

DAVIS CUP BY RAKUTEN 2021

WORLD GROUP I AND WORLD GROUP II

17-19 SEPTEMBER – PREVIEW NOTES

WORLD GROUP I

Bolivia (c)* v Belgium (s)

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Rakiura Resort, Asuncion, Paraguay**
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Argentina (s) (c)* v Belarus

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club, Buenos Aires
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: tied 1-1

Uruguay (c) v Netherlands (s)

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Carrasco Lawn Tennis Club, Montevideo
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: Netherlands leads 1-0

Slovakia (c) v Chile (s)

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: NTC Arena, Bratislava
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: tied 1-1

Finland (c)* v India (s)

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Espoo Metro Areena, Espoo
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Norway (c)* v Uzbekistan (s)

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Oslo Tennis Arena, Oslo
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Lebanon (c)* v Brazil (s)

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Automobile & Touring Club of Lebanon, Jounieh
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

New Zealand (c) v Korea, Rep. (s)

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: International Tennis Hall of Fame, Newport, RI, USA**
Surface: grass, outdoors
Head-to-head: New Zealand leads 8-4

Romania (c) v Portugal (s)

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Sala Sporturilor Horia Demian, Cluj-Napoca
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: tied 1-1

Peru (c)* v Bosnia and Herzegovina (s)

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Club Lawn Tennis de la Exposicion, Lima
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

(s) = seed; (c) = choice of ground; * choice of ground was decided by lot; ** played on neutral ground

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WORLD GROUP I THIS WEEKEND?

Of the 12 ties in World Group I, 10 are taking place this weekend, with the other 2 ties having been held in March. From the 12 ties in World Group I this year:

- The top 8 highest-ranked winning nations will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup Qualifiers
- The 4 other winning nations will contest 2021 Davis Cup World Group I Knock-outs in November – the 2 winning nations from these ties will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup Qualifiers; the 2 losing nations from these ties will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs
- The 12 losing nations will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs

The Davis Cup World Group I Knock-outs (due to be played on either 26-27 November or 27-28 November) have been arranged to facilitate the transition from 18 teams at the Davis Cup Finals in 2021 to 16 teams at the Davis Cup Finals from 2022 onwards.

A full breakdown of the scenarios for each team involved in this weekend's ties is [available here](#). The rankings used will be the Davis Cup Nations Ranking of Monday 20 September.

WORLD GROUP II

Switzerland (c)* v Estonia

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Jan Group Arena, Biel
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Tunisia (c)* v Dominican Republic

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Cite Nationale Sportive El Menzah, Tunis
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Greece (c)* v Lithuania

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Lyttos Beach Tennis Academy, Heraklion
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: Lithuania leads 1-0

Denmark (c)* v Thailand

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Sydbank Arena, Kolding
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Slovenia (c)* v Paraguay

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: Tennis Centre Portoroz, Portoroz
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Turkey (c)* v Latvia

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Enka Spor Kulubu, Istanbul
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: Latvia leads 1-0

South Africa (c)* v Venezuela

Dates: Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September
Venue: Forest Hills Stadium, New York, NY, USA**
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Barbados (c)* v Indonesia

Dates: Friday 17-Saturday 18 September
Venue: National Tennis Centre, St. Michael
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

(c) = choice of ground; * choice of ground was decided by lot; ** played on neutral ground

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WORLD GROUP II THIS WEEKEND?

Of the 12 ties in World Group II, 8 are taking place this weekend – 2 ties were held in March, while the remaining 2 ties have been decided by walkover. From the 12 ties in World Group II this year:

- The top 8 highest-ranked winning nations will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs
- The 4 other winning nations will contest 2021 Davis Cup World Group II Knock-outs in November – the 2 winning nations from these ties will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group I Play-offs; the 2 losing nations from these ties will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group II Play-offs
- The 12 losing nations will compete in the 2022 Davis Cup World Group II Play-offs

The Davis Cup World Group II Knock-outs (due to be played on either 26-27 November or 27-28 November) have been arranged to facilitate the transition from 18 teams at the Davis Cup Finals in 2021 to 16 teams at the Davis Cup Finals from 2022 onwards.

A full breakdown of the scenarios for each team involved in this weekend's ties is [available here](#). The rankings used will be the Davis Cup Nations Ranking of Monday 20 September.

2021 RESULTS

Two World Group I ties and two World Group II ties were played in March 2021 – they were the first Davis Cup ties to take place since the 2020 tennis season was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, 2 World Group II ties that were scheduled to be played this weekend have been decided by walkover.

World Group I

Japan d. Pakistan 4-0 (March)
Ukraine d. Israel 3-2 (March)

World Group II

Mexico d. Bulgaria 3-1 (March)
Poland d. El Salvador 3-1 (March)
Zimbabwe d. China, P.R. w/o (September)
Morocco d. Chinese Taipei w/o (September)

STILL TO COME IN 2021

The 18 nations which qualified for the Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals 2020 will compete at the rearranged Finals this year. The draw for the Finals was conducted on Thursday 12 March 2020 and remains as published for the rearranged Finals.

The Finals will take place on 25 November - 5 December 2021 across 3 European cities. Madrid, Spain will host Group A and Group B, as well as 2 quarterfinals, the semifinals and the final. Innsbruck, Austria will host Group C and Group F and one quarterfinal; while Turin, Italy will host Group D and Group E and the remaining quarterfinal.

Group A (Madrid)

Spain (1)
Russia
Ecuador

Group B (Madrid)

Canada (2)
Kazakhstan
Sweden

Group C (Innsbruck)

France (3)
Great Britain
Czech Republic

Group D (Turin)

Croatia (4)
Australia
Hungary

Group E (Turin)

USA (5)
Italy
Colombia

Group F (Innsbruck)

Serbia (6)
Germany
Austria

PAST CHAMPIONS

In total, 15 nations have won the Davis Cup. Spain are the reigning champions, having won the title for a 6th time in 2019. Of the 36 nations in action this weekend, 3 (Argentina, South Africa and Switzerland) are former Davis Cup champions.

- USA	32
- Australia	28
- France/Great Britain	10
- Sweden	7
- Spain	6
- Germany	3
- Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic	3
- Croatia, Russia	2
- Argentina, Italy, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland	1

COMEBACKS FROM 0-2 DOWN

Since the competition began in 1900 there have been 59 comebacks from 0-2 down in the Davis Cup – most recently when Ukraine recovered from 0-2 down to defeat Chinese Taipei in a World Group I Play-off tie in Zaporizhzhia last year.

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

142 nations entered Davis Cup in 2020-21.

DAVIS CUP NATIONS RANKING

The Davis Cup Nations Ranking was launched at the end of 2001. It measures success over the preceding 4-year period, with recent performances weighted more heavily. [The full ranking list can be found on the Davis Cup website.](#)

Latest Davis Cup Nations Ranking (8 March 2021)

1	France
2	Croatia
3	Spain
4	Belgium
5	USA
6	Canada
7	Serbia
8	Germany
9	Italy
10	Great Britain
11	Australia
12	Kazakhstan
13	Russia
14	Sweden
15	Austria
16	Argentina
17	Japan
18	Czech Republic
19	Colombia
20	Netherlands
21	Chile
22	India
23	Hungary
24	Ecuador
25	Uzbekistan
26	Brazil
27	Korea, Republic
28	Bosnia and Herzegovina
29	Portugal
30	Israel
31	Slovakia
32	Uruguay
33	Finland
34	Ukraine
35	Pakistan
36	Lebanon
37	Mexico
38	New Zealand
39	Peru
40	China, P.R.
41	Bolivia
42	Romania
43	Belarus
44	Switzerland
45	Poland
46	Norway
47	Dominican Republic
48	Lithuania
49	Thailand
50	Slovenia

WORLD GROUP I NOTES

Click the link for each tie to see full details of nominated players, captains, head-to-heads and matches once the draws are made.

[Bolivia v Belgium](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Bolivia** are bidding to extend a 3-tie winning run that has seen the team advance from Americas Group II in 2018 to the brink of the Davis Cup Qualifiers. Since falling to Peru 4-1 in February 2018, the team have defeated Puerto Rico (April 2018), Guatemala (September 2019) and Dominican Republic (March 2020) to advance to World Group I. During that time the team has been spearheaded by Hugo Dellien, who reached a career-high ranking of No. 72 in January 2020 and is currently ranked at No. 144. Dellien is bidding to continue a 6-match Davis Cup singles winning streak this weekend and holds the Bolivian Davis Cup records for most singles match-wins (24) and most total match-wins (31).
- **Belgium** are aiming to bounce back after a narrow defeat to Hungary in the 2020 Qualifiers, in which Ruben Bemelmans lost a decisive 5th match to Marton Fucsovics to deny Belgium a chance to compete for the title at the Davis Cup Finals. The team had failed to advance beyond the group stages at the 2019 Finals in Madrid, with a victory against Colombia cancelled out by defeat to Australia. Bemelmans, a Davis Cup stalwart with 23 ties to his name, including appearances in both the 2015 and 2017 finals, is once again in the team for this tie, and will likely be one of captain Johan van Herck's picks for singles. Meanwhile, Zizou Bergs will make his Davis Cup debut should he play this weekend.

[Argentina v Belarus](#)

- Head-to-head: tied 1-1
- Last meeting: 2004 World Group quarter-finals – Belarus defeated Argentina 5-0 in Minsk, Belarus (carpet, indoors)
- 2016 Davis Cup champions **Argentina** are bidding to make their way back to the elite level of the competition and earn a chance to compete for the title once again in 2022. The team advanced to the quarter-finals at the 2019 Davis Cup Finals in Madrid as one of the best group runners-up (after victory against Chile and defeat to Germany) but fell to eventual champions Spain in the last 8. They will be led this weekend by world No. 15 Diego Schwartzman, who will bid for his 6th victory in the competition, while world No. 61 Federico Coria could make his Davis Cup debut this weekend.
- **Belarus** head to Argentina looking to end a 5-tie losing streak away from home, with the team looking for a first away victory in Davis Cup since March 2016, when they defeated Egypt in a Europe/Africa Group II clash in Cairo. The team recorded an impressive victory at this stage in 2019 – defeating Portugal 3-2 in Minsk in a Group I tie – but fell to Germany 4-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers. With Top 100 singles players Egor Gerasimov and Ilya Ivashka both unavailable for this tie, captain Aleksandr Vasilevski puts his faith in a youthful line-up, with 20-year-old Alexander Zgirovsky likely to be the No. 1 pick in singles.

[Uruguay v Netherlands](#)

- Head-to-head: Netherlands leads 1-0
- Last meeting: 1992 World Group play-off – Netherlands defeated Uruguay 4-1 in Den Haag, Netherlands (carpet, indoors)
- **Uruguay** will aim to return to the Qualifiers in 2022, after a 3-1 defeat to Austria in last year's Qualifiers denied them a chance to compete at the highest level of Davis Cup for the first time. Prior to their defeat away in Austria, the team had recorded an 8-tie winning streak, rising from Americas Group III in 2017 through Group II in 2018 and Group I in 2019 to reach the Qualifiers. The team are unbeaten on home soil since March 2015 – when they fell to Colombia in an Americas Group I second round tie – and have Davis Cup veteran Pablo Cuevas leading the team once again this year. Cuevas could equal the record for most Davis Cup singles victories by a Uruguayan player (jointly held by Marcelo Filippini and Diego Perez, with 31 wins each) if he wins both of his singles matches this weekend.
- **Netherlands** are looking to bounce back from a disappointing run of Davis Cup results, having recorded just one win in their last 6 ties – a 3-1 triumph over Czech Republic in the 2019 Qualifiers. Since then defeats to Kazakhstan and Great Britain at the 2019 Finals and another defeat to Kazakhstan in last year's Qualifiers mean that a victory this weekend is essential if they look to challenge for silverware next year. They will be buoyed by the presence of Botic van de Zandschulp, whose run to the US Open quarterfinals saw him become a Top 100 player for the first time on Monday, while veterans such as Robin Haase and Wesley Koolhof make for a strong team with good singles and doubles options.

Slovakia v Chile

- Head-to-head: tied 1-1
- Last meeting: 2006 World Group first round – Chile defeated Slovakia 4-1 in Rancagua, Chile (clay, outdoors)
- **Slovakia** are aiming to return to the Qualifiers for the 3rd time, after defeat to neighbours Czech Republic in the 2020 Qualifiers consigned the team to World Group I. The team also fell in the 2019 Qualifiers before defeating Switzerland in a Group I tie in September of that year to earn their Qualifiers berth for the subsequently-combined 2020/21 season. The team is playing at home for the 8th consecutive time – but results in that time have been mixed, with the team having recorded victories over Poland, Belarus and Switzerland, but falling to Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada and Czech Republic since they began their run of home ties in 2017. In the Slovakian team for the first time this week is Alex Molcan, who reached his first Tour-level final at Belgrade earlier this year and managed to take world No. 1 Novak Djokovic to a deciding set.
- **Chile** boast one of the strongest squads in World Group I, with Cristian Garin now firmly-established as a Top 20 player and former world No. 38 Nicolas Jarry also back in the Davis Cup mix. Captain Nicolas Massu will hope that such strength in depth will be enough to steer his team back to the Qualifiers following three consecutive Davis Cup defeats. The team lost both of their ties at the 2019 Davis Cup Finals in Madrid, falling to both Argentina and Germany, before defeat to Sweden in the 2020 Qualifiers meant that they would compete in World Group I this season. Chile are former Davis Cup runners-up, having fallen to Italy in the 1976 final, and Massu will hope that his team can deliver a victory to send them back towards the upper echelons of the competition once more.

Finland v India

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Finland** maintained their World Group I status with victory over Mexico in the World Group I Play-offs in March 2020, having suffered the narrowest of defeats to Austria at this stage in 2019. On that occasion, Dennis Novak won a final-set tiebreak against Harri Heliövaara to deny the Finns a place in the 2020 Qualifiers – which would have represented Finland's best-ever performance in the competition. Leading the team this weekend will be world No. 74 Emil Ruusuvuori, who recorded a superb victory against Dominic Thiem in the defeat to Austria in 2019, and is now an established Top 100 player. Heliövaara and Grand Slam doubles champion Henri Kontinen bring further depth and experience to an exciting squad.
- **India** will be determined to return to the Qualifiers for the 3rd time, after defeats to Italy in 2019 and Croatia in 2020 have thus far extinguished their hopes of competing at the Davis Cup Finals. Traditionally strong in doubles, India will hope that Prajnesh Gunneswaran (who has a 2-5 win-loss record in Davis Cup singles matches) and Ramkumar Ramanathan (8-8 in Davis Cup singles matches) can deliver some success in singles before Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan aim for a doubles triumph. Bopanna and Sharan have played just one Davis Cup match together – a victory against Matteo Berrettini and Simone Bolelli during India's defeat to Italy in the 2019 Qualifiers.

Norway v Uzbekistan

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Norway** are bidding to continue their rapid rise up the Davis Cup pyramid and reach the elite-level of the competition for the first time. The team have won their last 3 ties to rise from Europe/Africa Group II in 2018 to the brink of the Davis Cup Qualifiers, progression to which would see them equal their best result in the competition. The team's best Davis Cup performance is reaching the World Group play-offs in 1995, when they fell to Belgium. This time, the team have a Top 10 player in their ranks, with Casper Ruud having become the first Norwegian player to break the world's Top 10 after a string of impressive performances this year. Ruud's father, Christian, played alongside current captain Anders Haseth between 1989 and 1994, before Haseth became captain in 1997 – he is now the 2nd-longest serving Davis Cup captain, behind Ecuador's Raul Viver.
- **Uzbekistan** are bidding to make their 3rd appearance in the Qualifiers, having fallen to Serbia at that stage in 2019 and to USA in last year's Qualifiers. The team bounced back from defeat to Serbia in 2019 with victory over Lebanon and in an Asia/Oceania Group I tie, and will hope to do so again this time. Leading their team is the ever-dependable Denis Istomin, who is competing in Davis Cup for the 17th consecutive year. Despite losing the 3 matches he contested in Uzbekistan's defeat to USA last year, Istomin has recorded a total of 50 victories in the competition and will equal Oleg Ogorodov's record for most Davis Cup singles match-wins by an Uzbek player (36) if he wins a singles match this weekend.

Lebanon v Brazil

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Lebanon** are aiming to continue their excellent recent Davis Cup form, with the team having won 9 of the last 10 ties they have contested and risen from Asia/Oceania Group III to the brink of the Qualifiers. The team recorded an 8-tie winning streak to reach an Asia/Oceania Group I tie in September 2019, when they fell to Uzbekistan 3-2, with Jurabek Karimov defeating Hady Habib in the decisive 5th match of the tie. The team retained their World Group I status with a convincing 3-1 victory against Thailand in the World Group I Play-offs and will now aim to advance to the Qualifiers for the first time – should they do so, it would represent Lebanon's best-ever Davis Cup performance. Habib returns to the team and is bidding for his 20th victory in the competition, while Benjamin Hassan, the Lebanese No. 1, has won 8 of the 9 Davis Cup singles matches he has contested.
- **Brazil** are bidding to return to the Qualifiers for the 3rd time, with the team having lost to Belgium in 2019 and to Australia in 2020. In 2019, the team were able to rebound from their defeat to Belgium by recording a home victory against Barbados at this stage 2 years ago. Brazil have been inconsistent away from home in recent years, with just one victory in their last 4 away ties – a win against Dominican Republic in February 2018 among defeats to Japan in September 2017, Colombia in April 2018 and to Australia in March last year. But the Brazilians are ranked higher than their Lebanese counterparts this weekend, with world No. 194 Felipe Meligeni Rodrigues Alves the only Top 200 singles player in action in Jounieh this weekend.

New Zealand v Korea, Rep.

- Head-to-head: New Zealand leads 8-4
- Last meeting: 2018 Asia/Oceania Group I relegation play-off – Korea, Republic defeated New Zealand 3-2 in Gimcheon, Korea, Rep. (hard, indoors)
- **New Zealand** are bidding to reach the Davis Cup Qualifiers for the first time. It would be the first time that New Zealand had reached this level of the competition since 1999, when the team reached the World Group play-offs, falling to Spain 5-0. The team have won their 2 most-recent ties, defeating Indonesia 3-1 in an Asia/Oceania Group II tie in September 2019 before overcoming Venezuela 3-1 in a World Group I play-off in March 2020. Olympic bronze medallists Michael Venus and Marcus Daniell will ensure that the team have a good chance in doubles, but the team will also need at least 2 singles victories. None of the 5 players nominated in the team currently have a singles ranking.
- **Korea, Rep.** are aiming to bounce back from a 4-0 defeat to Italy in the 2020 Qualifiers. The team had won their previous 2 ties to reach the Qualifiers – a home win against New Zealand in September 2018 and an away win against China, P.R. a year later – before coming up against an in-form and high-quality Italian team. However, the Koreans were missing their No. 1 player on that occasion, and will be happy to welcome back Soonwoo Kwon, who is now the world No. 83. Kwon has won 5 of the 7 Davis Cup singles matches he has contested and is by far the highest-ranked singles player to compete at the International Tennis Hall of Fame this weekend.

Romania v Portugal

- Head-to-head: tied 1-1
- Last meeting: 1995 Europe/Africa Group I relegation play-off – Romania defeated Portugal 3-2 in Estoril, Portugal (clay, outdoors)
- **Romania** have won 3 of the last 4 ties they have played, with their only defeat in that time coming against Poland in the 2018 Europe/Africa Group II third round. They are also contesting their first tie since defeating Zimbabwe in a Europe/Africa Group II in April 2019, with China, P.R. having conceded a walkover to Romania in the nations' World Group I play-off tie in March last year. The team this weekend features a mix of youth and experience, with Marius Copil and doubles specialist Horia Tecau having competed in 18 and 26 previous ties, while Filip Cristian Jianu, Romania's No. 2 singles player (behind Copil) who turns 20 on Saturday, could make just his 2nd Davis Cup appearance during this tie.
- **Portugal** are aiming to continue their journey back up the Davis Cup pyramid following their 4-0 victory over Lithuania in the World Group I play-offs last year. Prior to that victory, the team had won just one of their last 6 ties, including a defeat to Kazakhstan in the 2019 Davis Cup Qualifiers. The victory over Lithuania featured singles wins for Joao Sousa and Frederico Ferreira Silva, who are both back in action for the team again this weekend. Sousa is competing in the Davis Cup for the 14th consecutive year and will equal Joao Cunha-Silva's all-time Portuguese record of 37 Davis Cup match-wins if he wins a match this weekend.

[Peru v Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Peru** are bidding to reach the highest-level of the Davis Cup for the first time since the team contested the World Group for the only time in their history in 2008. Having won 4 consecutive ties in 2006-07 to reach the World Group, the team lost to Spain in the first round and Israel in the play-offs to return to Group I-level. In more recent times, the team has defeated El Salvador in Americas Group II in April 2019 and Switzerland in the World Group I Play-offs in March last year to leave themselves on the brink of the Qualifiers. The team's No. 1 player – and the highest-ranked player at this weekend's tie – is world No. 122 Juan Pablo Varillas. The 25-year-old has a 6-12 Davis Cup win-loss record, but won 4 of the 5 matches he has contested in the competition in 2019-20
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** ended a 3-tie losing streak in the World Group I Play-offs in March 2020, recording a 3-1 home victory over South Africa – the team had previously not won a tie since defeating Slovakia in a Europe/Africa Group I first round tie in April 2018, including a 2018 World Group play-off defeat to Japan and a 2019 Qualifiers defeat to Australia. The 4 players nominated this weekend all bring a huge amount of experience, with world No. 126 Damir Dzumhur poised to equal Meride Zahirovic's record for most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Bosnian player (17) – he will equal the record if he wins one singles match and claim sole ownership of the record if he wins 2 singles matches. Also among the squad are Mirza Basic, who holds the Bosnian record for most Davis Cup doubles match-wins (18), and Tomislav Brkic, who holds the Bosnian records for both most Davis Cup ties played (28) and most Davis Cup seasons played (12).

For more information on each team, visit the [team profile pages](#) on the Davis Cup website. For information on individual players' Davis Cup records, use the [player search tool](#) on the Davis Cup website.

WORLD GROUP II NOTES

Click the link for each tie to see full details of nominated players, captains, head-to-heads and matches once the draws are made.

[Switzerland v Estonia](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Switzerland** are aiming to end a 5-tie losing streak and record their first Davis Cup victory since defeating Belarus in the 2017 World Group play-offs. The winless run – which has seen the team drop to Group II-level for the first time in their history – has comprised defeats to Kazakhstan, Sweden, Russia, Slovakia and Peru. They will hope that a team containing 2 Top 200 players (Henri Laaksonen and Marc-Andrea Huesler), as well as both boys' singles finalists from 2020 Roland Garros (Dominic Stephan Stricker and Leandro Riedi). Jerome Kym, another promising youngster, completes the Swiss quintet this weekend.
- **Estonia** are bidding to continue their recent Davis Cup momentum, which has seen the team win promotion from Europe/Africa Group III in 2019 before defeating Georgia 4-1 in the World Group II Play-offs last year. Vladimir Ivanov is likely to lead the line for the Estonians this weekend – and the 34-year-old will aim to become just the 2nd Estonian player to record 20 Davis Cup singles match-wins, after Jurgen Zopp, who ended his career with 26 singles victories in the competition. Ivanov has a 19-10 win-loss record in Davis Cup singles matches and a 24-13 win-loss record in the competition overall.

[Tunisia v Dominican Republic](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Tunisia** are bidding to extend a 5-tie winning streak, having not lost a Davis Cup tie since falling to Estonia in a 2018 Europe/Africa Group II relegation play-off. The team subsequently won all 4 matches to win promotion at the 2019 Africa Group III event in Kenya, before recording an away victory against Guatemala in the World Group II Play-offs last year. Spearheading the Tunisian team is the evergreen Malek Jaziri, who holds multiple Tunisian Davis Cup records – most total wins (48), most singles wins (35), most doubles wins (13), most ties played (44) and most years played (19).
- **Dominican Republic** are aiming to record their first away win in Davis Cup since 2015, when the team recorded an away victory against Barbados in the Americas Group I first round. The team are bidding to bounce back from defeat in the World Group I Play-offs last year, when they fell to Bolivia 3-1 with Roberto Cid Subervi falling to Hugo Dellien in the decisive 4th match. Cid Subervi, who made his debut in 2012 and is now the team's No. 1 player, is bidding to record just his 5th Davis Cup singles victory this weekend.

Greece v Lithuania

- Head-to-head: Lithuania leads 1-0
- Last meeting: 2012 Europe Group III – Lithuania defeated Greece 2-1 in Sofia, Bulgaria (clay, outdoors)
- **Greece** are bidding to win this weekend and rise above Group II-level for the first time since 2004, when they competed in Europe/Africa Group I – falling to both Zimbabwe and South Africa and being relegated back to Group II. Greece won promotion from Europe Group III in 2019 (having competed at that level since 2015) before recording a comfortable 4-1 victory against Philippines in March last year. World No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas has made the difference for Greece in the last couple of years – having made his Davis Cup debut, he has won all 6 singles matches he has contested, while Petros Tsitsipas, Stefanos' younger brother, and Michail Pervolarakis have both played well to support the older Tsitsipas in Greece's recent successes.
- **Lithuania** are hoping to bounce back from defeat to Portugal in the World Group I Play-offs last year – victory in that tie would have seen the team compete at Group I-level for the first time since 2015. Most of the team's successes in recent years can be attributed to their No. 1 player, Ricardas Berankis, who made his debut in the competition in 2007 and is 2nd only to Rolandas Muraska on the lists for most Davis Cup wins (in singles, in doubles and in total) and most Davis Cup appearances for Lithuania. Berankis will lead the team again this weekend, with Laurynas Grigelis, who will contest his 26th tie in the competition, likely to take the 2nd singles berth.

Denmark v Thailand

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Denmark** are aiming to build on an emphatic victory over Puerto Rico in last year's World Group II Play-offs, having romped to a 5-0 win last March. Their reward is a 6th consecutive home tie – but their record on home soil has been mixed, with 2 wins and 3 defeats in their current streak of home ties. Unfortunately for Danish playing captain Frederik Nielsen, he will be without his No. 1 player this weekend, after Holger Vitus Nodskov Rune withdrew in midweek. Nielsen will hope to use all his experience to lead his youthful team past Thailand and reach the World Group I Play-offs for the first time since the current format was introduced.
- **Thailand** are bidding to recover from a World Group I Play-off defeat to Lebanon last March. Prior to that defeat away in Jounieh, their away form had been good, with strong recent wins away at both Sri Lanka and Philippines – and the team will aim to channel the memories of those ties this weekend. Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul will be the Thai No. 1 this weekend, and will bid to continue the strong Davis Cup form he has exhibited in his recent appearances – he has won 8 of the last 10 matches he has contested in the competition.

Slovenia v Paraguay

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Slovenia** are bidding to return to the World Group I Play-offs after a disappointing 3-0 defeat to Pakistan at that stage of the competition in March 2020. Previously the team had recorded impressive victories over both Turkey in April 2018 and Egypt in September 2019 to ensure a place in the World Group I Play-offs, before losing a tricky away tie in Pakistan. Slovenia have tended to be strong at home in recent years, having won 3 of the last 4 home ties they have played. They are led this weekend by Tom Kocevar-Desman, who is the only player at the tie with a current ATP singles ranking (of No. 688). Kocevar-Desman is bidding to end a 6-match Davis Cup losing streak and record his 2nd victory in the competition.
- **Paraguay** arrive in Slovenia looking to record a first away victory in a best-of-5-match tie since they defeated Puerto Rico in a 2011 Americas Group II first round clash in Mayaguez. Since then, most of the team's successes have come at home – including a 4-0 victory over Sri Lanka in the World Group II Play-offs in March last year. Key to the team's triumph over Sri Lanka were a pair of players born in April 2004: Adolfo Daniel Vallejo and Martin Antonio Vergara del Puerto. The 17-year-olds have impressed on the junior circuit – particularly Vallejo, who recorded 3rd round finishes in the boys' singles at both Wimbledon and the US Open this year.

Turkey v Latvia

- Head-to-head: Latvia leads 1-0
- Last meeting: 1993 Europe/Africa Group III – Latvia defeated Turkey 3-0 in Lusaka, Zambia (surface unknown)
- **Turkey** have just one of the last 5 Davis Cup ties they have contested, but the future looks bright for a team that can field a mixture of Top 200 players and talented youngsters. Their only victory in the last 4 years came against Denmark in a Europe/Africa Group II tie in September 2019, before the team fell to Israel in their most-recent outing, a World Group I Play-off in March last year. Playing captain Marsel Ilhan will be able to call on both world No. 170 Altug Celikbilek and No. 176 Cem Ilkel, with 22-year-old Ergi Kirkin and 20-year-old Yanki Erel also competing to be part of the team. Ilhan himself holds the record for most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Turkish player.
- **Latvia's** performances at the Europe Group III event in 2019 were enough to earn them a place in the World Group II Play-offs in 2020 – and they took full advantage, recording an impressive 4-1 victory against Egypt to confirm their place at World Group II-level. Key to their success in that tie was Ernests Gulbis, and the former Roland Garros semifinalist and world No. 10 leads the team again this weekend. Gulbis will claim sole ownership of the record for most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Latvian player, ahead of Andis Juska, if he wins a singles match this weekend. He has a 24-5 win-loss record in Davis Cup singles and a 34-11 win-loss record in the competition overall.

South Africa v Venezuela

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **South Africa** are bidding to record just their 2nd victory in Davis Cup since the beginning of the 2018 season, with the team having lost 3 of the 4 ties they have played in that time. Their only victory in that time came against Bulgaria in a Europe/Africa Group II clash in September 2019 before falling to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the World Group I Play-offs last year. South African No. 1 Lloyd Harris is bidding for more success in New York this weekend – the 24-year-old has enjoyed a breakout season which culminated in a quarterfinal finish across town at the US Open last week. Harris has a 12-5 win-loss record in Davis Cup singles matches and will hope to improve that this weekend.
- **Venezuela** are aiming to end a 3-tie losing streak and record their first victory in Davis Cup since February 2018, when the team defeated Guatemala in the Americas Group II first round. Since then, the Venezuelans have fallen to Uruguay, Ecuador and, most recently, New Zealand. The team have Ricardo Rodriguez – their all-time record-holder for most Davis Cup singles match-wins – as the No. 1 player at this tie, and will hope that he is able to guide the team to an upset victory this weekend.

Barbados v Indonesia

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **Barbados** are bidding to end a 5-tie losing streak and record their first victory in Davis Cup since September 2017, when the team defeated Venezuela to win promotion from Americas Group II. Since then the team has lost 4 ties in Americas Group I, before an away defeat to Norway in a tricky World Group I Play-off tie in March 2020. However, the team will be confident ahead of their match-up with Indonesia this weekend, with No. 1 Darian King the only player at the tie with a current ATP singles ranking. King and Haydn Lewis, who is also in the team this weekend, hold all Barbadian Davis Cup records between them – with King leading the way in singles wins (29) and Lewis at the top for most total wins (46), most doubles wins (20) and most ties played (52).
- **Indonesia** are aiming to build on an impressive 4-0 home victory against Kenya in the World Group II Play-offs in March last year. Victory this weekend would see the team move just one tie away from reaching World Group I – a level they have not played at since 2013, when they contested Asia/Oceania Group I for one season before relegation back to Group II. Captain Febi Widhiyanto has nominated himself for the tie and will make his first appearance in the competition since 2006 should he play this weekend.

For more information on each team, visit the [team profile pages](#) on the Davis Cup website. For information on individual players' Davis Cup records, use the [player search tool](#) on the Davis Cup website.