

Re: Libero setting from front zone "extension"

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- *From:* Todd Haverkos <tdh@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Holger Wahlen <hwahlen@xxxxxxxxxx> writes:

A question about a detail in the libero rules. FIVB (and USAV) rule 19.3.1.4 says:

| A player may not complete an attack hit from higher than the top of
| the net, if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a
| Libero in his/her front zone or its extension. The ball may be
| freely attacked if the Libero makes the same action from outside
| his/her front zone or its extension.

What exactly is the "extension" of the front zone that's mentioned here? Everybody I've talked to thinks that it's simply the part of the free zone between center and attack line, but I'm not quite convinced because strictly speaking that's still part of the front zone itself, according to rule 1.4.1:

| The front zone is considered to extend beyond the sidelines to the
| end of the free zone.

So I'd reckon that any extension would have to go beyond that – in other words, if the libero finger-sets from beyond the scorer table, I'd consider a subsequent attack hit over the net illegal. Okay, not that that happens often, but still: Am I reading too literally there?

Hi Holger,

"Extensions" tend to refer to lines that are presumed to be infinitely long. Your gut is correct — the "extension" verbiage aims to address the playable area outside the sidelines between the attack line extended and the centerline extended. In happy compliant collegiate courts, we even have dashed attack line extension markings these days.

One point of pedantry though: Your example of "behind the score table" is of course an exaggeration. As that's a non-playable area, we'd

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whistle the play dead upon the libero contacting the ball in that non-playable area ("ball out"). But there's plenty of playable area outside the sideline between the extensions of the 3m line and centerlines on most courts where the libero could legally hand set the ball, and then we wait to see how clueful the attacker is.

To borrow folksy terminology from Ravi's of days gone by: "da rules don't want no steekin Liberase in front of the 3m meter line—be they in bounds or standing in front of the score table—doing any hand setting of consequence.

Best Regards,

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