



Increasing  
participation  
in sport

Spring 2008

## Frequently Asked Questions

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest edition of Sport England's 'Frequently Asked Questions' document. Its aim is to supplement Sport England's existing extensive range of design guidance available to download free of charge from our website. Sport England's Design Guidance Notes cover a variety of topics for clients, designers, and the wider public and should be referred to for all technical enquiries. For enquiries regarding a specific sport, or sports, Sport England would also recommend contacting the National Governing Body of the sport direct.

Sport England is not able to respond to specific individual enquiries. We will however log enquiries that are received and common questions which fall outside the information contained within our online Design Guidance Notes will be collated alongside appropriate answers and posted below on a quarterly basis. To log an enquiry for consideration please email: [enquiries@sportengland.info](mailto:enquiries@sportengland.info)

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q: Daylighting within Sports Halls**

*"It is unclear whether Sport England objects to natural lighting within sport halls. Can you please clarify?"*

**A:** Sport England does not object to the use of natural lighting within sports halls providing it is well considered and appropriate.

Sport England seeks to encourage participation in sport by people of all ages and backgrounds. The provision of high quality internal spaces with attractive daytime environments is seen as a significant aspect in attracting user groups.

Sport England can also see the considerable benefits in terms of an

environmentally sustainable approach and potentially lower running costs in being able to complement artificial lighting with natural daylighting.

Sport England is keen to stress however that using natural light in a sports hall requires very careful consideration because of difficulties in controlling glare and ensuring reasonably constant and uniform levels of lighting. Appropriate lighting is vital in sports halls, to allow activities to take place which often demand critical visual tasks.

The design issues are complex, even when the building form is not. Optimising natural daylight and integrating it with well designed artificial light requires that the form, fabric, internal layout and systems of a



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building are considered holistically. Generally north lighting is considered most appropriate

**Q: Storage Requirements**

*“Sport England recommends that storage areas be equivalent to 12.5% of the sports hall area. Can this be reduced in any circumstances?”*

**A:** Adequate storage space is essential to the efficient operation of multi-sport halls. Sport England considers 12.5% of the hall floor area to be minimum guidance based on its experience. It should be noted that a lack of sufficient storage space is the most common fault in the design of multi-use sports facilities.

The location and proportions of storage space can be just as important as its overall size. Locate storage on the long side of a hall wall with direct access and good proportions (a store depth of 5m is preferred). Compile an equipment schedule to ascertain specific storage requirements and consider using an efficient racking system.

**Q: Surface Testing**

*“When should an Artificial Turf Pitch be tested (for bounce heights etc.)? Should this be on completion or after a period of use?”*

**A:** Generally testing is conducted following installation.

Sport England would also recommend testing the surface periodically throughout its life to demonstrate it is still providing a safe playing

environment (this is as much a way of showing the surface is being maintained correctly as a check on its construction).

All testing should be carried out by appropriately qualified professionals.

**Q: Indoor Cricket**

*“We are setting-up an indoor cricket academy. Are there any standard guidelines for simulation of temperature and humidity conditions? Are there any Indoor Cricket academies having this simulation installed? If so please may we have details?”*

**A:** “Please contact the England & Wales Cricket Board for further assistance in this matter. Their contact details are available from their website <http://www.ecb.co.uk/> .

**Q: Artificial Lighting**

*“We are in the process of developing a lighting lux level monitoring checklist for our centre and would like guidance on the specific recommended levels for all areas, i.e. Sports Hall, Aerobics Studios, etc?”*

**A:** “Our existing Guidance is currently being reviewed and it is intended that a new Guidance Note will be available in the future. However, for reference the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, through The Society of Light & Lighting published in 2006 their “Lighting Guide 4: Sports Lighting. ISBN 10 1-903287-78-2”. Copies of this detailed guide may be purchased from the CIBSE website

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**Q: Wall Colours**

*"My query is regarding a multi purpose sports hall and recommended sports hall wall colours. I am aware your guidance states there should be 50% reflectance value, but I wondered if you could provide a recommended list of suitable wall colours along with their Pantone reference numbers. Please advise."*

**A:** In terms of wall colours, Sport England is not too prescriptive on actual colours. Reflectance value for around 50% is key, as is a consistency of colour and a contrast to the floor surface (see 'Sports Halls: Design' Guidance Note).

Some research was undertaken by the Badminton Association a few years ago where it was felt Blues and Greens provided the best contrast to the shuttlecock (specific Dulux references on p6 of our Badminton Guidance Note), but, as stated, given the range of sports taking place in a hall, Sport England are not prescriptive on this.

**Q: Athletics**

*"Can I request a list of suppliers for Stadium Athletics Track Surfaces?"*

**A:** Sport England does not and cannot recommend individual suppliers or contactors. You might however find contacting the Sport and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) (<http://www.sapca.org.uk>) useful. They are the sports trade organisation who will be able to supply you with names of appropriately qualified suppliers in this field.

**Q: Glazed Screens**

*"We are the Architects for the construction of two sports halls for two schools in the Solihull area and our query relates to glazed screens we have incorporated within our design to allow visitors to view the activities within the halls from adjacent viewing areas. Our brief is the sports halls will be used for netball at County and Regional level.*

*The screens are 900mm off FFL and measure about 1800mm wide x 1200mm high and are located within 140mm blockwork walls. Does the glass within the screens need to be flush with the face of the internal wall? We understand the frames need to be flush but there is normally a 20mm rebate where the glass is recessed into the frame. Is this acceptable? If not, do you have a standard detail you can forward to us for the screens?"*

**A:** Our advice is that walls should be flush-faced and impact-resistant internally, for safety reasons and to ensure consistent ball rebound. This applies to door frames and the doors themselves, therefore ideally any glazing should also be flush.

It is generic guidance and we do not hold standard details, which are down to individual design teams; any slight rebate, if unavoidable, will need to be considered carefully i.e. minimal chamfered / rounded edge detail.

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