

OVR Officiating Memo: USAV Uniform Requirements Reminder January 14, 2015

(This memo was sent to OVR boys' club directors)

Referees,

The following memo was sent to OVR Boys' Club Directors. If you officiate boys' junior tournaments, please ensure you are correctly enforcing the solid-colored jersey rule. Incidentally, these rules also apply to girls' junior tournaments.

Remember, a team must be in compliance with the solid-colored jersey rule if the team plans to use a Libero. Please review the following info.

Thank you!

-Brian

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OVR Boys' Club Directors,

I hope the season has started well for you. A number of tournaments have already taken place, including the National Preview at the GCCC a month ago. Referees and OVR staff have noticed a number of uniform issues, so I want to address this with you again to ensure your teams are in compliance with the new solid-colored jersey rule. Many of you may be traveling outside the region to Boys' National Bid Tournaments, as well as other multi-region events, and I don't want you to encounter any issues. Likewise, since we are hosting the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships in Columbus this summer, I suspect a large number of OVR boys' teams will be planning to participate. As such, we need to get everyone on the same page with uniforms.

First and foremost – the “solid-colored jersey rule” IS in effect. No exceptions. This rule has been pre-empted for more than two full seasons in the USAV rulebook. I have also been sending notifications to all OVR club directors for the past 12+ months so that this rule didn't sneak up on anyone. Teams need to be in compliance. Key points and reminders:

- I have previously sent emails that included a link to the USAV training/education website which includes a module about the solid-colored jersey rule. It can be found at: https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/training_materials_indoor.php and is labeled “Solid-Colored Jersey Rule” at the top of the right-hand column in the module listing. You should have reviewed this module a few months ago to ensure you are familiar with the rule implementation.
- If your team plays with a Libero, either the Libero's jersey or his teammates' jerseys MUST be a solid color. It doesn't matter who wears the solid color jersey. If the Libero wears a solid color, his teammates can wear a multi-colored jersey OR a solid-colored jersey that clearly contrasts in color (dark vs light) to the other solid-colored jersey. A solid-colored jersey must contrast to the predominant colors of the multi-colored jersey.
- A jersey will be considered solid-colored with the following provisions:
 - There is NO trim wider than 1” at its widest point, AND the trim is placed along a functional, working seam. A random stripe/trim on the jersey that is not along a functional seam is NOT permitted.
 - The sleeves MUST be the same color as the body of the uniform
 - The collar and cuffs on the sleeves may be a different color; the cuffs must be no wider than 1”

- The ONLY portion of the solid-colored jersey rule that is being “relaxed” this season deals directly with the use of logos/mascots/team names on the front, back or sleeves of the jersey. The size restrictions (3X5 or 4X4 inches) are the relaxed part, so if your club logos/mascots or team names are larger than those dimensions but the jersey is otherwise a solid color, it will still be deemed a solid color THIS season. Next season, uniforms must also comply with this rule.
- Sublimated designs DO NOT meet the solid-colored jersey requirement. In other words, if a design is part of the fabric of the shirt (as opposed to silk screened onto the fabric), AND that design is not the same color and hue of the predominant color of the jersey, it will not be considered solid-colored.
- A jersey that does not meet the above requirements is considered “non-compliant”. That does NOT mean the jersey is illegal. It means that it is not solid-colored. It can still be worn by the team, but the other (Libero) jersey MUST be a solid color.
- USAV referees across the country, including in the OVR, have been instructed to NOT allow a team to play with a Libero if the team (or the Libero) are not in compliant jerseys. Practically speaking, if a team does not have a solid-colored jersey, the team cannot play with a Libero. The player designated as a Libero must either wear a compliant jersey, or he may wear the same jersey as the rest of the team and play as a “regular” player. The rule does NOT prevent a kid from playing, but it may prevent a team from using a Libero.
- Tournament directors DO NOT have the authority to alter this rule or over-rule the decisions of the referees regarding the legality of a jersey (or shorts). Attempting to do so may result in a sanction being imposed by the OVR Commissioner.
- Speaking of shorts –
 - First, the solid-color rule DOES NOT apply to shorts.
 - ONLY the Libero may wear shorts that are different than the rest of the team.
 - The entire team (except the Libero as noted in the bullet point above) MUST wear identical shorts in terms of color, style and cut. Exceptions are made for the length of the inseam, which can vary provided the shorts are otherwise the same, and also for the manufacturer logo. (EX: if the shorts are otherwise identical, but some have a Nike logo and others have the Mizuno logo, this is not an issue.)
 - If the shorts contain trim, stripes, piping, etc., it must be the same for ALL players (except the Libero).

If your jerseys currently do not comply with the above USAV requirements, please ensure that this is rectified before you next (OVR) tournament. Teams not in compliance will not be permitted to use a Libero.

I KNOW this stuff isn’t comfortable for some of you, but don’t shoot the messenger! No one is trying to prevent a team from playing, or to cause unnecessary financial burden. As I noted, these rule changes have been pre-empted for more than two years. That allowed ample time for teams to ensure their uniforms comply.

If you have questions, feel free to drop me a note. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Best of luck for the remainder of the season, and at the BJNC this summer!

Brian Hemelgarn
 Referees’ Chair, [Ohio Valley Region](#)