



The Setter Dump as an Offensive Threat

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The setter dump is the quickest attack. It plays an important role in a fast offense. Teams usually are not prepared to play defense on the second attack. Defensive teams are getting prepared for the standard third contact attack when the setter dump occurs. As a result, use the setter as an effective hitter. The setter should account for at least 10 percent of the team's total attacks, although when dumping, discretion should be used. Like any tipped attack, as soon as the defense is on to it, they will be hammering the ball back across the net. Do not dump the obvious tight passes, as the block and floor defense will be waiting.

The setter dump has a greatly different tempo than all other attacks. If the setter gains the attention of the blockers and floor defensive players, then this attention will be drawn away from the hitters. When the blockers and floor defensive players do not honor the setter dump, the setter will earn easy kills. The setter should jump set all passes and digs within 4 feet and above the net. This must be made a disciplined skill in practice to become a routine in matches.

When to Dump

It is preferable to dump when:

1. The middle hitter is running a slide behind the setter. This slide movement away from the setter will draw the blocker away from the setter as well.
2. The setter is moving forward. The setter will be able to see the block.
3. There are no blockers committing to the setter. Get the blockers to commit to the setter. This will open up the hitters.
4. The floor defense is standing up or moving backwards during the second contact.

Dump Where?

Setters should dump to:

1. The middle of the court, near the 10-foot line against a perimeter defense.
2. Either sideline, in front of the 10-foot line, if the defense is cheating in towards the center of the court.
3. The opponent's sideline when players are switching or serving.
4. A back row setter's defensive zone if the right front row player is a weak secondary setter and/or if the middle hitter is a threat while the outside hitter is weak.
5. The weak link in the opponent's defense.