



Serve/Receive Alignments for Primary Passer 4-2

Description of Serve/Receive System

A “primary passer” 4-2 serve/receive system is one of the most basic offensive systems you can run in volleyball, while providing the advantage of placing your best passers in position to receive the serve. In this system, in any given rotation, your three best passers (regardless of playing or base position) will bear the responsibility of passing most balls.

Due to this system’s simplicity, it offers the advantage of being easy to learn for beginning players and allows them to understand how their base positions may change while playing to optimize the attack. However, due to the need for a front row player to drop back to serve as a primary passer, it requires special attention to ensuring players know their rotational base positions and return to those positions between each point.

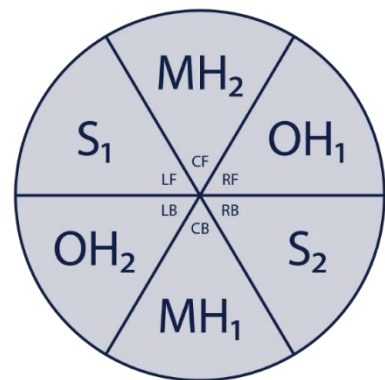
The remainder of this PDF will guide you through the players’ starting base positions and movement that will occur on the court after the serve, including defensive zones of coverage, for all players.

Rotation #1- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

Based on assessing your players’ abilities, you set your lineup and first rotation as follows (base positions are noted in the interior of the rotation wheel).

Within this starting rotation, you have placed Setter 2 (S_2), Middle Hitter 1 (MH_1), and Outside Hitter 2 (OH_2) in the back row. However, you recognize that your strongest passers on the court are S_2 , OH_2 , and OH_1 , who is currently front row in this rotation. To optimize the strength of your passing, these three players (S_2 , OH_2 and OH_1) will be the primary passers for this rotation.

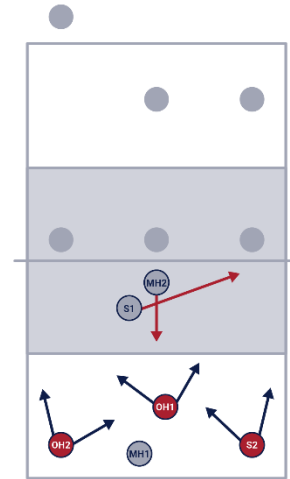
Note: While none of your primary passers will move from base position with the serve, they will need to rearrange their positioning on the court to provide optimal coverage while remaining in proper rotation. This alteration of coverage on the court, including providing coverage for the weakest passer (MH_1), can be seen in the diagram below.



Example Rotation 1



In the diagram, you can see that the OH₁ (right front) is staggered forward on the court, so they remain in-rotation, in front of the OH₂, MH₁ and S₂ (the back-row players). The OH₁ (right front) is also slightly offset to the right of the MH₂ (center front).

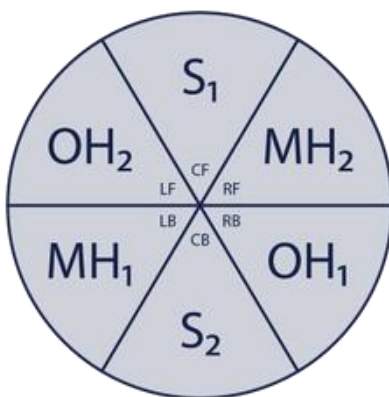


Upon the serve, S₁ will move into proper setting position on the court and MH₂ will transition off the net for the attack. However, unlike the three-person system, the OH₁ (right front) will stay back on defense to pass.

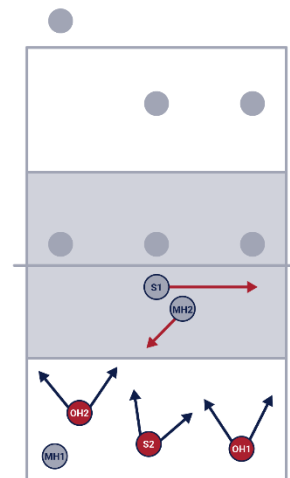
As can be seen in the positioning, your OH₁ functions as a defensive “replacement” for a weaker passer (MH₁, who is your center back). Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₁ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter. When using this system, all options at attack are open (outside, middle, opposite) and should be considered.

Rotation #2- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

In Rotation 2, OH₁, S₂ and OH₂ remain the primary passers responsible for the ball on serve/receive since they are the three strongest passers. Note: OH₂ has now rotated into the front row. For the serve, OH₂ will drop back to pass, ensuring they remain in-rotation in front of all back-row players (MH₁, S₂ and OH₁), and to the left of center players (S₁ and S₂). As soon as the ball is served, S₁ will move into proper setting position on the court and MH₂ will transition off the net for the attack. Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₂ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter.



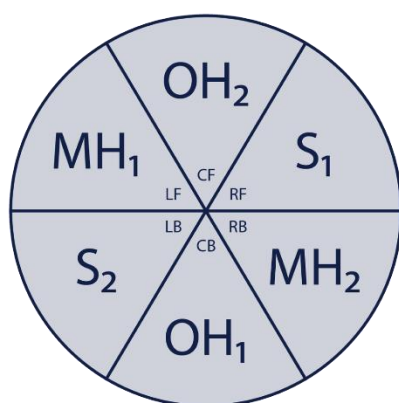
Example Rotation 2



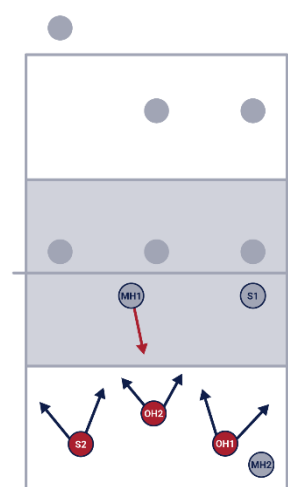


Rotation #3- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

In Rotation 3, OH₁, S₂ and OH₂ remain the primary passers responsible for the ball on serve/receive since they are the three strongest passers. Note: OH₂ still remains a front-row player. For the serve, OH₂ will drop back to pass, ensuring they remain in-rotation in front of all back-row players (MH₂, OH₁ and S₂), to the right of the LF and LB players (MH₁ and S₂), and to the left of the RF and RB players (S₁ and MH₂). As soon as the ball is served, MH₁ will transition off the net for the attack. Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₂ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter.

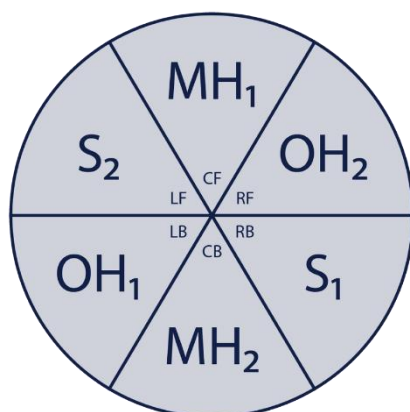


Example Rotation 3

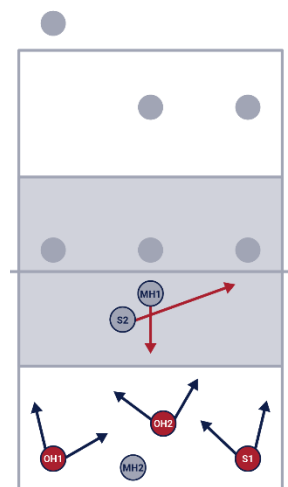


Rotation #4- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

In Rotation 4, OH₁, S₁ and OH₂ will become the primary passers responsible for the ball on serve/receive since they are the three strongest passers. Note: S₂, who previously was a primary passer, will relinquish those duties to S₁ to attend to their setting duties in the front row. For the serve, OH₂ (right front) will drop back to pass, ensuring they remain in-rotation in front of all back-row players (MH₂, S₁ and OH₁), and to the right of center players (MH₁ and MH₂). As soon as the ball is served, S₂ will move into proper setting position on the court and MH₁ will transition off the net for the attack. Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₂ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter.



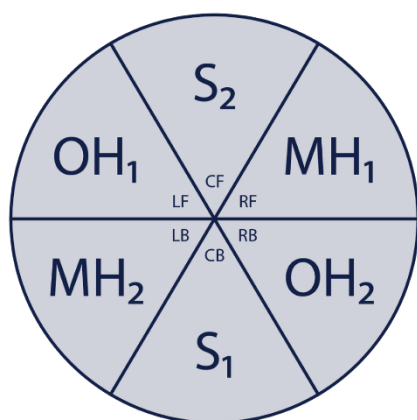
Example Rotation 4



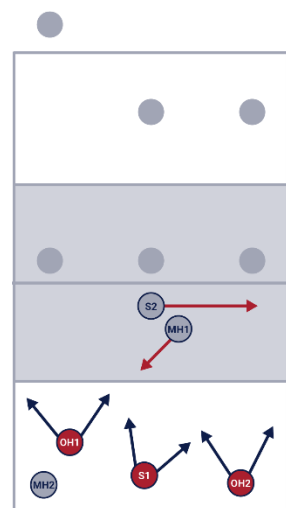


Rotation #5- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

In Rotation 5, OH₁, S₁ and OH₂ remain the primary passers responsible for the ball on serve/receive since they are the three strongest passers. Note: OH₁ has now rotated into the front-row. For the serve, OH₁ will drop back to pass, ensuring they remain in-rotation in front of all back-row players (MH₂, S₁ and OH₂), and to the left of center players (S₁ and S₂). As soon as the ball is served, S₂ will move into proper setting position on the court and MH₁ will transition off the net for the attack. Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₁ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter.

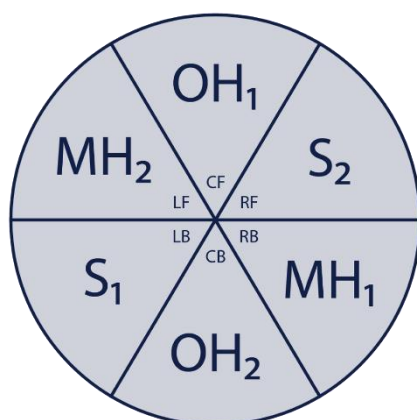


Example Rotation 5



Rotation #6- Base Positions, Defense Coverage and Movement After the Serve

In Rotation 6, OH₁, S₁ and OH₂ remain the primary passers responsible for the ball on serve/receive since they are the three strongest passers. Note: OH₁ still remains a front-row player. For the serve, OH₁ will drop back to pass, ensuring they remain in-rotation in front of all back-row players (MH₁, OH₂ and S₁), to the right of the LF and LB players (MH₂ and S₁), and to the left of the RF and RB players (S₂ and MH₁). As soon as the ball is served, MH₂ will transition off the net for the attack. Once the ball has been passed to the setter, your OH₁ will move to their final attack position as outside hitter.



Example Rotation 6

