

Ancillary Facilities and Equipment



Introduction

There is a myriad of additional facilities and equipment that a tennis club could provide for their tennis activity. Generally they are not essential, except in certain circumstances. What additional facilities / equipment a club procures will be determined by the type of court usage and their type of tennis court surface. If courts are used for limited social play there will be quite different needs as compared to courts used for intensive coaching. Whereas, if the courts are intended for top class competition there would be different needs again. Notwithstanding what additional equipment is procured, will generally be able to facilitate other usages of the courts. Generally most of the ancillary equipment and facilities relate directly to the court or court activity.

Types of equipment

Some of the equipment items that may be of interest to a club are:

On court

There are some basic items that should be on any court regardless of the usage or type of court surface.

There should always be:

- A court number sign,
- A net height gauge (singles stick),
- A scoring board, sign or post.

Generally there is signage for court care. If the courts are to be used for higher grade competitions an Umpires Chair, with provision for shade, (wood or metal) may be appropriate.

For the convenience of players:

- Windscreens,
- Drinking fountains,
- Ball holders.

For clay type surfaces a line broom (fixed or rotary), a bagging mat and a hose are needed. Removal of excess surface water after rain is dependent of the type of court surface:

- Acrylic surface generally only requires a type of squeegee, Clay type surfaces could require an absorbent type roller.

Coaching, training and practice

There are a number of things that can be used to assist coaching, training and practicing.

The following can be considered:

- Ball retrievers,
- Ball hoppers,
- Ball machine,
- Ball speed radar / timing device.

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If any electrical equipment could be used on a court, consider installing an external power point in its vicinity. For practice, training or even coaching, you can install:

- Hitting wall
- Rebound net
- Backboard.

Ancillaries

There are a number of ancillary items that can be utilised at a tennis club. These are not considered essential, but can add value depending on the courts usage:

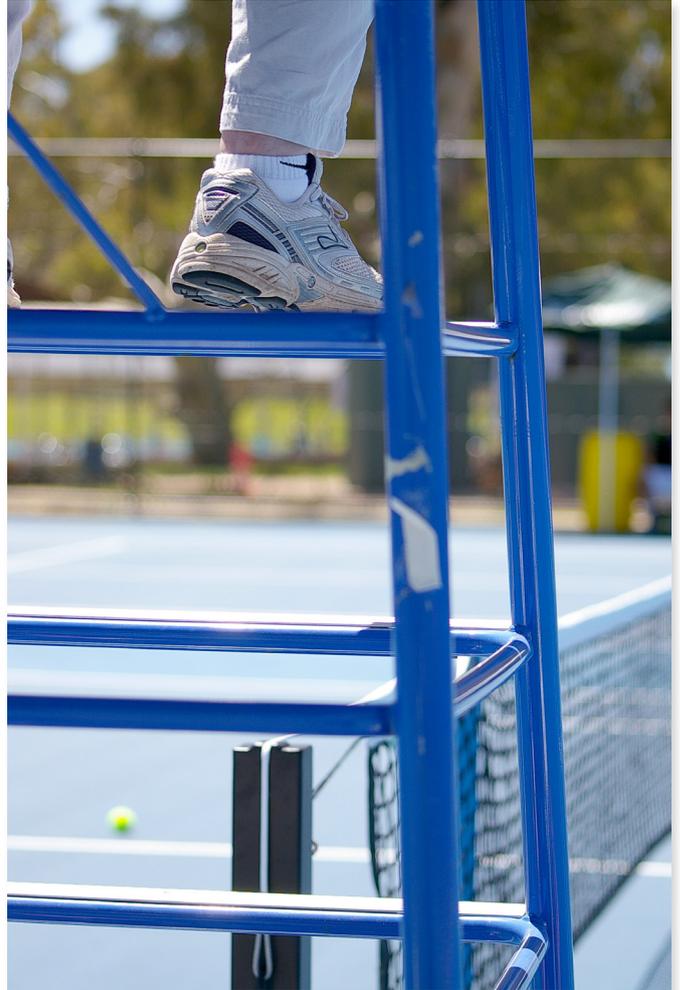
- Court lighting,
- External coin operated light control panel,
- Restranging machine,
- Electronic scoreboard(s).

Other bits and pieces that can be useful:

- Court booking / allocation board,
- Shoe cleaning brush,
- Shoe cleaning grate,
- Visitors fee collection box.

Maintenance

While some club equipment is inexpensive and can last for a considerable time; other equipment can be expensive to repair or replace. As with any type of equipment, the club must make appropriate financial provision for the repair and ultimate replacement of their equipment.



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