

# COVID - 19 Sports Court Maintenance Advice

Developed By:

**GippSport**  
Gippsland Regional Sports Assembly

**2MH Consulting** 

2MH CONSULTING ARE THE OFFICIAL FACILITY ADVISORY  
SERVICE FOR TENNIS VICTORIA & NETBALL VICTORIA



# Sport Court Maintenance Advice

In 2019, Netball Victoria and Tennis Victoria with support from Sport & Recreation Victoria hosted a Gippsland Facility Forum where technical advice was provided by 2MH Consulting and GippSport. During the session, some recommendations were provided to help improve the maintenance of outdoor courts in order to protect them and increase the lifespan of facilities. The COVID 19 restrictions provide the opportunity for land managers to undertake maintenance to community outdoor hard court surfaces.

We understand that facilities across Gippsland are owned and managed in a range of different ways which will determine responsibilities. The aim of this fact sheet is to provide some suggestions for maintenance tasks that can be undertaken. More detailed information can also be found in the facility guides available on the Netball Victoria and Tennis Victoria websites.

## High Pressure Cleaning

It is recommended that specialty contractors be employed to undertake high pressure court cleaning. Ideally this type of cleaning would be scheduled before each season and include other areas like walkways or shelters. Some points to remember:

- While high pressure cleaning of acrylic surfaced courts is a recommended action, cleaning too frequently can result in premature removal of the acrylic surfacing.
- If club volunteers attempt to high pressure clean the courts, ensure they don't concentrate the pressured water too much in one spot – this can blast off the acrylic surfacing.
- High pressure cleaning removes the build-up of dirt and grime from off the court surfaces.
- When done properly it can greatly reduce the risk of slipping on the courts and extend the life of your surfaces.

# Linemarking Courts

Linemarking is a specialised skill that goes hand in hand with resurfacing. The correct water based paint must be used and the lines and the court dimensions must meet the relevant standards. Ideally a reputable specialised contractor would be used and some hints to keep in mind are as follows:

- Ensure all court lines are completed so that they are straight (by taping) and that the dimensions are compliant and in accordance with the current standards.
- Court line markings shall be painted using an approved 'white' line marking water based acrylic paint.
- Ensure the line paint is textured so the ball's bounce is as consistent as possible with the playing surface.
- On no account should road or oil based paints be used. All lines should be clean and sharp.



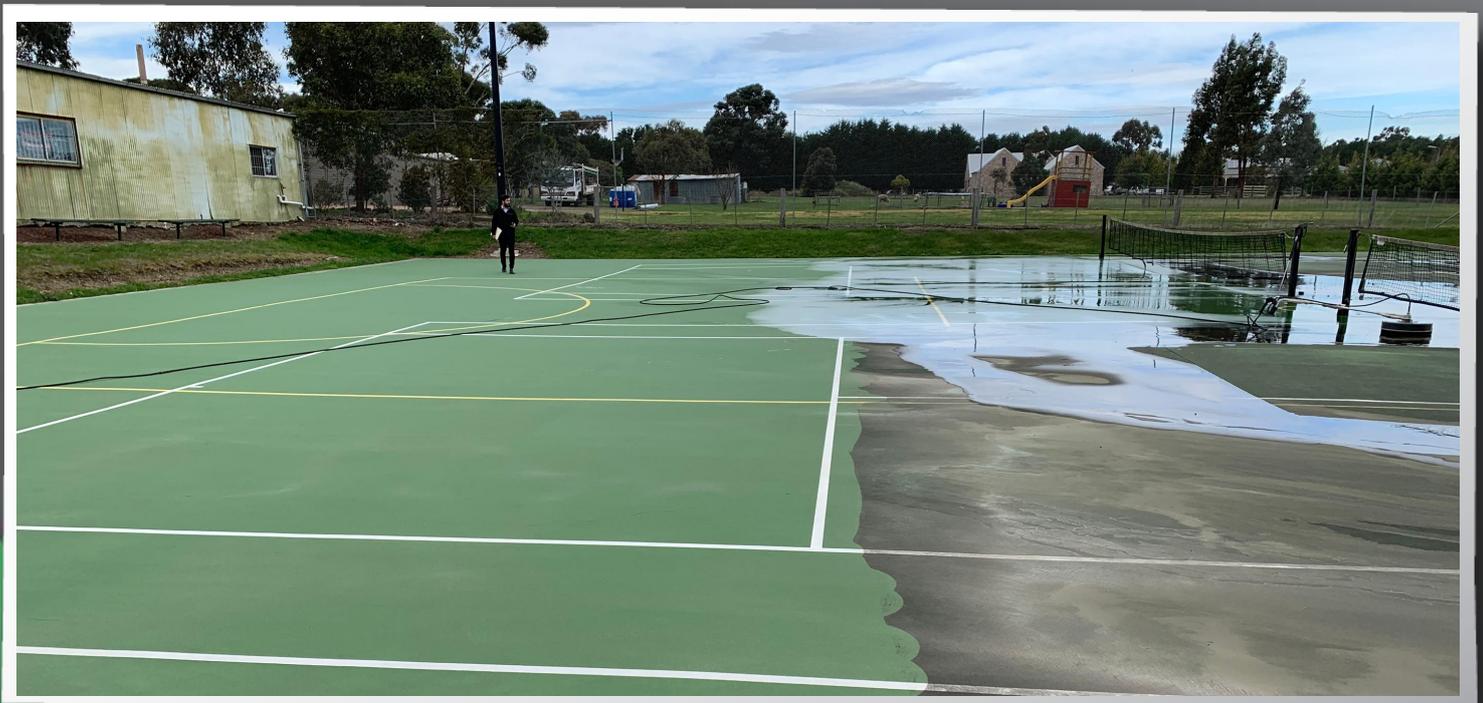
# Drainage

All hardcourt surfaces and the majority of sand filled artificial grass court surfaces are non-porous so it is critical that stormwater runoff from the courts is controlled in a way that protects the immediate surrounds.

Debris in the form of grass clippings, leaves and other litter etc. must be removed from drainage pits to ensure the system functions as intended.

The lay of the land surrounding the courts can dictate the need to include drainage infrastructure such as concrete spoon drains along the high sides of the courts to prevent overland flows from flooding onto the court surface.

Protecting the court pavement beneath the courts from the influence of external water/moisture migration is also very important. The installation of slotted subsurface (AG) drainage is highly recommended around the full perimeter.



# Tree Maintenance

Excess debris from nearby trees, shrubs and gardens can dramatically increase the cost of maintaining courts. Here are some important considerations:

- Select plantings wisely near courts - use the professional advice of a horticulturalist or a landscape architect to select suitable species with non-evasive root systems and limited height.
- Be mindful of the orientation of the courts, the trees and the sun. Courts often become damp because of heavy plantings on the northern & western sides which create dark, damp areas that in turn encourage algae growth.
- Install tree root barriers to protect the courts from tree root invasion.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the courts – this can result in tree root invasion, fluctuating moisture changes around and beneath the pavement.
- Don't allow tree branches to overhang courts – this can result in increased litter drop, damage to fencing and increase risk of participants slipping and possible obstruction to lighting performance.

## For more information please contact:

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