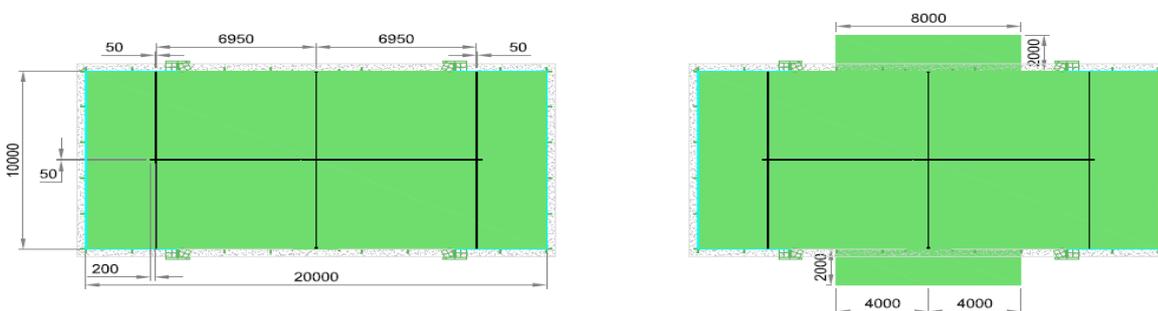


PADEL GUIDANCE NOTE

Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and extremely sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. This guidance note is to provide some general guidance on how to plan, build and operate padel courts. To view all technical details for a padel court - visit the Sports and Play Contractors Association (SAPCA) Padel Code of Practice.

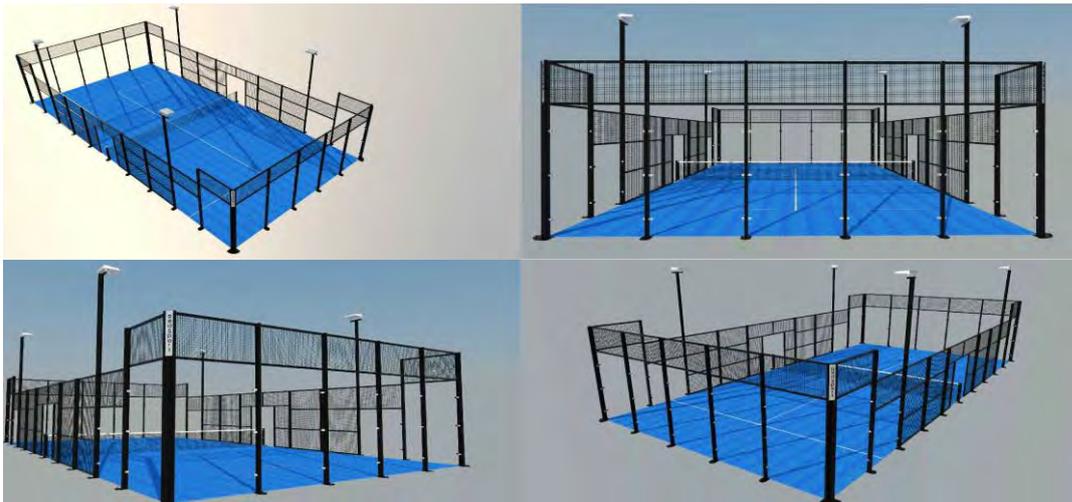
WHAT IS A PADEL COURT?

A padel court playing area is 20m x 10m wide and is marked with two service lines and a centre line that crosses over the service line by 10cm as indicated on the left hand diagram. The net is 10 metres long and 0.88 high at the centre, rising to 0.92 metres at the ends and attached to two lateral posts with a maximum height of 1.05 metres. The out of court area is indicated in the right hand diagram below. This area should be accommodated where there is space available and should be included at venues where higher level competitions are held/take place.



SURROUNDING ENCLOSURE AND REBOUND WALLS

All padel courts require rebound ends (with fencing above) to a total height of 4.0m. The first 3.0m, from playing surface level, can comprise any transparent or solid material (glass, bricks, etc.) which does not affect ball rebound, with the upper 1.0m comprising weldmesh fencing 50mm x 50mm mesh with the inner face being the horizontal mesh. Some examples of a padel court can be seen below.



The transition between adjacent mesh and glass internal surfaces should be flush and neither surface should protrude further than the other as irregular ball rebound will result.

If glass is to be used for the rebound ends then the thickness can either be 10mm or 12mm toughened glass. Glass rebound panels shall incorporate counter sunk fixings to avoid affecting ball bounce and all shall be individually kite marked to the European Standard. Glass and weld mesh panels are supported by steel posts or framed steel panels with base plates for fixing to the concrete ring beam.



The side elevations will incorporate a central opening for player access on one or both sides, or where the out of court play area (8.00m x 2.00m overall) is to be incorporated for higher levels of play.

Openings for access may be single or double arrangement. To allow wheelchair access to either end of the court, the spacing between the net post and the enclosure should be a minimum of 1.2m on either side of the court.

RINGBEAM, SUB-BASE CONSTRUCTION & WARRANTIES

The sub-base construction should comprise a suitable free draining non frost susceptible aggregate sub-base average 250mm depth with 65mm depth of porous asphalt installed above in two separate layers. The sub-base can be installed with a maximum single or dual plane gradient of 1:100 or alternatively the court may be constructed to a level gradient with a suitable fall established to the formation level. An internal surface water drainpipe should be incorporated with an outfall through the perimeter ring beam to the outfall position.

The supporting posts are fixed with base plates to a perimeter reinforced concrete ring beam. The upper surface of the ring beam will finish at the same level as the underlying court sub-base construction.



The LTA recommend in every instance the reinforced concrete ring beam is designed by a structural engineer (with a suitable cross section profile) with due consideration of the wind loads for the locality of the site and any other relevant loads (spectators). This design must be backed by the structural engineers' professional indemnity insurance. If a venue employs a contractor for both design and construction (or where this is implied) then the contractor should also carry their own professional indemnity insurance in relation to the design of the perimeter ring beam. Padel court manufacturer's warranties do not usually cover structural failure of the perimeter enclosure only failure of the individual components in terms of wear and corrosion. The LTA would recommend that a 10 year warranty is established for all installations.

The UK has much higher corrosion rates than in Continental Europe and therefore all metal used in the construction of the court should have galvanised steelwork with subsequent zinc electro plating after fabrication..

SYNTHETIC SURFACING

The padel court playing surface should comprise a single tone sand-dressed synthetic surface (either fibrillating or monofilament tufts) manufactured in accordance UNE 41958 IN.

FLOODLIGHTING

Padel courts can either be lit by the use of integrated or extended fence posts as part of the surrounding fence enclosure inset by 4.0m from the back of the court; or by the use of standalone floodlight columns outside of the padel court enclosure. All light fittings shall be installed to create a minimum 6.0m high clear space above the padel court playing area.

The minimum lighting performance standards for padel courts are defined as follows:-

Venue Type	Minimum illumination at ground level (Z=0)
National/International Competition	500 lux (E av) with 0.7 uniformity
Regional competition and recreational use	300 lux (E av) with 0.5 uniformity

Lighting designs shall use a calculation grid spacing of 1.0m x 1.0m (or lesser) dimension over the playing area centred on the net line. Lighting designs provided by designers and manufacturers should fully reveal the tilt angles of the fittings in order to provide information concerning potential glare issues to adjacent property owners.

SIZE OF ENCLOSURE & COSTS

The table below indicates dimensions for the external ensure of the courts. This includes a nominal surface ring beam size of 400mm (width) for the court enclosure. The design of the ring beam and drainage will be site specific and the depth and shape of the ring beam below ground will need to be designed by a structural engineer. In addition the dimensions below include a 1.5m gap in-between the courts but does not include an outer play area.

Number of Courts	Min Size of Area Required for External Courts	
	Length (m)	Width (m)
1 Court	20.80	10.80
2 Courts	20.80	22.3
3 Courts	20.80	33.8
4 Courts	20.80	45.3
5 Courts	20.80	56.8
6 Courts	20.80	68.3

The table below provides some indicative costs for the installation of Padel courts and should only be used as a guide because location and site conditions will determine final cost.

Number of Courts	1	2	3	4
Courts with lights (£)	32,000	60,000	88,000	100,000
Ring Beam, court base & drainage (£)	30,000	58,000	84,000	100,000
Total	62,000	118,000	172,000	200,000

COVERED COURTS

There are a range of closed or open-sided structures available which can be used to cover padel courts. They are constructed by installing steel or timber portal frames onto a foundation with a single or double skin membrane roof. Some structures come in with a fully enclosed roof and walls while others have open sides with a canopy roof type design. The supporting frame (legs) sits outside the padel enclosure and the clear height of the enclosure should be at least 6.0m at the rear of the court and 8.0m above the netline. Where possible the total clear height above the court should be 8.0m across the whole playing area.

All steel supporting components for structures and canopies in the UK should be hot dip galvanised for maximum longevity and protection against the climate. The structure and its foundations should be designed by a structural engineer. Planning approval will be required for the development of an indoor structure or canopy in line with UK planning laws. Building control will be required for fully enclosed indoor structures and may also be required for canopies, to sign off the design and installation of the structure and its foundations. Canopy roof and wall membranes should have a minimum design life of 15 years. The size of the canopy enclosure to cover canopy courts are as follows:-

Number of Courts	Min Size of Area Required for Covered Courts	
	Length(m)	Width (m)
1 Court	22.45	11
2 Courts	22.45	22.5
3 Courts	22.45	34
4 Courts	22.45	45.5
5 Courts	22.45	57
6 Courts	22.45	68.5

The table below provides some indicative costs for the installation of a canopy over Padel courts and should only be used as a guide because location and site conditions will determine final cost.

Number of Courts	1	2	3	4
Canopy Foundation and drainage (£)	25,000	40,000	50,000	60,000
Canopy (£)	50,000	95,000	130,000	160,000
Total	75,000	135,000	180,000	220,000

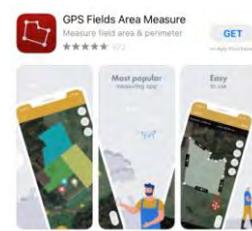
PLANNING CONSENT

The construction of a Padel court will require formal planning consent to be issued by the relevant Local Authority (For further information on how to obtain planning please refer to LTA guidance note on planning). The site developer will be responsible for obtaining planning consent and this will be excluded from most contractors' quotations. Careful consideration of the location of proposed padel courts should be given in relation to the impact of noise and light on adjacent residential properties. If a residential property is within 30m of the padel court then it is likely that sound attenuation mitigation will be required as well as noise and light surveys being required as part of the planning application.

HOW TO APPROACH YOUR PROJECT

If you are starting out on construction project, it is inevitable you will have a lot of questions and it can be a daunting prospect. The steps should help in developing a padel tennis facility.

1. Measure your proposed site to see if a padel court can fit. There are many apps that you can use to measure your site using google maps. An example is GPS fields area measure app or you can use a tape measure.
2. Develop a business plan that provides information on how the facility will be managed and sustainable (*Please see LTA guidance note on how to write a business plan*).
3. Develop a budget cost plan and establish how the project will be funded. If required engage with funding partners and submit funding applications. Check the criteria of each funding partner and make sure you have adequate tenure on your site to develop the project.
4. Engage consultants to develop a project specification and apply for planning permission (*For further information on how to apply for planning then please refer to LTA guidance note*).
5. Obtain 3 quotations from SAPCA members. It is recommended that a main contractor is used to construct the entire project. This will provide the venue with a single warranty for the development.
6. Once planning permission has been received. Finalise all funding for the project and if funders require security then engage solicitors to establish legal security on site.
7. Gain written permission from funders to start on site and make sure all planning permission has been discharged.
8. Manage the project on site and drawdown funding. Once the project is complete obtain the operation and maintenance manuals form the contractor.



OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Adding padel courts may require a change to the way you manage your venue, court allocation and bookings. Although each venue is different below are areas to consider:-

- The majority of padel courts are operated on a pay and play basis but consideration needs to be given to organised activity.
- Think about your court rates for peak off peak and coaching.
- We would recommend that padel venues install a gate access system so that access can be controlled remotely.
- Running costs for LED lights are approx. £1 per hour per court, but is dependent on the configuration and type of lamp.
- The LTAs recommended sinking fund for Padel courts is £1,500 per court per year to cover court surface lamp and column replacement.



PADEL CONTRACTORS

The LTA recommends that venues use contractors who can build the whole system including the foundations and installation of the floodlights. The LTA has partnered with the Sports and Play Contractors Association (SAPCA) to develop a technical code of practice. This document provides all the technical details to build a padel court and the link to the code of practice is shown below. The LTA recommends that venues use SAPCA tennis court contractors who specialise in the construction of a Padel court. Please see the link below for further contact details:

https://sapca.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CoP_for_padel_courts_v3_040321.pdf

<https://sapca.org.uk/popular-searches/tennis-court-constructors/>