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Published on *fina.org* - Official FINA website (<https://www.fina.org>)

PR 86 -Greece and Russia host initial games of 2019 World League

FINA Communications Department

The European preliminaries of the FINA Women's Water Polo World League 2019 [1] kick-off tomorrow, Saturday

November 3, in two European cities, Athens (GRE) and Volgograd (RUS).

Eight (8) teams are taking part in the initial European phase and the groups' composition unfolds as follow:

GROUP A: Russia, Spain, Greece, Israel

GROUP B: France, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy

Russia will first welcome Spain in Volgograd on Saturday, while Israel will face the Greeks in their capital.

On Tuesday November 6, three more games will be held as part of this initial phase: Spain and Israel will meet in Molins de Rei (ESP), Hungary and France will dispute their first game of the season in Eger (HUN) and the Italians will travel to Eindhoven to play the Dutch women.

The European preliminaries will be played in ten rounds, following the below calendar from November 2018 to March 2019, before the first FINA/LEN Women's Water Polo World League - Europa Cup Final is held from March 29 - 31, 2019.

Round	Date	Group A	Group B
#1	3/11/2018	RUS vs ESP GRE vs ISR	-
#2	6/11/2018	ESP vs ISR	HUN vs FRA NED vs ITA
#3	1/12/2018	GRE vs RUS	-
#4	4/12/2018	ISR vs RUS	ITA vs HUN FRA vs NED
#5	15/12/2018	ESP vs GRE	-
#6	18/12/2018	ESP vs RUS ISR vs GRE	FRA vs ITA
#7	12/01/2019		NED vs HUN
#8	15/01/2019	RUS vs GRE	FRA vs HUN ITA vs NED
#9	12/02/2019	RUS vs ISR	ITA vs FRA HUN vs NED
#10	5/03/2019	GRE vs ESP	HUN vs ITA NED vs FRA

After the conclusion of the European preliminaries, the three (+1 depending on the host) best teams will be qualified for the

Super Final (*dates + city tbc*). They will be joined by three (+1 depending on the host) other teams selected from the Inter-

Continental Cup, which will be organised in Perth (AUS) from March 26-31.

The Netherlands is potentially the strongest team to beat in this preliminary phase as the Dutch women have grabbed last year's World League silver medal in Kunshan (CHN), losing the gold match to the USA.

2018 World League bronze medallists Russia and Spain (5th) are also strong contenders.

The Men's World League [1] European preliminaries resumes on November 13.

