

GUIDANCE NOTE 07

Indoor Cricket



INTRODUCTION

Indoor cricket is a variation of standard cricket and was developed in Perth, Western Australia, in the late 1970s. It is suitable for cricketers and novices alike, and played year-round.

Indoor cricket is played on a rectangular, artificial grass-surfaced court. The court is enclosed in tightly tensioned netting, including a 4m high 'ceiling'. Courts are usually constructed in factory units or purpose-built centres.

A game is played with two teams, each with a maximum of eight players or, in some rare cases, six (though six-a-side centres are uncommon, they do exist – usually where the playing area isn't big enough to construct a full-sized court). Indoor cricket uses a softer ball than a regulation cricket ball.¹

Indoor cricket forms part of a multi-sport experience where players of all abilities can enjoy competitive and social team sport. Indoor matches can be played between mixed genders and players of all ages. Due to the ability to play all year round, indoor facilities provide an ideal off-season training facility, particularly for young player development and social competitions.

Through adopting a multi-purpose design approach, indoor cricket facilities can also provide opportunity for participation in a variety of alternate sporting activities.

¹WA Sports Dimensions Guide



Indoor cricket and multi-sport court set-up
Images courtesy of Cricket Australia



INDOOR CRICKET LAYOUT AND DIMENSIONS

An indoor cricket 'court' is rectangular, 28m-30m long, 10.5m-12m wide, and roofed by flat netting at 4m to 4.5m high. The walls are also of flexible netting.

The cricket pitch is 20m long and 1.8m wide, covered with artificial turf, with the striker's end close to one end of the court. An additional line is marked across the middle of the pitch, 11m from the striker's popping crease, and forms the non-striker's crease, behind which

he is safe from being run out. The batsmen run only 11m to score runs instead of the full length of the pitch.

The wickets are 22.86cm wide, 71.1cm high and consist of three stumps with two bails 11.1cm long on top. The wickets are located at each end of the pitch 20m apart. The stumps are of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing through. Bails may be wooden or plastic and must be tied to the stumps.¹

The following detailed indoor cricket dimensions should be considered when designing a new or refurbishing an existing indoor cricket facility. The diagram on the following page provides a visual image of dimensions, layout and requirements for indoor cricket courts.

THE PITCH: The area between both sets of stumps, the bowling return creases and the offside lines and the strikers' end.

THE STUMPS: Should be of equal and sufficient width to prevent the ball from passing through them. The top of the stumps should be 71.1cm above the floor.

THE WICKET LINE: Should be marked in line with the stumps at each end and be 1.83m in width at the batting end and 2.47m at the bowling end. The stumps should be placed in the centre and the middle of the stumps 20m apart.

THE POPPING CREASE: Should be in front of and parallel with the wicket lines at both ends. Its back edge should be 1.22m from the centre of the stumps. At the striker's end the popping crease should extend from one side of the court to the other and is called the batting crease. At the bowler's end the popping crease will be the line extending between the return crease and is called the bowler's crease or the front foot line.

THE RETURN CREASE: At the bowler's end will be the lines at right angles to the bowling crease and the line of the wickets. The return creases will be marked 1.22m from the middle stump on the line of the wicket. The return creases may be considered to extend back from the line of the stumps indefinitely for the purposes of adjudication.

THE RUNNING CREASE: The running crease (or non-striking batter's crease), which is the edge of the crease marking nearest the bowling end, should be parallel to the popping crease and extend from one side of the court to the other.

The distance between the running crease and batting crease should be 11m.

THE COURT: Should be no less than 28m and no more than 30m in length and no less than 10.5m and no more than 12m in width. The height should be between 4-4.5m.

THE LEGSIDE LINES:

Should be positioned with the inside edge 45cm from the middle stump. The legside lines should extend a minimum 15cm at right angles to the batting crease. The offside or wide lines are to be positioned with the inside edge 90cms from the centre stump.

THE FIELDING EXCLUSION

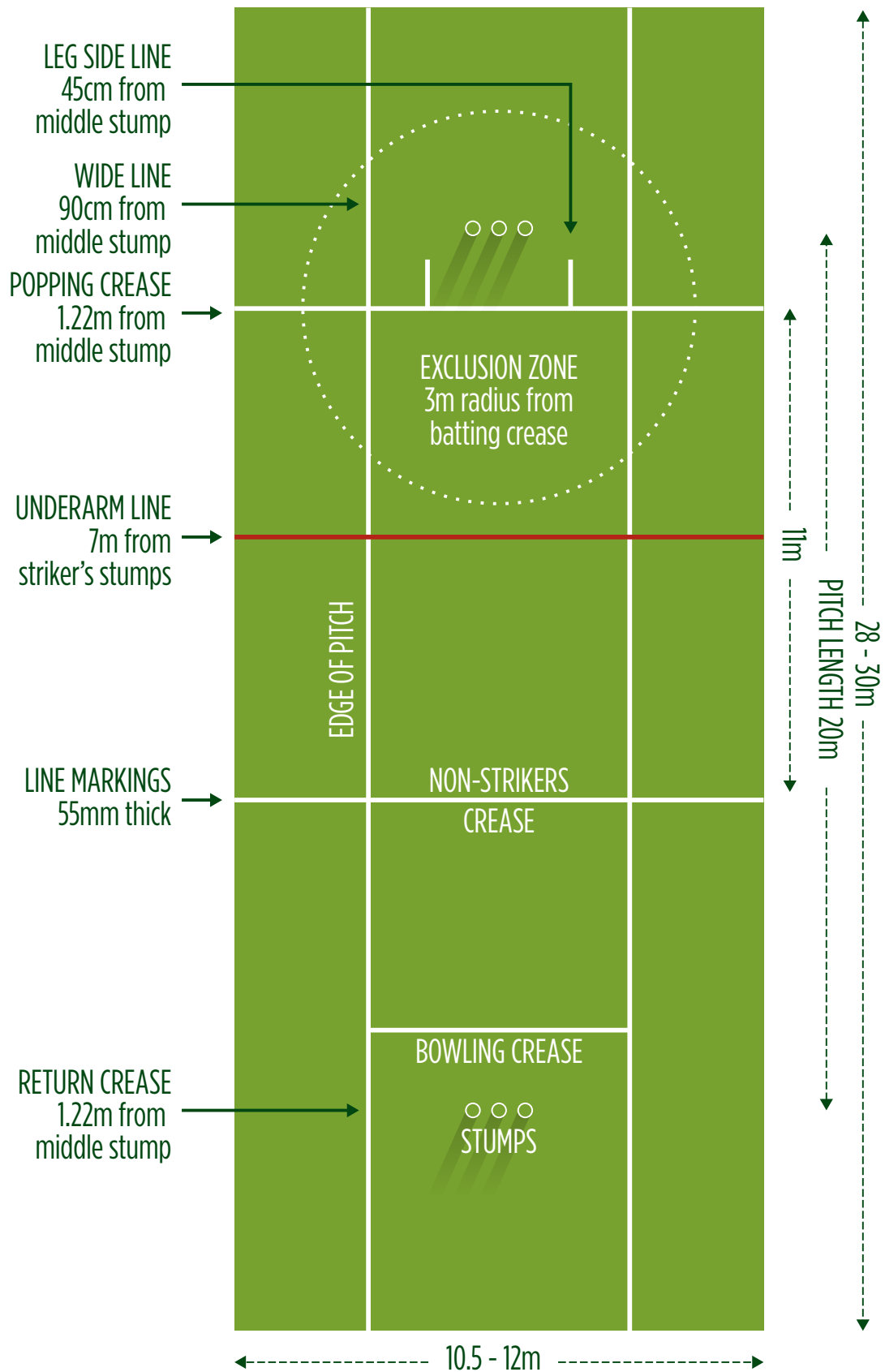
ZONE: Should be marked in an arc extending from the centre of the batting crease at a radius of 3m.

THE UNDERARM LINE: Should be marked across the pitch 7m from the striker's stumps.

LINE MARKING: Should be marked at a thickness of 55mm.



¹WA Sports Dimensions Guide for Playing Areas.



NETTING

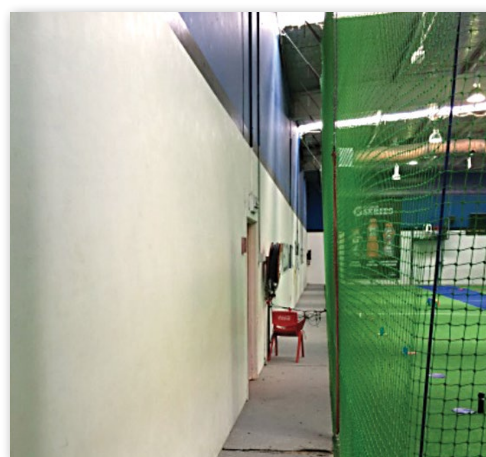
The net enclosing an indoor cricket court is very tightly tensioned. This allows consistency in the ball's bounce off the net. It is also a safety feature — players are protected from hitting any walls or columns that may be close to the court and there is less chance of getting fingers caught in tight nets. It also allows spectators to be closer to the game, as players hitting the net will not stretch it far.

The court is defined by a cubic frame of high-strength steel cable, to which the netting is securely attached. Tensioning of the net is achieved by tensioning of this 'cube'. The lower four cables of the cube are secured directly

into a concrete floor. The four lower corners are tensioned to anchor points set into the concrete.

The top four cables are all fastened at the corners to anchor points, located on the ceiling/inner-roof. These take the main tension and help form the 'box' structure of the cables. These top cables are then further fastened to the ceiling for additional support. The shape of the box thus formed is achieved by adjusting the tension mainly in the eight corners, with finer tuning possible by individually adjusting the extra attachments along the top edges.¹

¹WA Sports Dimensions Guide for Playing Areas.



Indoor cricket tensioned netting
Images courtesy of Cricket Australia





Indoor cricket lighting system example
Images courtesy of Cricket Australia



LIGHTING

It is essential to have good quality lighting so that the players can follow the movement of the ball travelling at high speeds, either struck by the batsman or bowled by the bowler.

The illuminance must be uniform throughout the playing area, with the background walls behind both batsman and bowler providing a good viewing contrast. Safety is paramount and the lighting system must take into account the propulsion of balls at speed.

The recommended minimum lighting level for an indoor cricket sports centre is between 1000 and 1500 lux for non-televised use.¹

¹WA Sports Dimensions Guide for Playing Areas.





Example of player and spectator support amenities that complement and support social usage.
 Images courtesy of Cricket Australia

VENUE AMENITIES

Creating a welcoming environment to any community facility starts with providing a positive first impression to patrons on entry.

This includes reception areas that are open and configured to managed flow into the building, as well as welcoming social and spectating areas that provide visibility into the centre and across playing areas.

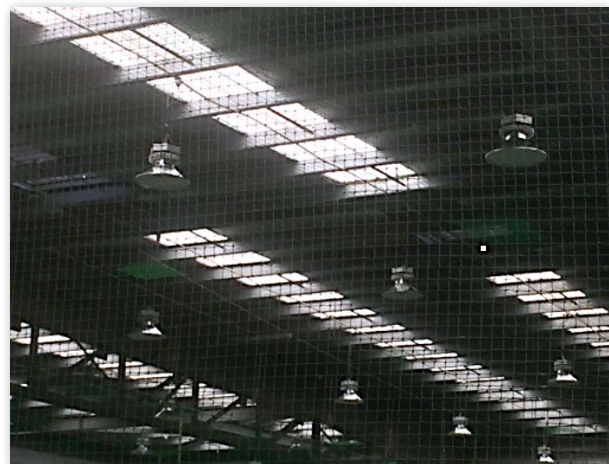
Ensuring that adequate spectator areas are provided throughout the venue and within any social, bar or café area will add to the overall spectator experience. The provision of heating, cooling, natural light and ample circulation

space will also assist in improving player and spectator comfort.

The design of any building for indoor cricket must be carefully considered in order to create both strong playing and venue amenity areas. Designing areas that minimise staffing requirements and co-locate reception, food, beverage and merchandise sales areas will assist to create management and financial efficiencies.



Kaleen Indoor Sports (ACT) - Example of spectator seating
 Images courtesy of Cricket Australia



Example of natural light
 Images courtesy of Cricket Australia

