

## Libero – Defensive specialist (lee-ber-o)

### Starting the Set

- The libero must be designated on the roster – Rule 7-1-1b
- The libero must be designated on the lineup sheet prior to each set. If the libero is not designated prior to the start of the set, the team is not allowed to use a libero for that set, but may in subsequent sets of the same match – Rule 7-1-2
- The starting 6 players must be on the floor in their starting positions prior to the start of the set, and then the libero may enter the set after the starting lineup has been checked by the second referee. Rule 10-4-2a
- Only one libero may be designated per set.- Rule 7-1-2
- The libero may be the team captain; however a co-captain should be designated for when the libero is not on the floor. Rule 6-3-1
- A player designated as the libero cannot play as a non-libero player in the same set.(except as an exceptional substitution) Rule 10-4-3b
- Both teams have the option to use or not use a libero; it is at the discretion of the coach. The coach may also choose to designate a libero for a set and then not use or only partially use them during a set.

### Time outs

- Libero replacements will not take place during a time out while players are in the huddle. But a replacement may occur once players return to the court to get ready to play, and before the whistle/signal for the serve, making sure they follow proper replacement procedures. This gives the libero tracker a chance to record the replacement. Rule 10-4-2-d

### Playing actions

- The libero is restricted to perform as a back-row player, and is not allowed to complete an attack from anywhere (on or off the court / playable area) if, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely above the height of the net. Rule 9-5-6a
- The libero may not block or attempt to block. Rule 9-5-6c
- The libero shall be allowed to serve in one serving rotation Rule 10-4-1a, 10-4-5
- A teammate may not complete an attack when, at the moment of the attack, the ball is entirely above the height of the net and the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a libero on or in front of the attack line. Rule 9-5-6b
- The ball may be freely attacked if the libero overhand finger passes from behind the attack line. If airborne, the libero's position is judged according to the point of last contact with his/her team's court. Rule 9-5-6b

### Libero replacements

- A team may exercise one replacement per dead ball unless the libero is replacing the player in the right back position and will serve the next rally Rule 10-4-1c, 10-4-5b (Note: if the libero leaves the boundaries of the playing court on a completed double replacement scenario they must sit out one rally, if they do not sit out one rally it is an illegal replacement)
- The libero is allowed to replace any player in a back-row position Rule 10-4-1a
- Replacements involving the libero do not counted as substitutions, and are unlimited Rule 10-4-1d
- There must be at least one rally, contact of serve or replay between two libero replacements, unless the libero is replacing the RB position and will serve next, and or to start the set Rule 10-4-1c, Rule 10-4-2
- The libero may only be replaced by the player whom he/she replaced. Rule 10-4-1b
- Replacements may not take place during a reserve Rule 8-1-5.
- A libero and the player replaced by the libero must enter or leave the court only by the sideline in front of their team bench between the attack line and the end line Rule 10-4-1e

### Uniform

- The libero must wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. The primary color of the libero's uniform top must be different from any color that appears on more than 25 percent of the body of her teammates' uniform tops. In determining the body of the uniforms, the sleeves and collar should be ignored, but her shorts must be like-colored to her teammates. Rule 4-2-2. The first referee has the final judgment if a libero uniform is in clear contrast and may be used for that match Rule 5-3-1j
- The libero uniform must have a legal number and it may not be a duplicate of another player's number Rule 4-2-3

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### Injury Substitution

- If the libero is injured / ill and cannot continue play, he/she must first be replaced by the player whom he/she replaced. Then, a new libero may be re-designated using the following criteria Rule 10-4-3a
  - Redesignation does not need to occur immediately after the injury and replacement, but may occur at the discretion of the coach(s). Rule 10-4-4a1
  - When redesignation does occur, any substitute that has not played in that set may be redesignated as libero for the injured libero. The injured/ill libero may not play in the remainder of that set. Rule 10-4-3a1
  - The player redesignated as libero must wear a libero uniform and must remain the libero for the rest of the set. The redesignated libero's uniform must have a unique number (not worn by any teammate), but, because of the injury / ill situation, not necessarily the same number with which the player started the match Rule 10-4-3a3
- Allow teams the necessary time to handle injury/illness situations in regards to removing players and or changing jerseys Rule 11-4-1Note1
- Players may not change their jerseys on the floor; they must do it in the locker room Rule 4-2-1e

### Exceptional Substitution

- The libero may be used as an exceptional substitution for an injured / ill player if no other possible substitutes exist. When no longer playing as a libero, that player must wear the same uniform as her teammates, and the team continues play with no libero Rule 10-4-3b

### Disqualification Substitution

- The libero may not be used as a substitute for a disqualified teammate. If no legal substitute is available for a disqualified teammate, a loss of rally shall be awarded to the opponent each time the vacant position is the right back position rule 10-4-3c

### Libero Disqualification

- If the libero is disqualified while playing, he/she must be replaced by the player whom he/she replaced. The team continues play with no libero player for that set Rule 10-4-3d (note: the coach may appoint a new libero for subsequent sets)

### Libero tracker duties:

- Each home team must provide an individual other than the scorekeeper to track the entries of the libero player. This libero tracker is charged with tracking the libero replacements Rule 5-6
- In regards to the timer being the libero tracker, yes, they may do both. NFHS felt that since the timer is already at the scores table and usual “assists” the scorekeeper, they may also be the tracker. Just remember that the home team must supply a tracker even if they are not using a libero in the match. It is not the opposing team or referee’s responsibility to supply the libero tracker. Rule 5-6
- Prior to the start of the set obtain the lineup sheets from the scorekeeper and record the uniform numbers of the starting players in serving order and the libero on the libero tracking sheet Rule 5-6-1b
- During the set record all substitutions and libero replacements including the one serving position of the libero on the libero tracking sheet, so the libero tracking sheet reflects the players actually on the court at all times Rule 5-6-3
- Notify the second referee if the libero is replaced by an incorrect player, or if an undesignated libero enters the set Rule 5-6-3
- Notify the second referee if the libero does not remain out of the set for one rally between replacements unless the libero is replacing the player in the right back position and will serve the next. Once the libero is replaced, at least one rally, contact of serve or replay (not reserve) must take place before the libero may replace another player Rule 5-6-3c
- If an illegal libero replacement occurs, notify the scorer to sound the horn at the contact of serve Rule 5-6-3d

### Scorekeeper’s duties:

- Prior to the start of the set obtain the lineup sheets from the second referee and record the uniform numbers of the starting players in serving order and the libero on the score sheet Rule 5-5-1c
- Review the lineups submitted to ensure that a captain is indicated, no duplicate or illegal numbers are entered, and the libero’s number is noted. If no libero is indicated, as a courtesy notify the second referee so the coach may verify that no libero will be utilized in the current set Rule 5-5-1c
- Record the team information and the positions of the player on the court according to the serving order on the lineup sheet Rule 5-5-1c
- Ensure that the libero tracker accurately records the lineups on the libero tracking sheet Rule 5-5-1c