

ADDING PICKLEBALL TO YOUR TENNIS PROGRAMME



WHY ADD PICKLEBALL TO YOUR CURRENT OFFER?

Adding pickleball could offer several benefits to your venue, including increased participation, membership, diversification of revenue, and greater community engagement. Here's how:

1 INCREASE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND IMPROVE YOUR RETENTION

Broaden your audience

Pickleball appeals to a wide demographic, including seniors, young families, and those who may not play tennis.

Diversify your programme

Existing tennis players and members may also enjoy playing pickleball, leading to increased overall participation and retention.

2 GENERATE ADDITIONAL REVENUE

Court booking and membership income

Specific pickleball membership or income from pay-and-play court bookings could generate additional revenue for your venue.

Coaching

Offer coaching, beginner lessons, and advanced training to create new revenue streams.

3 MAXIMISE COURT UTILISATION

Fill underused court time

Tennis courts can be temporarily or permanently lined for pickleball¹, maximizing the use of existing facilities.

More play in less space

A single tennis court can fit up to four pickleball courts, allowing more people to play simultaneously.

4 INCLUSIVITY

Alternative for senior players

Tennis players and members who develop injuries or struggle with the physicality of tennis can transition to pickleball and remain active within the venue. Also, don't forget about Walking Tennis too!

Inclusive and accessible

It's a lower-impact sport, attracting players who might find tennis too physically demanding.

5 COMPETITIVE AND SOCIAL PLAY

New leagues and competitions

Create competitive leagues and casual open play sessions to cater to different skill levels.

¹ Before implementing permanent court lines, ensure you have thoroughly reviewed any conditions outlined in any LTA funding agreement and considered the potential impact on hosting higher-level official tennis competitions.

HOW TO GET STARTED



Here’s a detailed plan to successfully introduce pickleball to your tennis venue. The goal is to integrate pickleball without disrupting existing tennis programming while maximising participation, revenue, and engagement.

• 1

ASSESS VENUE READINESS AND MEMBER INTEREST

Survey members

- Send out an email or online survey to gauge interest among current members
- Include questions on preferred play times, skill levels, and willingness to participate in coaching and competition

Evaluate court capacity

- Identify underutilised courts or areas where pickleball lines could be added
- Determine if temporary or permanent courts are a better fit for your venue²
- Consider using portable nets to allow easy conversion between tennis and pickleball

Set a budget and some goals

- Calculate costs for nets, paddles, balls, and court markings
- Define some key objectives, such as participation, membership and revenue metrics

• 2

COURT SETUP AND EQUIPMENT

Survey members

- Use temporary tape or chalk initially before investing in permanent pickleball court lines²
- Read our more detailed court set up and equipment guide and watch our [video guide](#) on how to set up your court

Date started

Date completed

People responsible

2 Before implementing permanent court lines, ensure you have thoroughly reviewed any conditions outlined in any LTA funding agreement and considered the potential impact on hosting higher-level official tennis competitions.

• 3

CREATE YOUR PICKLEBALL PROGRAMME

Equipment purchase

- Buy portable pickleball nets – check out our [UK Pickleball Shop](#) and your exclusive discounts
- Have paddle and ball starter kits available for rent or loan

Dedicated court times

- Start with specific pickleball hours to avoid disrupting tennis schedules

Open play and court reservations

- Implement a court booking system to manage court use (ClubSpark can can do this for you!)
- Offer a mix of open play, lessons, and leagues to cater to all skill levels

• 4

LAUNCH INTRODUCTORY PICKLEBALL SESSIONS

Free pickleball open day (launch event)

- Offer a free “Try Pickleball” session led by an experienced, qualified coach
- Check out our [‘Introduction to Pickleball’](#) online course for coaches, parents, players or teachers who are seeking to gain a better understanding of the sport and would like to facilitate introductory sessions at their venues
- Provide equipment for newcomers
- Encourage existing tennis players and members to participate

Beginner and advanced workshops

- Create coaching opportunities for beginners and competitive players

Open play and socials

- Host weekly social play nights to build a fun and engaging atmosphere
- Organize mixers where tennis and pickleball players can interact

Date started

Date completed

People responsible

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5

MEMBERSHIP AND PRICING

Incorporate pickleball into your membership options

- Offer add-ons for current members to access pickleball
- Provide a pickleball-only membership for new members

Court booking and pay-and-play fees

- Offer pay-and-play option for non-members

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ORGANISE PICKLEBALL LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS

Beginner and advanced leagues

- Set up singles and doubles leagues based on skill levels
- Use ladder or round-robin formats to encourage participation

Tennis vs pickleball crossover events

- Create a ‘Battle of the Racquets’ event where tennis and pickleball players compete in both sports

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PROMOTE YOUR PICKLEBALL PROGRAMME

Marketing and outreach

- Send email newsletters to club members
- Post regularly on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)
- Offer a referral discount for members who bring a friend

Community engagement

- Collaborate with local retirement communities and schools to attract players

Date started

Date completed

People responsible

Local media coverage

- Invite local newspapers and news channels to cover the launch event
- Feature member testimonials on the club website

Date started

Date completed

People responsible

8 MONITOR PROGRESS AND EXPAND THE PROGRAMME

Track participation

- Use sign-ups and court reservations to measure growth
- Gather feedback via surveys to improve the programme

Expand based on demand

- Consider if you need to add more dedicated pickleball courts if interest grows
- Hire additional coaches / activators to accommodate new players
- Organize larger tournaments to attract regional participation

Adjust scheduling and pricing as needed

- Monitor peak usage times and adjust play hours accordingly
- Offer seasonal discounts or trial memberships to keep momentum going



COURT SETUP AND EQUIPMENT

PICKLEBALL COURT DIMENSIONS

Pickleball courts are 44 feet (13.41m) long and 20 feet (6.09m) across. On either side of the net there are:

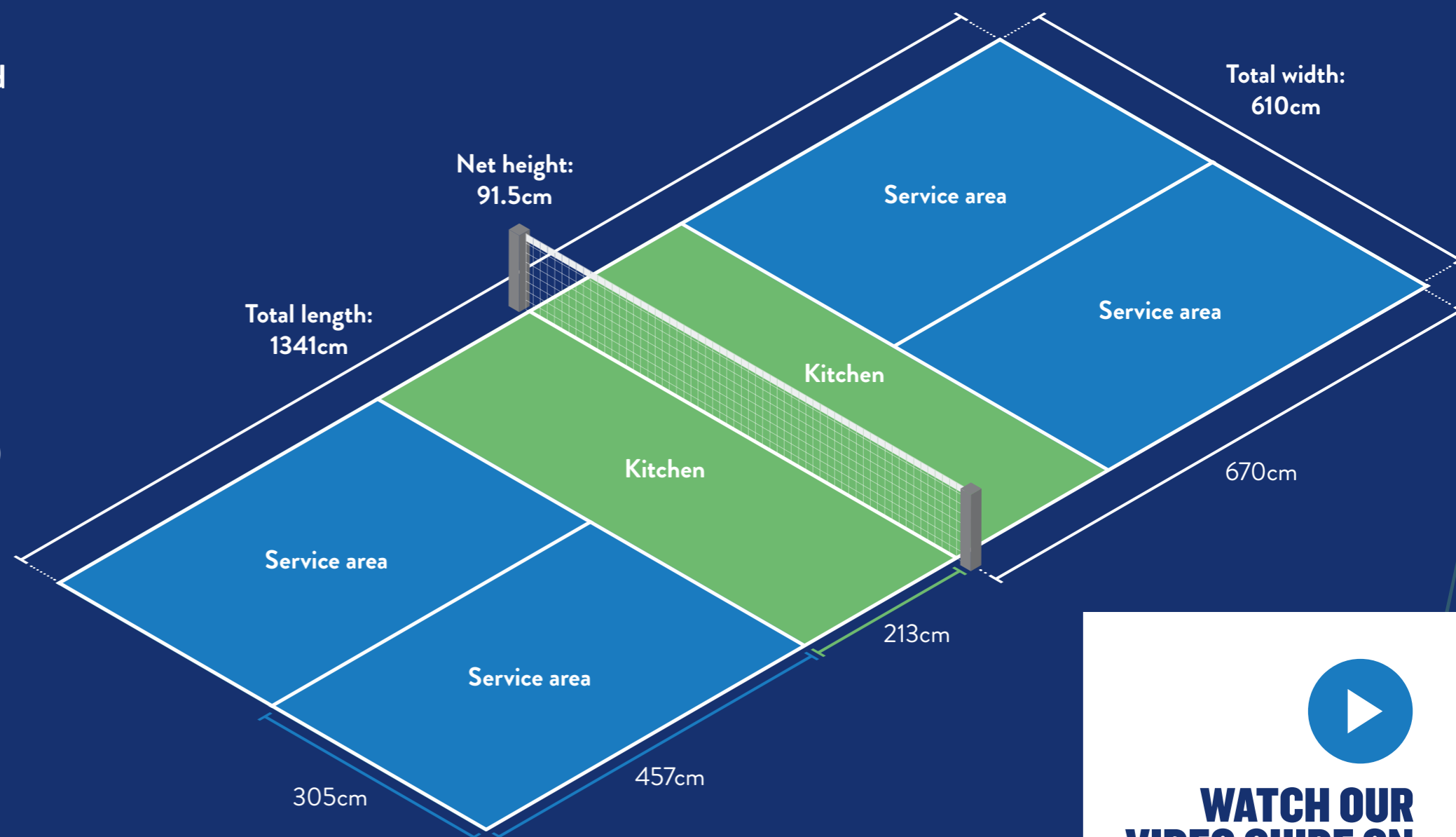
- **RIGHT AND LEFT SERVICE AREAS:**
both 15 feet (4.57m) long and 10 feet (3.05m) across
- **A NON-VOLLEY ZONE**
(also known as 'the kitchen') that runs across the full width of the court and is 7 feet (2.13m) long from the net

The height of a pickleball net should be 34 inches (86.36cm) at the centre and 36 inches (91.44cm) at the sides.

Setting up a pickleball court is straightforward, and knowing the correct court dimensions is crucial for a fair and enjoyable game.

Whether you're organising a casual match or looking to introduce pickleball at your local venue, these pickleball court dimensions provide the framework for a proper, competitive, regulation playing surface.

You can fit up to four pickleball courts to one tennis court. You can use temporary tape or chalk initially before investing in permanent pickleball court lines or indeed dedicated courts³. The best surface to play pickleball is acrylic however you can play recreational pickleball on porous asphalt.



³ Before implementing permanent court lines, ensure you have thoroughly reviewed any conditions outlined in any LTA funding agreement and considered the potential impact on hosting higher-level official tennis competitions.



**WATCH OUR
VIDEO GUIDE ON
HOW TO SET UP
YOUR COURTS**

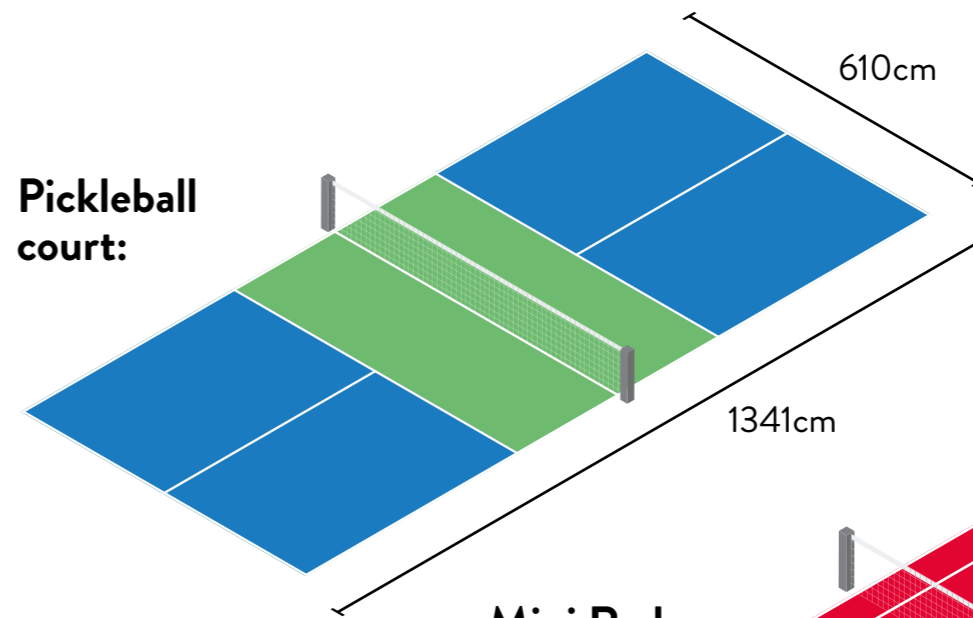


PLANNING CONSENT

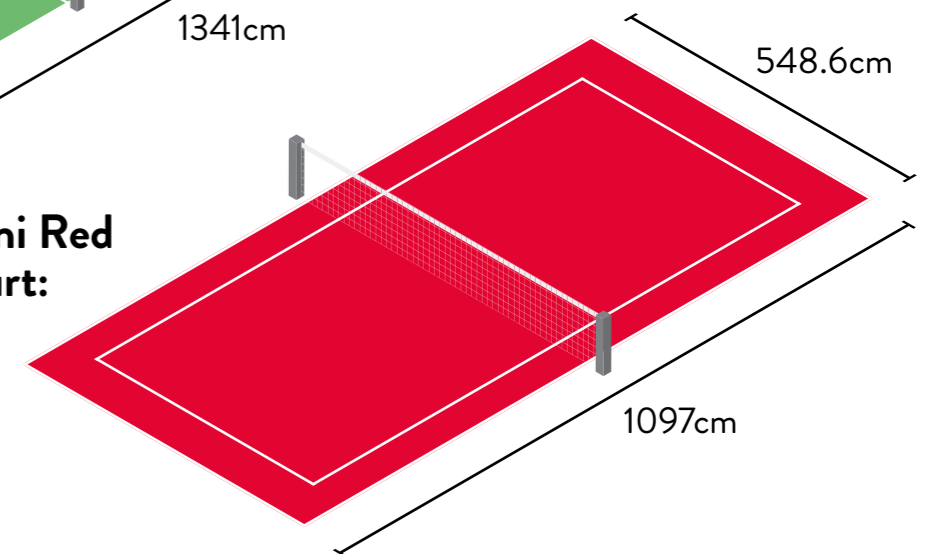
To install pickleball lines it is unlikely that this will need planning permission. However, if permanent lines are to be installed then it is advisable to speak with neighbours regarding the plans and the local planning authority regarding if the change of use will require planning permission.

A planning authority might request a noise survey to be undertaken which will show the impact of pickleball. It is advisable to locate pickleball courts as far away from neighbouring properties as possible.

Pickleball court:



Mini Red court:



MINI RED COURTS

Mini red courts (often used for youth tennis, especially in the 10U 'Red Ball' category) can be used for pickleball for informal recreational play. They provide an excellent hard, flat surface suitable for the bounce of a pickleball and are more than suitable for casual games, children, or learning drills if you don't need strict regulation dimensions.

Their dimensions are close but slightly smaller than a standard pickleball court. Typically, they are 36 feet long and 18 feet wide. A standard pickleball court is 44 feet long and 20 feet wide.

- Red courts are too small for competitive play
- They will also not be marked for the specific 7-foot non-volley zone ('the kitchen') near the net that's essential in pickleball, so you will need to mark lines for this
- Pickleball nets are 91.5cm in height whereas mini tennis nets are 80cm

So, you can use mini red courts to play recreational or modified pickleball, but they are not regulation size or valid for competitive play.

EQUIPMENT

Pickleballs

Pickleballs are made of plastic, completely hollow and covered in holes. Pickleball can be played indoors or outdoors and there are two different balls depending on where you're playing:

- Outdoor balls are heavier and a harder ball with 40 holes, more adapted to windy and outdoor conditions. Outdoor pickleballs are harder they tend to crack quicker than softer indoor pickleballs.
- Indoor balls are lighter and softer ball with 26 holes, well suited to smoother indoor surfaces and much more durable.

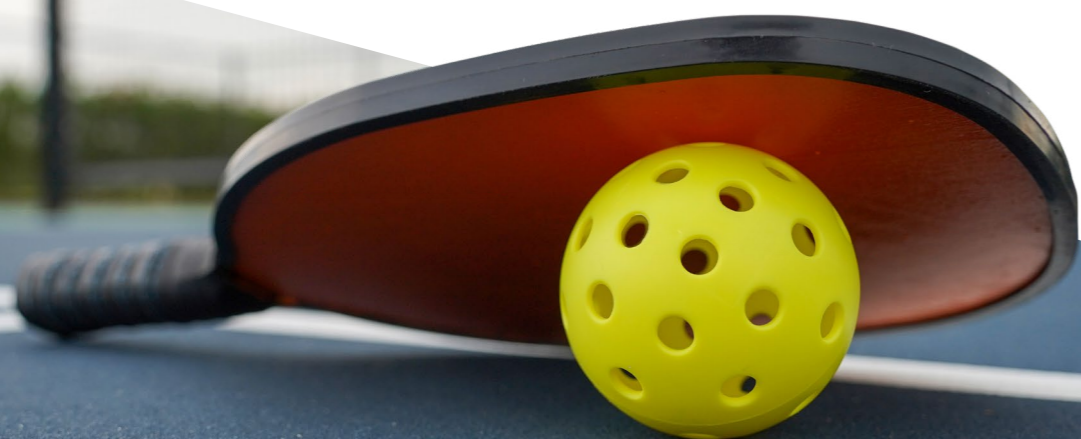
The holes on the ball are there for a good reason; to help the ball travel through the air. The airflow through the ball means that it moves consistently and stays true to where you aim your shots.

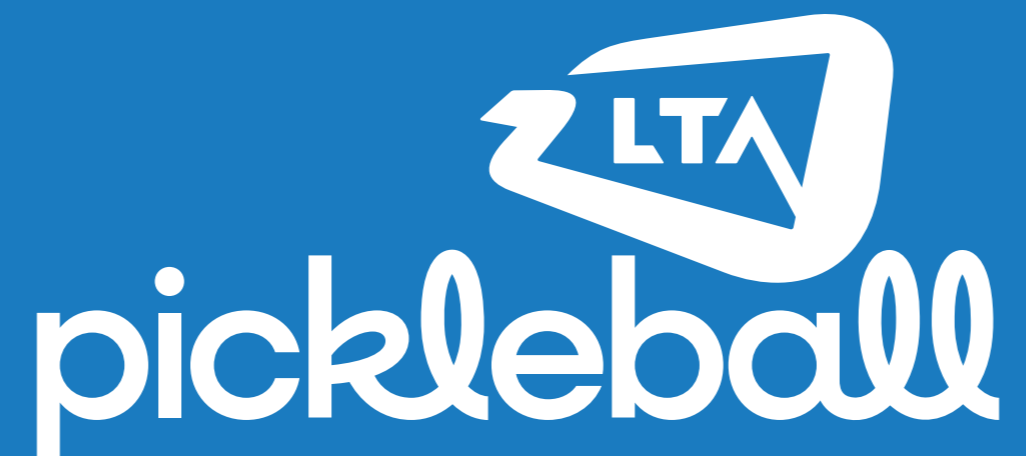
Playing outdoor in windy conditions?

Pickleball is best played with wind speeds below 10mph. Wind speeds above this can significantly affect the ball's trajectory and make it difficult to play the game properly. Some coastal venues have installed wind breakers to counter act the effects. Before this is done it is recommended that a survey is undertaken on the strength of the fence before installation. It is advisable not to install windbreaks on angle posts with chain-link fencing.

Pickleball shop

Check out our [UK Pickleball Shop](#) and keep an eye on exclusive discounts for LTA registered venues and LTA Accredited coaches. If any players have any questions on getting started with pickleball regarding equipment, direct them to our [Pickleball Equipment Buying Guide](#).





The LTA is committed to securing a lasting future for tennis in Britain.

As part of this, a range of resources and support have been developed for tennis venues, which are available through our **Venue Support Toolkit**.

For more information related to the principles of Court Programming and Utilisation visit the LTA Venue Support Toolkit **here**.