

UNIFORM RULES AND COMMENTARY

Note: A team which cannot comply with uniform rules will lose that match by forfeit. However, the match may be played if the opponents agree, and each set result will be recorded as 25-0 in favor of the opponent. This is a GEVA specific modification and applies only for play within the Region.

The following is a summarization of the USAV uniform rule, with additional comments for further clarification. If a team has questions regarding uniform legality, the Officials' Chair may be contacted for consultation before purchase.

USA Volleyball has provided a uniform interpretation which can be found at www.GEVA.org (under Officials Rules).

TEAM UNIFORM:

A team's uniform consists of a jersey, and shorts. The color and design must be identical (except for the Libero). An exception will be made for a single manufacturer's logo or trademark on the outside of the jerseys or shorts, provided that the logo or trademark does not exceed 2 1/4 square inches.

GEVA allows flexibility with regard to ADULT uniform shorts. Within the Region, uniform shorts must only be close in color, and do not have to be identical style. Predominant stripes or other color patterns may be judged to be an additional color, making them illegal if the teammates not match.

Undergarments, including but not limited to tee-shirts, boxer shorts, tights, leotards, bodysuits, bicycle shorts, or sports bras are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members (except the Libero) who wear such a uniform. *This is important if you are considering tank top or sleeveless jerseys, or baggy shorts.*

Jerseys with different sleeve lengths, that are otherwise identical, will be considered the same design and are permitted. *Sleeveless* jerseys are considered *different* from *sleeved* versions of the otherwise same design, and are not allowed.

Equipment such as socks, knee pads, and sport shoes are not part of the uniform and do not have to be identical.

UNIFORM NUMBERS:

The players' jerseys must be numbered in a permanent manner from 1 to 99. Numbers created with tape or markers are not permissible, being neither permanent nor identical. Duplicate numbers are not allowed.

The number must be placed on the jersey at the *center of* the front and of the back. The color and brightness of the numbers must contrast with the color and brightness of the jerseys and must be clearly visible.

The numbers must be a minimum of 4" in height on the chest and a minimum of 6" in height on the back. It is *recommended* that the numbers be a minimum of 6" in height on the chest and a minimum of 8" on the back.

The stripe forming the numbers shall be a minimum of 3/4" in width.

Each jersey must be the same color and number height for all players, except the Libero.

Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, white/light yellow or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules. These are examples, not a limitation to non contrasting color combination.

LIBERO UNIFORM:

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.

The Libero's shorts do not have to match the rest of the teammates' shorts.

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.

BLOOD SITUATIONS:

If player's uniform becomes saturated with blood, a change of uniform will be authorized. This change should be accomplished as quickly as possible to cause no additional delay of set. The replacement uniform should be of a similar color and style. Though duplicate numbers will not be allowed, no sanction will be assessed if the player's uniform number is different than the original number.

LIBERO UNIFORM COMMENT:

The Libero's jersey must contrast with those of his/her teammates' jerseys.

There is more than one way that uniforms might contrast, but perhaps the simplest way to determine contrast is to ask the question, are the two jerseys dark and light?

Another way to think of it, ask if the Libero's jersey color was used as the number color on the teammates jersey would it be clearly visible without the need to add a highlighting stripe to around the number?

"I can tell the difference" is not an appropriate determination of whether the jerseys comply with the rule.

It is possible to have more than one predominant color in a jersey. For multiple colored styles, the Libero jersey must be in contrast to all the predominate colors in the teammates' jerseys.

Considering the history of the evolution of the language of this rule might be helpful to understand its intent of the rule as finally written.

As first written, the rule would have forbidden any color appearing on the jersey of teammates (except for number) to be used as the color of the Libero's jersey. This was thought to be too restrictive, considering virtually all uniforms had some form of contrasting piping or stripes.

For practical consideration, a rule which forbade more than 10% of any color appearing on the teammates' jersey was considered. To put that in perspective, a 40 inch jersey would have been allowed 4" of stripes, such as side panels (2" on each side) before it would have been considered one of the predominate colors.

To allow flexibility in uniforms the above language (contrast with the predominate color(S)) is now the official rule. As with any flexible rule, there is room for interpretation. Using the above 10% rule would certainly comply, but there will be no tape measure standards, just the judgment of the official.

Sleeves and collars are not considered part of the uniform in considering the legality of color mixes.

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