

COURT. FACILITY. VENUE.

A practical guide to planning pickleball courts, clubs and commercial social-play venues.



Pickleball 101

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02	Court dimensions and planning envelope
03	Space, run-off and circulation
04	Surface pathways
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Pickleball is simple to play - but a good facility still needs planning.

Pickleball is a paddle sport played over a low net on a compact rectangular court. The same playing-line dimensions are used for singles and doubles, which helps make the sport flexible across homes, schools, clubs, resorts and commercial venues.

01

ACCESSIBLE

A compact court footprint and social format make pickleball easy to introduce into many project types.

02

SCALABLE

One court can become a club, a multi-court centre or a hospitality-led venue.

03

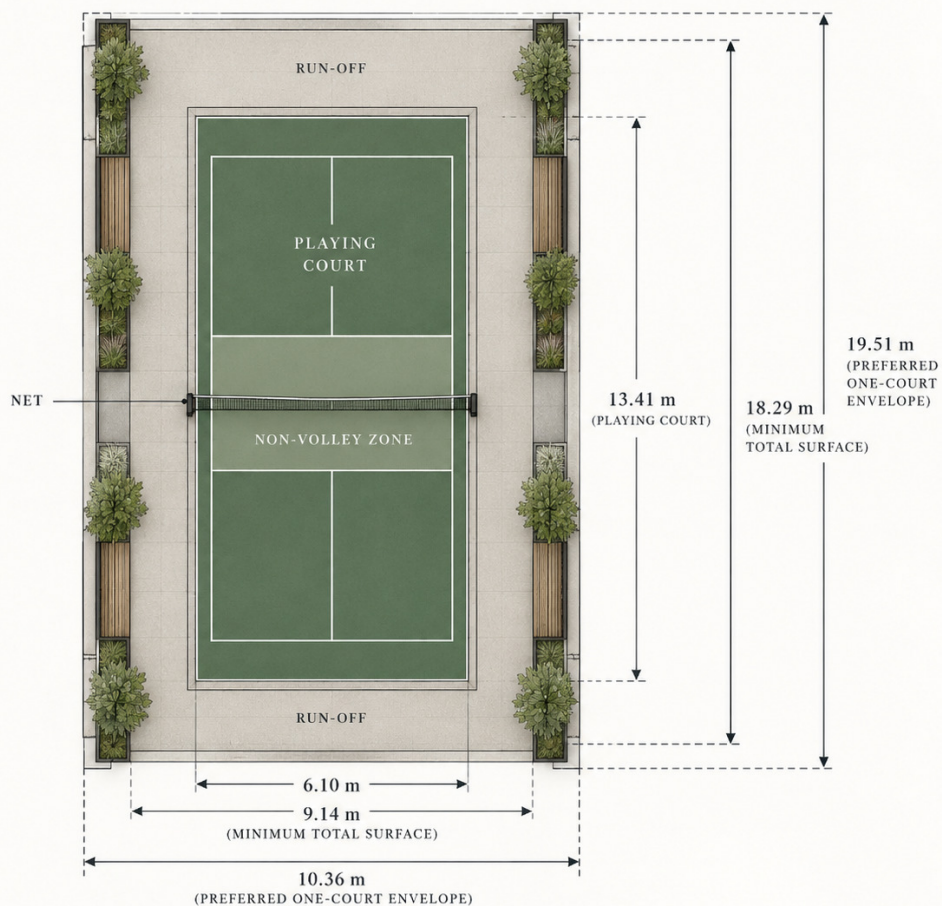
SYSTEM-LED

The surface is only one part: lighting, containment, cover and social space also matter.

The key project shift is to think beyond the white lines. A usable pickleball environment needs enough clear space around the playing rectangle, a suitable base and surface, net and containment systems, safe circulation, and a plan for the people waiting, watching or socialising beside the court.

Start with the playing rectangle. Then plan the space around it.

Use these figures for early feasibility. Final clearances, accessibility, adjacent courts, walls, fences and local requirements should still be checked for the actual site.



Run-off and circulation are part of the court.

A standard playing rectangle can fit into a space that is still too tight to operate comfortably. Think about movement beyond baselines and sidelines, player entry, gates, waiting areas, adjacent courts and spectator circulation.



A

Minimum total surface

9.14 x 18.29 m early planning reference.

B

Preferred envelope

10.36 x 19.51 m or larger where the site allows.

Choose the surface around the base and operating model.

No single surface is right for every pickleball project. The useful comparison is how the system responds to the existing base, indoor or outdoor exposure, permanence, drainage, maintenance, portability and desired playing feel.

01

Permanent acrylic

A seamless site-applied pathway over a suitably prepared concrete or asphalt base. Hard and cushioned build-ups can suit different projects.

02

Modular court tile

Interlocking modules can provide drainage, replaceable sections and practical installation pathways for outdoor and shared-use courts.

03

Resilient modular

Softer-touch modular systems can add cushioning while retaining replaceable modules and drainage pathways.

04

Portable roll flooring

Useful for halls, events and reversible conversions where seams, handling, storage and setup labour are planned properly.

05

Premium architectural surfaces

Selected premium systems can offer a different material character for clubs, resorts and high-end private projects.

Nets, dividers, fencing and gates shape how the court operates.

For a single private court, the equipment brief may be simple. Multi-court, school and commercial environments usually need a more deliberate plan for permanent or portable nets, divider barriers, fencing, gates and ball containment.

01

NET SYSTEM

Permanent, socketed, removable or portable depending on the operating model.

02

DIVIDERS

Useful between adjacent courts and in halls where temporary separation is needed.

03

PERIMETER

Fencing and ball containment should sit outside the playing envelope and preserve run-off.

04

GATES

Entry positions should avoid crossing active play and should work with circulation and accessibility.

Lighting and acoustics should be considered before the layout is frozen.

Evening operation, indoor visibility, neighbouring properties and repeated ball impact can materially change the facility brief. Commercial and indoor venues should treat both lighting and acoustics as early design inputs, not late add-ons.

LIGHT

Court lighting

Plan pole or fixture locations, glare control, aiming, controls and intended level of play. Avoid placing equipment where it compromises run-off or sightlines.

SOUND

Acoustics

Indoor reverberation and outdoor neighbour effects may require project-specific acoustic planning or specialist review.

Commercial venues also need to think about the transition from court lighting to social and hospitality lighting. A venue can feel operationally disconnected if the courts are bright but circulation, lounge and food-and-beverage zones are not planned as one experience.

Weather protection changes the operating window.

Shade, rain protection or full enclosure can extend comfort and programming. The right pathway depends on climate, court count, clear height, wind exposure, services, ventilation, lighting and local approvals.



01 PLAYER / SPECTATOR SHADE

Smaller structures around waiting and viewing zones.

02 ARCHITECTURAL COURT COVER

Large-span open-sided cover over one or more courts.

03 SEMI-ENCLOSED / SPORTS BUILDING

Greater weather protection with services and building interfaces.

04 SPORTS AIR DOME

Large clear-span enclosed pathway for selected all-weather facilities.

The people off the court matter too.

Waiting, watching, storing equipment and moving between games are part of the facility. Clubs and commercial venues should deliberately plan player areas, spectator sightlines, storage, amenities and circulation.

01

PLAYERS

Benches, bag areas, hydration, shade and clear changeover space.

02

SPECTATORS

Viewing without blocking run-off or circulation.

03

STORAGE

Nets, balls, maintenance gear and portable divider systems.

04

OPERATIONS

Booking, coaching, events, cleaning and court changeover.

05

ACCESS

Entry routes, gates, accessible circulation and support spaces.

06

FUTURE

Allow for staged court growth, cover, technology or hospitality where relevant.

Home, school and club projects need different priorities.

The sport is the same, but the operating brief is not. Start with the audience and how frequently the space will be used before choosing the surface or supporting systems.



01

HOME

Space, base condition, maintenance, neighbours and visual integration.

02

SCHOOL

Shared use, supervision, storage, durable equipment and timetable flexibility.

03

CLUB

Court count, lighting, waiting space, coaching, events and future expansion.

Build the court. Build the venue.

Commercial pickleball works best when the operating model drives the site plan. Court count matters, but so do dwell time, food and beverage, events, coaching, spectator experience, evening use and the ability to stage future growth.



A commercial project should be planned as a venue system: courts + circulation + hospitality + spectators + lighting + acoustics + technology + operations.

Pickleball and hospitality can occupy the same experience.

The strongest social-play concepts keep players, spectators and non-playing visitors connected. Courtside hospitality, lounge space and evening activity can turn a sports facility into a destination.



01

COURTSIDE BAR / CAFE

Food and beverage positioned close to the action without compromising run-off, circulation or safety.

02

VIEWING TERRACE

Spectator and social seating that can watch multiple courts and support dwell time.

03

CENTRAL SOCIAL HUB

A shared lounge or clubhouse linking court banks, events and hospitality.

04

EVENT MODE

Layouts that can move between casual bookings, leagues, coaching, corporate use and selected competitions.

A large building is not automatically a pickleball venue.

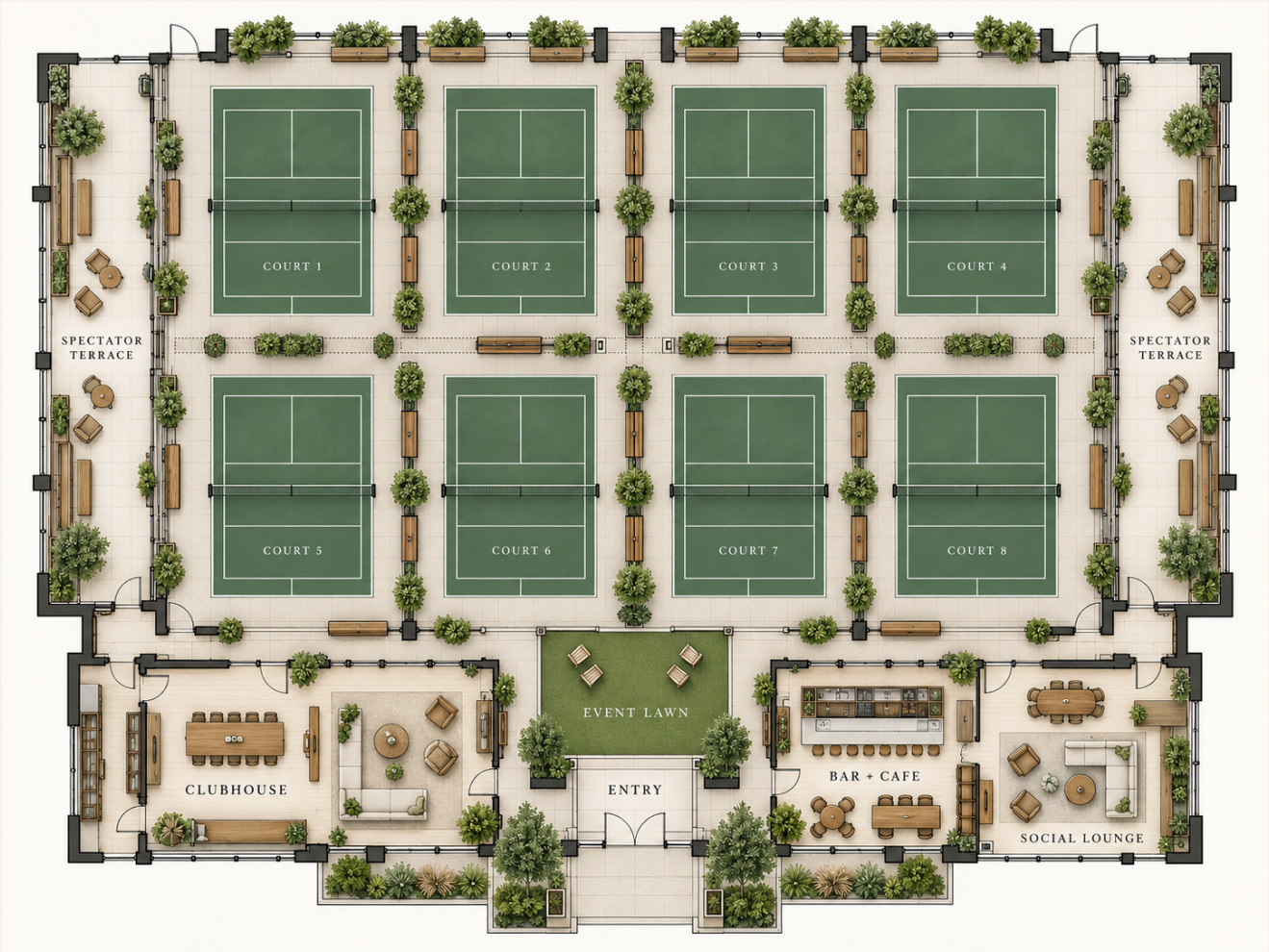
Warehouse and hall conversions can be attractive, but court count should only be fixed after the building has been screened for clear height, slab condition, structure, services, egress, accessibility, ventilation, lighting and acoustics.



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- 01 Clear height and overhead obstructions
 - 02 Slab flatness, movement and surface condition
 - 03 Fire / egress and change-of-use requirements
 - 04 Accessibility and circulation
 - 05 HVAC / thermal comfort
 - 06 Lighting and glare
 - 07 Room acoustics and neighbour impact
 - 08 Amenities, storage and hospitality potential
-

Scale the experience, not only the court count.

These are concept pathways for early commercial planning. The actual layout should respond to the site, operating plan and local project requirements.



1-2	3-6	6+	ALL
SOCIAL COURT	CLUB FORMAT	DESTINATION VENUE	COVERED / INDOOR

A complete venue can be broken into eight coordinated systems.

Use this matrix to make sure the project brief covers more than the playing surface.

01 PLAY Surface, nets, posts, dividers	02 EDGE Fencing, gates, ball containment
03 LIGHT Court and venue lighting	04 COVER Shade, canopies, buildings, domes
05 WATCH Benches, spectator seating, viewing	06 OPERATE Storage, maintenance, court equipment
07 TECH Cameras, analysis, selected scoring/display	08 SOCIAL Hospitality adjacency, lounge, furniture, audio

Ten questions to answer before procurement.

A clear brief reduces rework and makes supplier review more useful.

1

Who will use the courts?

2

How many courts are needed now - and later?

3

What clear site or building dimensions are available?

4

What is the existing base or slab condition?

5

Indoor, outdoor, covered or convertible?

6

Permanent, shared-use or portable?

7

What lighting and operating hours are required?

8

Are fencing, acoustics or nearby neighbours important?

9

What seating, shade, hospitality or spectator space is required?

10

What local works, engineering and approvals sit outside product supply?

Turn Pickleball 101 into a project.

Use Apollo's Pickleball Project Builder to structure the full brief, the Pickleball Space Planner to test a site envelope, or continue into the deeper SPORT + KNOWLEDGE Pickleball Academy.

PROJECT BUILDER

1. BUILD THE BRIEF

Project type, court count, surface, lighting, cover, technology and hospitality.

SPACE PLANNER

2. CHECK THE SPACE

Compare the available footprint with the playing court, minimum total surface and preferred one-court envelope.

ACADEMY

3. GO DEEPER

Continue through the 12-module Pickleball Academy for court, facility and commercial venue planning.

Apollo NZ Global is supply-only. Local building design, foundations, installation, electrical work, structural engineering, acoustic consultancy, accessibility review, commissioning and statutory approvals remain with the relevant local professionals, manufacturers and client-side project team.

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