

VOLLEYBALL POSITIONS

Outside Hitters (2):

Primary Definition

Two left side players that pass serve receive and swing out to hit the ball with an approach coming from the outside of the court.

Characteristics

- The most dynamic and skilled player(s) on the court
- Master of ball control and passing (both overhand and arm)
- Good defense player (digging & free ball passing)

Key Responsibilities

- Hitting 4's
- Passing balls in serve receive
- Passing free balls to the setter
- Playing left side defense in the front and back rows

Setter (1):

Primary Definition

One player whose primary responsibility is to get to the ball on the second contact and deliver it to a teammate for the attack.

Characteristics

- Typically the most athletic player on the court
- Master in the art of setting and arm passing
- The quarterback of the team and usually the most cerebral player

Key Responsibilities

- Setting the ball on the second contact in each offensive set
- Directing the team's offense
- Playing right side defense in the front and back rows
- Blocking the other team's outside hitter

Libero (1):

Primary Definition

A back row defensive player wearing an opposite colored jersey that specializes in serve receive passing, digging, free ball passing, and setting.

Characteristics

- The most skilled defensive player on the court
- Master of the fundamentals of volleyball: passing, setting, serving, digging
- Plays defense in the area most balls tend to drop (*High School = Middle Back*)
- Only plays in the back row
- Usually one of the shortest and quickest players on the team

Key Responsibilities

- Serve receive passing, digging, and free ball placement
- Handling the ball when the setter receives the first contact
- Playing middle back defense the entire game

Middle Blockers (2):

Primary Definition

Two tall front row players who act as the teams' primary blockers and hit from the middle of the court.

Characteristics

- Typically the tallest players on the court
- Fast enough to move quickly across the front of the net
- Very good at hitting

Key Responsibilities

- Primary defense guarding the net
- Hitting 2's, 1's (quick sets), and reds (slides)
- Playing middle front defense (blocking everytime)

Opposite (1):

Primary Definition

A dedicated hitter that hits the ball with an approach adjacent to the right sideline of the court.

Characteristics

- Typically the best hitter on the team (College)
- Good blocker
- Good overhand passer / setter

Key Responsibilities

- Hitting 5's and D balls.
- Handling the ball when the setter receives the first contact
- Playing right front defense
- Blocking the other teams' outside hitter

Defensive Specialist (0 or 1):

Primary Definition

A back row player that specializes in defense; digging, free ball passing, and ball control.

Characteristics

- Behind the libero, the 2nd best defensive player on the team.
- Semi-Master of the fundamentals of volleyball: passing, setting, serving, digging
- Only plays in the back row
- Usually one of the shortest and quickest players on the team
- Position not required if the opposite has skills equal to or greater than this position

Key Responsibilities

- Digging
- Free ball passing when needed
- General ball control
- Playing right side defense in the back row