IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOLID-COLORED JERSEY RULE

The solid-colored jersey rule was passed by the NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee in 2011. It has been listed in the 2011 and 2012-2013 Rule Book. It was also covered in detail on the coaches’ video in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Last year, the detailed specifications of the solid-colored jersey rule were reviewed at the AVCA convention during the Division I, II and III coaches’ meetings. In March of 2012, a webinar was held with volleyball uniform manufacturers to cover all aspects of the rule. Yet there is still confusion regarding the exact specifications of the solid-colored jersey rule.

Due to this confusion, the decision was made to push back the implementation of the solid-colored jersey rule until November 1st, 2013. On November 1st, your team must be in compliance with the solid-colored jersey rule. If your team is not in compliance, your team will have to play without a libero until you comply with the rule. This delayed implementation gives each institution over a month to comply with the rule. The referees have been instructed to continue to ask your team to comply prior to the November 1st deadline if possible. And, the referees will continue to report any non-compliant institution to the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor (SRE). The SRE will only send one notification to each non-compliant institution that is reported. It is the responsibility of each institution to comply with the NCAA rules, whether or not they received notification from the Secretary-Rules Editor.

I have re-posted the solid-colored jersey rules below. The issues regarding libero jerseys have been a universal problem for years. All three major rules codes (NFHS, USAV, NCAA) have adopted this same language. Prior to passing the rule below in 2011, the NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee distributed a point of emphasis for three years that emphasized the rules language that required the libero’s uniform to be “in contrast to and distinct from” her teammates. A significant number of schools still failed to make a change and, as a result, a more stringent rule was established.

Please feel free to contact me should any questions arise.

Have a great season.

Anne Pufahl, Secretary-Rules Editor
NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee
FROM THE 2012-13 NCAA RULES BOOK, to be enforced beginning November 1, 2013:

12.1.3.1 Solid Color Uniforms: Beginning in the 2013 season, it will be required that either the libero or her teammates wear a solid color jersey. The solid-colored uniform must clearly contrast from the predominant color(s) of the teammate(s) jerseys. Predominant colors are those that appear on approximately half of the teammate’s jersey.

Regarding the solid color jersey:
12.1.3.2 The libero shirt or jersey must have a visible legal number. (See Rule 7.1.2.)
12.1.3.3 The style and trim of the libero’s shirt or jersey may differ from her teammates’, but her shorts must be identical to her teammates’.
12.1.3.3.4 Sleeves must be the same color as the body of the jersey.
12.1.3.3.5 Piping/trim not exceeding 1 inch in total at its widest point may be placed along the seams and be a different color(s) than the uniform top.
12.1.3.3.6 Lettering and collars can be a different color than the body of the jersey.
12.1.3.3.7 Numbers must be a contrasting color and meet all other specifications in rule 7.1.2

NOTE: The NCAA rules have always stated that the primary color of the libero uniform must be in contrast to and distinct from the primary color of the teammates’ uniforms. This rule is not deferred, and is enforced immediately. For example, a dark green jersey does not contrast from a black jersey. The illegality of such combinations is not deferred, and is in force immediately.

CASES/EXAMPLES:
1. During Team R’s warm-up period, the referees notice that the libero and her teammates are both in solid-colored uniforms. The libero uniform clearly contrasts and is easily visible from the teammates uniform. The referee tells the coach that either the libero or her teammates must change into a multi-colored uniform.

   Ruling: The referees’ decision is incorrect. Both the libero and her teammates may be in solid-colored uniforms as long as the libero uniform is in clear contrast and distinct from her teammates.

2. During Team R’s warm-up period, the referees notice that the libero and her teammates are both in multi-colored uniforms that clearly contrast and are distinct. The referees ask the coach if the either the teammates or libero can change into a solid-colored jersey. The libero or teammates cannot change jerseys. The referee allows the match to be played.

   Ruling: Prior to November 1, 2013: The referees’ decision is correct. Once the match has concluded, either referee should report the team not in compliance with the solid-colored uniform rule to the Secretary-Rules Editor. After November 1, the libero will not be allowed to participate in this uniform.

3. During Team R’s warm-up period, the referees notice that the libero and her teammates are both in multi-colored uniforms that are not in clear contrast and are not distinct. The referees ask the coach if the either the teammates or libero can change into a solid-colored jersey. The libero or teammates cannot change jerseys. The referee allows the match to be played.

   Ruling: The referee’s decision is incorrect. The libero’s uniform is illegal and she would not be allowed to participate wearing an illegal uniform.

4. During Team R’s warm-up period, the referees notice that the libero is in a navy solid-colored jersey and her teammates are in a multi-colored dark purple/black jersey. The referee tells the coach that either the libero or her teammates must change into a uniform that clearly contrasts and is distinct.
from the other. The coach has the libero put on a multi-colored jersey that clearly contrasts and is distinct from the teammates. The referee allows the libero to play in the multi-colored jersey.

**Ruling:** Prior to November 1, 2013: The referee’s decision is correct. At the end of the match either referee should report the team not in compliance with the solid-colored uniform rule to the Secretary-Rules Editor. After November 1, the libero will not be allowed to participate if the team has not complied with the solid-color uniform rule.

The coaches’ video was distributed in July and included the new solid-colored jersey rule and other rule clarifications. Feel free to go to the NCAA coaches website and view the video.


**Technique Points of Emphasis**

**Signals**
First referee will always signal point first, unless awarding a replay.
When the first referee and the second whistle simultaneously, the first referee will quickly determine if:

a. the first referee’s fault happened first; therefore, he/she awards a point and indicates the fault. The second referee mimics the signals.

b. the second referee’s fault preceded the first referee’s fault, then the first referee accepts the second referee’s call and awards the point.

c. the first referee determines that the faults were simultaneous and signals a replay. The second referee repeats the replay signal and turns to the score table to ensure that the table crew knows that a replay has just occurred.

If the first referee cannot determine the order of the faults, he/she may call the second referee to the stand for a short discussion. This is rare.
If a replay is called, the first referee should signal replay immediately, but hesitate before initiating the authorization for service signal, as the scorekeeper interpret an extended arm as a point signal. The first referee should wait until the second referee confers with the score crew and gives the game back to the first referee.

**Net Fault Signal**
If the net fault is initiated by the first referee:

- award the point signal, followed by the net fault signal and the number of the player at fault.
- the second referee mimics the sequence.

If the net fault is initiated by the second referee:

- whistle, move to the fault side, signal net fault followed by the number of the player at fault. Do not rush the signal sequence.
- the first referee waits for the second referee to complete the entire signal sequence, and then awards the point, followed by the number of the player at fault.
  The second referee mimics the point signal.

**Referees and line judges**
Allow the floor wipers or players to wipe up wet spots.