

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE TENNIS SUPPORT PACK

Tennis is fun, great for fitness and for developing hand eye co-ordination. It can be played by all ages and abilities and is the 8th most popular participation activity among children aged between 11-15.* Boys and girls can play together, so its great for mixed classes - some young people don't like team sports – tennis is a sport that be played in small groups or individually.

A range of progressive equipment and modified/alternative versions of the game are available, so players of all stages can enjoy the game Tennis is one of the few sports where you can play, compete and socialise for life. Tennis reaches more women than any other sport (by following), and more than any other sport among the over 55s. In all other younger age groups, tennis is second only to football by following. **

Schools give most children their first experience of tennis and a players early experience can often determine whether they stay in the game. Recent research*** shows that tennis in schools is growing, with 79% of schools offering tennis and 40% of schools having a link with a local tennis club. However, there is much work to be done in not only increasing the levels of provision, but improving the quality also.

* Source: DCMS Taking Part Survey

** Source: Sport England, Active People Survey

*** Source: DCSF School Sport Survey

Curriculum Enhancement:

Case Study – Lordswood Specialist Sports College, Birmingham*

Lordswood Boys School, in the heart of Birmingham, is using tennis to raise academic standards, provide cross-curricular and vocational training as well as build vital links with the local community.

- 5 new courts (3 floodlight) were constructed, resulting in vastly improved tennis facilities for the Sports College.
- The school's art and drama departments collaborated with Birmingham City University to produce a promotional video about the tennis court project.
- 30 Year 10 pupils also carried out a business enterprise project based around the new tennis facility.
- A Community Tennis Coach was appointed to develop tennis in the school and the local community.
- Pupils have access to curriculum lessons, breakfast, lunchtime and after school clubs and an outreach programme has been developed with local primary schools.

"When we became a specialist sports college our aim was to use sport, and in particular tennis, to raise academic standards through the school. When we started in 2003 we were on 24% of students achieving 5 GCSEs grades A-C. This has risen to 64%, with Ofsted identifying sport being a major reason for the improvement."

Director of Specialism

* Extracts taken from Schools Tennis Magazine, Autumn 2007

The Building Schools for the Future – Tennis Support Pack' has been developed to support and encourage tennis' involvement with the BSF programme locally.

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Section 1 - Building Schools for the Future (BSF):

1.1 BSF Overview

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is an unprecedented rebuilding and refurbishment programme for secondary schools in England which will transform education and life chances for millions of young people, provide better work places for thousands of teachers, and put schools back at the centre of local communities.

It is the largest single capital investment programme in 50 years and aims to rebuild and renew all of England's 3,500 secondary schools. On average £2.5-£3 billion of capital investment is being spent on the programme each year.

It is a programme that will transform England's existing schools into world-class learning environments that will enable generations of young people to reach their full potential.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is responsible for delivering BSF. They will work with local authorities and the private sector to rebuild or renew every one of England's 3,500 state secondary schools during the lifetime of the programme.

Education and design specialists work with local authorities in developing their vision to create innovative and exciting learning environments for schools. The aim is to transform teaching and learning, placing schools at the heart of their community and to support this through the provision of appropriate buildings for the 21st century.

PfS is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), wholly owned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) but jointly funded by DCSF and Partnerships UK.

1.2 How does the programme work?

BSF is phased over the next 15 years, with local authorities targeted in waves as the programme progresses.

In the early stages of the programme, local authorities have been prioritised according to greatest need. Investment began with schools where the standards were lowest, and the greatest impact on standards could be achieved. In some cases this means that only part of the schools estates within a local authority area is already in the BSF programme, while in others it includes every secondary school.

As the programme rolls out, consideration will also be given to how ready local authorities are to join BSF, and so early schools and councils are urged to start thinking about their plans for capital investment in their area.

The 'programme' section of the PfS website lists all the local authorities in England, with details of whether they are already in BSF, or when they are expected to join the programme.

- www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/programme.jsp

One of the first areas of work and formal documents required from the local authority is the Strategy for Change (SfC), which is designed to capture both the local authority's strategy for secondary education / community access and the requirements that the strategy places upon the physical school estate.

What about Primary Schools? The 'Primary Capital Programme' is set to transform 8,000 run-down and aging primary and primary special schools across England. The 15-year, £7 billion programme commences in April 2009. 23 pathfinder authorities will pilot the programme, with funding being provided from 2008.

1.3 PE & Sport in BSF

Partnerships for Schools, together with the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England have jointly recognised the value that PE and Sport can add to the programme at a time when there are record levels of Government and public interest and investment in PE and Sport.

PfS, the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England have appointed three specialist PE & Sport advisers, with a remit to work strategically with PfS Project Directors and across the sector. The focus of the adviser posts (hosted by PfS) is to carry out the advocacy role for PE and Sport within BSF, at a national level; to ensure that the potential for PE and Sport within BSF is maximised through a coherent and co-ordinated approach. They are also able to provide local authorities with general advice on PE and school sport, the strategic development of sports facilities, facility design and sources of additional funding.

The three PE & Sport Advisers are as follows:

- **North:** Rebecca Bracey: Rebecca.Bracey@partnershipsforschools.org.uk
- **Central:** Mark Perkins: Mark.Perkins@partnershipsforschools.org.uk
- **South:** Liz Delany: Liz.Delany@partnershipsforschools.org.uk

1.4 How does PE & Sport input to the process locally?

The 'Strategy for Change' (SfC) document has to be developed by the local authority in collaboration with all local secondary schools and other key stakeholders; undertaking wide, inclusive consultation – this includes targeted meetings, roadshows, exhibitions, stakeholder groups linked to the project board and working groups looking at specific issues. The SfC will identify the needs and opportunities across the whole area; and address both estate (facility) requirements and ICT needs.

This will be achieved through the development of a focused BSF PE and Sport Stakeholder Group in each authority, with four key representatives (CSP Director, Local Authority Head of Leisure, Head Teacher from Specialist Sports College and Strategic Lead for PE & Sport): who will provide the direct liaison and contact between the local authority Project Board and the sporting networks identified earlier.

Locally, County Sports Partnerships take the leading role for PE & Sport in BSF.

1.5 How can tennis input into the process locally?

'Improving Places to Play' is one of 5 operational priorities for British Tennis during 2009 and a new 'Places to Play' strategy is to launch in April 2009.

This Support Pack has been developed to assist tennis' involvement with the Building Schools for the Future programme.

A network of county-based Tennis Development Managers/Officers is able to support the process locally. They are able attend initial local meetings/road shows/stakeholder groups, provide basic advice and take part in consultation activity on proposals. As projects progress, regionally based tennis facility specialists are able to provide further support (detailed in 2.4)

1.6 More information

More detailed information about the Building Schools for the Future Programme can be found on the PfS website:

- www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk

Alternatively, you could contact the lead officer at your local County Sports Partnership to establish at what stage plans are at for BSF in your local area:

- www.sportengland.org/

Section 2 – Tennis Facility Development:

2.1 British Tennis – ‘Places to Play’ Strategy

‘Improving Places to Play’ is one of 5 operational priorities for British Tennis and a new ‘Places to Play Strategy’ is to launch in April 2009.

The strategy is simple and easy to use and gives clear guidance on expectations for financial support from the resources and funds available from British Tennis. Through this system, the LTA makes financial support available through its resources, and ensures investments will deliver the maximum return for British Tennis.

The Places to Play strategy will prioritise the funding available for:

- Building low cost, quality indoor structures
- Floodlighting outdoor courts
- Renovating park courts

These facilities demonstrate the most significant tennis payback – they generate the maximum number of playing hours per pound invested.

British Tennis can offer financial and non-financial support (referenced later) to some facility development projects. Any schools facility development project seeking financial support, must:

- Demonstrate an existing (or a commitment to, through a Development Plan) comprehensive School-Club Link. The link should provide a wide package of curriculum and extra-curricular delivery, which should be undertaken by an LTA Licensed or Registered Coach from the link-club, ideally with contribution made by a member(s) of staff who have attended a Tennis Teacher Training Course.
- Ensure that the facility is available for community, coaching and competitive use after school hours, at weekends and during school holidays.
- Ensure that the project develops facilities, which support a wide range of ages and abilities and consider Mini Tennis markings and practice walls as an option.
- Recognise that ‘Junior Competition’ is a key priority for British Tennis and the project should be used as a competition venue.

2.2 Facility Development & Specification Guidance

2.2.1 Options

There are many different ways in which you can incorporate tennis into new school facility developments, with the main options summarised below:

Outdoor:

- Traditional, full-size tennis courts can be constructed and dedicated to tennis, alternatively, with additional line markings, they can be incorporated into a multi-sport environment.
- Line markings for Mini Tennis Red and Mini Tennis Orange courts can be also be incorporated onto traditional, full-size tennis courts, which can then assist with a range of coaching and competitive opportunities.
- Practice walls are a great addition to any facility development and can be designed and incorporated to fit a range of different spaces

and environments.

Indoor:

- Indoor Tennis Centres can be built in a number of different styles – from the more costly traditional build, to more capital cost effective air supported structures.
- Sports Halls - Mini Tennis Red (format for players aged 8yrs & under – but also a great tool to use for older players of a lower ability) uses the same court dimensions as badminton and therefore can be made use of, both in curriculum time and out of school hours by local tennis providers.

2.2.2 Basic Guidance

This section provides a limited range of basic/key information relating to tennis facility specifications. More detailed guidance is available from a range of online factsheets (referenced in 2.2.3)

2.2.2.1 Court surfaces

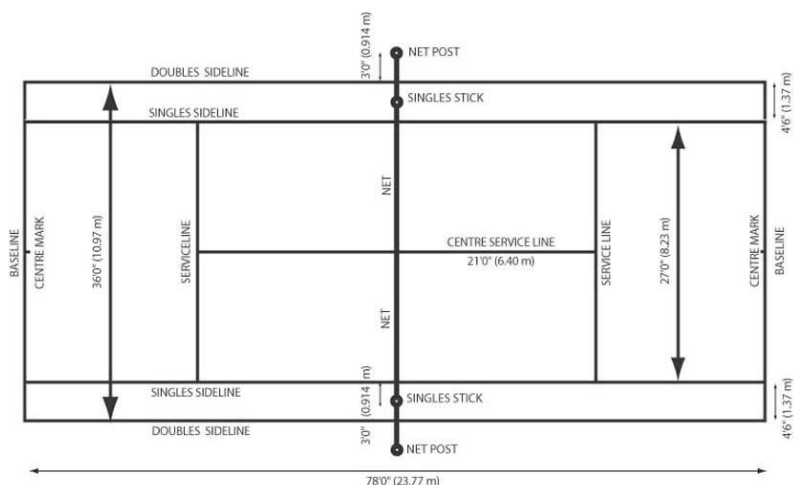
There are many tennis court surfaces, ranging from all-year-round options such as; porous macadam and artificial grass, to seasonal options such as; impervious acrylic, clay and grass.

80% of courts in Britain are made from porous macadam, the choice we recommend for use in schools.

This is mainly attributed to its porous properties, designed to allow rapid drainage through the entire surface, which means a speedier return to play. Porous macadam can be played on in most weather conditions for twelve months of the year and the life expectancy is typically ten to twelve years depending on method of construction, quality of drainage, extent of use and the care and maintenance given to the court. It is also the most cost effective option and within a school environment can provide a suitable surface for other sports, such as netball.

More detailed guidance on court surfaces is available online (see 2.2.3).

2.2.2.2 Court layout diagram



2.2.2.3 Court marking & run-off dimensions

Marked Out Playing Area	LTA Recommended	LTA Minimum
Length	23.77m (78'0")	23.77m (78'0")
Width (doubles)	10.97m (36'0")	10.97m (36'0")
Width (singles)	8.23m (27'0")	8.23m (27'0")
Length of net (doubles)	12.80m (42'0")	12.80m (42'0")
Width of white lines (included within court size)	0.05m (2.0")	0.05cm (2.0")
Width of baseline	0.1m (4.0")	0.1m (4.0")
Runback (depth clear behind baseline at each end)	6.40m (21'0")	5.49m (18'0")
Side run (width clear beside sideline each side)	3.66m (12'0")	3.05m (10'0")
Side run between courts not separately enclosed	4.27m (14'0")	3.66m (12'0")

2.2.2.4 Total space required for courts

	Number of courts	Total Area of Courts		
		M ²	Ft ²	Acres
2	1 Court	669	7,200	0.17
.	2 Courts	1,227	13,200	0.30
2	3 Courts	1,784	19,200	0.44
.	4 Courts	2,342	25,200	0.58
5	5 Courts	2,899	31,200	0.72
.	6 Courts	3,453	37,200	0.85
M				

2.2.2.5 Mini Tennis

What is Mini Tennis?

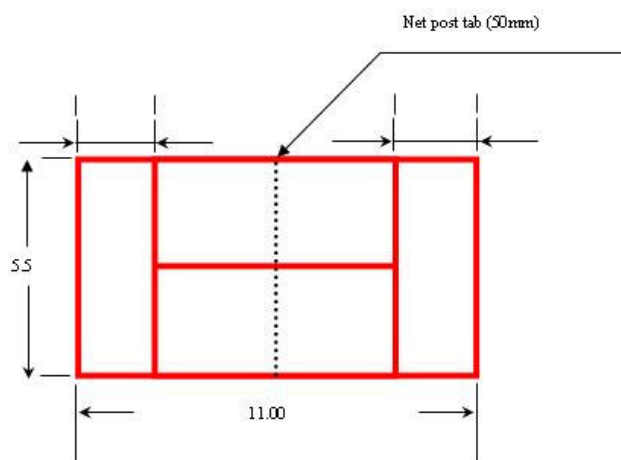
Mini tennis has been developed to motivate kids through three graduating stages of tennis that are suitable for their age and ability. As well as the identified coaching and competitive format for player aged under 10yrs, it is also a great tool for older players of a lower ability. Each stage is identified by a colour;

- RED uses a badminton size court and emphasises fundamental sporting skills such as movement and coordination and learning to play the game.
- ORANGE introduces a ¾ length, 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.

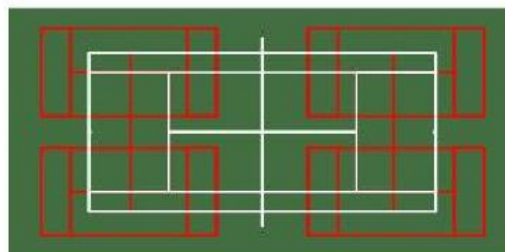
Mini Tennis Red can be played on a number of different court configurations depending on the desired level of facility provision:

- Badminton courts within a sports hall (uses the 'short and fat' court size).
- A full size tennis court marked with red and/or orange court markings
- A dedicated Kids Zone.

Mini Tennis Red court diagram



Mini Tennis red court layout on a full-size court



2.2.2.6 Basic cost information

- The typical cost of new, outdoor build porous macadam courts (with fencing) starts from £24,000 per court.
- The typical cost of re-colour coating a court costs from £1,800.
- The typical cost of surface course and re-colour coating a court costs from £7,000.

All the costs stated above are current, as at January 2008, approximate and subject to the different site conditions found at each location. VAT, contingencies, inflation and professional fees are excluded.

2.2.3 Detailed Guidance

Factsheets are available to download on the LTA website, providing detailed guidance on the following areas:

- Air Supported Structures
- Artificial Grass
- Budget costings and sinking funds
- Clubhouses and Pavilions
- Court surface guide
- Floodlighting Outdoor Courts
- Framed Fabric Structure
- General Court Care
- Grass Courts
- Impervious Acrylic
- Indoor Tennis Structures
- Key Dimensions
- Mini Tennis Kids Zone
- Porous macadam courts
- Practice walls
- Shale court maintenance
- Tennis court building brief
- Tennis Court Dimensions
- Traditional Covered Courts

Visit: www.lta.org.uk/Clubs/Resources/?c=tennis-facility to download the factsheets.

2.3 Tennis / BSF & Information Communication Technology

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is a high priority for Building Schools for the Future and is the key component that links buildings with teaching and learning.

10% of all BSF capital funding allocated locally to each project is ring-fenced for ICT – the equivalent to £1675 for every pupil place provided in the new and remodelled schools. This money is to pay for passive network infrastructure, active network equipment, hardware (computers and peripherals), software and setting up an area wide managed service for ICT.

There are many ways in which tennis can engage and benefit from an improved ICT infrastructure in schools, including:

- Primary Schools 'interactive coach' - DVD teaching aid.
- League Planner – online software package.
- Tennis Tournament Planner – online software package.
- Schools Tennis Competition Guide – interactive CD-Rom and interactive resource.
- www.competitionorganiser.com – online interactive resource for competition organisers.
- Primary School 'Cross Curricular Resource' – interactive CD-Rom resource.

Innovative and creative thinking should also be encouraged around how ICT can support tennis in the future:

- The use of interactive, sports-based games.
- The use of interactive whiteboards and templates to explain theory and practice.
- Wireless / Network availability at the tennis facility.
- Video Analysis – use of traditional methods and other portable devices.
- The use of community websites to identify tennis opportunities.

2.3 Communication protocol – who to contact?

British Tennis is supported by a Field Team of Tennis Development Managers (TDM) & Tennis Development Officers (TDO), based in each County or County cluster.

TDMs and TDOs should be your first point of contact to begin discussing the involvement of tennis within a Building Schools for the Future project.

- Contact details for the network of Tennis Development Managers and Officers can be found online at: www2.lta.org.uk/Search/CountyContacts/

As the project progresses, in addition to your local TDM/TDO, you will also be linked with one of five regional Facility Project Managers (FPM), who are able to make feasibility site visits and provide telephone/e-mail support regarding; technical, legal, financial and tennis issues.

Through the Facility Project Manager, you may also be able to access a network of specialist consultants that can provide you with advice in the construction of your facility, including; tennis court consultants, floodlighting consultants, planning consultants, structural engineers, architects, project managers and business consultants.

2.4 More information

National, tennis related enquiries regarding Building Schools for the Future should be directed to:

- Tom Gibbins Education Manager: tom.gibbins@tennisfoundation.org.uk
- Mark Fisher Facility Development Manager: mark.fisher@lta.org.uk

Further, useful reading includes:

- Blueprint for British Tennis
(Available at: www.lta.org.uk)
- Schools Tennis Strategy
(Available from your Tennis Development Manager and online from May 2009)
- Places to Play Strategy
(Available from your Tennis Development Manager and online from May 2009)