

USTA Statement Of Guidance - Update

FACILITIES APPROACH TO TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL

As the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States and in concert with court builders and park professionals, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) is putting forth an expanded Statement of Guidance for the development, expansion, and renovation of public facilities and spaces related to tennis and pickleball. This guidance is presented within the context and understanding that – while tennis remains the most popular racquet sport in the United States – tennis and pickleball are currently experiencing significant participation increases throughout the country and demand for both tennis and pickleball courts is expanding exponentially.

Participation Statistics

- **Tennis:** A total of 23.6 million players in 2022, a 33% increase of 5.9 millions players since 2019*
- **Pickleball:** A total of 8.9 million players in 2022**

This guidance offers the following options:

OPTION #1: SPORT-SPECIFIC SITES

The ideal solution is the development and/or expansion of sport-specific public sites. Singular-focused sport-specific sites and courts will provide optimum opportunity for use, harmony, and program/revenue generation for each sport that may be unavailable in shared-use scenarios. These facilities should be offered either as one central facility complex or as separate sport-specific developments to best meet the needs of the community. The ultimate goal is to ensure both sports have the infrastructure in place to maintain existing programs and play as well as allow for future growth (Examples 1a & 1b).



Example 1a: Rendering of a sport-specific site with playground incorporated.



Example 1b: Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center in Zephyrhills, FL

OPTION #2: NON-TRADITIONAL SPACES

In the event that sport-specific sites are not possible, both tennis and pickleball can be played and enjoyed in non-traditional spaces. Look at all hard surface areas for possible conversion, such as a concrete slab (Example 2a), multi-sport court sites (Example 2b) and/or vacant parking lot locations. When contemplating any type of conversion affiliated with public facility infrastructure, safety must be at the forefront of all considerations. Further, local ordinances should be reviewed to ensure accessing the space for play is allowed.



Example 2a: Pickleball court on a concrete slab.



Example 2b: Pickleball court on a multi-sport site.

* Tennis number source: The 2022 National Tennis Participation Report available from the Tennis Industry Association (TIA)

** Pickleball number source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)

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OPTION #3: SHARED USE OF COURTS

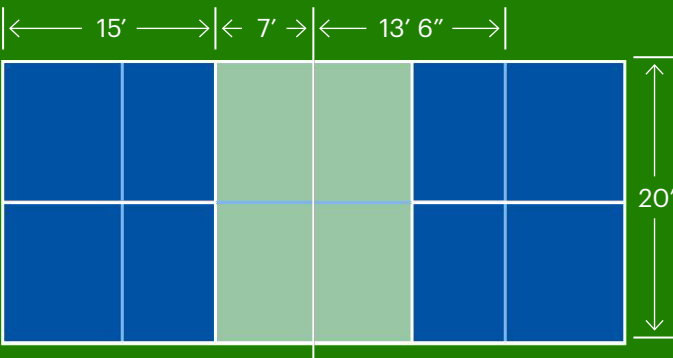
In the event that sport-specific sites and non-traditional spaces are not possible and in the interest of equitable offerings for both tennis and pickleball, shared usage through blended playing lines on existing tennis and pickleball courts is advisable. This recommendation stands for sites with two (2) or fewer tennis courts. For sites with three (3) or more tennis courts, every effort should be made to utilize Option #1 or #2 due to the sustained growth and increasing public demand for both sports.

Recommended guideline when utilizing standalone pickleball courts for tennis play:

- Add blended tennis service box lines to pickleball courts for short court tennis play. (Example 3a)

Recommended guidelines when executing blended pickleball lines at sites with two (2) or fewer tennis courts***

- Up to two pickleball court blended lines can be added to a 78' tennis court, one on either side of the net. Whenever possible, utilize a shared tennis service line or a tennis base line with a pickleball blended line.
- All blended pickleball lines shall be textured line paint that is a shade lighter within in the same color family as the playing surface. (Example 3b)
- Blended pickleball lines should terminate three (3) inches from the 78-foot court tennis lines.
- Blended pickleball lines should be 1½ inches wide
- Utilize painters tape to refrain from damaging the acrylic surface when adding temporary playing lines.



Example 3a: Pickleball court with blended tennis service box lines in light blue for short court tennis play.



Example 3b: Blended lines in the same color family as the playing surface.

For additional information or to discuss projects before decisions are made regarding tennis and pickleball expansion and additions, contact the USTA Tennis Venue Services Team for complementary consultative resources at www.usta.com/facilities or email Facilities@usta.com.

***See the 2021 American Sports Builder's Association (ASBA) Pickleball Court Construction Manual for guidelines regarding pickleball court dimensions. Industry standards recommend a minimum of eight (8) feet between the pickleball baseline and the permanent fixture. This should be taken into consideration for Option #3 when adding blended pickleball lines to existing tennis court infrastructure.