

**POP Tennis**

**Padel**

**Beach Tennis**

**Pickleball**

**Why, what, where**



# 01 Complementary formats Why?



**Over the past two years, Tennis Australia (TA) has developed and delivered a strategy focused on the identification, introduction and integration of emerging racquet/paddle formats.**

Observing global participation trends, as well as compatibility with tennis and tennis facilities, TA has focused its efforts on Padel, Pickleball, POP Tennis and Beach Tennis.

Comparative to tennis, these formats all share the playing properties of 'smaller court, shorter racquet, slower ball', making them highly accessible to a broad range of participants.

**TA recognises the positive impact complementary formats can have on the sustainability, accessibility and vibrancy of our tennis network.**

Tennis Australia supports the strategic integration of these formats to:

- Attract and retain players
- Increase court utilisation
- Improve the sustainability of our venues.

It is recommended that the integration of these formats not come at the expense of well utilised tennis facilities or tennis programming.



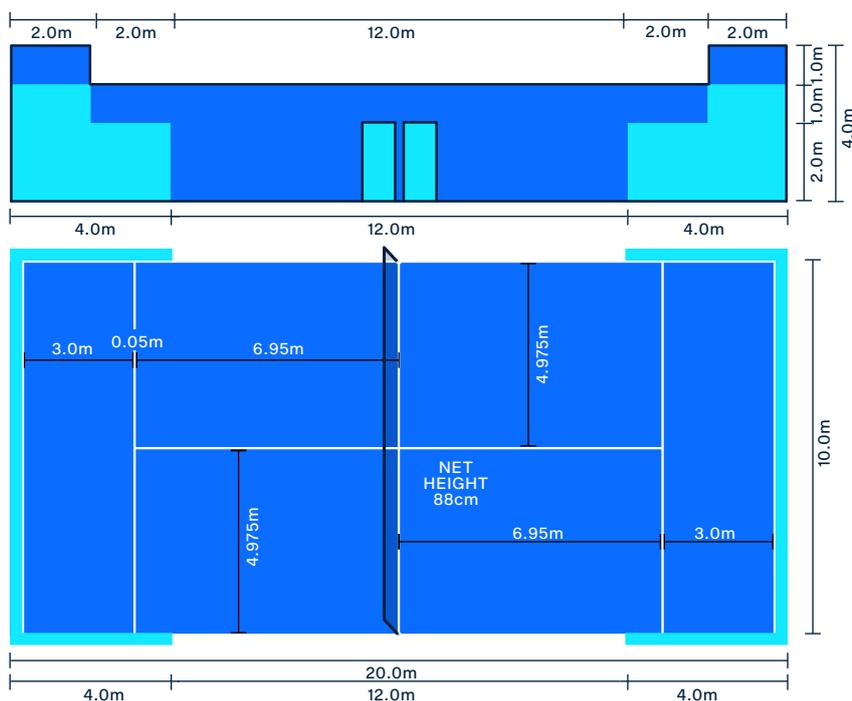
# 02 Complementary formats What?

## Padel

**Padel was invented in Acapulco, Mexico, in 1969 and is one of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe.**

There are over 50 national Padel federations and an estimated 25 million active Padel players worldwide. Padel is a unique blend of tennis and squash, that is played within an enclosed structure made of glass walls, steel posts, and wire mesh panelling.

The number of courts, clubs and players is on the rise in Australia with associated development pathways now established.



### Target audience:

Young adults and adults

### Segment:

Skill seekers and fitness fanatics

### Average racquet/paddle specifications:

**LENGTH:** 45.5cm,  
**WIDTH:** 26cm, **DEPTH:** 38mm,  
**WEIGHT:** 350–380g

### Average ball properties:

**DIAMETER:** 6.55cm, **WEIGHT:** 56g, 11psi (slightly smaller and less pressurised than a tennis ball)

### Scoring:

Same scoring system as tennis, although under-arm serve and off-wall play permitted.

### Surface:

Synthetic grass

### Court dimensions:

**LENGTH:** 20m, **WIDTH:** 10m

### Net height:

88cm at middle

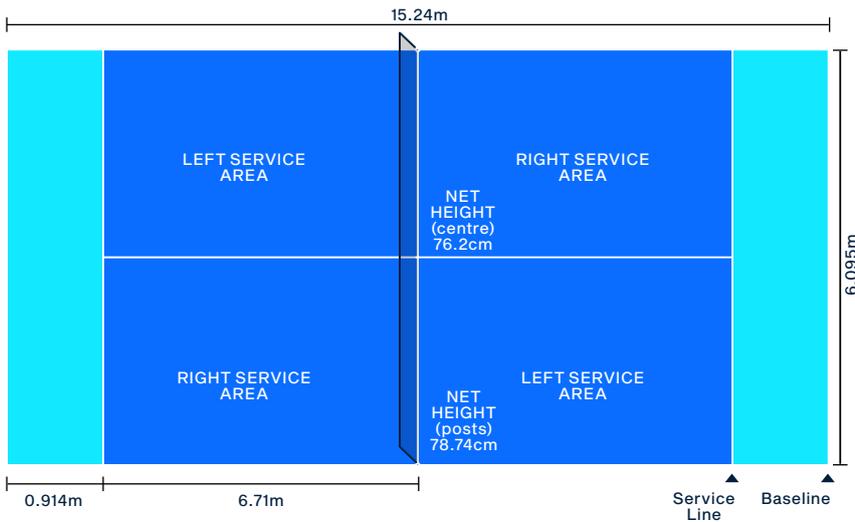


# POP Tennis

**POP Tennis was created in America in 1898 and blends key features of Tennis and Pickleball.**

It is most well-known for its presence along Venice Beach, California, and can be played indoors and outdoors and on a variety of surfaces (hard, synthetic grass, clay and hard sand).

Its ability to be played on multiple surfaces and be set-up 'anywhere, any-time, for anyone' is driving interest from many coaches, clubs and councils around Australia.



**Target audience:**

Teens and families

**Segment:**

Fun casuals

**Average racquet/paddle specifications:**

**LENGTH:** 45cm,  
**WIDTH:** 20cm, **DEPTH:** 38mm,  
**WEIGHT:** 300–350g

**Average ball properties:**

Green-stage tennis ball (75% compression of normal tennis ball)

**Scoring:**

Same scoring system as tennis, however you only get one underarm serve.

**Surface:**

Synthetic grass, clay, hard court, hard sand

**Court dimensions:**

**LENGTH:** 15.24m,  
**WIDTH:** 6.096m

**Net height:**

78.74cm

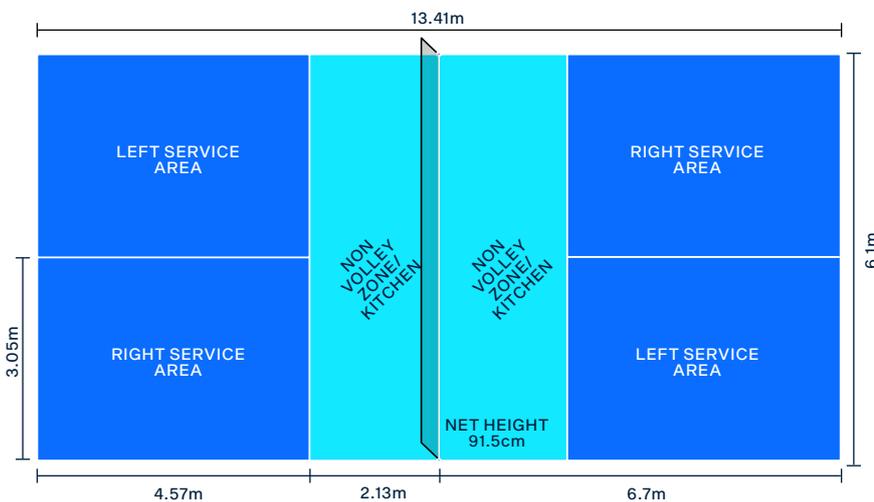


# Pickleball

**Pickleball originated in United States and is identified as one of America's fastest growing sports.**

It is a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis and is played both indoors and outdoors on a badminton-sized hard-court with a perforated hollow polymer ball.

Through its ease to learn and play, organic growth is occurring in Australia both within, and outside, tennis facilities.



**Target audience:**

Late adult

**Segment:**

Sport explorers

**Average racquet/paddle specifications:**

**LENGTH:** 40cm,  
**WIDTH:** 19cm, **DEPTH:** 34mm,  
**WEIGHT:** 185–270g

**Average ball properties:**

Perforated hollow ball,  
**DIAMETER:** 7.4cm,  
**WEIGHT:** 24g

**Scoring:**

First to 11 points, win by 2. Points are only scored by the serving team.

**Surface:**

Hard court

**Court dimensions:**

**LENGTH:** 13.41m, **WIDTH:** 6.1m

**Net height:**

86.36cm at middle

# Beach Tennis

**Beach Tennis was introduced in Italy in the late 1970s, and today there are more than 1600 beach tennis courts along the coasts of Europe and South America.**

Beach Tennis blends tennis, badminton and volleyball with more than 50 countries recognising Beach Tennis as an official sport.

There is an increasing number of Beach Tennis clubs and competitions being established around Australia, some of which are within tennis facilities.

**Target audience:**

Adults

**Segment:**

Sport explorers and fitness fanatics

**Average racquet/paddle specifications:**

**LENGTH:** 50cm, **WIDTH:** 23cm, **DEPTH:** 23mm, **WEIGHT:** 300-350g

**Average ball properties:**

Ball: Orange-stage tennis ball (50% compression of normal tennis ball)

**Scoring:**

Same scoring system as tennis, with no-Advantage after Deuce often applied. No second service and no service let.

**Surface:**

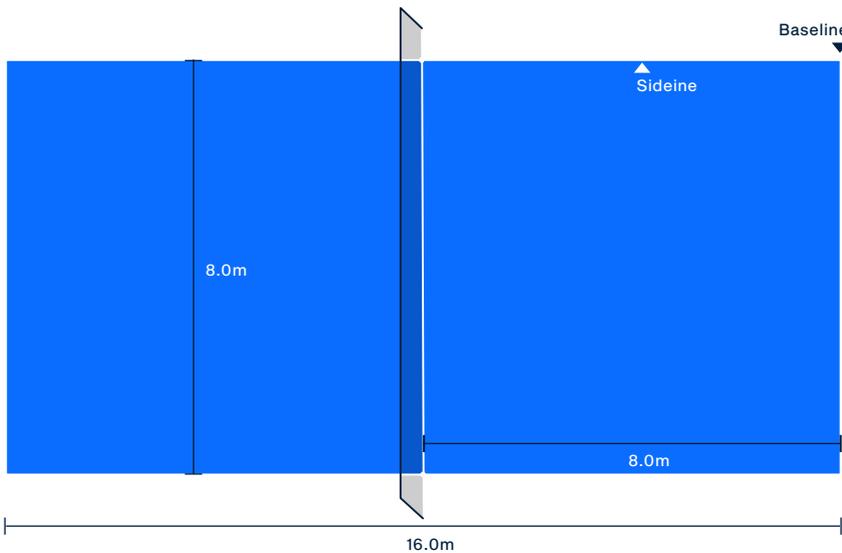
Soft sand

**Court dimensions:**

**LENGTH:** 16m, **WIDTH:** 8m (doubles)

**Net height:**

1.7m (women), 1.8m (men)



# 03 Complementary formats Where?

**For tennis clubs and coaches, consideration should be given to if, when and how, complementary formats can be integrated within their facility to meet their desired objectives.**

For tennis clubs and coaches, consideration should be given to if, when and how, complementary formats can be integrated within their facility to meet their desired venue objectives.

Important facility considerations include:

- Club member and area demographics
- Available playing surfaces
- Noise, wind and residential considerations
- Existing court utilisation through tennis-specific programs
- Intended uses for courts (social play vs national competitions)
- Capital investment requirements
- Insurance.



**There are a number of court and venue types that can support the integration of complementary formats.**

## ① Format specific permanent courts and venues

Dedicated format-specific courts as part of a stand-alone venue or multi-format facility provide an opportunity for format specific programming (including sanctioned competitions). This court and facility type would best accommodate for the future growth of respective format/s.

## ② Temporary set-up

Select formats have modest infrastructure requirements which permits play using temporary nets and line-markings. Whilst some participants prefer the singularity and permanency of court infrastructure, this does provide maximum format flexibility and space utilisation for operators.

## ③ Shared use/ blended lines

Shared court usage through permanent blended playing lines. Although aesthetically the playing court may be partially compromised due to the presence of multiple lines, done correctly it can allow for cross-programming opportunities and an increased possibility of court utilisation.

## ④ Bespoke locations

The playing characteristics and mobility of select formats allows them to be played in locations outside of a traditional tennis court or sport setting. Subject to safety and compliance requirements, consideration can be given to establishing formats in non-traditional settings (e.g. Vacant car-parks and recreational facilities).

# 04

## A 'Complementary Court'

**In the case where a tennis facility only has space and surface availability for one format, consideration should be given to the development of a 'complementary court'.**

A complementary court can service a range of existing tennis programs as well as select complementary formats thereby creating a positive multi-use outcome.

While dedicated and permanently established format-specific courts may remain a participant preference, creating a multi-format court can meet the needs of consumers, clubs and communities.

It should be noted the playing experience of each format is primarily differentiated through the equipment, rules and physical requirements – and not the court perimeter.

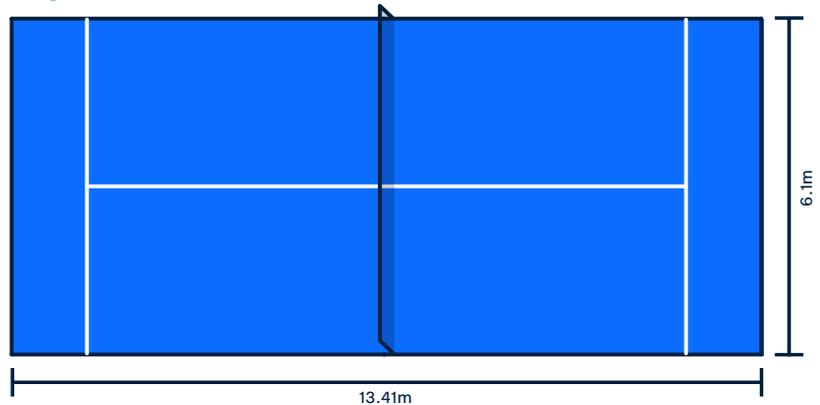
\*Padel has fixed infrastructure requirements, however casual play of the above formats could all occur within the perimeter of a Padel court (20m x 10m)

### Complementary court perimeter

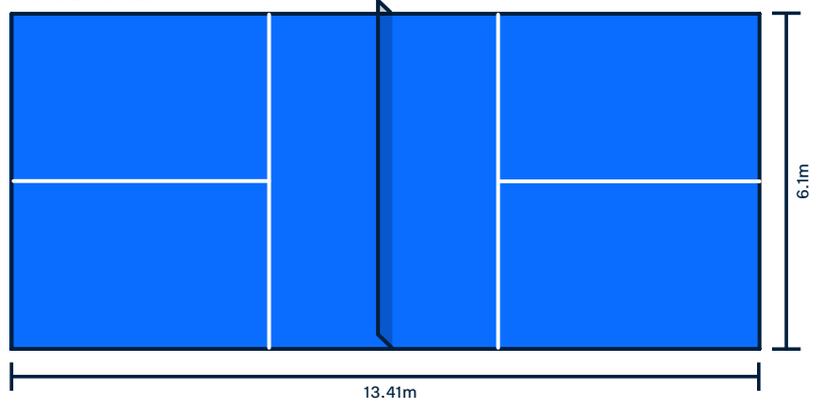
A 'complementary court' can be made possible through a fixed perimeter with the internal court markings adjusted according to each program or format.

It should be noted that a fixed perimeter may restrict a club's ability to host sanctioned competitions of select programs or formats.

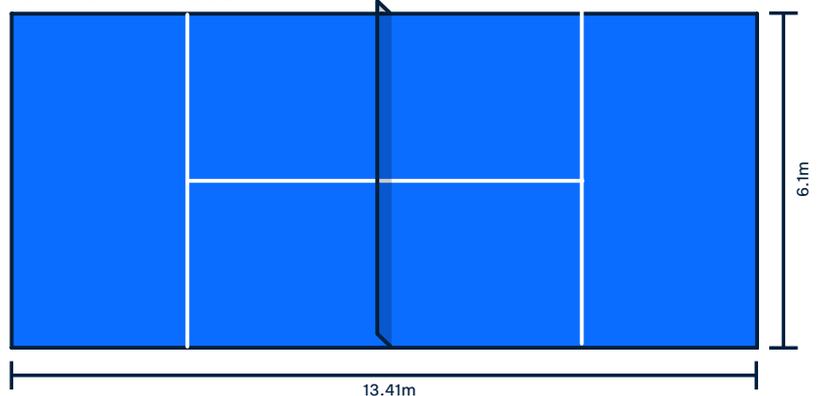
#### Pop Tennis



#### Pickleball



#### Hot Shots Tennis



# 05 Governance considerations

**When considering the introduction of complementary formats at a tennis facility, it is recommended tennis clubs and operators' review their constitution so that it meets the needs and objectives of the facility and club as a whole.**



**It is recommended that tennis clubs talk to a legal advisor to determine the most suitable integration approach.**

**Possible considerations include:**

## 1 Objects

Objects should be drafted in such a way that tennis is the priority but also allows for the playing of other athletic or tennis-related activities.

## 2 Membership

Clubs may consider reviewing the class of membership e.g. whether Pickleball or Padel only players are in a different category or class of membership: this may enable Pickleball or Padel players to attend General Meetings (including the AGM) and have a voice, but not vote on key decisions.

This consideration may be necessary to protect the club in achieving its objects and negate the need to amend other areas of the constitution or rules.

## 3 Committees

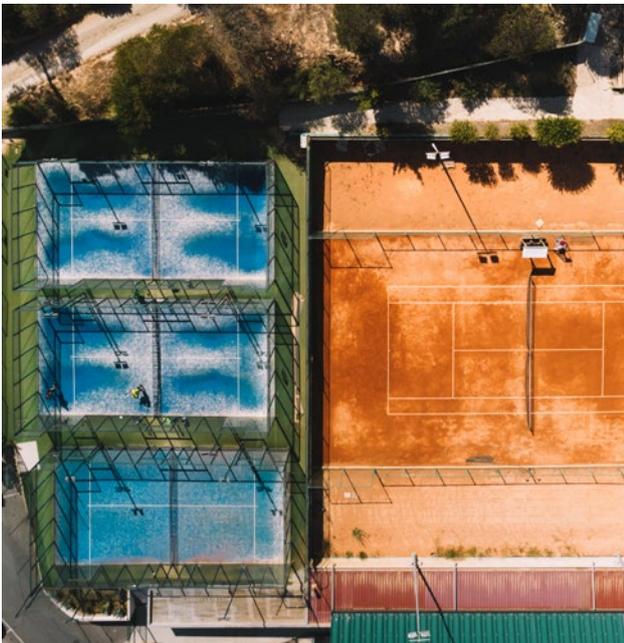
Clubs may consider introducing:

- Padel or Pickleball subcommittee which reports to the club board or Tennis committee for final decision
- Subcommittees with decision-making authority over certain matters (i.e. Matters specific to the Pickleball courts that do not have any implications on the broader venue or club)
- A standing position on the committee for Padel or Pickleball to give the format a voice on the club committee.

# 06

## Case studies

**Although in the early stages in Australia, there are increasing examples of existing tennis clubs and coaching programs that have successfully integrated complementary formats into their offerings.**



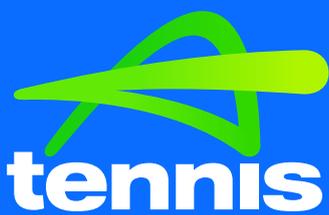
### **Case study findings indicate:**

- Venues characteristics and area demographics will help determine which formats may be most suitable for introduction and how they are best integrated.
- The strategic introduction of complementary formats does not cannibalise tennis. With the right scheduling and infrastructure, the number of tennis players – and Padel, Pickleball and POP Tennis players – can continue to grow when these formats are introduced with tennis facilities.
- Reviewing constitutional and governance structures is a foundational necessity. Providing complementary format enthusiasts with a voice while allowing the tennis club committee to maintain control of the tennis club remains important.
- Dedicated complementary format courts, that are part of the tennis club can increase club membership, vibrancy and revenue. These formats attract new players and members to tennis clubs that tennis-only clubs may not.
- Complementary formats may not always be met with immediate acceptance by all tennis club committees and members. The benefits and risks need to be well researched, trialed and presented to determine if they are appropriate for a venue.

**For state and territory specific case studies please contact your Member Association**

**More  
information?**

**[play.tennis.com.au](http://play.tennis.com.au)**



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