

# Appendix: Indoor court specifications

(as at April 2025)

This appendix builds on the information in Section 12, from page 34 of the [National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy Supporting Document](#).

Sport NZ acknowledges that sporting codes must adhere to specific guidelines for indoor courts, particularly for international competition, and strongly supports full compliance with these specifications.

However, as outlined in the National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy, there is no current need for additional courts with a ceiling height over 7.5m – unless a clear demonstrated need is established.

Before developing new indoor courts, it's important to take a strategic approach to ensure facilities meet both current and future needs. Key considerations include:

## Existing supply

Whether the current availability of indoor courts at the regional standard and above is sufficient to meet the existing demand for events at these levels.

## Identifying demand

If additional courts are required, engagement with the relevant National Sport Organisation is essential to co-develop appropriate facility specifications and court dimensions.

## Standards and guidelines

Many National Sport Organisations rely on international facility standards due to the absence of detailed national-specific guidelines for regional-level and above.

## Flexibility in specifications

Historically, flexibility – particularly in ceiling height – has been granted at the regional level, with many facilities receiving dispensations from international specifications.

## Balancing standards with community needs

National Sport Organisations acknowledge the need for flexibility at the regional level, especially where demand for additional community courts outweighs strict adherence to international facility guidelines.

## Existing infrastructure

A significant proportion of sporting activity in New Zealand has historically taken place – and continues to occur – in facilities with ceiling heights lower than 7.5m.

## Court sizes

Below is a comparison of Sport NZ's recommended guidelines and National Sporting Organisation competition specifications for single courts, including runoff areas:

| Sport             | Sport NZ recommended guidelines | National Sporting Organisation recommended competition guidelines: Single court plus runoff – (L x W x clear H) |                  |                  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
|                   | Community                       | Regional  | National         | International    |
| <b>Netball</b>    | 34.5 x 18.25 x 7.5m             | 37.6 x 24 x 8.3m  | 37.6 x 24 x 8.3m | 37.6 x 24 x 8.3m |
| <b>Volleyball</b> | 34.5 x 18.25 x 7.5m             | 24 x 15 x 7m  | 24 x 15 x 7m     | 31 x 19 x 12.5 m |
| <b>Basketball</b> | 34.5 x 18.25 x 7.5m             | 32.1 x 19.1 x 7m  | 32.1 x 19.1 x 7m | 35 x 22 x 7m     |
| <b>Badminton</b>  | 34.5 x 18.25 x 7.5m             | 17.4 x 9.1 x 9m   | 17.4 x 9.1 x 9m  | 17.4 x 9.1 x 12m |

<sup>1</sup> [National-indoor-facilities-supporting-documents-2023.pdf](#)

## Sport NZ community courts versus fully compliant regional courts

Building a single-court venue that fully complies with the regional specifications for the 4 key court sports – netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton – results in a:



These increases, compared to Sport NZ community court specifications, highlight the additional space and structural requirements necessary for full compliance at the regional level.

### Dimension comparison

|                 | Sport NZ community specification | Fully compliant regional court<br>(4 codes identified) |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Length          | 34.5m                            | 37.6m  |
| Width           | 18.25m                           | 24m  |
| Height          | 7.5m                             | 9m   |
| Court footprint | 630m <sup>2</sup>                | 902m <sup>2</sup> <b>(+43%)</b>                        |
| Building Volume | 4,722m <sup>3</sup>              | 8,121m <sup>3</sup> <b>(+72%)</b>                      |

### Impact of fully compliant regional courts

The increased footprint and building volume of a fully compliant regional court lead to several significant financial and operation implications:

#### Higher capital costs

Construction costs rise due to the larger scale facility, or alternatively, the number of courts may be reduced if funding remains fixed (for example, Pettigrew Green Arena extension).

#### Greater operational costs

Heating, cooling and air-handling systems require energy, driving up ongoing expenses.

#### Increased maintenance requirements

A larger surface area – particularly higher walls and ceilings – necessitates more frequent and complex repairs at both internal and external heights.

### Amplified impacts in multi-court venues

In multi-court facilities, the expanded floor area and increased building volume further amplify these challenges:

#### Greater space demands

Larger separation distances between courts increase overall space demands.

#### Escalating costs

Both initial capital investment and long-term operational expenses grow substantially due to the increased scale of the facility.

### 3D comparison of the 2 sports hall scenarios

The visual comparison below highlights the differences in scale between the 2 sports hall scenarios.

- Blue represents Sport NZ community specification hall 1 (34.5m x 18.25m x 7.5m)
- Red represents a fully compliant regional sports hall (37.6m x 24m x 9m).

The increased dimensions of the regional sports hall demonstrate the additional space required for compliance, impacting construction, operational efficiency and maintenance demands.

