

Referees -

There is some confusion amongst coaches with regard to uniform numbers on the roster, and I need to make sure that referees are not confused with the same rules. These issues also highlight the importance of having teams submit or fill out a roster that is kept COURTSIDE during the tournament.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure coaches submit either a pre-printed roster or a hand-written roster prior to their first match of the day. Be proactive in this endeavor. Head referees must cover this at the pre-tournament coaches' meeting.

The two concerns are:

1 - The coaches (and some referees) appear to be confusing the NFHS high school rules with USAV rules. NFHS rules allow a player to be listed with TWO jersey numbers on the roster if that player will play as both a Libero and a regular player. EX: The player wears #5 if she plays as the Libero, and #7 if she plays as a regular player. Both numbers are listed on the roster, such as "Suzy Spiker 5/7". THIS IS NOT PERMITTED IN USAV. NO EXCEPTIONS. A player may never have two jersey numbers.

2 - Some teams have a Libero jersey with a unique number not worn by any other player on the team. They pass that jersey around to each player who will be the Libero for a set. EX: A team has 10 players, and their jersey numbers are 1-10. They have one Libero jersey with #11, and regardless of which player is the Libero, she will wear #11. THIS IS NOT LEGAL AND IS NOT PERMITTED.

If you encounter either of these situations at a tournament, remind the coach that each player may have only ONE unique number. If a player will be both a Libero and a regular player during the match, she must wear the SAME NUMBER on both jerseys.

If the team has a designated Libero jersey that they pass around from player to player (NOT PERMITTED), and the coach plans to use a Libero during the tournament, s/he must designate a player to wear that jersey. ONLY that player may wear the Libero jersey FOR THE ENTIRE DAY, and the tournament-entry roster must be changed by the tournament director to remove the player's "regular" jersey number. She will be listed only with the Libero jersey number.

There are reasonable exceptions in the case of injury, blood situations, or a damaged jersey. Use common sense when those occur because we DO allow jersey numbers to change in these cases.

Club directors and coaches have been sent a similar memo by Bill Zehler, so they are also aware of this. We expect these rules to be enforced correctly, as outlined above. If you have questions, please ask. If you encounter any of these situations, please let me know the team/club and tournament date/site.

Brian Hemelgarn  
OVR Referees' Chair