GUIDANCE NOTE 05

INDOOR CRICKET

CRICKET
AUSTRALIA

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Introduction

Indoor cricket facilities are distinctly different to indoor training facilities. Indoor cricket facilities cater for the competition format of indoor cricket, but can also provide flexibility to accommodate training, multi-sport programs and other community/commercial activities.

This Guidance Note provides information and recommendations regarding the following aspects related to indoor cricket facilities:

- Venue attributes
- Venue design considerations
- Field of play specifications

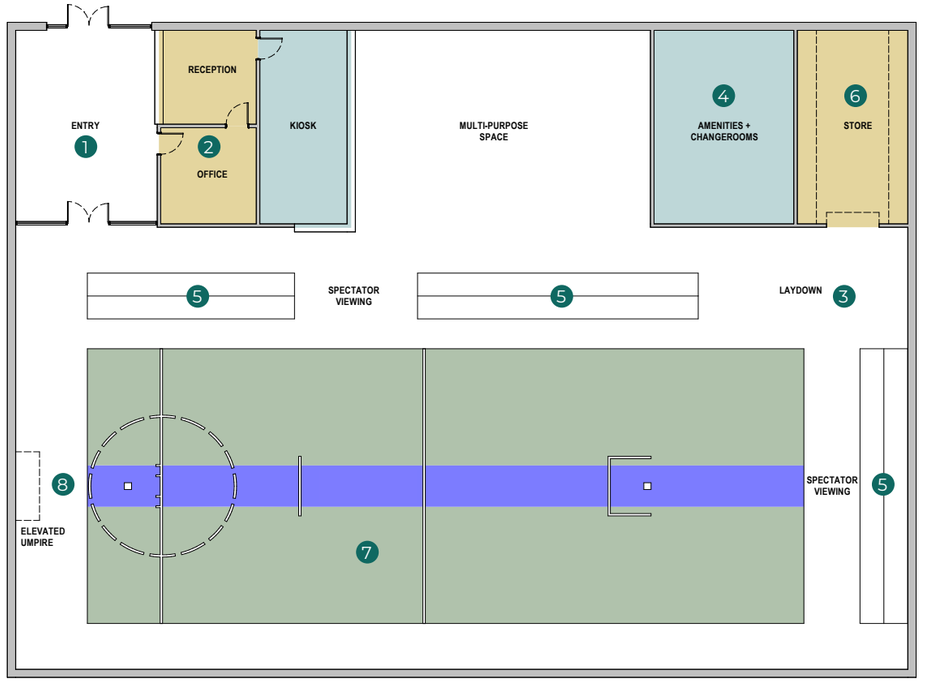
Throughout this Guidance Note, design and planning tips and references to ESD considerations and maintenance recommendations are also provided.

Venue attributes

The following table and associated venue layout plan provides a guide to the typical venue attributes that should be included within a dedicated indoor cricket facility.

AREA / ATTRIBUTE	DESCRIPTION	TIPS
ENTRY / RECEPTION / KIOSK 1	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 manage 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 kiosk 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.	■ Ensure the entry area does not also act as the venue “kit laydown area” and alternate space is provided. ■ 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.
OFFICE 2	A venue management office is recommended to support venue operations. The size and components of the office should be determined through a facility scoping exercise.	■ Typically the office should be fitted out with desk and cabinetry to support the number of users and be cabled with relevant digital technology. ■ A connection from the office area to reception desk will assist in minimising staffing numbers where multiple functions can be accommodated.
KIT BAG LAYDOWN 3	Typically indoor cricket facilities will have multiple teams waiting to use the courts while the active teams conduct their game. The overlap of teams and users creates a need for a dedicated laydown area for kit bags outside the competition courts (netted area). This laydown area should not impact on required circulation spaces or building egress. The area required for the kit bag laydown is dependent on the number of courts available for concurrent games at the facility.	■ A typical senior kit bag will require 1sqm of space, which is inclusive of circulation. If there are three games running concurrently, there may be up to six teams at the venue. ■ Consideration may be given to the provision of shelving or “pigeon holes” capable of storing kit bags. Pending available space and circulation requirements, shelving can be positioned around the extremities of the building or provide a divider within the laydown area. Shelving allows for a more efficient stacking of kit bags (potentially two to three bags high), however should not exceed 1200mm in height.

AMENITIES 4	The indoor cricket facility will need to provide its own amenities for players, spectators, umpires and venue staff. The number of toilets and showers will be dependent on the size of the facility and the maximum number of people the indoor cricket centre can cater for. Amenities should be easily accessible from the netted court area and provide private, lockable toilet and changeroom spaces to accommodate all users. Wherever toilet and shower facilities provide for all genders and all abilities.	■ Consider principles of universal access and all gender provision when designing toilets and showers ■ Ensure accessible amenities are provided pursuant to the NCC. ■ Ensure sanitary bins are provided in toilet amenities.
SPECTATOR VIEWING 5	Both player and spectator viewing seating is to be provided within the venue, with this to be located either parallel to the court(s) or behind the bowler's end of the court. Seating can be a single level or tiered seating. Both single level and tiered seating need to include adequate provision for spectators who require the use of mobility aids (e.g. wheelchairs, walkers).	■ Consider opportunities for both floor level and elevated viewing where practical.
STORAGE 6	Internal storage rooms should be designed with shelves to maximize storage room capacity. Storerooms should be located internally within the facility. They should be outside the netted court area but have easy access to the competition space. The store size should be sized appropriately for the facility's operating needs and may include multiple areas. Overall, between 30sqm and 40sqm of storage is required to support indoor cricket use. Additional storage space may be required to accommodate other sporting or activity uses (e.g. netball posts, soccer goals, soft matting, inflatable devices).	■ Storage rooms should have a lockable roller shutter and be lined with durable materials such as plywood or fibre cement sheet to provide increased durability. ■ Providing adequate space and access for wheeled equipment such as trolleys and equipment bags should also be considered.
INDOOR NET AREA 7	Refer to field of play specifications below.	
UMPIRE AREA 8	An elevated umpire platform should be positioned outside of the circulation space (1500mm) at the rear of the netting at the batter's end of the court.	



Example of elevated umpire platform

Venue design considerations

Clearances and circulation

Clearances around the netting is critical for circulation and safety of both players and spectators. Allow for a minimum 2000mm wide circulation space along the sides of the court to any fixed object or infrastructure. This will allow for two people to pass each other outside of the netting/court as well as a sufficient buffer distance for players to a fixed object or infrastructure (if diving or falling into the netting).

Allow for a 1500mm circulation space at the rear of the nets to any fixed object or infrastructure (e.g. umpire platform).

Maintaining an adequate clearance space between the roof netting, building structure and services (e.g. lighting, fans/air conditioning, fire services) is an important design consideration and should be determined via a site specific assessment and approved by a building certifier.

The clearance space between roof netting and the above building structure and services should take into account the potential spring of netting.

Natural daylight and ventilation

Natural daylight is preferred wherever possible. Skylights or polycarbonate roofing can be a great way to introduce daylight to an indoor space. Ensure selected products filter / diffuse the light so that direct sunlight does not cause glare issues for players.

Windows at high level can also provide good access to natural daylight. High level windows are preferred to low level windows due to the improved security they offer and better depth of light penetration into the building. Windows should be positioned or appropriately shaded so that glare does not impact players.

Air-conditioning of indoor cricket training facilities can be cost prohibitive. Therefore, natural ventilation must be considered as part of the design response. Architects should review the direction of prevailing winds to determine the optimal placement of windows or fixed louver openings. Windows can be supplemented by air extraction fans or ceiling fans to enhance the natural ventilation of the space by providing additional air circulation.

Material and colour selection

The selection of colours in the building space needs to be carefully considered to work with the net and ball colours. This is particularly important behind the batter and the bowler to promote visibility of the yellow ball.

Materials selection should prioritise durability. Plasterboards should be avoided and more durable materials such as plywood, fiber cement sheet, blockwork or masonry are preferred. This is particularly important where there is a risk of balls hitting the linings or in high traffic / high use areas such as the kit bag laydown area.

Signage and occupant safety

Signage plays an important role in promoting occupant safety in indoor cricket facilities. Signs can indicate where players should wear protective gear, where spectators should stand, and where equipment should be stored. This helps to prevent accidents and injuries that could occur. In addition to the general building wayfinding and statutory signage, additional types of signage to be considered include:

- Identifying high risk areas / no standing zones
- Identifying spectator viewing points
- Location of First-aid kits or First-aid rooms

Signage should be clear and legible, and located in easy-to-read, logical positions.

Acoustics

Acoustics is an important consideration, especially within spaces that have adjacent uses or share common walls with neighbouring properties. The design should include sound-absorbing materials to minimise noise, vibration and echo.

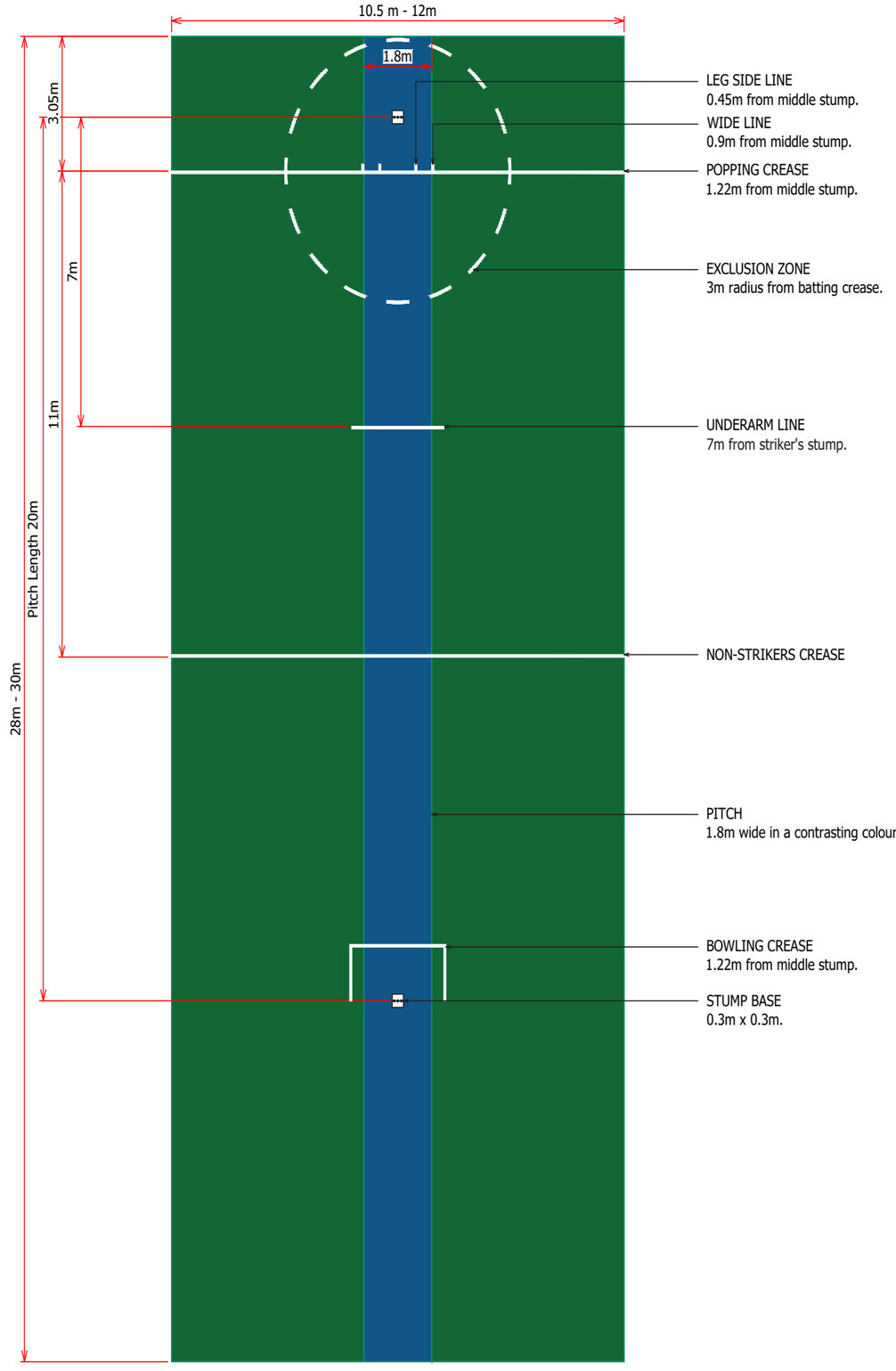
Car parking

The adequacy of car parking, in the context of site specific conditions and surrounding uses should be considered during design and development stages. Shared precinct car parking can be an option based on the prime usage times of an indoor cricket venue (usually weeknights and weekends). The relevant local government or planning authority should be able to advise on minimum requirements (e.g. provision of designated accessible parking spaces).

Field of play specifications

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

FIELD OF PLAY ELEMENT	SPECIFICATIONS
LENGTH OF COURT	28m (minimum) to 30m (maximum)
WIDTH OF COURT	10.5m (minimum) to 12m (maximum)
HEIGHT OF ROOF NETTING	4m (minimum) to 4.5m (maximum)
RUN-OFF / CLEARANCE (REAR OF NETTING)	1.5m (minimum) from structure
RUN-OFF / CLEARANCE (SIDE OF NETTING)	2m (minimum) from structure
THE CRICKET PITCH	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 they are safe from being run out. The batters run only 11m to score runs instead of the full length of the pitch.
THE WICKETS	The wickets are 22.86cm wide, 71.1cm high and consist of three stumps with two bails 11.1cm long on top. Bails may be wooden or plastic and must be tied to the stumps. The wickets are located at each end of the pitch 20m apart.
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 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.



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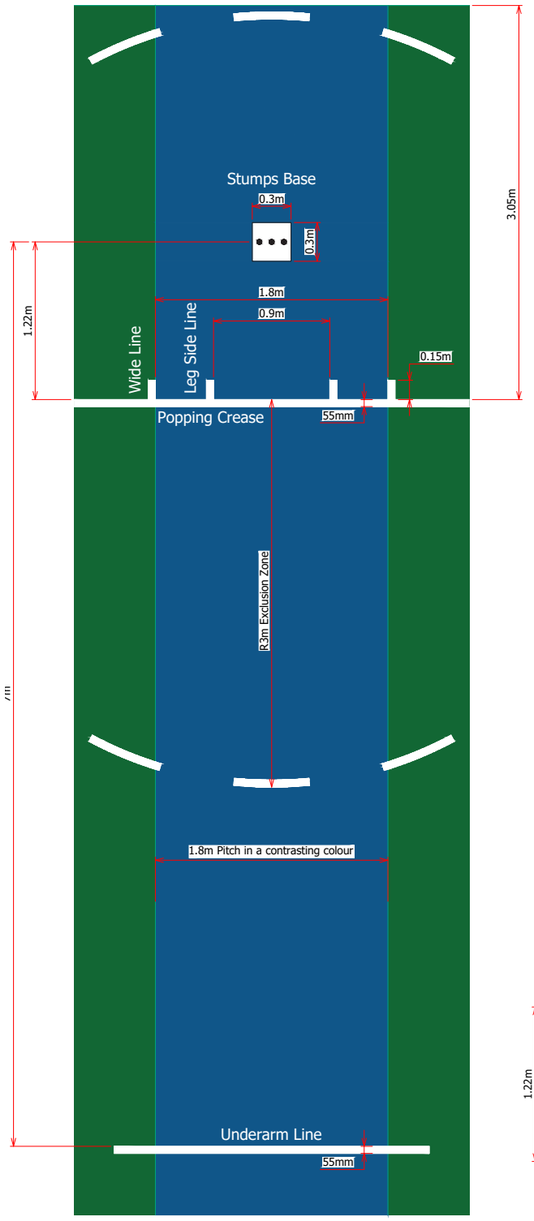
Netting

The net enclosing an indoor cricket court is to be 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 indoor 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.

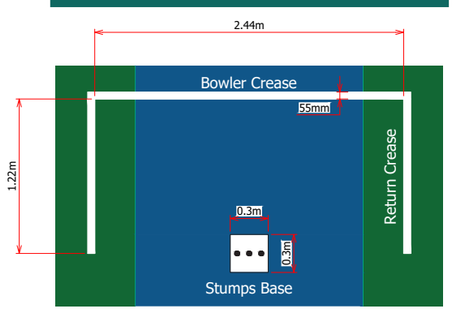


The top four cables are all fastened at the corners to anchor points, located on the ceiling/ inner roof structure. These take the main tension and help form the 'box' structure of the cables. These top cables are then further fastened to the ceiling for additional support. The shape of the box thus 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.

Fixed netting system: For fixed netting system, the nets are often hung on an aluminium trackway and fixed to the ceiling. The nets then drop down 8m to 4m to provide a substantial enclosure for the game.

Retractable netting system: Retractable netting allows for more flexible use of a multi-purpose enclosure and increased sport and recreation programming opportunities.

An additional "zipped" access point(s) may be included to allow the net to be opened from ground level. This will accommodate users that cannot enter/ exit the netted area via the traditional split net system.



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 batter or bowled by the bowler.

The illuminance must be uniform throughout the playing area, with the background walls behind both batter 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 indoor cricket is between 300 lux and 1000 lux for non-televised use as outlined in the below table:

INDOOR CRICKET		
AS 2560.2 CLASS	**Level of competition (M=Male; F=Female)**	**Average horizontal maintained illuminance**
I	■ International Series (M) ■ National Championships (M)	1000
II	■ International Series (F) ■ National Championships (F) ■ National Indoor Cricket League (M&F) ■ Premier – Inter Centre Competition (M&F)	750
III	■ National Junior Championships (M&F) ■ In Centre Competition (M)	500
IV	■ In Centre Competition (F) ■ Junior Competition (M&F) ■ School Sports (M&F) ■ Entry Level Programming (M&F)	300

Note: Lighting levels provided are based on use of a standard yellow indoor cricket ball.

Detailed recommendations and requirements for lighting of indoor cricket training environments is further addressed in Guidance Note 06: Floodlighting.

For indoor lighting projects, be mindful of specific local factors. Ceiling types, fire walls and distance from switchboards will impact on the design. In a refit, the ability to access ceiling space and the condition of the existing electrical wiring and switchboard will need to be considered.