



Dear Dr. Digs – Back to School 2011

Dr. Digs took the summer off from writing so he could take a long vacation and check out all of the volleyball camps in the area. (He might have actually attended some if they didn't start so early in the morning and refuse to give free admission to would-be comedy writers.) But now it's back to school, back to volleyball and back to writing for the illustrious *Digs*.

Dear Dr. Digs,

I heard that we can wear jewelry in some tournaments now. Is that true?

–Percy

Dear Pierced Percy,

Like the shorts rule, this one is just for the adult players and even then it's subject to referee discretion. Can you wear a necklace under your jersey? Yes. Can you dress up like Mr. T from the A-team? No. Can you wear small stud earrings? Yes. Can you wear hoop earrings large enough to hang your shower curtain? No.

More Junior Jewelry Questions:

Can I play with earrings that are less than a week old?	No
Can I play with tape over my jewelry?	Still no
What about a band-aid over the piercing so you can't see it?	Nyet
What if I have a tongue-stud and I don't open my mouth?	Nein
What about rubber bands, silly bands, or hair bands on the wrist?	No, no, no
What if I have a note from my Mom saying it can't come out?	Nope
What if I need pliers to get it out?	(Ow!) but no
Can I leave in a spacer so the hole doesn't close up?	Finally! Yes!!!

By the way, anyone who does not recognize the name Mr. T is strictly prohibited from ever saying "I'm getting old..." Dr. Digs has heard that line from several people in their teens and early twenties and can only laugh and try to remember those days. – Dr. Curmudgeon

Dear Dr. Digs,

What's with the two libero rumor going around? Are we going to have three liberos soon?

Signed, Emilee Barrow

Dear Emilee,

First off, did you really think a name like Emilee Barrow was going to fool anyone? That's pretty obvious. Second, the two liberos will never be on the court at the same time, so it's unlikely that you will ever have three, (although Dr. Digs envisions a time when there will be three liberos in the back row and three giants in the front row at all times.) The two-libero system allows teams to replace one libero with the other if they want, whether it's for playing time, specialization or exhaustion. They still have to sit out for a rally between exchanges and they still aren't allowed to serve. The libero can also replace the referee if they miss a call or the coach if they didn't have time to stop for coffee. Dr. Went-too-far this-time

Dear Doc,

I loved the volleyball slang article last year. Do you have any more?
– W. Smith

Dear Wordsmith,

Absolutely. How many of these have you heard before?

Friendly Fire – Being hit by a teammate's serve.

Deep Dish – An illegal set that is held for a long time below the shoulders. Also, good with pepperoni.

Pancake and Waffle – Both good with maple syrup and a side of bacon, a pancake is when a player places their hand flat on the floor and the ball bounces up from the back of the hand. A waffle is when a player can't decide whether to play a ball with open hands or a platform. They "waffle" between the two options and usually mangle the ball. (See also: French Toast)

Redwood (insult) – A player who is very tall, but not very mobile.

Prince of Whales (insult) – A player who swings as hard as possible in every situation.

Chicken Wing – Playing a ball with one arm, bent at the elbow.

Dr. Digs is suddenly very hungry after writing this, so until next time, faithful readers, may you have more pancakes than waffles and may all your deep dishes be in the pizza place after the tournament.

Dr. Digs – PhD VB