

CHAPTER SIX

THE LIBERO PLAYER

19. THE LIBERO PLAYER

19.1 DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERO

- 19.1.1 Each team has the right to designate from the list of players up to two (2) specialized defensive players: Liberos.
For FIVB and World Competitions for Seniors where a team chooses to have more than twelve (12) players, it is compulsory for the team to designate amongst the list of players two (2) specialized defensive players: “Liberos.”
- 19.1.2 All Liberos must be recorded on the scoresheet before the match in the special lines reserved for this.
For FIVB World and Official Competitions, all Liberos must be recorded on the score sheet before the match only in the special lines reserved for this.
- 19.1.3 One Libero designated by the coach before the start of the match will be the starting Libero. The Libero on court is the Acting Libero. If there is another Libero, he/she will act as the second Libero.
- 19.1.4 Only one Libero may be on court at any time.
- 19.1.5 The Libero cannot be either team captain or game captain at the same time as performing the Libero function.

19.2 EQUIPMENT

The Libero players must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib for the re-designated Libero) whose jerseys at least must contrast in color with that of the other members of the team. The Libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members.

For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the re-designated Libero must, if possible, wear the same style and color of jersey as the original Libero, but keep his/her own number.

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- a. The Libero player's jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.*
- b. A jacket or bib can only be worn by the re-designated Libero. If a jacket or bib is worn by the re-designated Libero, the uniform number must still be visible.*

19.3 ACTIONS INVOLVING THE LIBERO

19.3.1 The playing actions

19.3.1.1 The Libero is allowed to replace any player in a back-row position.

19.3.1.2 He/she is restricted to perform as a back-row player and is not allowed to complete an attack hit from anywhere (including playing court and free zone) if at the moment of the contact, the ball is entirely higher than the top of the net.

19.3.1.3 He/she may not serve, block or attempt to block.

19.3.1.4 A player may not complete an attack hit from higher than the top of the net, if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a Libero in his/her front zone. The ball may be freely attacked if the Libero makes the same action from outside his/her front zone.

19.3.2 Replacements of players

19.3.2.1 Replacements involving the Libero are not

counted as substitutions. They are unlimited, but there must be a completed rally between two replacements involving a Libero (unless a penalty causes a rotation to position 4, or the Acting Libero becomes unable to play, making the rally incomplete).

The Libero can only be replaced by the player whom he/she replaced.

- 19.3.2.2 The Acting Libero can only be replaced by the regular replacement player for that position, or by the second Libero. The regular replacement player may replace either Libero. The coach has the right to replace the Acting Libero with the second Libero for any reason after a completed rally at any time during the match.
- 19.3.2.3 Replacements must only take place while the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service.
- 19.3.2.4 At the start of each set, the Libero cannot enter the court until the second referee has checked the starting line-up.
- 19.3.2.5 A replacement made after the whistle for service but before the service hit should not be rejected but must be the object of a verbal caution after the end of the rally.
- 19.3.2.6 Subsequent late replacements shall result in the play being interrupted immediately and the imposition of a delay sanction. The team to serve next will be determined by the result of the delay sanction.
- 19.3.2.7 The Libero and the replacing player may only enter or leave the court through the "Libero Replacement Zone."
- 19.3.2.8 All replacements involving Liberors must

be recorded on the Libero Control sheet (or electronic scoresheet, if one is used).

19.3.2.9 An illegal Libero replacement can involve (amongst others)

–No completed rally between Libero replacements

–The Libero being replaced by a player other than the regular replacement player.

The consequences of an illegal Libero replacement are the same as those for a rotational fault.

19.4 RE-DESIGNATION OF A NEW LIBERO

19.4.1 Team with two Liberos:

19.4.1.1 When a team uses two Liberos but one becomes unable to play (expelled, ill, injured, etc.), the team has the right to play with only one Libero and the second Libero becomes the Acting Libero. No re-designation will be allowed, however, unless the Acting Libero is unable to play for the match and the remaining Libero has also been declared unable to continue.

19.4.2 Team with one Libero:

19.4.2.1 Where only one Libero is registered on the scoresheet, in case the Libero is declared unable to play, the coach may re-designate as Libero for the remainder of the match any other player (replacement player excepted) not on the court at the moment of re-designation. The coach (or game captain, if no coach is present), must contact the second referee with the request for “re-designation.”

- 19.4.2.2 Should the re-designated Libero be declared unable to play, further re-designations are possible, but the original Libero(s) may not return to the match.
- 19.4.2.3 If the coach requests that the team captain be re-designated as the Libero, this will be permitted – but the team captain must in this case relinquish all leadership privileges.
- 19.4.2.4 In the case of a re-designated Libero, the number of the player re-designated as Libero must be recorded on the score-sheet remarks section and on the Libero Control sheet (or electronic score sheet, if one is used). The re-designated player will be allocated a jacket or bib to show that a new Libero is in play.

19.5 EXPULSION AND DISQUALIFICATION

If the Libero is expelled or disqualified he/she may be replaced directly by the team's other Libero. Should the team have only one Libero, then it must play without a Libero for the duration of the sanction.