



Mini Tennis Court Guidance



Mini tennis has been developed to motivate kids aged 4-10+ through 3 graduating stages of tennis that are suitable for their age and ability. Each stage is identified by a colour:

RED emphasises fundamental sporting skills such as movement and coordination and learning to play the game. ORANGE introduces a bigger court and low bounce tennis balls to give players time to play good tennis shots. GREEN is the game on a full size court with a slightly lower bouncing ball than is standard to help kids use good technique, experience matches with longer rallies and use of tactics.

Mini tennis red can be played on a number of different court configurations depending on the desired level of facility provision:

- dedicated kids zone/s or
- a full size tennis court marked with red and/or orange court markings.

Mini tennis orange is played either on a dedicated 18 x 6.5m court or on a full court using three quarters of its length and slightly narrower than the singles lines (6.5m wide). Mini tennis green is played on a standard tennis court.

Designing mini tennis facilities

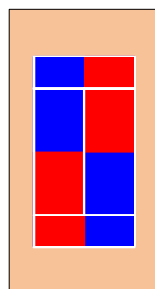
The advantage of a kids zone is that there is no fixed size, design or orientation – it's about adopting an inventive and imaginative approach, utilising in the best possible way the area you have available. Kids zones can be created from small areas of surplus land within a tennis facility site.

The design should be based on the available space, number of children likely to use the facility, the desires and preferences of the coach and facility developer and last but not least the budget available. The area should be bright and vibrant so that children are attracted to the club environment. A range of colours can be chosen with the addition of exciting features including bull's eyes, targets, ladders, dragons, logos etc. The area can also double up as a fitness, training or social area for other members. Ideally the kids zone area should be sited close to the clubhouse to ensure there is supervision. The egress should be carefully arranged so that it is not in direct proximity to the car park.

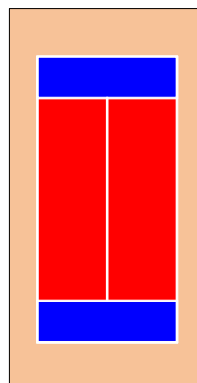
As indicated the size of the courts are not set in stone with minimal allowance to adjust the court size, however, minimum run-backs and side-runs have been established which take into consideration safety and playability.

Dedicated kids zone design options

Red court



Orange court



Option I – where optimal space is available

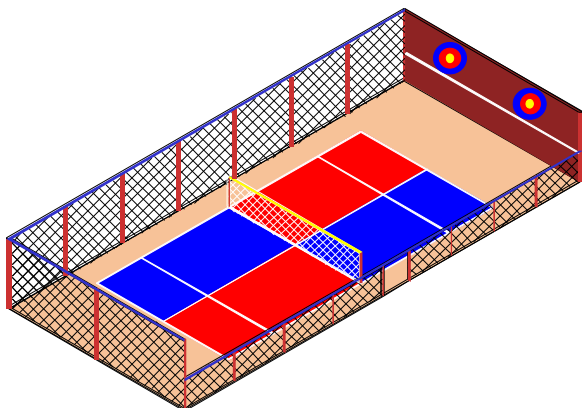
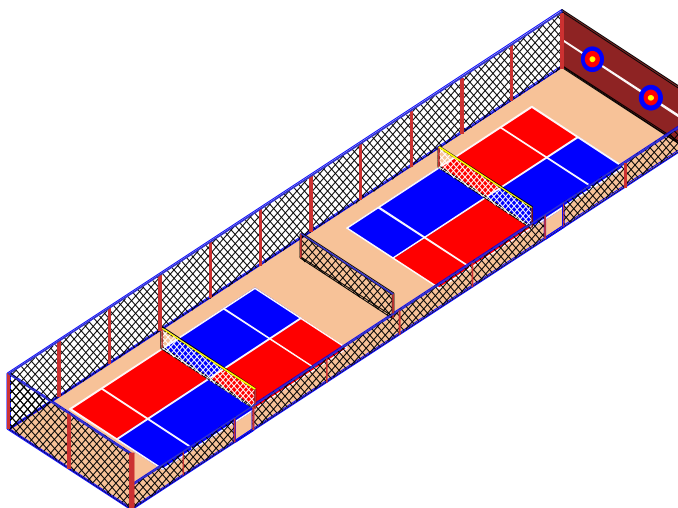
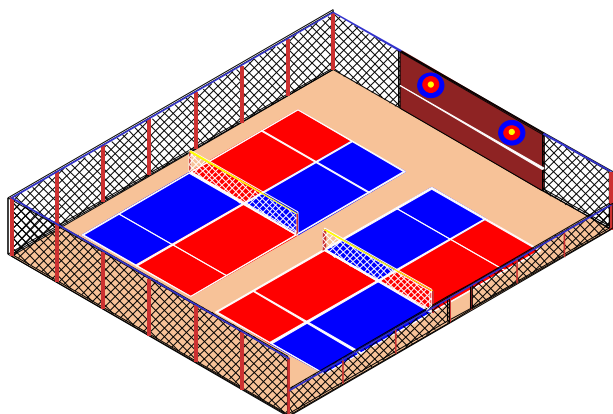


Fig. 1 shows a red (or orange court) with practice wall. Depending on space available courts can be orientated side by side or back to back (Fig 1a and 1b).

Fig 1a.

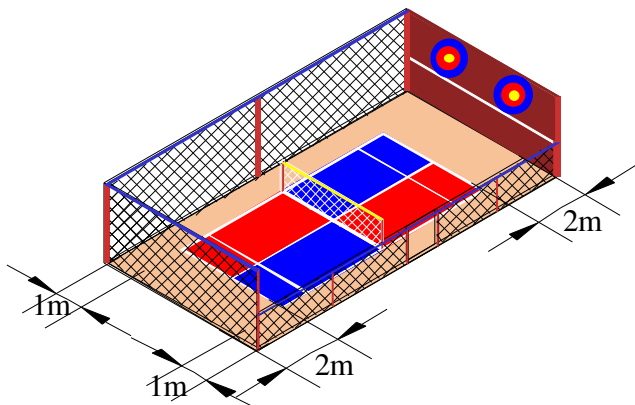
Fig 1b



Option II - where space is limited

This concept is based on an undersized red court. The size of the court is adjusted so that minimum back and side run offs are achieved.

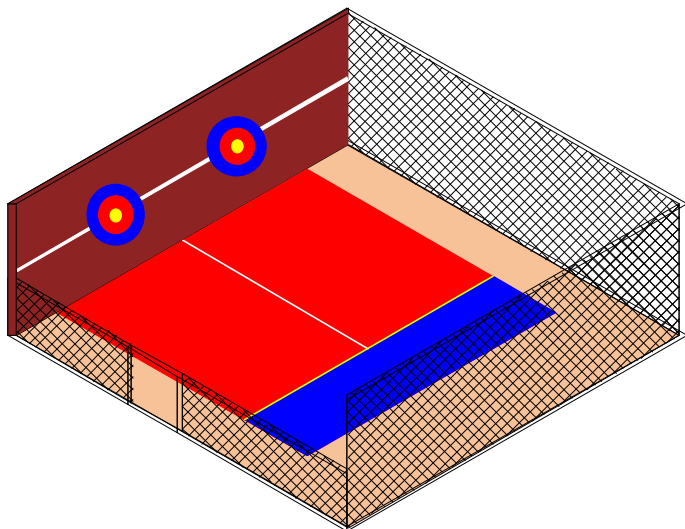
Fig 2



Option III - making use of tight spaces

A dedicated coloured play area, typically a practice wall and rebound area with coloured markings.

Fig 3



If there is no spare space available for a dedicated kids zone a combination of mini tennis red and orange line markings can be painted over a standard existing or new build tennis court/s:-

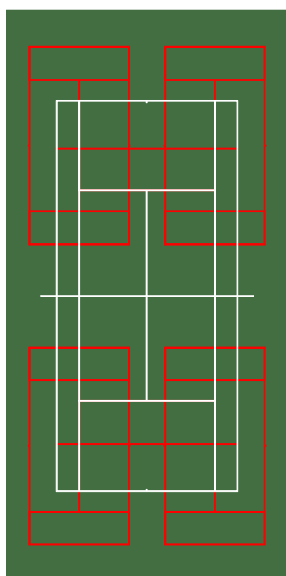
Court Orientation

There is no preferred orientation for kids zones. Facilities should be designed to make the best possible use of available land. The individual units may be laid out in blocks, rows or end to end. If courts are laid end-to-end a fence can be placed between the run-backs to prevent players colliding or hitting each other with rackets etc. A low fence is often used to allow easy viewing from one court to the other.

Mini tennis line marking options

These options are based around incorporating permanent mini tennis lines over a full size tennis court. This might be suitable if there is no surplus space available, where a court needs renovation or where a club is considering dedicating a court to mini tennis. To ensure no loss of visibility and to avoid confusion discerning line markings, carefully chosen line colours provide the dual use of mini tennis and standard tennis. Suggested colours are red or light green for a green court and red or light blue on a blue court.

The following layouts have been established and bear minimal visual impact; 4 red courts, 1 orange court (no red courts) and 4 red courts and one orange court:



Dimensions and Court Layouts

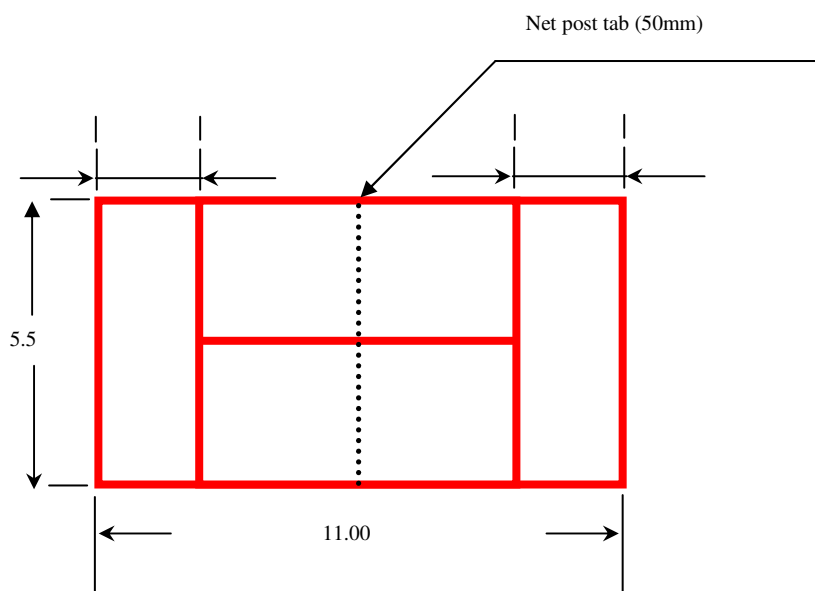
PPA - Principle Playing Area

TPA - Total Playing Area

RED

Red Court Dimensions

Length of PPA	11m
Width of PPA	5.5m
Minimum TPA	15m x 7.5m
Recommended TPA	7m x 8.5m
Service Box	2.75m x 4m
Net Height	80cm



Ideally run-offs adjacent to fences etc. should be at least 3.0m and side runs 1.5m. Shorter run-offs may be adequate on courts aimed at very young children. Where courts are laid along side each other a common side-run of at least 1.5m is desirable, with 1m being the minimum.

Run-offs

Minimum size

Run-back (distance between court base line and any fence or other rigid structure) 2m at each end

If the courts are to be used by older children (8+) or players will be using 'normal' tennis balls, consideration should be given to increasing run-backs to 3m or more at either end

Side-run (distance between court side line and any fence or other rigid structure) 1m at each side

If the courts are to be used by older children (8+) or players will be using 'normal' tennis balls, consideration should be given to increasing side-runs to 1.5m or more at either side

Common side-run (distance between adjacent courts, no division fence between them) 1.5m

If the courts are to be used by older children (8+) or players will be using 'normal' tennis balls, consideration should be given to increasing common side-runs to 2m or more

Common run-back (distance between two courts laid end to end, no division fence between them) 5m

If the courts are to be used by older children (8+) or players will be using 'normal' tennis balls, it is recommended that a division fence be installed between run-backs. This need not be a permanent fixture.

Line width	Minimum width: 25mm Maximum width: 50mm	Recommended for multi-use courts Recommended for dedicated mini courts
Net Height	80cm (adjacent to posts)	
Width	minimum 6m (note: two 3m net and post assemblies may be used)	

Minimum space requirements

Single court	16m by 8m
Two adjacent courts with common side-runs	16m by 15.5m
Three adjacent courts with common side-runs	16m by 23m
Four adjacent courts with common side-runs	16m by 30.5m
Two adjacent courts with common end-runs	33m by 8m

All court dimensions are measured to the outside of the lines except the central service box line, which is measured to centre of the line

GREEN AND YELLOW

As per a standard tennis court

Other options

There is some flexibility with court orientation and sizes for both indoor and outdoor courts incorporating both permanent and/or temporary lines. Here are just a few suggestions that might work for you:

- A badminton court with temporary lines used for service boxes (without back tramlines)
- Marked 12m courts over a standard tennis court
- The width of the standard tennis court used as the length of the Mini Tennis Red court; (at 90 degrees).
- This configuration works best for the separately enclosed court.

What is it made of?

To provide an attractive, durable and economic playing surface suitable for mini-tennis, Kids Zones are normally constructed with a painted porous macadam surface. For typical Kids Zone construction see Porous Macadam Guidance Notes:

Colour Coating

The macadam surface is best colour coated to make the Kids Zone attractive and appealing to children, whilst complementing the surrounding neighbourhood and taking into account any planning constraints. Combinations of reds, blue, and tan have been found to be successful.

The colour coatings should be acrylic based and contain carefully balanced quantities of slip-reducing agents to optimise foothold and ball bounce. The application of acrylic paint should only be carried out under dry and warm weather conditions. Court surfaces are usually coated between May and October. Polyurethane paint is not suitable for colour coating kids zones. The RAL numbers for kids zone colours are:

Item	Colour	RAL No.
Playing area	Red	3020
	Blue	5017
Run-backs and side-runs	Summer Tan	1019
Line markings	White	9003

Practice walls

Practice walls are normally a simple smooth reinforced block work construction, flush pointed, painted and built on a suitable foundation. Alternatively they can be fabricated from tanalised timber or marine grade plywood. (See Guidance Notes E1 – Practice Walls and the LTA Masonry/Timber Tennis Practice Wall Guides)

Fencing

Mini tennis facilities should preferably be enclosed to provide a safe and secure playing environment, whilst allowing parents and friends to observe play. Chainlink fencing is normally used with a combination of high and low levels. High level fencing is normally 2.75m high (or 3m if ball retention is important) and low level is 1.2m high. If low level fencing is used the top of the chain link mesh should be enclosed to prevent the sharp ends of the cut mesh protruding and becoming a safety hazard, particularly to younger children.

To compliment the colours of the mini-tennis court, fencing suppliers are now offering fence posts in a range of colours, although the mesh is normally black or green. To allow wheelchair access gates should be a minimum of 1.2m wide.

Equipment

Brightly coloured nets, posts, free-standing micro nets, volley ladders and rebound nets add to the vibrant appearance of the Kids Zone. To maximise the use of the Kids Zone the mini-tennis posts should be socketed, allowing them to be left out for casual use.

Floodlighting

Kids zones should be lit wherever possible so that court activity can be extended and children are encouraged to participate. It is possible to make attachments to existing facilities i.e. columns thus allowing neat low cost solutions e.g. single column with 2 fittings.

The minimum values are:

- 250 LUX maintained average illuminance
- Minimum 0.5 uniformity (minimum/average)

Illumination standards are based on measurements taken after dark at ground level.

Indoor

The suggested minimum under cover roof height is 4.5 metres. Even at this height with young beginners, although the ball may well likely touch the roof, some valuable activity is possible.

How do I look after it?

See LTA Guidance Notes – Porous Macadam

How much will it cost?

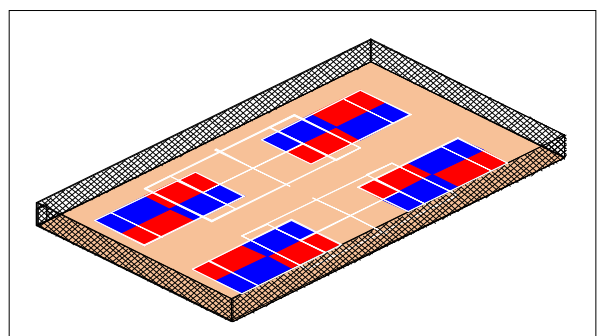
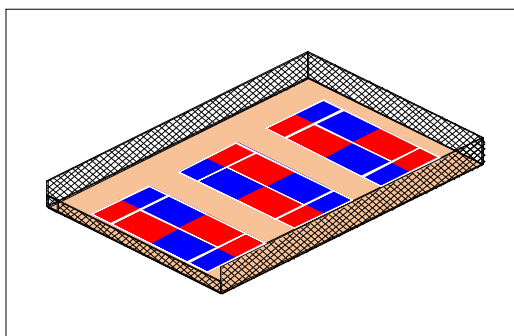
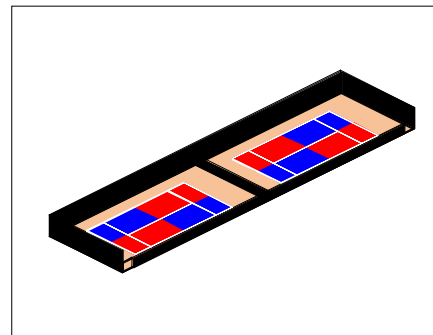
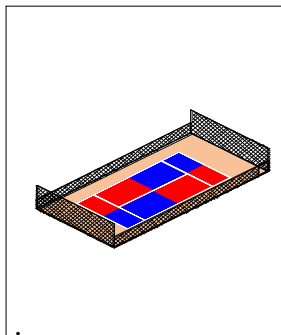
It is recommended that developers seek specialist advice to ensure all site-specific issues are identified and included in cost plans before any applications for funding are made.

The budget costs assume works will be undertaken in isolation of any other court surfacing works. If the construction forms part of a larger court surfacing project savings may be possible (see table 2).

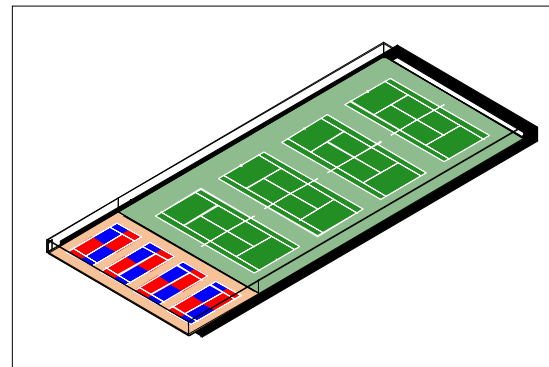
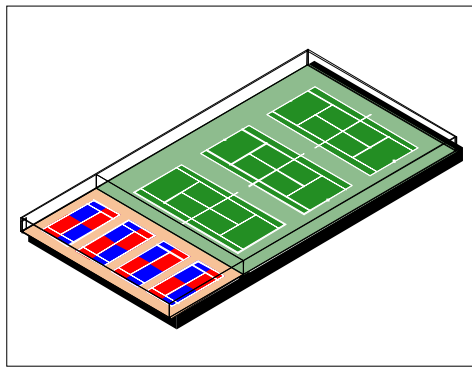
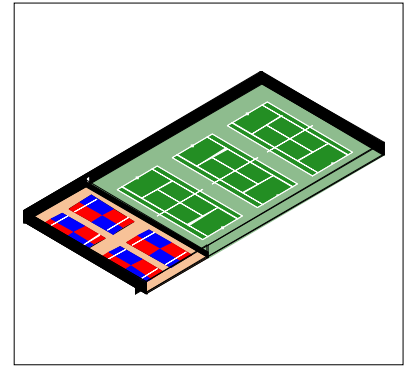
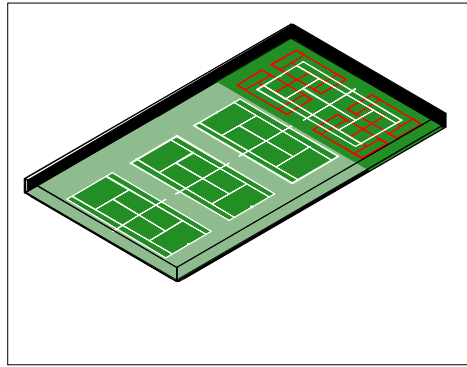
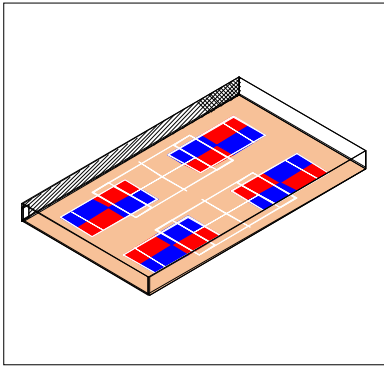
The cost of new build mini tennis facilities can vary greatly depending on whether full size courts are being undertaken at the same time.

The cost of a 'stand alone' one mini tennis court will in the order of £11,000 - £15,000 plus VAT.

Typical Layouts



Typical Layouts with full size courts



Kids Zone / Mini Tennis Markings

Multi faceted activity markings can be used in the kids zone by tennis / fitness coaches to improve agility, balance and co-ordination as well as developing movement and visual skills. Applying plyometrics; hopping and jumping on the hexagons, ladders and spots; zig zags for improving footwork i.e. changes of direction. Practice balance work on the red / blue line – the “beam”. Wall game markings are ideal for target practice and scoring. Combine imaginative footwork, ball skills, fitness and fun.

Markings for practice walls

