

Libero Play Situations When Allowed to Serve

Situation 1: When the lineup is submitted before a set, the second referee and/or scorer notice that there is no indication of the position where the libero will serve.

Ruling: Legal. **Comment:** The coach is not required to indicate on the lineup sheet where the libero will serve. At any point in the set, the decision can be made to have the libero replace the server. However, once the libero serves in one rotation, she is restricted to serve in only that rotation.

Situation 2: The libero for Team R has not yet served in the current set. The libero has replaced player No. 8 and is playing in the back row. Team R wins a rally and rotates, moving player No. 2 to the serving position (position No. 1). The libero goes to the service area, player No. 2 exits the court over the sideline between the attack line and end line, and player No. 8 returns to the court.

Ruling: Legal. **Comment:** These player replacements are allowed. There does not have to be a rally between libero replacements if the libero serves the next rally.

Situation 3: The libero for Team S has replaced player No. 3 in position No. 1 and has served two points. Player No. 3 returns to the set to replace the libero and serve the next rally. The libero stays on the court in replacement of another back-row player, No. 7. Player No. 7 exits the court.

Ruling: Illegal. **Comment:** This is an illegal libero replacement. A rally must take place between two libero replacements, unless the libero serves the next rally. If the officials must intercede to correct the situation, an unnecessary delay is assessed the team. If the next serve is contacted before the illegal replacement is identified, illegal alignment results.

Situation 4: The Team S libero is in the warm-up area, and has not served in this set. Before the first referee authorizes service, while player No. 7 is in the service area, the coach instructs the libero to serve for No. 7. The libero and No. 7 exchange positions at the end of the court neither player crosses the sideline between the attack line and the end line.

Ruling: Illegal. **Comment:** The players involved in a libero replacement must enter and exit the court over the sideline between the attack line and the end line so that the second referee can ensure that the proper notations are made by the scorers. Failure to do so results in an unnecessary delay. Even when an unnecessary delay is assessed, the replacement is allowed provided the libero enters legally.

Situation 5: The Team S libero has served in the current set in position three (in replacement of starting player No. 2). Later in the same set, the libero enters from the bench (having sat out one rally) and prepares to serve in position six (in replacement of starting player No.7). The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but how should they handle the situation?

Ruling: The libero replacement itself is legal, so nothing illegal occurs unless the libero actually serves the ball. Treat this situation as any other potential wrong server. The scorer and officials should wait until the service contact is made before assessing a penalty for serving out of order. Once the penalty is assessed, the libero can remain on the court in replacement of No. 7 if the team desires, as a rally has occurred.

Situation 6: The Team S libero has served in the current set in position three (in replacement of starting player No. 8). Later in the same set, the libero, who is already on the court in replacement of No.10), moves to the right back position where player No. 7 is the next correct server. Player No.10 enters the court, and player No. 7 exits. The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but how should they handle the situation?

Ruling: The libero replacement is NOT legal, since the libero has not sat out a rally, and cannot legally serve next. Whenever a libero replaces a player without sitting out a rally, there are three possible outcomes: (a) the team corrects the error quickly on their own with no repercussions; (b) the officials intervene to correct the error and an unnecessary delay is charged; (c) if neither a or b occurs and a serve takes place with the libero illegally on the court, illegal alignment has occurred. Those options are appropriate in this situation, since the libero has illegally replaced player No. 7.