

Notes from the South Dakota Volleyball Officials Association

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Libero, Libero, Libero!!!!

With the adoption of the new rule from the NFHS to allow teams to use zero, one or two liberos, has brought forth several questions as to how to utilize the libero and the legality of possible scenarios. This is an attempt to give coaches and officials a better understanding of this new allowance to the match.

Key Details of the Libero Rule:

1. All rules that applied last year to the libero rule, still apply whether you use one or two liberos.
2. Prior to each set, a team can list zero, one or two liberos on the lineup sheet. Once designated as a libero on the lineup after the two-minute mark, they are the liberos for that set. Liberos can change from set to set.
3. If using two liberos, think of them as one player and apply libero rules accordingly.
4. Only one libero is allowed on the court at a time.
5. Changing between the two designated liberos does not count as a substitution, but is known as an “exchange” (when one libero enters the set and the other libero leaves the set).
6. A “replacement” is when a libero enters the set and a non-libero teammate leaves, or vice versa.
7. Liberos may exchange with each other during any dead ball after the end of a rally (not before a replay/reserve).
8. When a team designates two liberos and one is **injured/ill**, a new libero may be re-designated. When a team designates two liberos and one is **disqualified**, the team must continue with only one libero.
9. The libero(s) still need to be “sandwiched” by the player they replaced. (#12 L #12)
10. Only one **replacement** or **exchange** is permitted per dead ball/rally unless a libero is replacing a player in the right back position and will serve.
11. Libero(s) may serve, however they may only serve in one position in the serving order during the set.

Here are some situations that may help to understand, if needed.

SITUATION 1: Team A has designated two liberos, #1 and #2. Libero #1 serves in position 3 in the serving order. Later in the set, the other libero #2 serves in position 3. **RULING: Legal**

SITUATION 2: Team A has designated 2 liberos #1 and #2. Libero #1 serves in position 3 in the serving order. Later in the set, the other libero #2 serves in positions 6. **RULING: Illegal**

SITUATION 3: Team S designates two liberos for the first set. When player No. 3 rotates to the serving position for the first time, L1 replaces No. 3 and serves. Later in the set, L2 serves for No. 3. **RULING: Legal. COMMENT:** When a team designates two liberos, either libero or the position player may serve in one position. (10-4-1a, 10-4-5a)

SITUATION 4: INJURED PLAYER: During a match, Team A has an injury to a regular player. Two liberos have been submitted on Team A's roster, and one libero has played in the current set. Can the libero who has not yet played in that set change into a regular player jersey and replace the injured players? Or does Team A have to exhaust the normal substitution procedures with those on the bench?

RULING: Libero rule: Once a player is designated as a libero for the set, they can only be used as an exceptional substitution if the team has no other regular players available to be used as an exceptional sub. It does not matter if a libero has entered the set, they are designated as a libero for the entire set whether they play or not.

SITUATIONS taken from the NFHS (Volleyball Weekly Interpretations)

Exceptional Substitutions

Exceptional substitutions are allowed for an injured or ill player when teams have exhausted their 18 team substitutions or when no legal substitutes are available. An injured or ill player who has been replaced by an exceptional substitution may not re-enter the set. (10-3-6, 10-3-6 NOTE)

SITUATION 1: Team A has exhausted its 18 team substitutions, and its middle blocker is injured and cannot continue to play. On Team A's bench are two teammates who have not played in the set, a libero replacement, and two other teammates that have already entered the set. The coach for Team A selects one of the two teammates who have not yet entered the set. **RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT:** Because there is at least one teammate who has not entered the set, the coach must choose one to serve as the exceptional substitution. (10-3-6a)

SITUATION 2: Every player on Team A's roster has entered the set as either a substitute or a libero replacement. Team A's Left Front is injured and cannot continue to play. Team A's coach selects one of the teammates that has already played in the set to substitute for the injured player. **RULING: Correct Procedure. COMMENT:** When there are no available teammates who have not played in the set, the coach must choose one of the teammates who have entered, not as the libero replacement. The substitution will count as one of the allowable 18 team substitutions. (10-3-6b, 10-3-6 NOTE)

SITUATION 3: Team A is playing with seven players (six position players and one libero) when Team A's Right Front is injured and cannot continue to play. Team A completes a libero replacement, and the libero runs to the locker room to change into a team jersey. When the libero returns as a position player, a substitution is completed with the injured player, and the team continues to play with six players. **RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT:** When there are no legal substitutes available, a libero may be used as an exceptional substitution. The substitution will count as one of the allowable 18 team substitutions. (6-4-2c, 10-3-6c)

SITUATION 4: Team A is playing with eight players (six position players and two liberos) when Team A's Right Front is injured and cannot continue to play. The libero on the bench runs to the locker room to change into a team jersey. When the libero returns as a position player, a substitution is completed with the injured player, and the team continues to play with one available libero. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** When there are no legal substitutes available, a libero may be used as an exceptional substitution. When two liberos are designated and one is used as an exceptional substitution, play will continue with one libero. The substitution will count as one of the allowable 18 team substitutions. (6-4-2c, 10-3-6c)

SITUATION 5: Team A has exhausted its 18 team substitutions, and its middle blocker is injured and cannot continue to play. On Team A's bench are two teammates that have already entered the set, a libero replacement, and a second designated libero who has also played in the set. The libero on the bench runs to the locker room to change into a team jersey. When the libero returns as a position player, a substitution is completed with the injured player, and the team continues to play with one available libero. **RULING: Incorrect procedure. COMMENT:** When there are non-libero teammates on the bench who are not currently replacing the libero on the court, they must be used as the exceptional substitution. (6-4-2c, 10-3-6c)

I hope this helps to give a better understanding of using two liberos. Think of the two liberos as one position and an allowance for you to have another option to exchange a libero with different skill sets for each player. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me @ jo.auch45@gmail.com. Best of luck the remaining season!

NET FAULT TECHNIQUE: (for officials use only)

When a net violation occurs the R2 blows the whistle, gives the net fault signal and indicates the number of the player at fault. The R1, then gives the point and repeats the number of player at fault. When the number is on the R1's left side of the net and it is a single digit, or the number 10, the R1 would indicate the number of the player at fault with the left hand. **The R1 does not load with the right hand and cross the body to give the number, the R1 simply uses the left hand to indicate the number of the player at fault on the left side of the court with the left hand.**