

Newsletter

Puerto Rico and Mexico expected to battle in Pool R

PONCE, Puerto Rico, May 21, 2014 – The NORCECA Men's World Championship Qualification Tournament Third Round Pool R from May 22-25 features teams from hosts Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras and Bahamas competing at the 8,000-seat Juan "Pachín" Vicens Auditorium for a ticket to the final event in Poland.

Both Puerto Rico and Mexico received automatic tickets to the third round phase of the regional qualifiers based on their world and continental rankings and are considered the favourites to contest the gold medal.

Puerto Rico is ranked 20th at world level and fifth in NORCECA while Mexico sits in the 22nd place of the world rankings and fourth in the region. Bahamas is ranked 41st in FIVB and 7th in NORCECA while Honduras is 85th and 16th, respectively.

"We have put together the best talent available," Puerto Rican Coach David Aleman said after his team's training session on Tuesday. "The team has been working out for several weeks now and we have a clear goal for this tournament."

"We are going out to play hard in each match and the objective is well defined: Winning the ticket to Poland at home."

Last year, Honduras won Pool N with a clear victory in straight sets over hosts Guadeloupe 25-21, 25-14, 25-11 in the gold medal match. In 2012 the Hondurans claimed first place in Pool G at El Salvador with a 25-10, 25-14, 25-17 victory against Turks and Caicos.

Bahamas finished second of Pool I in 2013 after losing to Barbados 25-15, 22-25, 25-17, 25-23. In 2012, they defeated Curacao 22-25, 25-20, 25-21, 25-21 to take first place in Pool A.

The winner in Pool R earns a berth into the 24-team FIVB Men's World Championship that will be held Aug. 30 to Sept. 21 in six cities in Poland.

The second-place team in Pool R, along with the other three

second place teams in third-round pools, will compete in a final playoff July 14-20 to determine NORCECA's fifth and final spot into the World Championship.

Competition Schedule:

May 22

16:00 Mexico v Bahamas
18:00 Puerto Rico v Honduras

May 23

14:00 Bahamas v Honduras
20:00 Puerto Rico v Mexico

May 24

16:00 Honduras v Mexico
20:00 Puerto Rico v Bahamas

May 25

14:00 Third Place v Fourth Place
20:00 First Place v Second Place

