September 30, 2026

NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Libero Replacement and Exchange: Two Liberos

Rules References: 10-3-6c, 10-3-7 PENALTIES, 10-4-3d

Exceptional Substitutions: The rules for an exceptional substitution still apply when two liberos are designated for the set. The L1 or L2 can only be used as an exceptional substitution for an injured/ill player if no other legal substitutes are available.

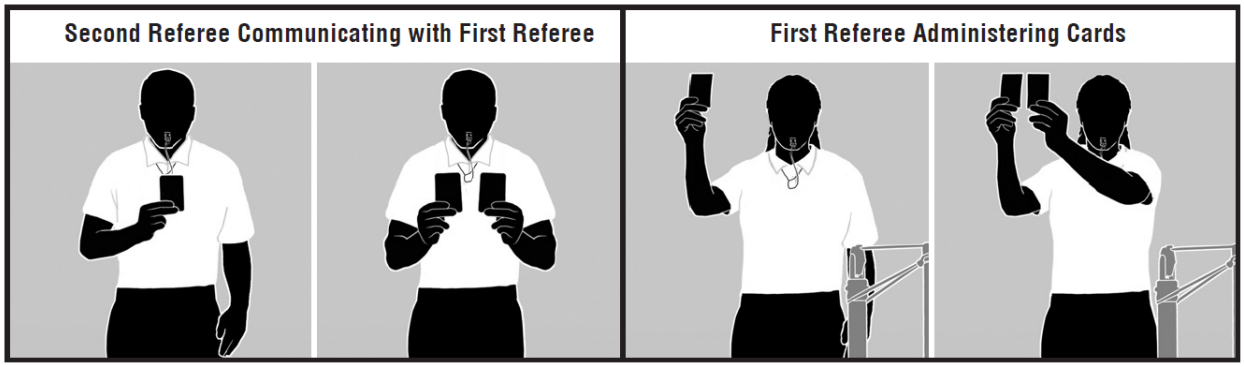
SITUATION 1: Early in the first set, Team A has an injured player who cannot continue to play. Two liberos have been designated on Team A's submitted roster, but only the L1 has entered the set. All other teammates currently on the bench have played in that set in other positions. Team A's head coach sends the L2 to the locker room to change into a team jersey and substitute for the injured player. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Once a player is designated as a libero for the set, they can only be used as an exceptional substitution if the team has no other regular players available regardless of if the libero has played in the set. In this situation, one of the regular players on the bench that has already played in a different position must be used as the exceptional substitution. (6-4-2c, 10-3-6b, 10-3-6c)

Illegal Substitution: Designating two liberos on the lineup locks those two players into those positions throughout the set. A designated libero may not enter the set as a substitute unless it is as an exceptional substitute after all other options have been exhausted. Officials should use preventive officiating and notify the head coach before the set begins if they notice two liberos listed on the lineup, but only one libero in uniform.

SITUATION 2: Team A designates two liberos for the first set: No. 4 and No. 7. No. 4 is seated on the bench in a team uniform. Later in the set, No. 4 enters the substitution zone to initiate a substitution with No. 12. **RULING:** Illegal substitution. **COMMENT:** Team A is assessed an unnecessary delay

(administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for a subsequent offense in the set). Designated liberos may not enter the set as substitutes. (6-4-2a, 10-3-7 PENALTIES 1)

Libero Disqualification: When a team designates two liberos and one libero is disqualified, the libero on the court may be replaced by the player they replaced or exchanged with the other libero. The team continues to play that set with one libero.



SITUATION 3: Team A designates two liberos for set No. 4. The L1 received a red card in set No. 4. A subsequent misconduct offense occurs, and the referee disqualifies L1. The L2 enters the set for the disqualified L1, and Team A finishes the set with one libero. The match is tied 2-2. In set No. 5, Team A designates; (a) two new liberos; (b) the same L2 and a new L1. **RULING:** (a) and (b) Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Two liberos may be designated in subsequent sets following a libero disqualification. The disqualified libero may not participate in subsequent sets. During the lineup check, the referee should ensure that a disqualified libero has not been designated as a libero for any subsequent sets. (6-4-2a, 10-4-3d, 12-2-9 PENALTIES 3)