

The UNE Standard for Padel Courts

As the padel market grows and court construction accelerates, it is important to consider the quality of infrastructure being built. Whether you're an existing operator or an investor entering the market, you need to understand what goes into a court, the consequences of owning a bad court, and how choosing the right product will form the best foundation for your business.

New court makers are appearing, attracted by the growth prospects. Some are established manufacturers from Europe, some are British start-ups, and the Chinese imports are ever-present, notwithstanding the recent shipping difficulties as a consequence of war in the Middle East. Wherever you buy from, you need to understand the fundamentals of what you're buying.

There is now a comprehensive technical standard for padel courts: UNE 147201:2024. This standard defines how a court should be designed, manufactured, installed and maintained in accordance with safety and quality criteria.

It has been created because padel has grown quickly without any technical oversight. Quality has been left to each manufacturer – and consequently there is significant variation in the courts, which many buyers cannot accurately understand.

The UNE Standard is an important development for the sport. It helps distinguish those courts that have been properly designed and engineered. It allows major operators to enter the market with certainty and builds confidence among international investors.

Padel Plus partners Jubo, a long-established manufacturer with more than 25 years' experience and 1000s of courts installed. Jubo was the first court maker to be certified under UNE at the beginning of 2025. As of April 2026 Jubo is the only court maker to have its entire product range certified. This is the ultimate validation of its engineering and design-led approach. It enables Jubo to enter the most challenging markets with confidence and the right products. In the UK and USA it works with its Main Distributor Padel Plus. These countries have more stringent building codes; greater scrutiny at the planning approval stages; often more sophisticated and demanding operators who are used to building sports infrastructure. The bar is raised high – but Padel Plus's



local market knowledge and our strong project management skills combined with Jubo's design, engineering, manufacturing and logistics expertise, means we can meet the most exacting standards.

The larger problems actually seem to exist at the other end of the spectrum where start-up operators, often with little or no construction experience, and even less capital, are trying to launch padel clubs. They typically want the lowest up-front cost, rather than thinking in terms of long-term value and the best courts to underpin their business. The UNE Standard ought to provide comfort and confidence to these buyers. There's now an independent validation of the courts out there which will help buyers compare products and hopefully make more informed decisions.

Why the right court matters

What is a bad court? And what are the consequences of making the wrong choice?

Starting with the basics of performance and safety, a well-designed and installed court will play better, providing your customer with a happier experience. This is about consistency of bounce, quality of finish on the court, quality of lighting. There are safety aspects: there should be no sharp surfaces or corners, no gaps between surfaces (particularly the glass panels), the mesh should seamlessly join the other panels. A failure on any of these things will mean accidents will happen, injuries will be sustained, claims will be made against the operator, insurance issues will arise, there may be severe financial consequences. There are courts in the market that do not meet UK building regulations which exist simply to keep people safe.



People tell us we have the best-looking courts but it's sometimes difficult for them to articulate exactly why they're so good. The independent certification of Jubo's courts validates our engineering and design-led approach and helps to explain why our courts are different... and better."

Low quality courts are less likely to secure planning consent (poor lighting is particularly susceptible given stringent light spill concerns in the UK).

Low quality courts will fail more quickly and downtime for court repair is costly given the high utilization rates padel courts enjoy.

Longevity will be an issue. Poor courts won't cope with 12 hours of play per day for weeks on end which is what operators need given the high cost of site acquisition or rent and the associated operating costs in the UK. The comparatively high land value makes investing in high quality infrastructure all the more important.

By choosing the best designed courts that look attractive you win the vital first impression with customers. As the number of courts in each town increases, customers will choose where they play. The perception of looking like an exciting and well-designed club will translate into loyalty and therefore profitability.

If you're investing to make money, think long term, buy courts that will see out your business plan and endure for your successor. Nobody will buy a club at a favourable price if the lease is short and the courts have no life in them.

Padel Plus Jubo's UNE document is available for customers and new prospects alike. Please request it and start your padel journey with even more confidence in our courts. Yes, they remain extremely cost effective – but they're also designed, engineered, manufactured, installed and maintained for success. Our courts are the principal assets in your business. Whether you choose the Vision, Panoramic, Super Panoramic or Infinity – all of them have achieved certification and can form the foundation of your commercial padel club for years to come.

To achieve certification Jubo had to examine each stage of design & engineering:

- + Structural calculations based on Eurocodes
- + Comprehensive material control
- + Approved welding processes
- + Real-world safety tests
- + Validation of every component in the court
- + More than a year of ongoing refinements

Tests, checks, processes, inspections & maintenance:

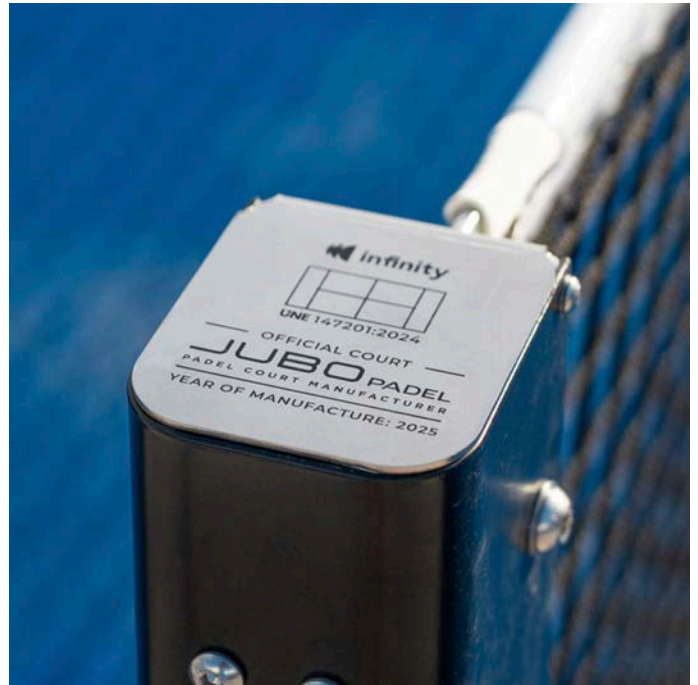
- + Net & post stability test
- + Player safety tests with inspection of edges & corners, protruding elements and impact zones
- + Trapping risk assessment, eliminating any gaps between 8 – 25mm so that fingers and limbs cannot become trapped
- + Post-installation inspection

The future

UNE 147201:2024 is a European standard. There is a new global technical standard being developed by ISO/TC 83 Working Group (WG13 Racket Sports). The future ISO 25808 takes UNE as its reference and will be a truly global standard for padel. Jubo is actively involved in this process through its membership of the International Padel Cluster (CIP). It leads the way with current market standards and is involved in developing the next generation to ensure padel becomes a truly international and respected sport.

The UK market

Britain can play its part by insisting on the high standards required by UNE certification, by valuing the advice that experts bring via project management, by taking care with the specification and execution of ground works, and requiring padel court makers to maintain rigorous standards of health & safety on site. Always ask about warranties and their duration. Choose a court maker that understands your business and what you need to succeed – rather than someone chasing their sales quota. If there's no after-sales maintenance programme, it's unlikely they will be able to help you when you need it most.



Above | Each Jubo net post is capped with a plate showing its certification to UNE 147201:2024. If your courts are not meeting this technical standard, the chances are they're not going to meet your customers' expectations either – nor your commercial needs.

In This INSIGHT

UNE 147201:2024

ISO 25808

Padel court quality

Padel Plus Jubo collaboration

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