

As we all know, it has been difficult to enforce the solid-colored jersey rule when a team uses a libero. There are too many exceptions. So I'd first ask that you all review the following on the VRT website. And please note, the second item (PDF Jersey Gallery) is NEW. You should find it very helpful:

<https://volleyballreftraining.com/training-materials-indoor.php> - select module "US103 Solid-Color Jersey Implementation" from the list on the left.

<https://volleyballreftraining.com/rules-interpretations-indoor.php> - (which is the indoor Rules & Interpretations page of VolleyballRefTraining.com), there is a downloadable PDF that provides pictures of jerseys (and in some cases the manufacturer name and product name) to help us all stay on the same page.

With the above two items in mind, the OVR is going one step further to alleviate undue burdens on clubs/teams, as well as referees:

We will not strictly enforce the solid-colored jersey requirement for the remainder of this season. We will still maintain that the Libero MUST wear a contrasting jersey (dark vs light, or clearly distinct color) that is CLEARLY recognizable from all angles.

Example:

The Libero wears a yellow jersey with white trim, wider than 1" (hence, the jersey is not considered a solid color). The rest of the team wear black jerseys with a 4" white panel/gusset under the arm (hence, the jersey is not considered a solid color). Although neither jersey is a solid-color, the Libero will be clearly identifiable and the jerseys contrast in color. We will deem this LEGAL IN THE OVR.

KEY POINTS WITH THE OVR MODIFICATION:

1 - It's not "anything goes." There will still be jersey color combinations that are illegal.

2 - Your OBLIGATION as a referee when you encounter a team that does not meet the solid-colored jersey requirement is to INFORM THEM AS FOLLOWS: "Coach, your jerseys contrast and your Libero is clearly identifiable. This is acceptable in the OVR, but neither of your jerseys is a solid-color. If you travel outside the region or to USAV national-level tournaments, your jerseys may be ruled non-compliant and you won't be permitted to play with a Libero."

3 - CONTRAST (dark vs light, or clearly distinct) is still REQUIRED. Be reasonable, use common sense.

Again, this modification does not remove your obligation and responsibility to ensure teams wear legal uniforms. The following, among other uniform rules, has NOT changed:

- numbers are centered on the front & back; minimum of 4" on the front and 6" on the back
- there must be contrast between jerseys (light vs dark, or clearly distinct) when a team uses a Libero

- numbers must be clearly visible and must contrast with the surrounding color of the jersey, or must be outlined with a clearly contrasting 1/2" border that makes the number visible

We are relaxing ONLY the solid-colored jersey requirement when a team uses a Libero. And you must inform teams that they may encounter issues if/when they travel outside the region.

We hope this modification will make it easier for teams and referees alike. If you have questions, please contact me. I will be providing this information to club directors tonight as well.

One last request: When you encounter a team that doesn't have a solid-colored jersey, please send me an email after the tournament. I need the club name/team name, tournament date & site, and age level. And please describe what was non-compliant about the jerseys.

Thank you for your work! I hope this makes your jobs just a little easier.

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair