan."

Pool A



Poland

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	STENCEL Anna	Middle blocker	1995	74	187
3	ALAGIERSKA Klaudia	Middle blocker	1996	76	190
5	KAKOLEWSKA Agnieszka (c)	Middle blocker	1994	85	199
6	LUKASIK Martyna	Opposite	1999	78	190
8	STENZEL Maria	Libero	1998	63	167
9	STYSIAK Magdalena	Opposite	2000	88	202
11	JAGŁA Monika Katarzyna	Libero	2000	69	177
14	WOLOSZ Joanna	Setter	1990	65	181
15	WOJCIK Aleksandra	Outside spiker	1994	74	185
16	MĘDRZYK Natalia	Outside spiker	1992	74	184
17	SMARZEK-GODEK Malwina	Outside spiker	1996	79	191
19	FEDUSIO Monika	Outside spiker	1999	73	184
20	KOWALEWSKA Marlena	Setter	1992	69	176
23	GORECKA Zuzanna	Outside spiker	2000	63	181

Head Coach: NAWROCKI Jacek

Azerbaijan



Since the country's independence in late 1991, the national team of Azerbaijan has never qualified for the Olympics. However, they slowly but surely have cemented their status as one of Europe's most competitive teams, with fourth-place finishes at the EuroVolley in 2005 in Croatia as well as in 2017, when they co-hosted the continental showpiece event together with their neighbours from Georgia. Azerbaijan have a European League title to their name – in 2016 – and more recently, they reached the 8th Finals of EuroVolley 2019 losing to Bulgaria – one of their opponents in Pool A.

Yelyzaveta Samadova, player: "We played the Intercontinental Olympic Qualification tournament in Brazil in the summer of 2019. We did not perform at the level that we expected we would show there. However, we have one more chance to qualify for the Olympic Games. We know that our competitors are very strong. I believe that the whole team will be playing just great."

Pool A



Azerbaijan

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
3	GURBANOVA Anastasiya	Opposite	1989	78	193
4	SALBISHVILI Nelli	Libero	1999	68	180
6	ABDULAZIMOVA Ayshan (c)	Middle blocker	1993	62	185
8	SAMADOVA Yelyzaveta	Outside spiker	1995	68	184
10	BASHNAKOVA Nikalina	Outside spiker	1998	70	190
14	YAGUBOVA Krystsina	Setter	1996	69	184
16	KARIMOVA Iuliia	Libero	1988	60	178
17	RAHIMOVA Polina	Opposite	1990	87	198
18	ALISHANOVA Shafagat	Setter	1991	70	178
19	ALIYEVA Bayaz	Outside spiker	1990	65	178
20	AZIZOVA Marharyta	Opposite	1993	70	187
21	PAVLENKO Kseniya	Middle blocker	1993	73	184
22	KIRYLIUK Maryia	Middle blocker	1995	80	195

Head Coach: TALIBOV Vasif

Turkey



The Turkish women's national team, aka the 'Sultans of the Net', historically qualified for the London 2012 Olympics, the first time Turkey achieved such a feat in any team sports. At that time, their top player Neslihan Demir Güler was even the flagbearer for the Turkish delegation during the Opening Ceremony. In London, they failed to make it out of their pool and ended the competition in ninth place. Turkey have achieved their biggest international success at EuroVolley – with two silver (2003, 2019) and two bronze medals (2011, 2017) to their name. Back in 2016, they hosted the European Olympic qualifying event but ended their campaign in a disappointing fourth place. Their resume includes, among other achievements, a sixth place from the 2010 World Championship as well as a silver medal from the inaugural FIVB Volleyball Nations League in 2018 to go with bronze from the 2012 edition of the World Grand Prix.

Eda Erdem, team captain: "The top eight European teams will compete to qualify for the Olympics. We have strong opponents in the group stage already. We regard them in high esteem and we will always respect their strength and value. Our main goal is to get a ticket to go to the Olympics by winning all of our matches. We are looking forward to this opportunity and challenge."

Pool B



Turkey

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
2	SEBNEM AKOZ Simge	Libero	1991	55	168
3	ÖZBAY Cansu	Setter	1996	75	182
5	ERCAN Seyma	Outside spiker	1994	73	187
7	BALADİN Hande	Outside spiker	1997	81	189
9	İSMAİLOĞLU Meliha	Outside spiker	1993	73	188
11	AYDEMİR AKYOL Naz	Setter	1990	67	186
13	BOZ Meryem	Opposite	1988	63	194
14	ERDEM DÜNDAR Eda (c)	Middle blocker	1987	75	188
18	GÜNEŞ Zehra	Middle blocker	1999	82	196
19	KALAÇ Asli	Middle blocker	1995	71	185
21	YILDIRIM Fatma	Outside spiker	1990	55	180
96	AYKAÇ Ayça	Libero	1996	55	170
98	ŞENOĞLU Tuğba	Outside spiker	1998	64	184
99	KARAKURT Ebrar	Opposite	2000	72	195

Head Coach: GUIDETTI Giovanni

Germany



Since reunification in October 1990, Germany qualified for the Olympics three times in a row – in 1996, 2000 and 2004, but they have not been able to repeat that feat ever since. The former East Germany competed at the Olympics three times, securing a silver medal in Moscow in 1980, whilst West Germany performed on the Olympic stage in 1972 and 1984. As a united country, Germany's best Olympic result is a sixth place in 2000, when they lost in the quarterfinals to Brazil and the subsequent fifth-place match to China. Germany had a successful spell earlier this decade, with consecutive EuroVolley silver medals in 2011 and 2013 – and a European League crown in 2013 as well. The 'Butterflies' made it to the EuroVolley 2019 quarterfinals, where they lost 2-3 to co-hosts Poland to settle for sixth place in the final standing of the competition.

Denise Hanke, captain: "To reach the Olympic Games in Tokyo is our biggest dream. We know that there is a big challenge ahead of us in Apeldoorn. Only one team will get the final ticket to Tokyo, but we believe in our chance. We have shown that our team can compete with the best in the world at the last European Championship."

Pool B



Germany

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
3	HANKE Denise (c)	Setter	1989	76	183
5	POLL Jana Franziska	Outside spiker	1988	68	186
6	GEERTIES Jennifer	Outside spiker	1994	66	186
8	DREWNIOK Kimberly	Opposite	1997	73	188
10	STIGROT Lena	Outside spiker	1994	68	184
11	LIPPMANN Louisa	Opposite	1994	78	190
12	ORTHMANN Hanna	Outside spiker	1998	69	188
14	SCHOELZEL Marie	Middle blocker	1997	70	190
15	MÖLLERS Lena	Setter	1990	75	189
16	BOCK Linda	Libero	2000	60	172
17	POGANY Anna	Libero	1994	61	168
19	VANJAK Ivana	Outside spiker	1995	80	193
21	WEITZEL Camilla	Middle blocker	2000	69	195
22	GRÜNDING Lisa	Middle blocker	1991	71	185

Head Coach: KOSLOWSKI Felix

Belgium



The 'Yellow Tigers' sky-rocketed to the continental elite a few years ago, when a group of rather young players secured a historic bronze medal from EuroVolley 2013 and gold from the FIVB World Grand Prix Group 2 Finals in 2014. That same year, Belgium qualified for the World Championship for the first time since 1978, claiming the 11th place in the final standing of the competition held in Italy. More recently, Belgium delivered a very impressive performance in the 2019 edition of the FIVB Volleyball Nations League, where they finished seventh, before making it to the 8th Finals of EuroVolley 2019, losing to Russia. Belgium have never qualified for the Olympics.

Ilka Van de Vyver, captain: "I am looking forward to returning to the court with the Tigers. It is an important tournament, with a short preparation time and one beautiful prize. To compete at the Olympics is the dream of every player, so we will play with all our hearts and all the energy we have. We know that the opponents are strong so we should grab every little chance we will get."

Pool B



Belgium

Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
3	HERBOTS Britt	Outside spiker	1999	63	182
4	LEMMENS Nathalie	Middle blocker	1995	85	192
7	VAN GESTEL Celine	Outside spiker	1997	71	182
8	GROBELNA Kaja	Opposite	1995	72	188
10	SOBOLSKA Dominika	Middle blocker	1991	83	187
11	RUYSCHAERT Britt	Libero	1994	60	180
13	JANSSENS Marlies	Middle blocker	1997	81	193
15	VAN DE VYVER Jutta	Setter	1996	72	175
16	GOLIAT Karolina	Opposite	1996	79	189
17	VAN DE VYVER Ilka (c)	Setter	1993	79	180
19	VAN AVERMAET Silke	Middle blocker	1999	75	192
20	GUILLIAMS Jodie	Outside spiker	1997	73	180
21	STRAGIER Manon	Outside spiker	1999	71	181
22	VALKENBORG Anna	Libero	1998	59	174

Head Coach: VAN DE BROEK Gert

Croatia



Croatia experienced their 'golden era' in women's Volleyball back in the 90s, when they claimed the silver medal from three consecutive editions of EuroVolley (1995, 1997 and 1999). They have competed at the World Championship three times since the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, with their best result to date a sixth place in 1998. Croatia's only Olympic appearance came in 2000, when they reached the quarterfinals in Sydney, losing 0-3 to eventual gold medal winners Cuba.

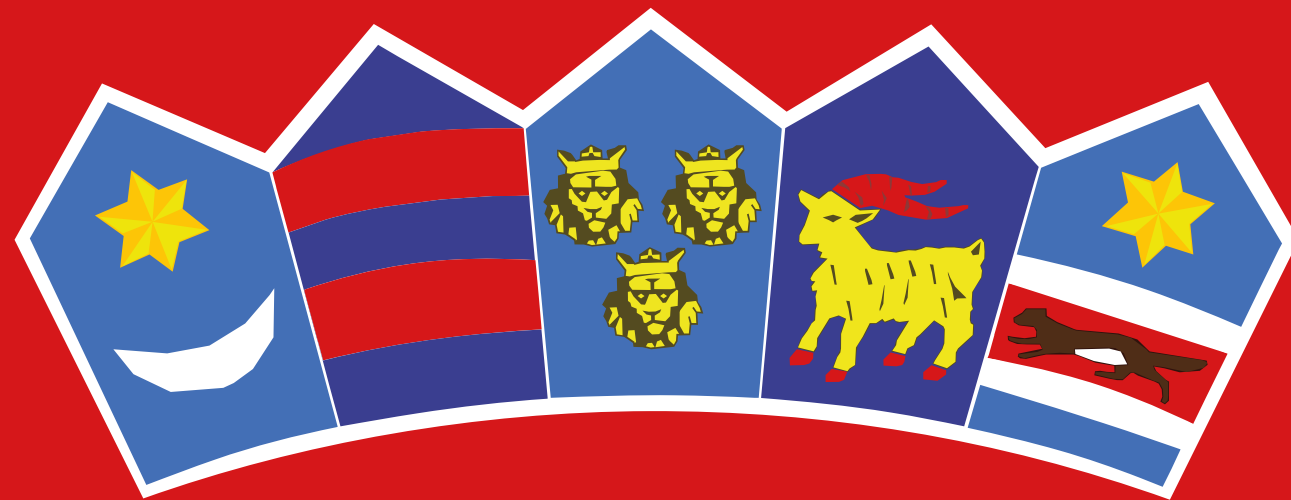
As for their most recent achievements, Croatia lost 2-3 to hosts Turkey in a truly dramatic 8th Final fixture at EuroVolley 2019 after earlier in the season they reached the grand finale of the European Golden League, losing that match to the Czech Republic.

Samanta Fabris, team captain: "We are not the favourites of this qualification, so we are going to Apeldoorn to continue our progress from this summer and to play without any pressure. Once again, we play against Turkey, in my opinion the strongest team in the group, as they won the silver medal at EuroVolley, but there we showed we could compete with any opponent. We are aware that it is a difficult tournament and that there is only one ticket to the Olympics, but we are going to fight hard in every match."

Pool B



Croatia



Shirt N°	Surname and Name	Position	Year of Birth	Weight (kgs)	Height (cm)
1	SAIN Rene	Libero	1997	54	163
3	STRUNJAK Ema	Middle blocker	1999	76	186
4	BUTIGAN Bozana	Middle blocker	2000	75	189
5	BOZICEVIC Nikolina	Libero	1995	54	165
8	PAVIČIĆ Katarina	Outside spiker	1999	68	180
9	MLINAR Lucija	Outside spiker	1995	70	180
10	IKIC Matea	Outside spiker	1989	74	185
11	GAMMA Sanja	Outside spiker	1984	75	190
12	DUMANCIC Beta	Middle blocker	1991	80	190
13	FABRIS Samanta (c)	Opposite	1992	80	190
14	SAMADAN Martina	Middle blocker	1993	80	193
15	BRCIC Bernarda	Setter	1991	78	192
17	DEAK Lea	Setter	2000	62	178
18	VUKASOVIC Lara	Opposite	1994	65	182

Head Coach: SANTARELLI Daniele

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