



Padel Facility Development Australia



01 Introduction

Padel is a racquet-based sport and often described as an innovative mixture of tennis and squash. The game is typically played by 4 people in a doubles format within a court enclosed by glass wall panels.

Padel was originally created in Mexico (1969) and quickly gained popularity throughout Europe.

This sport has become one of the fastest growing sports around the world and is now established within several Australian cities. Padel can be played indoors, outdoors or under a covered shelter.

A Padel court is defined as area 20m long x 10m wide, enclosed above ground and is a combination

of a transparent or solid material (glass, mesh, rendered blockwork) and weld mesh or fencing. Fence panels are supported by steel posts or reinforced aluminium box, fixed to a concrete foundation with a synthetic turf playing surface.

This document provides initial general information for venues considering the construction of a Padel court/s in Australia. Information presented is intended for use to all stakeholders involved in the planning, construction, management, maintenance of a Padel court when initiating new or revisiting existing projects.

This document must be read in conjunction with other existing sporting code guidelines, associated industry and Australian and requirements to ensure facilities are maximised for participant use. Refer to the disclaimer in this document for its intended use and restrictions on use.



02 Court and Club Planning Process

There are technical, planning, compliance and legislative matters that need to be considered when constructing Padel courts in Australia. Every project is different, and it is important to engage the right expertise early.

A Padel court is defined as a structure for the purposes of the Building Code of Australia (BCA). As such, certain requirements need to be met from an engineering and loading (natural forces and activity) perspective. The below sets out a general guide to the stages likely to be encountered in most Padel court projects:

STAGE	DETAIL
1. Strategic planning	<p>The idea or concept stage.</p> <p>Develop a business plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare estimates of building and operating costs, funding sources, potential demand and revenue.• Padel court costs can vary significantly between manufacturers, suppliers and installers. Multiple quotes should be received and tested against market conditions.• Cost escalations and contingencies will need to be considered throughout each step of the process to allow for unforeseen circumstances and unavoidable variances.

STAGE	DETAIL
2. Project Identification	<p>The site stage.</p> <p>High-level considerations of site identification, land type, zoning, location, leasing and the surrounding environment. Procuring and operating model impacts should be adjusted to match the site variables.</p>
3. Project planning	<p>The initial planning stage.</p> <p>Develop a project delivery plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes timing and staging of project works. • Identify court suppliers and installers that comply with all required Australian Standards. • Consider the contracting model. This will include mapping all suppliers and contractors needed, including engineers, project managers, construction contractor, installation contractor, court supplier, and others. Consider whether any of this work can be performed by the same contractor helping to saving time and risk, but potentially impacting cost. <p>Unless you have substantial project experience or expertise, engaging a consultant or engineer at this stage is recommended.</p>
4. Planning Approval Application	<p>The planning or 'land use' stage.</p> <p>Review the legal framework and planning scheme surrounding the use of land. Consider the proposal against this framework and start preparing a planning application. This may include the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Seek clarification from the Local Council Planning Department on the requirements for the planning application (i.e. Landowner's consent and Planning Permits as part of your facility planning process). 2) Determine the Landowner (i.e. Council, entity, individual etc.). 3) Seek Landowner consent for planning approval (if required). 4) If Planning Permits are required, submit a Planning Permit Application to the relevant Authority for approval (requirements for Permits vary for each Council) 5) The Application Form is generally lodged to council with a complete description of the proposal (which may include plans, supporting information) and the nominated fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Application Form is generally lodged with a complete description of the proposal (which may include plans, supporting information) and the nominated fee <p>To complete this stage, you may first need to complete certain design elements in stages 4 and 5.</p>
5. Site Investigation	<p>The site understanding (including key site risks) stage.</p> <p>It is recommended to do a comprehensive investigation on the site layout and conditions (including geotechnical and existing underground services).</p> <p>The degree of investigation required will be affected by the complexity of the site and the complexity of the project.</p>

STAGE

DETAIL

6. Design Specification

The initial design stage.

Prepare a court design

- Any design should ensure the required certifications are obtained, including lighting, artificial grass, glass, and metal fence.
- Suppliers may provide “off the shelf” court designs as a starting point.
- Ensure Facility design meets any requirements of Operating Permits and Licences. Examples of related permits and licences include:
 - Building Permits
 - Recreational Operation Authorisation
 - Environmental Management
 - Electrical Infrastructure Validation
 - Public Road Occupation Permit
 - Access and Parking Permit

Note, some of these permits may not be issued until much later but will need to be incorporated as part of the design.

7. Detailed Drawings

The detailed design stage.

- Detailed drawings, performance calculations, engineering requirements
- Key design consultants to consider include:
 - Field of play consultant
 - Architect
 - Geotechnical engineer
 - Civil and structural engineer
 - Building land surveyors
 - Electrical engineer
 - Lighting designer
 - Quantity surveyors or cost planners
 - Landscape design or architect
 - Arborist
 - Acoustics consultant

Design consultants are highly recommended to bring required specialist skills and can ensure that independent design input is provided to meet project needs and adherence with relevant standards.

8. Compliance Certificate for Building Design

Design Approval for construction.

Engineering sign-off to confirm:

- The glass (supported as per the submitted design) is fit for purpose and meets the loading standards (e.g. AS1288).
- The supporting / fencing posts are fit for purpose and have been designed with appropriate construction details to meet the loading standard to support the glass certification.
- Lighting conforms to a standard suitable for the location, with regard to spillage and glare.
- Base platform and surface construction meet the appropriate civil and construction standards.

STAGE

DETAIL

9. Construction phase

The build stage.

- The building contractor will carry out the work however will need management to deliver the required work within the proposed timelines.
- The building contractor may seek variations for consideration if conditions have changed or the scope has been adjusted. These rights should be set out in the construction contract.
- Nearing the end of this phase you will seek to obtain Building Approval and operating permits.

An appointment of a suitable Project Manager to work through this phase is advisable.

10. Project Completion

The final stage of the build.

This stage consists of obtaining building approval and operating permits. There should be only minor defects (if any) and the project should be practically complete.

After this stage, you should be ready to operate. It is recommended to monitor for any defects or venue performance, particularly in the first year after completion.



General and Disclaimer

This document has been prepared in consultation with Padel Australia Limited (Padel Australia) who are the official governing body for the sport of Padel in Australia. Please contact Padel Australia at <https://www.padelaus.com.au/contact/> for further information.

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