**Learn volleyball language to understand the sport of volleyball**

**overpass**
An overpass is a ball that's passed mistakenly over the net. This is usually done on the first team hit. A passer could make this mistake because they are trying to pass the ball tight to the net.

Also, a defensive player might accidentally send the ball over the net because a hard hit by an attacker can be hard to control.

**overset**
A overset is a ball that's mistakenly set over the net. It's usually very costly to set the ball over the net because your attacker can't make an effective [attack to win](https://www.jacksonvts.com/volleyball-spike.html) the point.

**ready position**
Ready position is the position a player needs to be in to effectively [execute a skill](https://www.jacksonvts.com/volleyball-skills.html). For example, ready position for a blocker is to stand at the net with hands up in the air ready to jump to block.

**topspin**
Topspin is referred to the spin that's put on the ball after a player attacks it. This type of forward spin causes the ball to drop rapidly. It's good to put top spin on the ball when you serve or attack because this gives you more control over your hits.

**free ball**
A free ball is a ball that's sent over the net and it's [easy to pass](https://www.jacksonvts.com/volleyball-passing.html). You never want to give the other team a free ball because it's easy to pass and counterattack. Train your players to place the ball when sending the ball over the net so you can avoid giving the other team free balls.

**double contact**
A double contact refers to a player contacting the ball twice in succession. It is illegal to contact the ball twice consecutively except for during the first team contact. For example, if a passer double contacts the ball that's just been served, it's legal. Also, it's only legal if the double contact is made during a single attempt at playing the ball. Understanding volleyball terminology will help when learning about the [rules in the game of volleyball](https://www.jacksonvts.com/basic-volleyball-rules.html).

**dig**
A dig is a [defensive technique](https://www.jacksonvts.com/volleyball-defense.html) used by a defensive player to make a play on the ball. A dig is usually performed on balls that have been struck hard when attacking at the net.

**centerline**
The centerline is the line that divides the court into 2 halves. In American high school volleyball and USAV volleyball, it's illegal for a players foot or hand to cross the centerline onto the other side of the court during play. NCAA volleyball allows players to cross the centerline provided they don't cause a hindrance or interfere with play.

**Ace**
An ace is a serve that isn't passable.

Most statisticians score an ace for when passer can't make the ball playable for any other player on the team. This may mean a teammate can get a hand on the ball, but keep it in play.

**Setter**
A setter is a specialized position on the volleyball team. The setter also has a specific role. The setter is almost always the leader on the court. The setter's main job is to set the ball to attackers.

**Assist**
An assist is a set or a pass to an attacker that results in a point. An example would be a setter setting a hitter and the hitter attacks the ball to ground of the opponent. The setter would then get credit for an assist.

**Kill**
A kill is an ball that is sent over the net and immediately scores a point. An example would be a front row player spiking a ball to the ground of the opponent. This spiker would get credit for a kill.

**libero**
The libero is specialized position on the court.

**Libero... also referred to as the teams "defensive specialist"**

The player on the team that plays the libero is only allowed to play on the back row. The libero wears a different colored jersey than the rest of the team.

The libero also has special rules. For example, the libero can't set attackers when they are in front of the attack line.

Also, the libero can't ever attack the ball when it is completely above the height of the net.

**outside hitters-Pins**
The outside hitter is the player playing left front.

 Left front is the position on the left side of the court near the net. Usually the best hitter on the team plays outside hitter because this is the set that's the most important for team offense.

**forearm pass**
The forearm pass is the fundamental passing skill in volleyball.

**server**
The server is the player that tosses the ball up and hits it over the net to start the volley. The serve serves from baseline of the court.