

Twelve (12) Substitution Rule

- a) A team shall be allowed a maximum of twelve (12) substitutions in any one set. Players starting a set may be replaced by a substitute and may subsequently re-enter the set twice. Each substitute may enter the set three times. A player shall not enter the set for a fourth time (starting shall count as an entry). Players re-entering the set must assume the original position in the service order in relation to other teammates. No change may be made in a player's position in the service order unless necessitated by an injury requiring an abnormal substitution under the provisions of paragraph b) below. Any number of players may enter the set in each position in the service order.
- b) If through any injury a player is unable to play and substitution cannot be legally made the team is entitled to make an EXCEPTIONAL substitution beyond the limits of paragraph (a).

(This means that ANY player on the bench may replace the injured player)
- c) If through injury or accident a player is unable to play and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) or b), the first referee may grant a special time-out under the provisions of the rules of the game.
- d) If a team becomes incomplete through expulsion of a player and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) above, the team loses the set by default, keeping the points acquired. If a team becomes incomplete through disqualification of a player and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) above, the team loses the matches by default, keeping the sets and points acquired.

Example

The following diagram illustrates how substitutions are recorded on the scoresheet.

I		II		III		IV		V		VI	
10		4		11		2		1		7	
6	3					5					
10						2					
9						5					
8						②					
⑩						⑤					
8											

In the example shown above, the starting line-up is 10, 4, 11, 2, 1 and 7.

This means that these players made their first entry for the set. The coach then substitutes into position one (I) players numbered 6, 9, 8 and 3. Number 10 has made three (3) entries and is not permitted any more entries for the set. The same can be said for player number 5 in position four (IV).

The players numbered 10, 6, 9, 8 and 3, are must remain in position one (I) and none of them can be used to substitute into another position in this set. For example, player 8 has only appeared twice so far and can therefore make another appearance on court but only in position one (I) and only if no more than twelve substitutions are used per set.

In the example shown above, all twelve substitutions have been used.

The scorer recording the substitutions will use the left side column first for each position and when the left is full use the right side column.

There is no requirement to record the score at the time of each substitution.

The scorer referee reports the 11th and 12th substitutions of the team and the third court entry of a player to the second referee who then indicates to the coach concerned and First Referee in that order.

Libero's

A coach may redesignate the team's Libero at the interval between sets. The Libero must comply with the uniform rule and maintain the same playing number during the match. The Libero player must be detailed on the team's line up sheet for each set.