

Tennis Australia's National Court Surface Policy

Introduction

Tennis Australia's (TA) National Court Surface Policy identifies recognised and preferred playing surfaces and systems with consideration of both player development and community tennis objectives for tennis facilities of all sizes, locations and users.

Surface type priorities

TA prioritise Grand Slam surfaces (Acrylic, Clay (Tier 1; Har-Tru, Italian & Conipur) and Grass) to promote high level playing and coaching opportunities and pathways, in addition to supporting tournaments and events around the country. Community play venues not being used for tournaments and events or elite coaching have increased flexibility in their surface selection. Whilst preferring Grand Slam surfaces, TA also supports other surfaces including Clay (e.g. Loam, Ant Bed, En-Tout-Cas), Synthetic Clay and Synthetic Grass to encourage participation in specific local environments. Site specific factors should always be considered when selecting a surface (e.g. environmental, social and lifecycle requirements) to ensure long term sustainability of the venue.

Classifications

Tennis Australia has classified court surfaces to six categories identified to represent the following requirements:

- Align with the ITF classified surfaces relating to court construction
- Reflect surface types typical to Australia's national landscape
- Consider Tennis Australia's player development and community tennis objectives
- Endorse preferred surface types of which Grand Slam tournaments are played (surfaces 1-3)
- Standardise language nationally for describing surface types

Surface	Description	Notes
1. Acrylic	Hard courts made from textured, pigmented resin-bound coating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard courts can be cushioned or non-cushioned • Australian Open Grand Slam surface is Plexicushion Prestige
2. Clay	Unbound mineral aggregate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 clay courts (TA's preferred surface types) are Har-Tru, Italian & Conipur • Other clay commonly found in Australia include Ant Bed, Loam & En-Tout-Cas
3. Grass	Natural grass grown from seed	
4. Synthetic Clay	Sand-dressed and/or rubber-dressed surface with the appearance of clay	
5. Synthetic Grass	Artificial surface with the appearance of natural grass & sand infill	
6. Other	Asphalt, Carpet, Concrete, Hybrid Clay, Wood	

Surfaces

Court surfaces exhibit different playing characteristics for ball (pace, spin & bounce) and foot reaction (traction), choice of surface should be based predominantly the following factors:

- User preference – knowing your customer needs drives utilisation of facility and requires local knowledge
- Environment – includes all factors from water usage and heat retention, to location and exposure to elements
- Facility needs – overall plan and purpose of the facility e.g., tournaments, athlete development, community play
- Maintenance – in a highly dependent volunteer environment, high material costs and labor is prohibitive
- Replacement Cost – consideration of the lifecycle of surface choice is required

Funding

TA's National Court Rebate (NCR) assists state/territory member affiliates, local government and schools to develop tennis in Australia, including new courts and upgrading existing surfaces. To learn more about NCR and find out information on funding priorities please see our website: <http://www.tennis.com.au/clubs/funding-and-facilities/national-court-rebate-scheme>