

OVR Officiating Memo: Applying the Solid-colored Jersey Rule January 23, 2015

Referees,

With our season kicking into full swing this weekend, many of you will be working at our local tournaments. We need to remember to properly implement the solid-colored jersey rule, no exceptions!

The online training module on VRT was very comprehensive, and many of you have viewed it already, in addition to attending an OVR clinic and reading emails I have sent in this regard. Everyone should have a good understanding of the rule.

A few important points:

- 1 - NO team/club has been give a waiver to play with a Libero if they don't have a solid-colored jersey.
- 2 - We are NOT giving teams "until their next tournament" to comply with this rule. The OVR and USAV have given more than sufficient notice that teams must be in compliance.
- 3 - The rule applies only to teams that plan to use a Libero. If a team will use a Libero, at least one of their sets of jerseys (either the Libero or his/her teammates) MUST be a solid color. Both sets can be solid colors if they contrast (dark vs light).
- 4 - To be considered a solid color, the jersey:
 - a) may have trim of a different color along a functional seam provided the trim is not wider than 1".
 - b) MUST have sleeves that are the same color as the body of the jersey.
 - c) may have cuffs or a collar of a different color provided they are not wider than 1".
 - d) may have a team or club name/logo/mascot of a different color on the front, back and on each sleeve. THIS SEASON ONLY, we are relaxing the requirement for these logos to be 3X5 or 4X4. They can be larger, BUT if they take up a substantial portion of the solid color on the jersey, they are considered part of the design. As such, the jersey will not be considered a solid color. Again, only the 3X5 and 4X4 requirements have been relaxed.
- 5) The solid-colored jersey cannot be any of the predominant colors of a team's multi-colored jersey.
- 6) If a team's solid-colored jersey does not comply with the rule requirements, the team CANNOT play with a Libero. The Libero can wear the team jersey and play as a "regular" player.

I will remind tournament directors and club directors of these requirements again today. We need all referees to enforce the rule accordingly. I know it's not the most comfortable thing to tell a team they can't play with a Libero, BUT we have gone above and beyond to make sure teams are informed about these rule requirements. It's not your fault if they don't. But it IS your responsibility to apply the rules.

Ok -- thanks SO much for your work, as always! Have a great weekend, and we'll see you on the courts soon.

Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees' Chair