

**ART. 1 ...** A substitution is the exchange of at least one player in the set by a teammate (substitute) who is listed on the roster.



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**ART. 2 ...** A request for substitution shall not be recognized if made:

- a. By anyone other than a head coach or substitute entering the substitution zone
- b. During a live ball;
- c. After the first referee has signaled for serve.



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**ART. 3 ...** Each team is permitted only one request for substitution during the same dead ball. Other requests for substitution by the same team shall be denied.



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**ART. 4 ...** Substitution requests prior to the start of the set shall be permitted and shall be recorded as a regular substitution in that set. In case of an injury or illness to a starting player, a lineup change may be made, and no entry shall be charged to the team.

## PROCEDURE FOR SUBSTITUTION



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**ART. 1 ...** To request a substitution:

- a. The head coach may visually signal (Signal 16) to the referees that substitution is desired,  
or
- b. The substitute may enter the substitution zone.



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**ART. 2 ...** The referee recognizes the request by whistle and signal.



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**ART. 3 ...** After the referee's recognition of a request, the substitute shall proceed without delay to the substitution zone (sideline between the attack line and the center line of the team's playing area).

- a. The substitute may report to the second referee his/her number and the number of the player leaving the court;
- b. If more than one substitution is to be made, the substitutions shall be made in succession, one pair of players after another (substitute and outgoing player) with only one substitute in the substitution zone at a time;
- c. When more than one substitution is requested, the incoming substitutes shall be ready to enter the substitution zone once the preceding substitute has been released to enter the court.



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**ART. 4 ...** The player and substitute shall remain in the substitution zone until the second referee releases them. (Signal 17)



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**ART. 5 ...** During a time-out, substitute(s) shall enter the set at the end of the time-out after both teams have returned to the court and follow normal exchange procedures.



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**ART. 6 ...** Improper substitution occurs and is corrected when a:

- a. Substitute and the outgoing player do not take correct exchange positions;
- b. Substitute enters or a player leaves the court before the second referee directs them to do so;



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**ART. 7 ...** Delaying substitution is illegal and occurs when a:

- a. Coach:
  - 1. After the request and instructing players, does not remain in replacement zone at least 6 feet back from the sideline, once the first referee extends the arm in preparation to whistle and signal serve;
  - 2. Withdraws a substitution request after it has been recognized.

a. Substitute fails to immediately:

3. Report to the second referee after substitution request is recognized;

4. Enter the court when indicated by the second referee.

a. Substitution includes more than one substitute from a team, and multiple substitutes do not report (one at a time) to the substitution zone ready to enter the set once the preceding substitute has been released to enter the court.

5. Unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) is charged to the offending team when a:

a. Substitution is delayed;

b. Substitution is denied by the second referee after the request has been recognized because the substitute is illegal; or is wearing illegal equipment or an illegal uniform;

c. Team repeatedly uses improper substitution.

6. After a team is charged with unnecessary delay, no further substitutions may be requested by that team until the next completed rally.

## SUBSTITUTES



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**ART. 1 ...** The position of the substitute shall be that of the player replaced without changing the serving order as recorded on the scoresheet.



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**ART. 2 ...** A team is allowed a maximum of 18 substitutions per set. Each player is allowed unlimited entries within the team limit. Starting the set does not count as a substitution. An illegal substitution does not count as an entry provided the illegal substitute is removed from the court.



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**ART. 3 ...** A re-entering player shall not return to the set during the same dead ball in which the player was substituted. The re-entering player shall assume the original position in the serving order in relation to other teammates.



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**ART. 4 ...** An injured/ill player who is legally replaced may re-enter the set.



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**ART. 5 ...** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. (NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion, Appendix B).



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**ART. 6 ...** When teams have exhausted their 18 team substitutions or when no legal substitutes are available, an exceptional substitution is permitted only for an injured/ill player in the following priority:

- a. By a teammate who has never played in the set or a player who has played in that position earlier in the set;
- b. By any legal teammate on the bench, regardless of previous position played. An injured/ill player replaced by an exceptional substitution may not re-enter a set in which the exceptional substitution takes place. A team may not play with fewer than six players if there is a legal substitute (including an exceptional substitution) available;
- c. An exceptional substitution is counted as a team substitution if the team has not exhausted its 18 team substitutions.



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**ART. 7 ...** A substitution is illegal when the substitute:

- a. Is in the set without following the required substitution procedure;
- b. Is not listed on the roster;
- c. Re-enters or attempts to re-enter the set:
  - 1. During the same dead ball;
  - 2. In which the substitute was previously replaced by exceptional substitution procedure;
  - 3. As a 19th substitution;
  - 4. Without assuming the original position in the serving order as recorded on the scoresheet (except for an exceptional substitution).

5. Unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) is charged to the offending team when an illegal substitute attempts to enter the set. Illegal alignment is charged to the offending team when an illegal substitute is identified in the set after the whistle/signal for serve and results in a loss of rally/point.

6. For the serving team, any points known to have been scored during a term of service in which an illegal substitute is discovered in the set shall be canceled.

7. For the receiving team prior to the contact of the serve by the opposing team, all points earned during the previous term of service by the violating team while the illegal substitute was in the set, shall be canceled.

8. After the serve has alternated and the first serve is contacted, there shall be no cancellation of points. In all cases, the illegal substitute shall enter legally or be replaced by a legal player.

## Libero Replacement



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### **ART. 1 ...** Procedures for libero replacement:

a. The libero designated on the lineup for that set is allowed to replace any player in a back-row position. The libero may serve in one position in the serve order;

b. The libero may only be replaced by the player whom he/she replaced;

c. One libero replacement may be exercised per dead ball/rally unless the libero is replacing the player in the right back position and will serve the next rally;

d. Libero replacements do not count as substitutions and are unlimited;

e. A libero replacement shall take place between the attack line and the endline in front of that team's bench;

f. A libero replacement shall be completed during a dead ball prior to the whistle and signal for serve.



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**ART. 2 ...** Replacements may only take place:

- a. At the start of each set after the starting lineup has been checked;
- b. After the end of a rally;
- c. While the ball is out of play and prior to the whistle and signal for serve;
- d. After a time-out, once all players have returned to the court, provided the replacement sits out one rally/dead ball.



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**ART. 3 ...** Libero redesignation and disqualifications:

- a. Injury substitution – If the libero is injured and cannot continue play, he/she shall first be replaced by the player who he/she replaced. A new libero may then be redesignated using the following criteria:
  - 1. Redesignation does not need to occur immediately after the injury and replacement, but may occur at the discretion of the coach(es);
  - 2. Any substitute may be designated as the libero for the injured libero. The injured libero may not play in the remainder of that set;



3. The player redesignated as the libero shall wear a libero uniform and shall remain the libero for the remainder of the set. The redesignated libero's uniform shall have a unique number (not worn by any teammate).

a. Exceptional substitution – The libero may be used as an exceptional substitution for another injured player if no other possible substitute exists. When no longer playing as a libero, that player shall wear the same uniform as the teammates and the team continues play with no libero.

b. Disqualification substitution – The libero shall not be used as a substitute for a disqualified teammate.

c. Libero disqualification – If the libero is disqualified while playing, he/she shall be replaced by the player who he/she replaced. The team continues to play with no libero.



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**ART. 4 ...** A libero replacement is illegal when:

a. The libero or the replacement is in the set without following the required replacement procedure ([10-4-1](#), [10-4-2](#));

b. The libero or the replacement is not listed on the roster;

c. A libero other than the libero designated on the lineup for that set replaces a player on the floor.



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**ART. 5 ...** Libero serving:

a. The libero is allowed to serve in one position in the service order;

b. When serving, the libero is not required to leave the playing area or be out of the set for one rally/dead ball before replacing the incoming player in the right back position.

4. Unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) is charged to the offending team when an illegal libero replacement takes place prior to the whistle/signal for serve. If identified after whistle/signal for serve, illegal alignment results (loss of rally/point). In all cases, the illegal libero shall enter legally or be replaced by a legal player.

5. For the serving team, any points known to have been scored during a term of service in which an illegal libero is discovered in the set shall be canceled.

6. For the receiving team prior to the contact of the serve by the opposing team, all points earned during the previous term of service by the violating team while the illegal libero was in the set shall be canceled.

7. After the serve has alternated and the first serve is contacted, there shall be no cancellation of points.