

## 2004 Libero Uniform Rule Change



I need to make you aware of an important change to a rule this year! During the December meeting of the USAV Executive Committee, they modified the wording of the *new* Libero uniform rule! In a nutshell, on page 24 of the 2003-04 rulebook, Rule 11.3.2.1 has been changed. You can delete the entire second sentence of this rule.

Here is the *deleted* line:

“If other members wear a uniform that is composed of two or more colors (exclusive of sleeve trim, collar trim, seam piping, lettering and numbers), the principal color of the Libero’s uniform cannot be any of those colors.”

To summarize my conversation with USAV Rules Interpreter, Steve Thorpe: Basically, the rule is the same as last year. The addition of the phrase “immediately recognized from all angles” is a key.

The most important aspect of the rule is that the Libero must be immediately recognizable from all angles! The fact remains that the Libero must wear a uniform that is in distinct contrast (remember, “dark vs. light” colors) to the rest of the team. It is still possible that a team wearing red/white jerseys, and the Libero wearing either all red or all white, will be ruled illegal, because it may *not* be immediately recognizable from all angles.

I will attempt to get some examples posted on the website to show both legal and illegal uniforms, and I’m collecting some digital photos to help in that endeavor.

I’ve instructed our officials to use common sense to apply the rule, and I think we’re all on the same page. This rule modification allows teams with insignificant, multicoloration on their uniform jerseys to have a Libero wearing one (or more) of those insignificant colors *legally*. However, it also means that this could be illegal in some cases.

Your best bet is to have the Libero in a *contrasting* jersey that is not questionable in the least! I know that team/club color schemes are important, but for the Libero, we must follow the rule.

I have instructed the officials to be reasonable, but not lenient, in applying this rule. It has now been in effect for four seasons, and we should be adhering to this uniform rule equally as well as we adhere to “regular” team uniform rules. Remember, if your Libero uniform is found to be illegal (non-contrasting; not immediately recognizable), then your team will not be utilizing the Libero for that match (or tournament) until the uniform situation has been resolved.

I will post a Libero FAQ on the OVR website, both as a document and on the OVR Forums. Please keep an eye out for it! I’m sure it will answer your questions.

As always, feel free to drop me a note if you have any concerns about this rule, or OVR officiating in general. Likewise, if you’d like me to offer a ruling on the legality of your uniforms, please send a color digital photo to me at [hemelgarn@ovr.org](mailto:hemelgarn@ovr.org). I’ll rule upon it and get back with you right away.

Thanks, have a great season, and I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

Brian Hemelgarn  
Ohio Valley Region Referees’ Chair

## In Memoriam

Long-time OVR referee, Tom Freeman, passed away recently after a battle with cancer. Marv McCollum, who coached with Lineshot Volleyball Club, passed away on February 2. On behalf of the OVR, we extend our sincere condolences to

Tom’s and Marvin’s families. We truly appreciate their commitment to the sport, and they will be missed by all of us.