



# POP TENNIS COURT GUIDELINES



Presented by  
Tennis Australia

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## General and Disclaimer

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Tennis Australia does not accept any liability in connection with any information provided in this document, including the design or construction of any facilities using any information in this document. This document is only intended to provide general information and is not advice and not specific to any project or facility. You must seek specific advice tailored to your needs. This document is not intended to form part of any contract for the design or construction of any Pickleball facility.

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# 01 INTRODUCTION

**POP Tennis is a fun and flexible sport that blends elements of tennis and pickleball, making it accessible and enjoyable for players of all ages and skill levels. Played on a smaller tennis court with lower-compression tennis balls and a perforated paddle, it offers a unique and engaging playing experience.**



POP Tennis can be played in singles or doubles with the scoring following traditional tennis, however players are allowed one underarm serve per point.

This versatile game can be played both indoors and outdoors on a range of surfaces, including hard courts, synthetic grass, clay, and hard sand - making it adaptable to a variety of venues and conditions.

These Guidelines have been produced to provide consolidated information for venues considering the development of temporary or permanent construction of a POP Tennis court in Australia. Information presented is intended for use to all stakeholders involved in the planning, construction, management, maintenance of a POP Tennis court when initiating new or revisiting existing projects.

It is important these Guidelines are read and implemented in conjunction with other existing sporting code guidelines and associated industry standards, in particular Tennis Australia's Infrastructure Planning Guide and requirements to ensure facilities are maximised for shared community and/or multi-use.



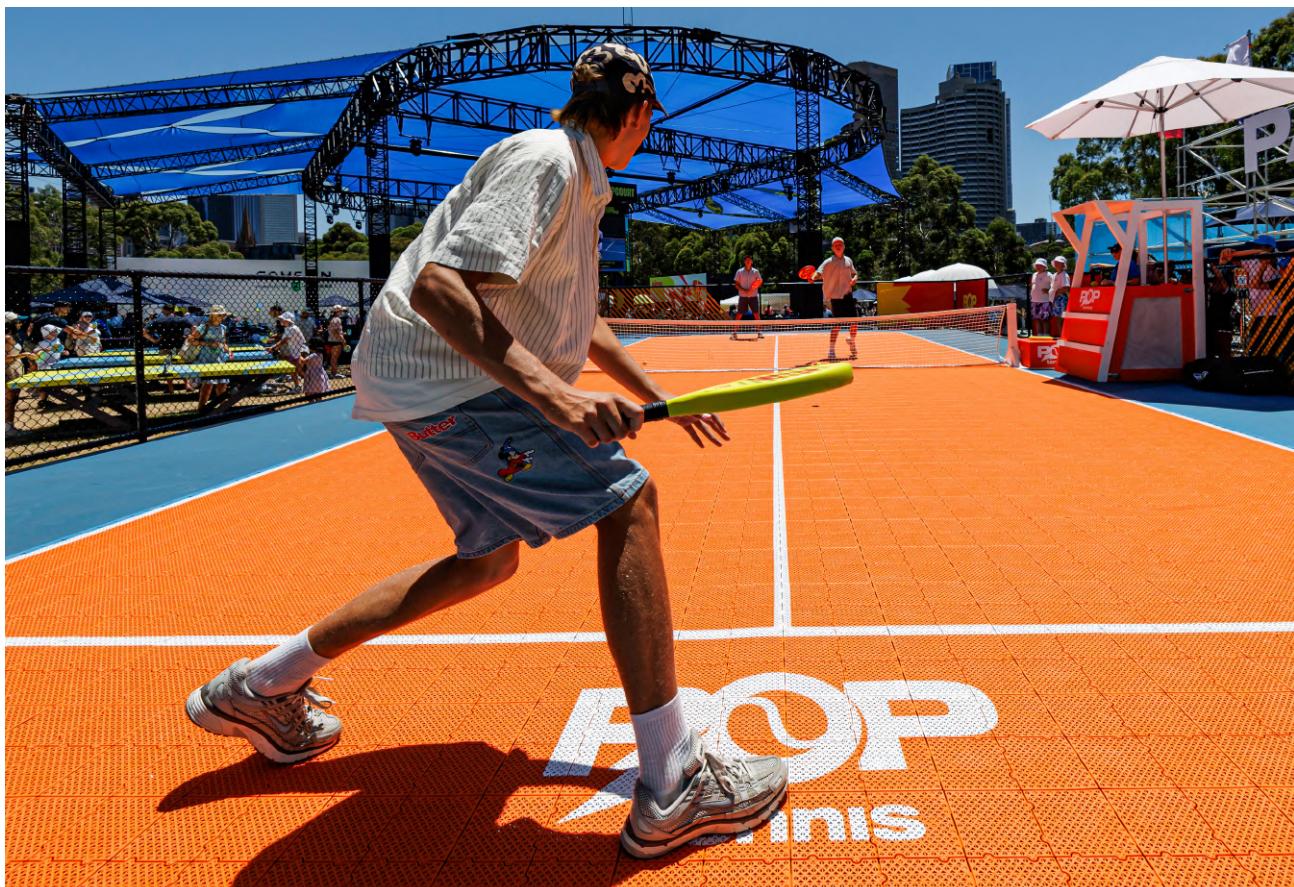
## 02

# INTENDED USE

**A foundational decision a club, coach or council must initially make with regards to integrating POP Tennis is a determination on the primary use of the existing court/s and the associated venue.**

Once primary use and impacting variables are assessed (surface, residential proximity, noise, area demographics and existing member preference) a venue can then make an informed decision regarding:

1. If temporary or permanent infrastructure and programming is most suitable
2. Whether existing and/or new courts will be used for competition or casual play purposes



# 03

# INTEGRATION CONSIDERATIONS

## 3.1 DIMENSIONS

A standard POP Tennis court is a rectangle measuring 15.24m x 6.096m. The court is divided into two halves by a net that stretches across the middle of the court. The service line measures 91.4cm from the baseline, with a service box measuring 6.71m x 3.048m. It is recommended to have a minimum of 2m run-off at each side of the court. For venues seeking to accommodate multiple tennis disciplines, the development of a complementary court may offer an effective multi-use solution. Refer to Section 9 for further information and example layouts.

## 3.2 ORIENTATION

Ideally, the courts should be orientated on a true north/south axis so that players are not facing directly into the sun. This reduces glare and improves playability.

## 3.3 SURFACE GRADE

The court surface should be firm and should have a slight slope to facilitate drainage. A typical recommendation is a slope of 1% away from the centre of the court. The slope should be consistent across the entire court to avoid water pooling and ensure a level playing field.

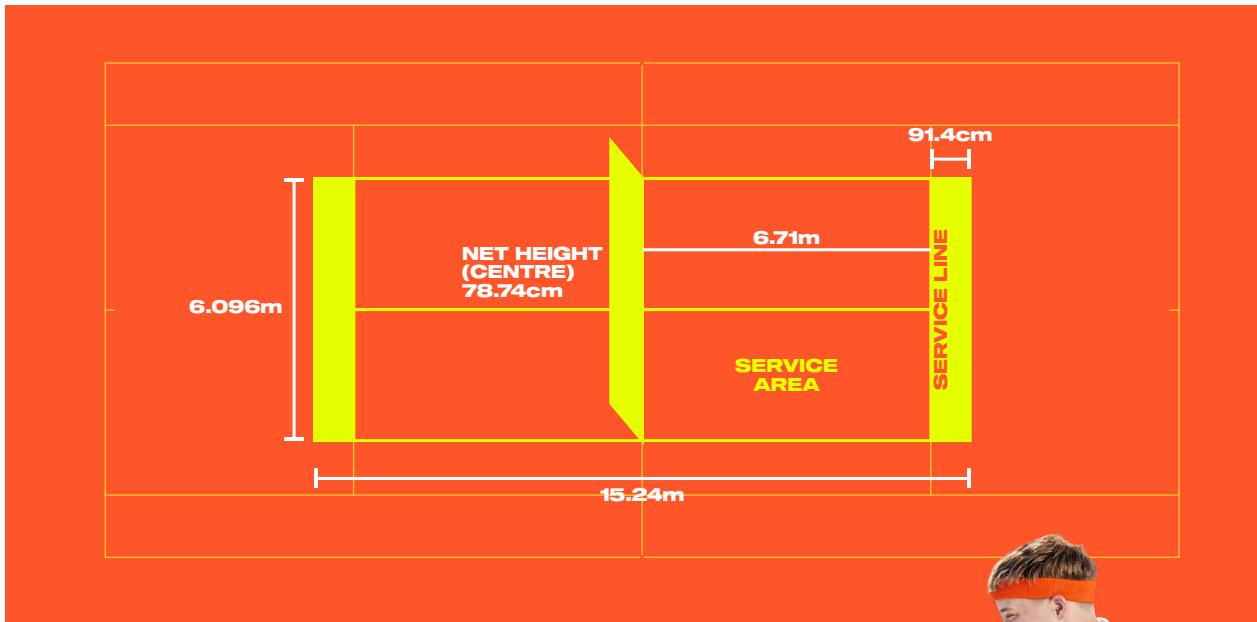


Figure 1: Traditional POP Tennis court and dimensions



# 04

# LINE MARKING OPTIONS

## 4.1 DIMENSIONS

The line marking width should be 50mm to provide adequate visibility and should not cross existing tennis line marking. E.g., POP Tennis marking should stop either side of tennis lines.

## 4.2 LINE MARKING COLOUR

The choice of colour can depend on the colour of the court surface and the overall aesthetic preferences.

If the POP court is lined on a tennis court, subtle line marking colours are recommended, with an option being 50% dark grey and 50% of the existing court colour. Black line colour is supported by tennis competitions at most recreational levels.

For permanent stand-alone POP Tennis courts, white is the most commonly used colour which offers high contrast against most surface colours, making it easy for players to see the lines.

## 4.3 LINE MARKING COLOUR

For temporary POP Tennis court line marking, solutions that are easy to apply, remove, and durable enough to handle a range of playing conditions should be considered:

### TEMPORARY TAPE

Specialty sports court tape or painter's tape can often be directly applied to the surface. It's ideal for indoor courts or temporary outdoor set-ups where the surface is smooth.

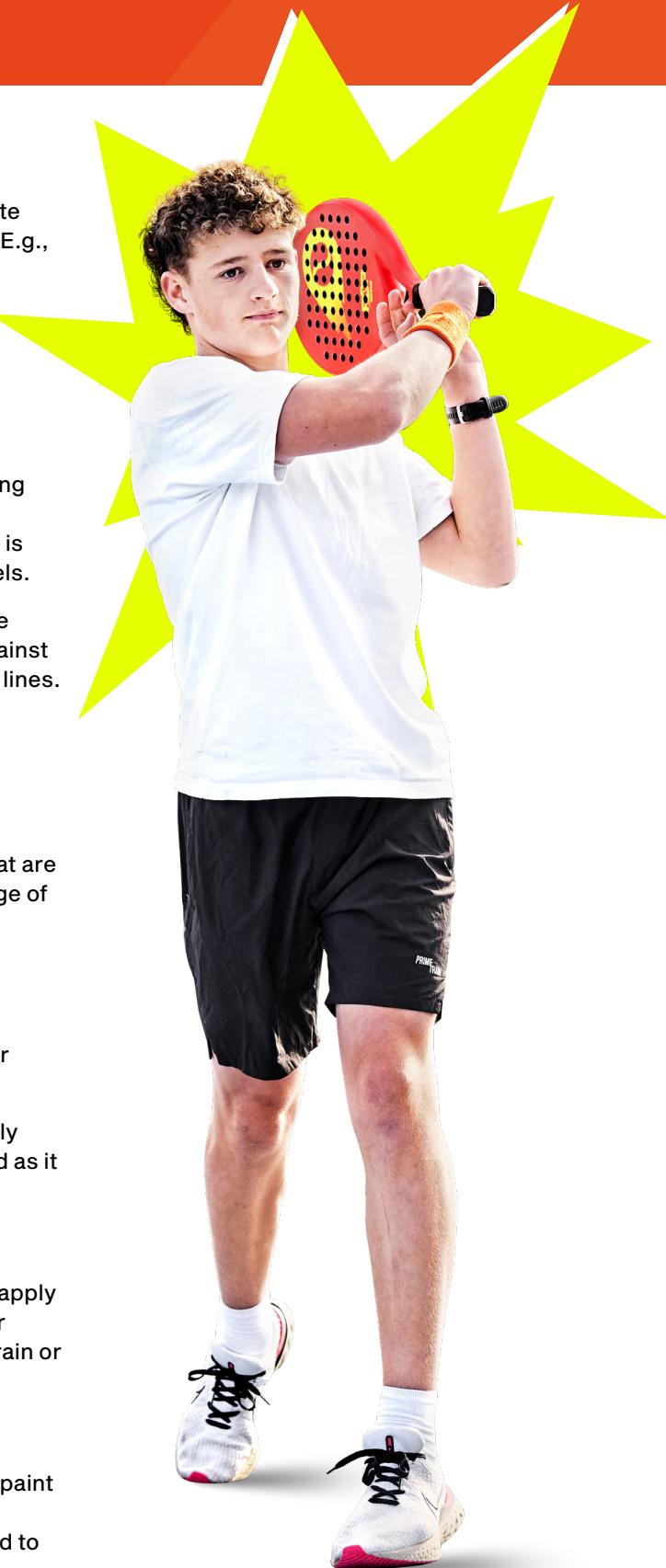
However please note tape should not be left on permanently and should be carefully removed as soon as it isn't required as it can damage the courts and leave residue.

### CHALK

A chalk line reel, stencil or a chalk machine can be used to apply chalk to the court surface, which works well on concrete or asphalt surfaces. However, chalk can be washed away by rain or heavy use, so it may need frequent reapplication.

### TEMPORARY PAINT

Temporary paint (water-based) or removable sports court paint can be applied with rollers or spray equipment. It provides more durable marking than tape or chalk and can be applied to various surfaces.



## 05

# PAVEMENT TYPE FOR HARD COURTS

The pavement type for a POP Tennis court significantly impacts playability, durability, and maintenance. There are several types of pavements that can be used for POP Tennis courts. Any hard surface, such as concrete or asphalt, is suitable for outdoor POP Tennis gameplay.

## CONCRETE BASE

A concrete POP Tennis court offers a robust and low maintenance playing surface suitable for both recreational and competitive play.

The base is made from a solid concrete slab, which provides a smooth, durable, and level surface ideal for consistent ball bounce. The base typically has a textured finish that enhances traction and reduces slipperiness. This texture helps maintain good ball control and minimises the risk of slipping during play.

## ASPHALT BASE

The asphalt base is constructed from asphalt, a mixture of aggregates (like gravel and sand) and bitumen, laid, and compacted to form a solid surface.



# 06

# SURFACE

POP Tennis is versatile and can be played on multiple surfaces, indoors or outdoors. When selecting a surface for a POP Tennis Court, it's important to evaluate the initial investment, performance qualities and long-term maintenance requirements of each material.

## ACRYLIC SURFACE

An acrylic surface for a POP Tennis court is a popular choice due to its performance benefits and customisable options.

Acrylic surfaces are created by applying a specialised coating made of acrylic resins, pigments, and additives over a base layer (such as asphalt or concrete). This coating forms a smooth, durable, weather-resistant playing surface. The surface offers a consistent and predictable ball bounce, which is crucial for fair play. The texture provides good traction, enhancing player safety and control.

## CLAY

A clay court has fine clay particles on top of crushed shale, stone, or brick. Clay courts can be either red or green, with red clay being the more common type. The ball typically bounces higher on clay and tends to lose speed after hitting the surface, which gives players more time to react and results in longer rallies.



## NATURAL GRASS

A natural grass court is typically grown on hard-packed soil. The ball tends to bounce lower on grass compared to other surfaces, often providing a distinct playing experience that rewards quick, aggressive play and sharp reflexes.

## SYNTHETIC GRASS

Synthetic courts usually contain plastic grass fibres with better durability and less upkeep than a standard grass court. The sand-filled topping that layers the surface of a synthetic turf court protects the court itself from weather conditions, allowing it to dry faster, and making it less susceptible to wear over time.



## 07 NET

The net of a POP Tennis court should span at least 7.91m from post-to-post, with nets either being permanent, portable, or mobile.

When the net is suspended from the posts across the court's centre, the net height should be 78.74cm across the court's centre. The top edge of the net should have a cord or cable and be covered with 50mm tape.

The net posts should be 7.83m apart and no more than 0.076m in diameter.

Temporary nets with similar dimensions are required when the court is overlaid on another court.



## 08

# TENNIS COURT INTEGRATION

Integrating POP Tennis into an existing tennis court can be a practical solution for maximising the use of available space. This involves marking additional temporary or permanent lines, adjusting the net height, and managing court usage efficiently.

It remains important that a tennis venue considers the intended use of the tennis courts, noting the permanent inclusion of POP Tennis line markings will:

1. Reduce a tennis venue's ability to host certain levels of tennis competitions and tournaments.
2. Likely negatively impact the playing experience for tennis members due to the court aesthetics and line confusion. To minimise visual impact and preserve the playing experience for tennis users, it is recommended that POP Tennis line markings use subtle colours, such as black (supported by tennis competitions at most recreational levels) or tones that blend with the existing court surface. For further guidance, refer to Section 4.2 – Line Marking and Colours.

Most outdoor tennis courts are oriented north/south to minimise the sun's glare on players. Consequently, it's best to align the POP Tennis courts similarly, rather than positioning them horizontally. The optimal arrangement for placing POP Tennis courts on a tennis court may depend on the available run-off space surrounding the tennis court.

The below diagrams assume enough space to allow for run offs, and where possible, the more spacing the better to enhance the playing experience, whilst also trying to maximise the space available.

## 8.1 ONE POP TENNIS COURT

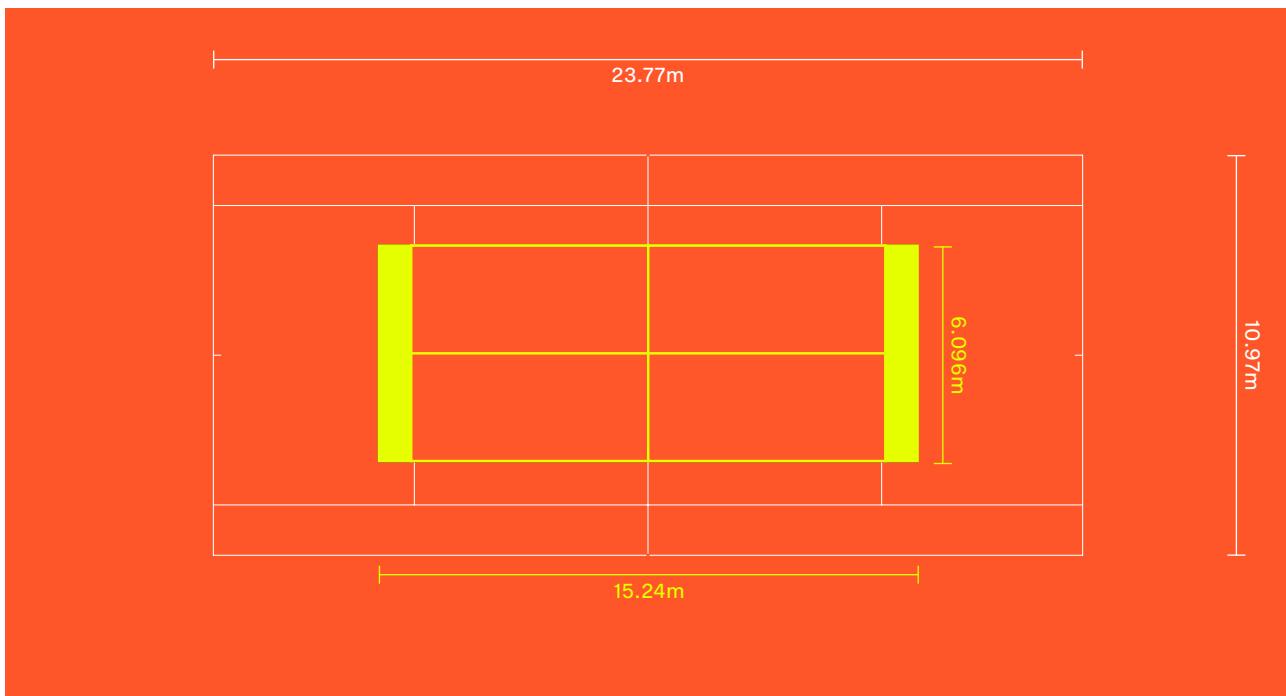


Figure 1: One POP Tennis Court example

## 8.2 TWO POP TENNIS COURTS

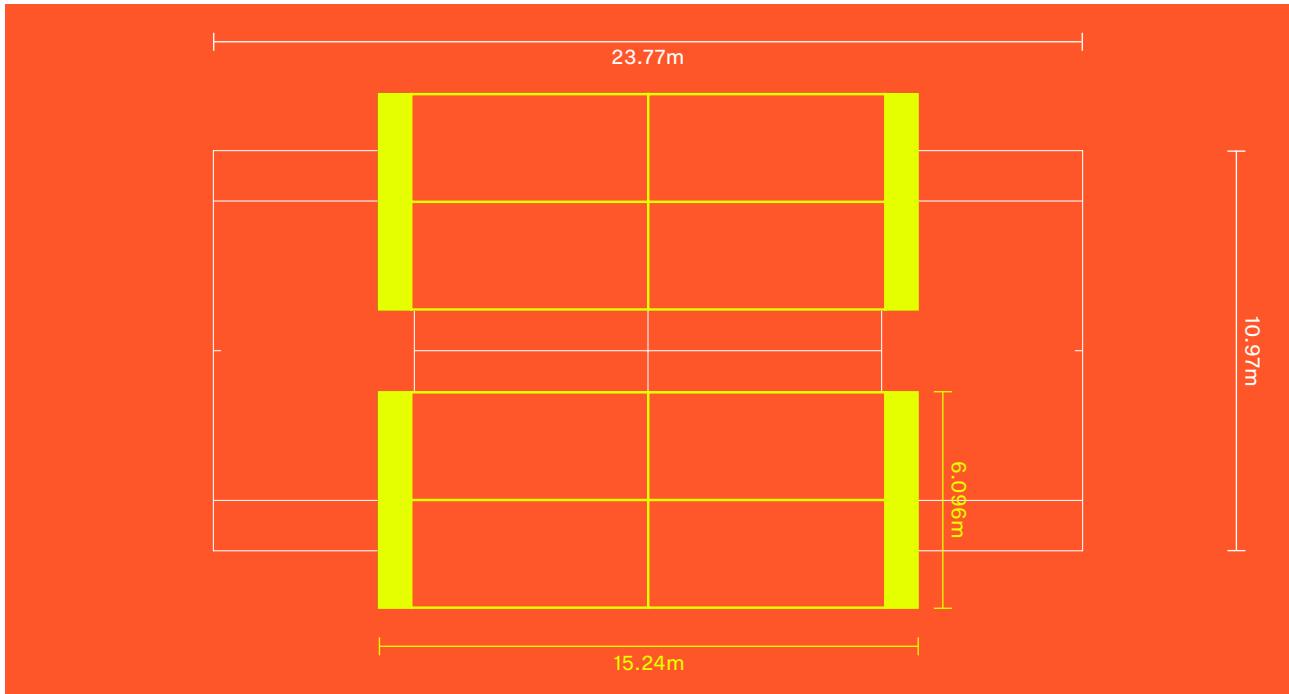
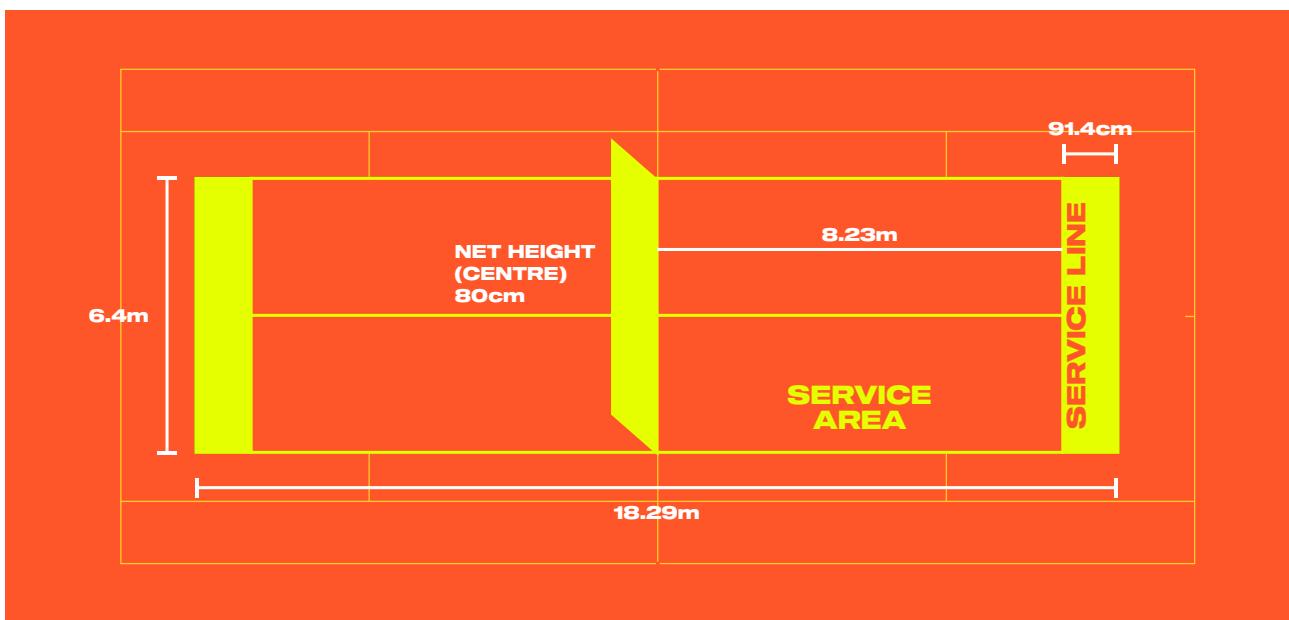


Figure 2: Two POP Tennis Courts example

## 8.3 ORANGE COURT 2

The Orange Court 2 (18.29m x 6.4m) used for Hot Shots can be adapted with temporary lines to mark the POP Tennis service line. Utilising Orange Court 2 offers a quick and easy setup, provides additional court space for extended rallies, and allows for dual-purpose use.



## 8.4 INFORMAL LOCATIONS

Due to the ease of marking out the courts with temporary lines and the use of temporary nets, POP Tennis courts can be set up and played in a variety of informal locations, including:

- Local parks
- Driveways
- Roads
- Hard sand at the beach

When used in such areas it is important to assess safety as often these surfaces can be uneven.

Obtaining approval from the asset owners and adequately closing off the space from vehicles is required.



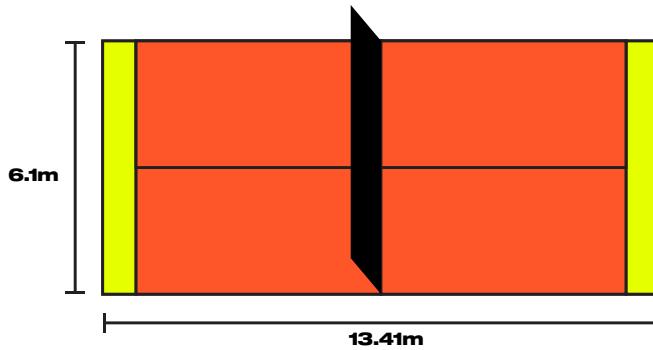
## 09

# COMPLEMENTARY COURTS

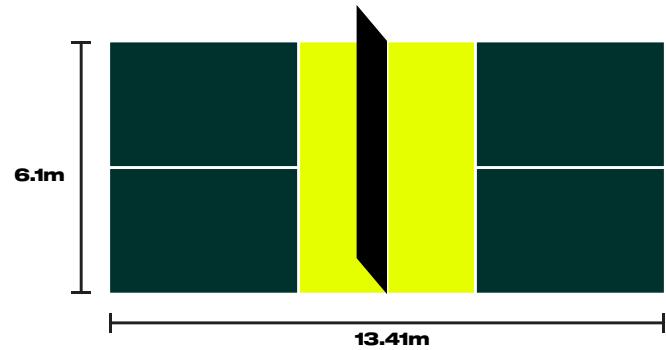
Tennis Australia advocates for the development of 'complementary courts' which can cater to a range of tennis offerings to meet varying consumer and community needs. A complementary court can permit Hot Shots Tennis, POP Tennis and Pickleball, creating a positive multi-use outcome. Whilst each offering has its own unique dimensions and requirements for competitions, all can be played on a casual basis on a complementary court.

A 'complementary court' can be made possible through a fixed perimeter with temporary internal court markings adjusted according to each format (it should be noted that a fixed perimeter may restrict a club's ability to host sanctioned competitions of select formats).

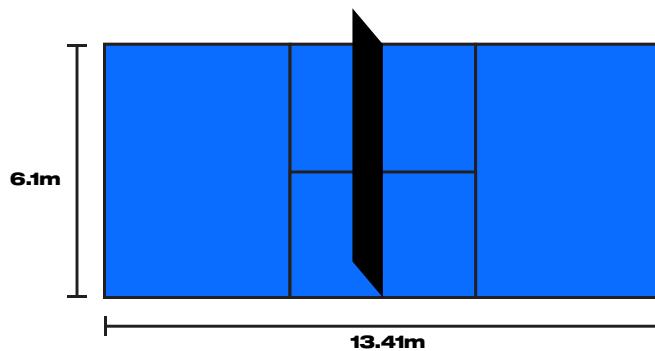
## POP TENNIS



## PICKLEBALL



## HOT SHOTS



**10**

# INTEGRATION CONSIDERATIONS

When planning for a POP Tennis court or programming inclusion, several factors, including placement and boundaries, need careful consideration to ensure the court is functional and compliant with local regulations.

Given POP Tennis's similarities to traditional tennis, many of the same planning and programming considerations apply.





Tennis Australia acknowledges that our offices are on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations People.