

Storm Force Winds & Padel Courts

Everyone in the UK is aware of the increasing number of named storms that batter our shores with greater regularity. Their impact on padel was brought into focus in November 2023 when Storm Ciaran devastated a number of padel facilities, notably Island Padel on Jersey, whose lightweight fabric canopy was destroyed.

Canopies, like any structure, should be designed, engineered and manufactured to withstand storm conditions – this is something Padel Plus and its canopy partner Cubinor specialize in. But what about the padel courts themselves? So many courts in Britain are outdoors with the steel and glass frames fully exposed to the elements. Is it the case that most courts are similar in structural terms and equally fallible to storms?

The answer is a resounding NO. Padel Plus partners Jubo, the world's second largest court maker, and brings Jubo's courts into the UK. Their flagship product – INFINITY – has a patented structural system that maximizes wind resistance. It looks beautiful with minimal visible steel which is concentrated in two rings running around the perimeter rather than lots of vertical beams. Players benefit from wonderful views into and out of the courts without compromising the court's pre-eminence stability.

We will soon launch INFINITY MAX with even greater wind resistance. The court was developed with the East Coast of the USA in mind where Padel Plus US is pioneering padel solutions and where hurricanes are commonplace.

But hurricane force winds are now seasonal in the UK too and operators ought to be mindful of exposure to wind and select their courts appropriately.

Just this week Storm Éowyn ravaged Northern Ireland and Scotland. Padel Plus had only recently completed the installation of two Infinity courts at the wonderful Grange Club in Edinburgh. The end wall of one of these courts is west facing and bore the full force of winds that gusted to 90mph. The club's CCTV footage showed the glass flexing under the strain of the wind and one glass panel did eventually shatter early on Friday morning. The storm continued through the day and it was clear we needed to wait until after the storm had subsided before the full extent of damage could be assessed. It was described as a once in a generation event, with winds of more than 90mph in central Edinburgh and a maximum recording of 102mph on the Tay Bridge. Fortunately it was just one panel that shattered and there was no damage to the structure itself. Padel Plus had Jubo's team on site on Tuesday morning. The spare glass panel was quickly

installed and additional sand was laid onto the artificial turf to compensate for the sand lost while removing all the shattered glass. The court was playable again in no time and the club was delighted by our rapid response.



Thanks for the great support getting the court up and running super quickly. It is much appreciated."

The Grange Club, Edinburgh



Out of adversity comes opportunity

There are two sides to this: yes, one glass panel failed but in storm conditions like these it is more often than not an object that is blown into the glass, rather than simply the wind, that causes the glass panels to fail. For this reason, the glass cannot be warranted against damage in the way we cover our steel structures – which are guaranteed for 5 years outdoors, and 10 years indoors. In the case of our Infinity court, it is guaranteed for 25 years indoors, which is unmatched in the padel market. But when failures happen, the vital thing is how a company responds and this is where Padel Plus's emphasis on service is so important. First, acknowledge the problem; second get on site and reinstate the court as quickly as is practical; then and only then worry about the cost and who foots the bill.

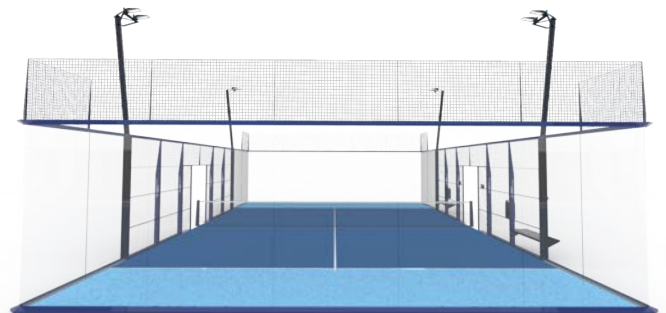
The failure of a single glass panel needs to be put in context. The likelihood is that some damage is going to be incurred when winds of more than 90mph are involved. But you can minimize risk by choosing Padel Plus Jubo's Infinity Court. Just around the corner in Fife the same storm reduced competing courts to this: it's complete devastation with all glass panels destroyed, and the steel structure contorted beyond salvage.



Competing courts devastated in the same storm

Key Learnings

- + Storm force winds are now regular events across Britain
- + Choose padel courts with appropriate wind resistance and structural stability for exposed locations
- + Jubo's Infinity and Infinity Max courts lead the market in terms of visual elegance AND strength
- + Ask court vendors about their warranties
- + Ask if your vendor provides an annual maintenance package like Padel Plus so you have peace of mind that your courts will remain in perfect condition for years



Padel Plus Jubo Infinity Court
Elegant, robust and specifically designed for high wind resistance



In This INSIGHT

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