

Folks -

With the season getting into full swing, here are TEN reminders about Libero jerseys (because I've already received questions!):

1 - There are a few clubs/teams who have sent me photos of their jerseys. I have responded accordingly to each. For any that may be questionable, if their jerseys have been "approved," they should have an email from me stating this. Keep in mind that club directors do not always forward my email to their coaches to carry with them, but I requested that they do so. And "Brian said they're ok" doesn't cut it. :)

2 - Since we overwhelmingly have 4-team pools (or 3-team), by the second match of the day, each team will have been seen by at least one referee. (Obviously teams sometimes change jerseys during the day, but that's generally after pool play, if at all.) If you encounter a questionable Libero jersey ("contrast" = dark vs light), PLEASE consult with the head referee to ensure you are both on the same page. If it is determined that the Libero jersey does not contrast/that the Libero is not immediately recognizable, please inform ALL referees at the tournament so that everyone is aware. We do NOT want jersey rulings to vary from match to match. If the jersey is ruled illegal during the team's first match, it will be illegal for ALL matches at that tournament -- unless they change jerseys to make it legal.

3 - Check team jerseys DURING WARM-UPS. Don't wait until the match starts. If you notice a problem during warm-ups, that may allow the team enough time to resolve the issue. If teams are wearing practice t-shirts/jerseys during warm-ups, ask the coach to allow you to see the jerseys at the bench.

4 - When a jersey is illegal, always ask the coach if they have a different jersey that the Libero can wear. They may be able to resolve the issue.

5 - It doesn't matter if "the referees at the previous tournament didn't have a problem" with the jersey. Questionable color combinations may result in a variety of rulings, and I have stated this to club directors/coaches.

6 - For illegal jerseys, ask the coach to send me photos of the jerseys so that I can assist them after the tournament. We REALLY discourage referees from taking photos of players.

7 - Report illegal jerseys to me after the tournament via email. Include the club/team name and age group.

8 - Remember, if the Libero jersey is illegal, that player may still wear a regular team jersey and participate -- but not as a Libero.

9 - IMPORTANT: Unlike high school rules, which allow a player who will sometimes be the Libero to have two uniform numbers, USAV rules do not permit a player to have two numbers on the roster. When a player will play as the Libero and a regular player during a match, the player must have the same uniform number on both jerseys.

10 - When a team designates two Liberos for the match, the Liberos do NOT need to be wear the same color/style jersey. They may each wear an entirely different uniform (including shorts) provided the jerseys contrast with the rest of the team members.

Sorry. One last reminder to add to the LIbero rules:

The "solid-colored jersey" rule is NO LONGER IN EFFECT in USA Volleyball. High school and women's NCAA still use that rule (as of last fall).

In the DCR, USAV 19.2a/page 46-47, including items (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), should be DELETED and replaced with the following:

"USAV 19.2a: The Libero(s) must wear a uniform which clearly contrasts with the rest of the team."

The statement about non-contrasting colors is still in effect, as well as USAV 19.2b.

NO solid-colored jersey rule in USAV!

Let me know if you have questions!

Thanks,

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair