PREFERRED COMMUNITY FACILITY GUIDELINES 2024

PLANNING AND DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR
COMMUNITY LEVEL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL VENUES

Mimili Oval, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, SA

Acknowledgement of Country

The AFL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and play our game. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge we play our great game on this land and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football.

FOREWORD

Football is a game played, watched and loved by millions of Australians across the country. It is the AFL's responsibility to ensure that the game can be accessed by all.

Close to 3,000 grounds are currently used for Australian Rules Football. This number is increasing each year due to the strong participation growth being experienced in our game in all corners of our nation.

Our need for facilities continues to expand, to support participation growth and the changing profile of participation. The AFL's Towards 2030 Plan is a national framework that will enable the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support the growth of our game.

Towards 2030 further identifies that the game needs access to one additional ground every week to continue to sustain our growth and support the community football community.

Through research, we know that the positive social impact that community football has on society is significant, causing a ripple effect across the entire community. The reach is powerful and plays a crucial role in the lives of millions.

Increasing the capacity of existing grounds and pavilions and the development of new facilities that welcome all participants, umpires, spectators, families, and volunteers has never been more important.

The AFL is heavily focused on developing the right plans in collaboration with councils, clubs, schools and all stakeholders. When done well, this maximises any returns on investment through increased participation levels, improved club sustainability and the promotion of community wellbeing.

We trust that the AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines will be an effective tool that assists us all to achieve this for your next key project.

Shayne Ward
Head of Venue Network Enhancements and Partnerships

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement of Country 2

Foreword 3

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the Guidelines 6

1.1.1 Structure of the Guidelines 7

1.2 How to use the Guidelines 7

1.2.1 Helpful hints and tips 7

1.3 Principles and benefits of developing community football venues 8

1.4 Community Football Facility Hierarchy 10

SECTION 2: PROJECT AND SITE PLANNING

2.1 Project Development Stages 12

2.1.1 Project staging and considerations 14

2.2 Site Planning 17

SECTION 3: FACILITY GUIDELINES

3.1 Ovals and Playing Fields 21

3.1.1 Playing surface types 23

3.1.2 Oval and playing field dimensions 25

3.1.3 Line marking and layout 26

3.1.4 Goal and point posts 28

3.1.5 Behind goal netting and fencing 29

3.1.6 Scoreboards 30

3.1.7 Playing field amenities 31

3.1.8 Summary of oval and playing field amenities ... 32

3.2 Oval Lighting 33

3.2.1 Lighting for training and competition 33

3.2.2 Recommended lighting levels 34

3.2.3 Options and benefits of higher illumination 35

3.2.4 LED lighting 36

3.3 Pavilions and Change Facilities 37

3.3.1 Introduction 37

3.3.2 Planning and compliance 37

3.3.3 Inclusive design 38

3.3.4 Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) 38

3.3.5 Technology 38

3.3.6 Pavilion functionality 39

3.3.7 Pavilion and amenity area schedules 40

3.3.8 Materials and finishes 44

3.4 Supporting Venue Infrastructure 46

3.4.1 Summary of supporting infrastructure provision 48

APPENDICES

Appendix 1:
Natural and hybrid turf profiles and attributes 50

Appendix 2
Industry standards and compliance 52

Appendix 3
Venue provision summary by hierarchy 53

Appendix 4
Pavilion and amenity room examples 56

Appendix 5
Guide to line marking ovals and playing fields 77

Lakelands Park Sporting Complex, Mandurah WA

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 ABOUT THE GUIDELINES

The AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines ('the Guidelines') should be used to inform the provision and development of venues, facilities and amenities for community level football.

The Guidelines provide a consolidated resource to assist stakeholders in the planning and development of welcoming, inclusive and sustainable facilities.

The Guidelines outline the preferred facility requirements for competition, training and programming activities that may take place at the following types of venues.

- State
- Regional
- Local
- Remote
- Junior
- School
- Training areas

The information presented within the Guidelines refers to the **typical minimum levels** of provision recommended for each venue type and its defined use for Australian Football, as defined in the Community Football Facility Hierarchy (refer Page 10/11).

The Guidelines were initially developed in 2012 to provide direction for the development of new facilities and/or those being considered for major refurbishment or redevelopment. They were republished in 2019 to recognise changing trends in community facilities, and incorporated advice on inclusive amenities, innovation in ground surface technology (i.e. hybrid and synthetic turf) and modular pavilion and amenity buildings.

The 2024 edition builds on the previous versions and reinforces the need for access, equity and sustainability across all venues. It also provides a greater focus on the stages of project planning and supports the need to better cater for and support the umpiring community through more fit-for-purpose infrastructure.

1.1.1 Structure of the Guidelines

They are provided in three sections.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Highlights the importance of the Guidelines, and their purpose and influence on the community football venue network. The Community Football Facility Hierarchy is also defined in this section.

SECTION 2: PROJECT AND SITE PLANNING

This section details site planning principles and identifies the key stages associated with AFL's preferred project development and delivery process.

SECTION 3: FACILITY GUIDELINES

Detailed information is provided on the following topics:

- Ovals and playing fields
- Oval lighting
- Pavilions and change facilities
- Supporting venue infrastructure.

APPENDICES

The following Appendices are included within this section:

1. Natural turf and hybrid playing surface comparison
2. Industry standards and compliance
3. Venue provision summary by hierarchy
4. Pavilion and amenity room examples
5. Guide to oval and playing field line marking.

1.2 HOW TO USE THE GUIDELINES

The Guidelines have been designed to assist our partners and stakeholders in the planning, design and management of community football venue improvement projects of any size.

The AFL recommends project stakeholders consult with the local landowner/local government and relevant State or Territory AFL facility advisors regarding infrastructure projects for early advice.

The Guidelines should be used as a key tool during the initial planning phases of a project and assume an assessment has been undertaken to identify the need for new or upgraded facilities. They also provide relevant guidance, particularly around spatial requirements, that can inform early concept and/or master planning processes.

It is important for the Guidelines to be read and implemented in conjunction with other existing sporting code guidelines, and associated industry standards and requirements to ensure facilities are maximised for shared community and/or multi-use (refer Appendix 2: Industry standards and compliance).

In addition to content outlined within the Guidelines, consideration of local playing conditions or regulations administered by local football leagues and competition providers should be adhered to and accommodated into venue planning and development where appropriate.

It is acknowledged that many existing venues may not meet the preferred levels of provision documented within the Guidelines. However, it is not intended that these Guidelines be used as a basis for assessing the suitability of all existing venues. Rather, should existing venues be considered for upgrade or improvement, then where possible, the Guidelines should be used as a road map for future development.

The AFL recognises the increased financial pressures on the government sector and landowners, and the need to provide facility options that are innovative, flexible, multi-purpose, cost effective and deliver a high return on investment. Industry wide development costs for community infrastructure have escalated significantly in recent years and are impacting the capacity of landowners and facility providers to deliver improvements.

Using these Guidelines and developing venues and associated facilities to the appropriate hierarchy level should help to deliver what is required (not necessarily what is desired) and in turn, assist to manage project budgets.

1.2.1 Helpful hints and tips

Look out for the following helpful hints and tips throughout the Guidelines. They are there to help identify the critical elements of project planning, design and delivery.

TIPS

Tips provide key information and ideas for consideration for your project. They provide quick and helpful references and assist to highlight aspects that are often overlooked in facility planning and design.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!

These references indicate key stages, tasks or information that is critically important to successful project planning and development, and if missed, could have significant impact(s) on project outcomes.

1.3 PRINCIPLES AND BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FOOTBALL VENUES

The community football environment is changing, and the AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines reflect these changes and provide guidance that best caters for diversity and growth in our game.

The following principles, trends and influences demonstrate how quality football facilities and environments can respond to make a positive difference and derive benefits beyond the game. **Keep these front-of-mind when planning your next infrastructure project.**

PRINCIPLE	BENEFITS TO FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITIES
Inclusive venues for all users	› Universal design and access principles should be used to guide all facility development and improvement projects › Catering for fair and equitable access for everyone, no matter their gender, background or ability and through flexibility and shared use, drive greater use and support for community infrastructure.
Facilities that support women and girls	› Facilities need to keep pace with changing demand and provide welcoming, safe, and inclusive environments to support more opportunities for women and girls in the sport. › Venues and associated amenities that are planned to provide equal access and opportunities for all, and to enable players, coaches, umpires, officials and volunteers to thrive and succeed at all levels of the game. › Facilities are considered one element in supporting community football to become the most accessible, inclusive, and visible sport in Australia, and the number one sporting choice for women and girls.
Facilities that provide shared access and maximise use	› Joint use, multi-sport and shared facilities (including schools) are all options for the football community to consider in helping to maximise the use and value of community sporting infrastructure. › Considering available green spaces or under-utilised areas to facilitate Auskick, modified programs and/or club training activities may provide a diversity of opportunities for venue planners.
Facilities that support participation in remote communities	› Indigenous participants make up more than 6% of players across community football leagues in Australia and make up the vast majority of participants in remotely located communities. › The provision and improvement of facilities in remote communities is essential to supporting participation and community engagement across Australia. › Football facilities can provide environments to support, welcome and engage indigenous footballers in opportunities that are broader than football (e.g. health, education and community development).
Facilities that support the improvement in community and mental health and wellbeing	› Shared facilities that meet the needs of the users and community can provide benefits in areas such as physical health, personal well-being, education and mental health. › Providing football environments combined with the delivery of preventative programs can support the shaping of people's lives during the years when mental health illnesses are most prevalent - particularly in young people.

PRINCIPLE	BENEFITS TO FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITIES
Facilities that help to safeguard children and young people	› Community football represents almost 250,000 primary and secondary school aged children and their families. › Considering the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and associated State/Territory based Child Safe Standards (legislated or not), facility provision should consider child safety and inclusivity, both through physical design, as well as through provision of services. › Safeguarding children and young people is a joint responsibility, and considered facilities will both protect, as well as foster growth in participation.
Facilities that respond to environmental change	› Designing venues that better plan and address the challenges being faced through climate impact (such as more severe weather patterns, flooding, bushfires and other natural disasters) is more important than ever. › The rising costs of facility operation can be managed through the implementation of a range of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles and initiatives. › Building design, building material choices, solar paneling, LED lighting, playing surface and turf species (natural, hybrid, synthetic) and other choices made during planning and design stages can all play a part in the reduction of environmental impacts on not only venue operations, but on the broader environment.
Facilities that embrace technology and innovation	› Community expectations regarding the provision of digital connectivity, Wi-Fi networks, TV screens etc within community facilities are growing. › The broader use of LED lighting systems provides more consistent, flexible lighting of ovals, surrounds and within pavilions. They also create energy and related cost savings in operation and require less maintenance over their life-cycle. › Live streaming of matches is becoming more common. Provision of facilities that suit the filming and commentary of matches such as media boxes and raised platforms (in suitable locations) and permanent cameras on light towers and behind goal netting are considerations in many facility upgrades. › Improved technology in scoreboards has seen electronic and video playback scoreboards becoming more common, especially at regional and state level grounds. › Exploration of new and innovative spaces and joint initiatives to support the diversity of participation needs
Facilities that embrace modular construction	› Consider the building time savings and convenience of using modular buildings and amenities at selected sites and venues. › Using the skills and expertise of modular builders in areas where locally sourced resources are scarce provides new opportunities for provision and venue improvement.

1.4 COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITY HIERARCHY

Classification of venues is important when assessing provision against proposed use. It also provides direction for the development of new and the enhancement of existing venues and associated facilities, helping to ensure provision is fit-for-purpose.

HIERARCHY LEVEL	PURPOSE
State	> **State level facilities contribute 3% of venues nationally.** They primarily service State League and elite underage competitions and are viewed as second tier competition venues. > Used for high performance training and community competition finals. They are maintained to a showcase level, offering higher standard of amenities with perimeter fencing and the capacity to cater for larger crowds. > There is a growing need for State level facilities to provide year-round football activity for talent and pathway training and programming.
Regional	> **Regional facilities contribute around 5% of venues nationally.** They service a collection of suburbs, townships or geographic areas within a municipality (or across municipal borders). They usually cater for more than one sporting code or activity. > Ideally they provide amenities with capacity to host finals and representative matches and oval surface quality is maintained to a high standard.
Local	> **72% of all community football venues fall within this category or classification.** Local facilities are designed to cater for local level community competition within individual suburbs, townships or municipalities and are usually the 'home' of a seasonal football club. > Local facilities are commonly shared with other seasonal club(s) or users. Facilities and playing surfaces are provided to home and away competition standard.
Remote	> Remotely located grounds cater for local level competition held in remote communities across Australia and **contribute 2% of all venues**. > Infrastructure at remote venues is generally limited to ovals that support match day functionality and access to support amenities and services including toilets, shaded spectator areas, power, waste removal and drinking water. > At times, investment has been made at these venues to provide irrigation for natural turf and lighting to a level that supports night matches. The provision of night competition lighting helps to address player welfare concerns in warmer climates.

HIERARCHY LEVEL	PURPOSE
Junior	> **Dedicated junior venues contribute 10% of venues nationally.** They are commonly used for the introductory forms of football such as Auskick and junior (e.g. U8/U9/U10) or other programming activities. > Facility provision expectations are limited to smaller oval sizes and access to basic off-field amenities to facilitate junior level (e.g. U8/U9/U10) only competition.
School	> **School based venues contribute 5% of venues** nationally and can be primary or secondary level institutions. Access to school venues will generally be driven by negotiations with individual schools. > They are commonly used for the introductory forms of football such as Auskick or school programs. They could also be accessed for training and as match venues for community clubs (particularly during pre-season). > Facility provision expectations are limited with variable oval sizes and access to basic off-field amenities (e.g. toilets) to facilitate a diversity of activities. > Where school-based venues accommodate formal community league or school competition(s), infrastructure provision should match the level of competition being hosted and the requirements of the relevant league or competition provider.
Training Areas	> **Training facilities contribute 3% of all venues** and typically provide access to community clubs, teams, schools, and program providers to facilitate the basic levels of football. > They can support Auskick programs and provide green space to manage club training either pre-season or during season, when other competition venues are in high use and/or demand. > Opportunities for training areas may include a range of spaces, such as existing ovals, other sporting fields, universities and education institutions, flexible recreation spaces, open green spaces, racecourses. > Training areas have no specific spatial requirements, but must provide a safe, usable space and ideally be floodlit. They should also provide capacity to store equipment and have access to toilet amenities.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!

Elite venue standards and match-day requirements for AFL and AFLW level use are not included within this hierarchy or within these Guidelines. These standards are available on request via your local AFL State/Territory office.

MacPherson Park, Melton VIC

SECTION 2
PROJECT AND SITE PLANNING

2.1 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAGES

The development of any successful project requires careful and considered planning, and strong stakeholder communication and collaboration.

When embarking on a facility development project, **it is important to understand the steps involved from beginning to end**.

Our suggested planning process can assist clubs, councils and facility developers to collaborate and deliver projects that meet community needs. The degree of detail and resources required for each stage should also align with the size, scale and specific needs of your project.

1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT
3. PLANNING & FEASIBILITY
4. CONCEPT DESIGN & BUDGETING
5. PROJECT DELIVERY
6. MANAGEMENT & OPERATION

CLUBS & SCHOOLS - BEFORE YOU START

Before commencing any design and detailed facility planning activities, it is recommended that you consult with your Local Council and/or landowner and the relevant State or Territory AFL facility advisors. Often an initial discussion with these stakeholders can set you and your project on the right path and help to streamline the process.

BUDGET TIP

Having a budget is critical for **all projects** no matter the size.

It is important to **evaluate your project budget continually**. Budgets can change and escalate through all stages, and if not monitored, can become problematic or ultimately prohibitive to project progress if not managed effectively.

2.1.1 Project staging and considerations

1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Before considering anything else related to your project, it is essential for stakeholders including clubs, local council, landowner, planning authority and/or management authority to collaborate prior to starting any project.
- Projects should be discussed with the relevant State or Territory AFL facility advisors to ensure there is alignment between club, sport and community objectives and initial advice can be provided on the potential scope.
- Stakeholder engagement will not only help with planning and coordination of the project, but it will also help understand the political context, possible budget, stakeholder priorities, planning requirements, funding processes and to gain early support for the idea/project.
- Consultation with your local council will also assist to identify, and if required, clarify the process of capital works budgeting and prioritisation and any planning or development approvals required.
- **At the conclusion of this stage, clear endorsement of your project (with or without any changes required) by site stakeholders should be secured and documented before moving to the next stage.**

Ensure your Local Council and/or Planning Authority is consulted

2. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- A project needs assessment will help to determine the scope of your proposal and clearly identify the project is needed and fills a gap in facility or service provision.
- Gather relevant data to support your needs assessment, including an audit of any existing facilities, and the analysis of existing facility use, club participation and local community needs and demographics. Your relevant State or Territory AFL facility advisors can assist with gathering and interpreting this information.
- As part of any facility audit or existing condition(s) assessment, consult with your local council, venue manager and/or builder to understand if there are any pre-existing defects or hazards (e.g. asbestos) that may impact on project development.
- Identify who will benefit from the project, and how and who will use the facility (post project delivery). Identify football, community and other benefits will be derived from the project.
- Broader consultation should be undertaken during this stage. Engagement with other existing facility or land users, local football leagues and potential future users should be undertaken to ascertain potential support and to refine project benefits and objectives.
- **At the conclusion of this stage, a clear need for your project should be established and the engagement of project stakeholders conducted. The decision to move to the next stage of planning will be based on evidence and need.**

Use data and evidence to inform your needs assessment

3. PLANNING & FEASIBILITY

- Build knowledge of the required components, usage and potential impacts and opportunities that the project may bring. Using these Guidelines will help to identify required components and preferred standards to achieve.
- Test elements such as the proposed components, location and early costs versus potential budget allocated. Use basic conceptual designs and high-level cost and budget estimates to help test early project feasibility.
- Existing site conditions and capabilities should also be tested here to ensure the project is viable at the proposed location. This may include site service and planning assessments, geotechnical engineering and consideration of Cultural Heritage Management Plans to inform site potential and capability. It is recommended site assessments are carried out in conjunction with local council and/or landowner support.
- Identify the likely management models of the facility and understand what (if any) changes to the existing management model may be required.
- Prepare a football development plan that identifies the key growth areas, likely changes in football activities and increased venue usage that will result from the project.
- **At the conclusion of this stage, the preferred site / location for your project and a preliminary cost should be identified and tested. Any issues should be considered and resolved prior to determining preliminary feasibility.**

Test all project options against site capabilities and conditions

4. CONCEPT DESIGN & BUDGETING

- Utilising findings from the previous stages, prepare a design brief ensuring that you consider elements such as Gender Equity, ESD (Environmentally Sustainable Design), Universal Design and NCC (National Construction Code) requirements within the brief for technical consultants (such as architects, designers and engineers).
- Engage appropriate professional support to conduct the design phase of the project. It is likely that most (if not all) projects will require specialist technical support and involvement.
- Develop overall concept designs (based on agreed design brief) and test design against available budget. The project scope may need to be refined to meet budget expectations and availability. A Quantity Surveyor (QS) can assist in formally costing your project and advise on areas where savings "may be" possible.
- Once finalised, seek any required planning approvals for the project and conduct more detailed consultation with potential funding partners.
- It is likely that the project may need to be designed and refined a number of times prior to confirming the final proposal.
- Operational and maintenance responsibilities should be established and budgets allocated based on the preferred project solution.
- **At the conclusion of this stage, a clear and agreed design and budget should be confirmed amongst all project stakeholders and confirmed commitments made by all funding partners to move forward with the project.**

Engage technical specialists to design all scoped venue and facility components

5. PROJECT DELIVERY

- Project procurement processes are undertaken here and a suitable, qualified contractor is selected. For local council owned facilities, this process is typically undertaken by council.
- Clear timeframes and budget expectations are set and appropriate contracts signed. An independent Project Manager (PM) is also recommended at this point to ensure there is accountability by all parties to deliver the project on time and on budget. You may wish to consider appointing a PM at an earlier stage, depending on project size, complexity, budget and stakeholder skills and capacity to manage it.
- All planning and building permits have been obtained, along with approvals from funding partners.
- **At the conclusion of this stage, construction and commissioning of the project is completed, final "as built" drawings, occupancy certificate(s), lighting audits etc are provided and the relevant management authority (e.g club, council) takes responsibility for the facility.**

Consider a project manager to manage project delivery on your behalf

6. MANAGEMENT & OPERATION

- Project delivery and/or practical completion has been signed-off by relevant authorities and the facility is operational. Any funding acquittals to relevant funding or grant making bodies are completed at this stage.
- Implementation of site stakeholder football development planning is underway, including activity promotion, growth strategies and usage schedules being delivered.
- Maintenance and operational outcomes are monitored, logged and reported. Be aware of the relevant defects period associated with the project and ensure any relevant items are addressed within this timeframe.
- At the conclusion of this stage, project benefits and outcomes should be communicated to all stakeholders and the community.

Promote project outcomes and your ongoing success

2.2 SITE PLANNING

Site planning is a key stage and critical task in the project planning process. The need for full or partial site planning will be determined by the size and scope of your project. However, taking a full site view and strategic approach to infrastructure development and improvement is strongly recommended.

The planning process will help to create a comprehensive and coordinated approach, as well as assist in any staging of proposed development(s). It should also be undertaken in consultation with the local council and/or landowner, other site users, local community and your relevant AFL State or Territory facility advisors.

A number of football related design elements should be considered through site planning, including (but not limited to):

- Pavilion and oval size, location and orientation.
- Location of player and officials benches and coaches boxes.
- Viewing for spectators (covered and uncovered).
- Site access, road networks and associated safety of vehicle and pedestrian movement.
- Location of car parking and proximity and access to pavilions and ovals.
- Location of floodlighting poles, behind goal fencing/netting and scoreboards.
- Location of other site infrastructure such as sports courts, play spaces, community amenities.

As each site is different it is difficult to achieve the ideal placement and orientation for all facilities. The site principles and considerations over the following pages are provided to support overall site planning and layout of football related infrastructure on single oval and multiple oval sites. They provide a general guide only and should not be substituted for detailed site-specific master planning.

SITE PLANNING TIP

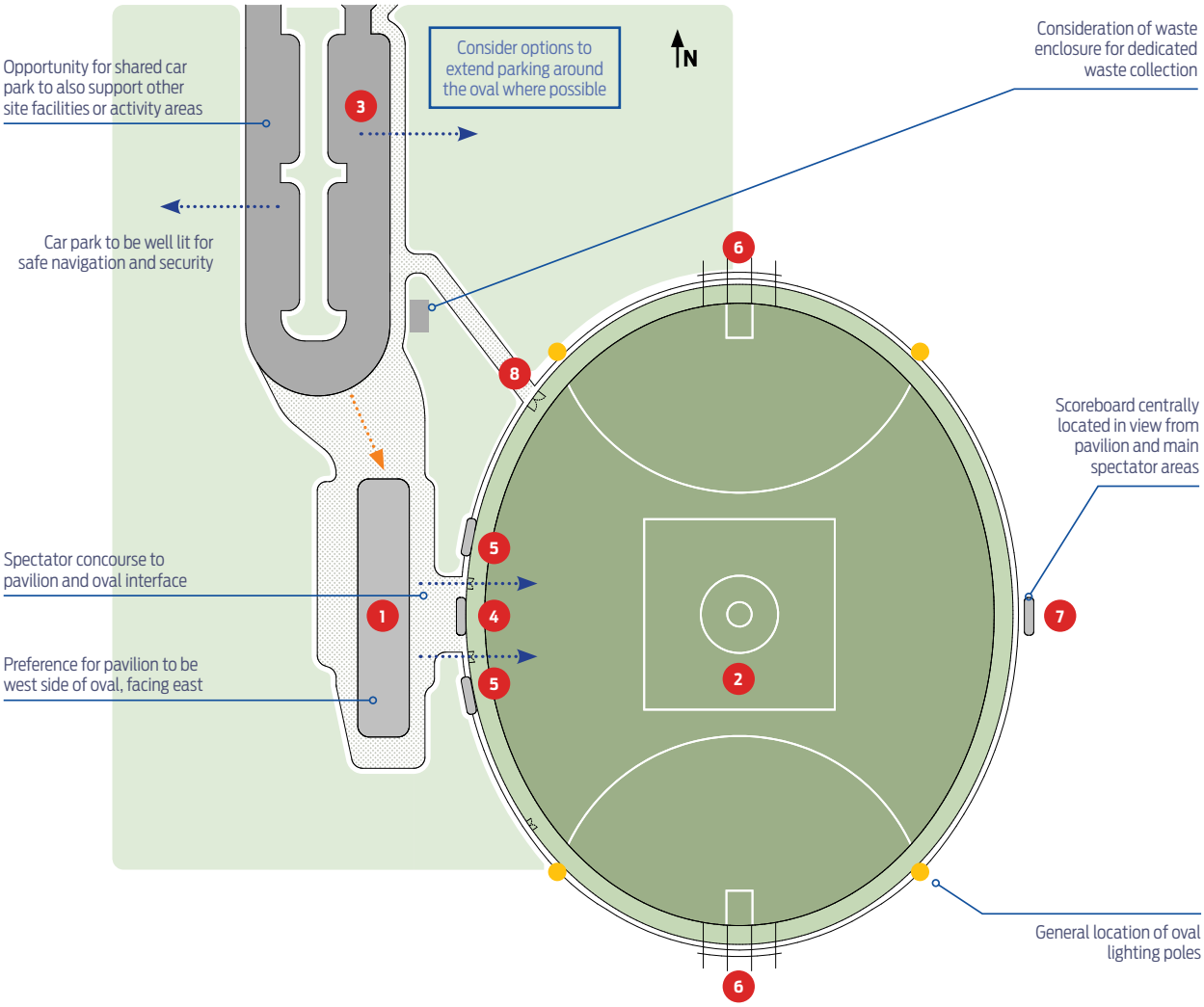
Where new sites are being established, it is preferable that two oval venues be provided (where practical). A minimum of 8-10 hectares is required to provide two full size ovals, with associated pavilion, car parking and circulation space. Two oval venues provide sufficient facilities to enable a club to grow and be more sustainable.

AFL NATIONAL FACILITY AUDITS

The AFL conducts annual audits of community football facilities across Australia to understand facility gaps and development needs. Consult with your State of Territory facility adviser(s) to discuss the facility audit outcomes for your facility.

SITE LAYOUT - SINGLE OVAL

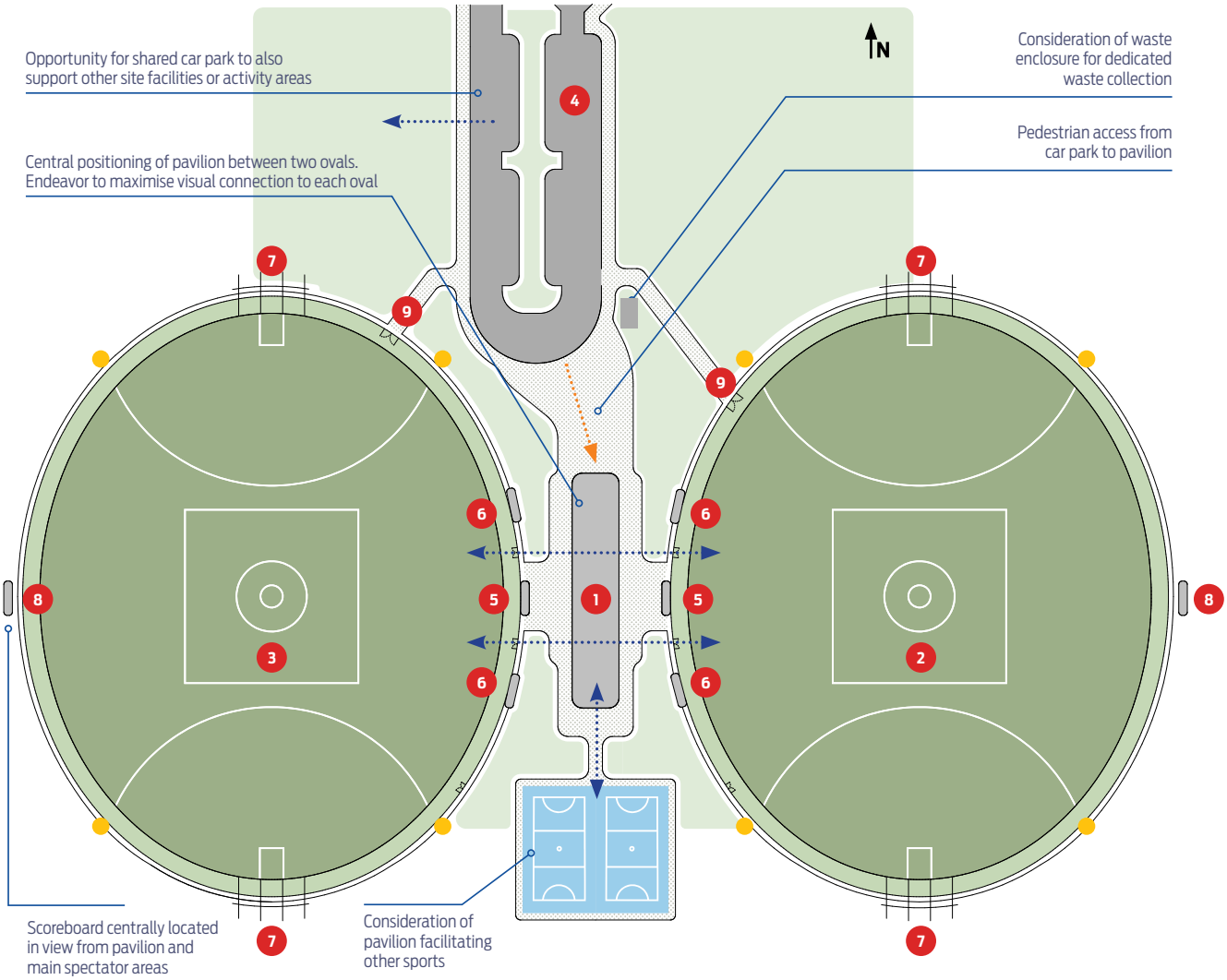
The layout presented is provided as a guideline only. It is acknowledged that existing sites and facilities may not have the capability to provide a similar layout or site conditions may require alternative designs. In these cases it is preferable to adopt as many identified principles as is possible and where practical.



1 PAVILION
2 OVAL
3 CAR PARK
4 OFFICIALS BENCH
5 PLAYER BENCH
6 BEHIND GOAL NETTING
7 SCOREBOARD
8 VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
OVAL LIGHTING

SITE LAYOUT - DUAL OVALS 1

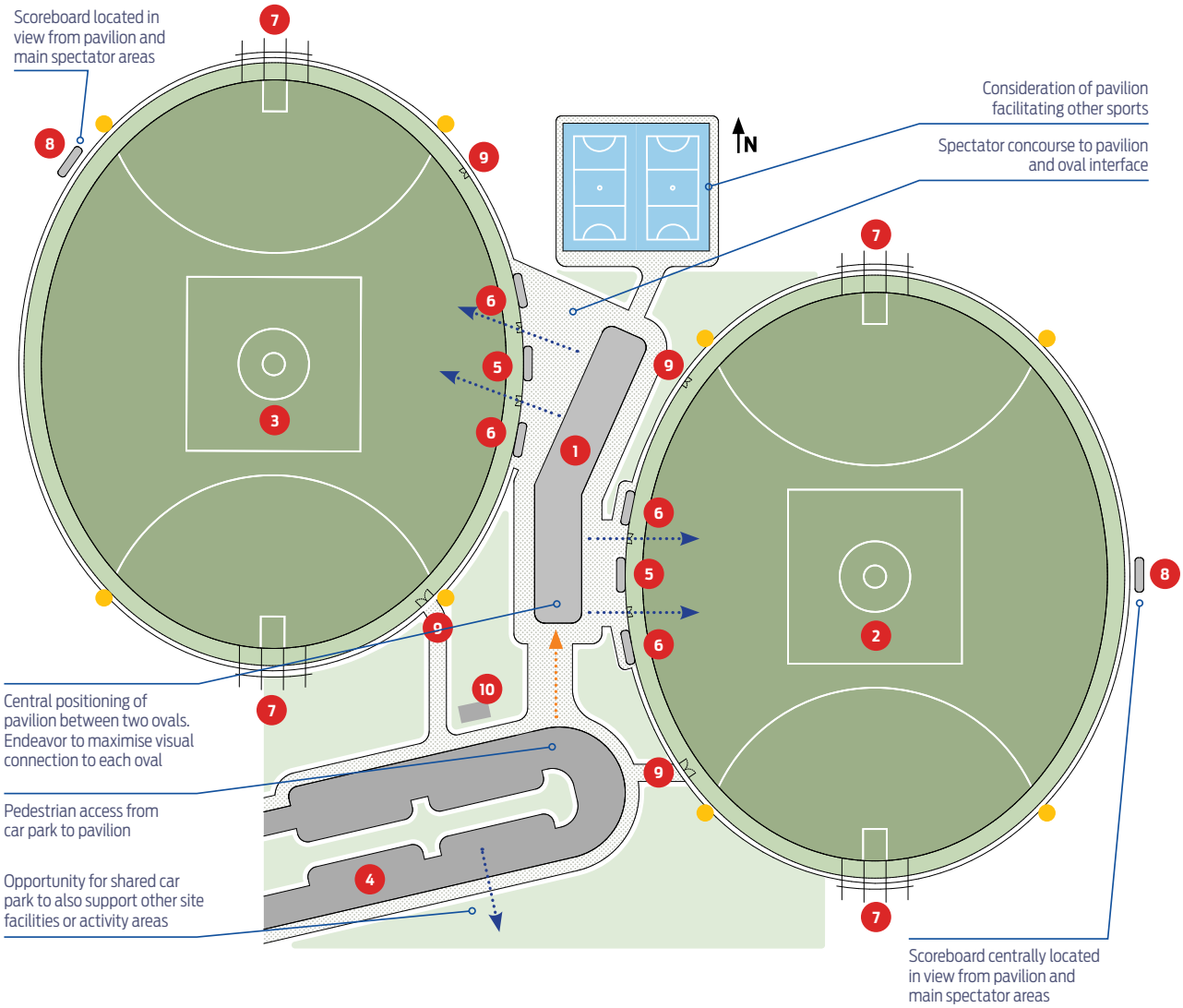
The layout presented is provided as a guideline only. It is acknowledged that existing sites and facilities may not have the capability to provide a similar layout or site conditions may require alternative designs. In these cases it is preferable to adopt as many identified principles as is possible and where practical.



1 PAVILION
2 OVAL 1
3 OVAL 2
4 CAR PARK
5 OFFICIALS BENCH
6 PLAYER BENCH
7 BEHIND GOAL NETTING
8 SCOREBOARD
9 VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
OVAL LIGHTING

SITE LAYOUT - DUAL OVALS 2

The layout presented is provided as a guideline only. It is acknowledged that existing sites and facilities may not have the capability to provide a similar layout or site conditions may require alternative designs. In these cases it is preferable to adopt as many identified principles as is possible and where practical



1 PAVILION
2 OVAL 1
3 OVAL 2
4 CAR PARK
5 OFFICIALS BENCH
6 PLAYER BENCH
7 BEHIND GOAL NETTING
8 SCOREBOARD
9 VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
10 WASTE ENCLOSURE
OVAL LIGHTING

Reid Oval, Warrnambool VIC

SECTION 3
FACILITY GUIDELINES

3.1 OVALS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The playing surface is an essential element for providing a fit-for-purpose venue. An even playing surface is crucial to ensuring a quality experience for players and umpires.

Whilst there is flexibility in playing field size, the playing field surface should be provided to cater for the intended hours of use and not be the cause of any injury. Surface gradient, traction, evenness, smoothness/trip index, ground cover, hardness and weed content all impact on player safety, smoothness of ball roll/bounce, surface appearance and uniformity.

Maintaining a healthy, strong turf coverage will assist in maintaining acceptable ground conditions. Regular aeration practices will alleviate soil compaction, maintaining the soil conditions within the acceptable range.

Maintaining a strong, healthy coverage of turf through good fertilising and irrigation practices, as well as monitoring ground usage, will assist in preventing a playing surface from deteriorating in performance that may result in low traction ratings. Low traction also relates to surface damage due to divotting.

The construction of natural and hybrid turf playing fields should incorporate adequate sub-surface drainage and irrigation. The testing and improvement of drainage and irrigation systems when conducting ground renovations is also recommended to ensure their continued effectiveness and longevity.

All ovals and training areas should provide an even turf cover and level surface with no obvious depressions or holes. Playing field maintenance should reflect local requirements, environmental conditions and the intended standard of play. All grounds should be deemed 'fit for play' following an oval inspection undertaken by both participating teams (home and away) and officials prior to the first game played on any given day or if playing fields conditions have changed or deteriorated.

PLAYING FIELD ORIENTATION

Ovals and playing fields should ideally be developed with north-south orientation goal-to-goal to avoid players having to look directly into the sun.

Leyshon Park, Yeronga QLD

3.1.1 Playing surface types

Three key playing surfaces are generally considered appropriate for community football training, competition and programming - **Natural, Hybrid and Synthetic Turf.**

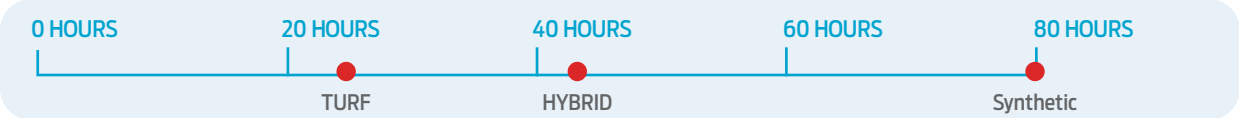
SELECTING THE RIGHT SURFACE

Across Australia there are varying weather conditions and other environmental factors that need to be considered in selecting the most appropriate oval or playing field surface. In view of this due consideration, appropriate research and consultation with your local AFL State/Territory office is recommended.

The selection of an appropriate surface type and turf species (for natural and hybrid turf) should be conducted in association with the relevant landowner and qualified agronomist or field of play consultant.

The intended hours of use and likely training and competition schedule, other oval uses, local site conditions, climatic influences, maintenance capabilities and overall available budget should all be taken into consideration when selecting the right surface type or turf species for your oval or playing field.

Surface type and general hours per week of use to maintain good quality playing surface:



SYNTHETIC TURF PRODUCTS

Over the past 15 years the AFL, in association with Cricket Australia, has invested in the development and funding of synthetic turf ovals across Australia. Over this time a synthetic turf product certification system has been developed in response to the need for a system to serve and protect AFL / Cricket Australia synthetic field manufacturers whilst providing a solution to meet the substantial demand for additional playing fields for each sports' participation needs into the future.

Approved Synthetic Turf Product

Refer to **play.afl/clubhelp/club-management/managing-facilities** for further details on the certification system, current criteria, product testing procedures and suppliers.

A high-level summary of the definition, attributes and benefits of each surface is provided in the table below. Appendix 1 provides more technical detail and information relating to natural and hybrid turf surfaces and related sub-surface profiles.

OVERVIEW	BENEFITS & CONSIDERATIONS
NATURAL TURF	
Natural turf is the most common form of playing surface for community football across all levels of play. Depending on your local climatic conditions, you would use either a warm season grass (couch variety, kikuyu) or a cool season grass (perennial rye grass) for your football playing surface. In some areas (where winter temperatures are lower), oversowing with a cool season turf variety into a warm season turf variety in autumn is common. The cool season grass (perennial rye) provides strength, growth and enhanced appearance and colour during the cooler months and can provide protection to the warm season turf when it is dormant.	**Natural turf considerations include:** › local councils are familiar with natural turf management and maintenance requirements and are generally resourced to undertake cyclical maintenance activities › suitable for all levels of community football and offers flexibility of use (for football and other sports), particularly across community level playing fields › natural turf playing fields must provide sub-surface drainage and irrigation infrastructure to support surface quality, sustainability and effective management › choice of sub-surface profile should be based on localised conditions, anticipated use and overall project budget is (refer Appendix 1) › for areas prone to flood inundation, couch grass and kikuyu turf species are preferred as they show more resilience during prolonged flood inundation and have a faster recovery time
HYBRID TURF	
Hybrid turf (or reinforced natural turf) combines the positive properties of natural grass with the strength of synthetic turf to create a consistent, higher quality year- round playing surface. Hybrid turf surfaces consist of synthetic fibres (approximately 5%-10% of the surface) that extend above the natural turf and combine with the natural turf leaves and stems.	**Hybrid turf is typically able to:** › sustain more wear than natural turf › build the capacity of natural turf and protect the integrity of the playing field profile, particularly in high traffic areas such as goal squares, centre circles, boundary lines and interchange areas › has multiple uses and can be installed at approximately half the cost of a full synthetic field › provide consistent surface stability due to the knitted construction of the system, contributing to potential enhanced player safety
SYNTHETIC TURF	
Whilst natural turf is provided across the vast majority of football playing fields (for all levels of play), the AFL acknowledges the role full synthetic field surfaces can play. In particular, synthetic surfaces provide increased opportunities and flexibility for programming, training activities and some levels of competition. An expert panel regularly review the criteria associated with AFL/Cricket Australia synthetic turf product certification to ensure that the products are safe and comparable with the playing characteristics of natural grass.	**AFL/Cricket Australia endorsed synthetic turf products, implemented across entire playing fields, can bring numerous benefits to the sport, including:** › offering the equivalent usage of up to three natural turf fields, when floodlit › catering for growing demand for additional playing fields, particularly in inner city / metropolitan areas or areas of under supply › relieving pressure on natural turf fields and assisting to alleviate the impact of overuse, particularly as a shared training venue or pre-season training option › catering for multiple sports, providing flexibility for programming and being an overflow option when natural turf fields are being rested or maintained › location within or co-location adjacent to schools in order to promote shared use of space and increase capacity for both school and community football use › addressing challenges of weather variability and impacts of water scarcity and drought, as synthetic surfaces do not require watering › opportunity for water capture and harvesting

3.1.2 Oval and playing field dimensions

The table below provides guidance on the preferred sizes of ovals and playing fields for both senior and junior participation, as well as preferred standards for run off areas and training spaces.

DESCRIPTION	PLAYING FIELD SIZES	MINIMUM BOUNDARY RUN OFF LENGTH
PREFERRED OVAL DIMENSIONS		
Meeting the preferred oval dimensions provides the greatest flexibility to cater for all standards and ages of play, while accommodating other sports that may be facilitated on the oval.[1]	**165m long x 135m wide** Measured from goal line to goal line (length) and boundary line to boundary line (width).	State - 5m Regional - 4m Local/Remote/School - 3m
MODIFIED JUNIOR OR SCHOOL OVALS		
If a venue is to be used for junior football competitions and programs or AFL 9s competitions only, then a smaller field size can be adopted. The recommended junior or school playing fields sizes cater for a range of players per team, player ages and ability levels. Refer to the AFL Junior Football Rules and state-based policies when considering venue provision for junior level competitions.	Refer to the AFL Junior Football Rules for recommended playing field sizes for each junior age group. These smaller fields of play can also be provided on/within a full size oval, using alternate line markings.	3m
TRAINING & PROGRAMMING SPACES		
A training or programming space should be a safe, flat, even, well grassed area of any shape. Spaces other than a traditional football oval can be prepared and utilised for this purpose.	**No size requirement** It is recommended you consult your AFL State or Territory facility advisor(s) for advice.	3m

OVAL SIZES

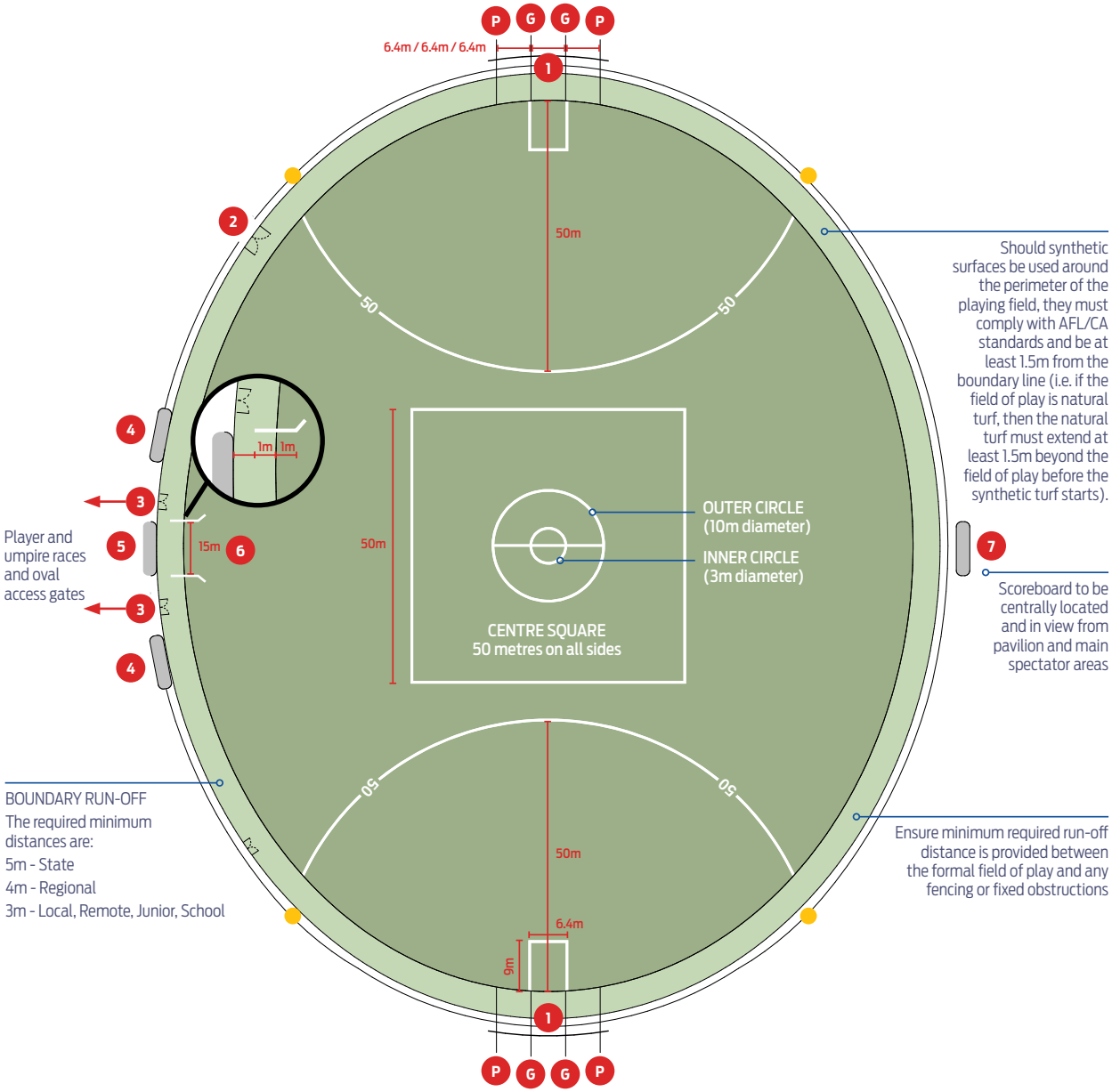
[1] If your site cannot accommodate the preferred oval size, it is recommended that that following range(s) be met for all levels of community competition from Under 11 and above, in order to maintain oval functionality for senior, junior and school level competition use.

- **135m to 185m long** - measured from goal line to goal line.
- **110m to 155m wide** - measured from boundary line to boundary line.

The same minimum boundary run-offs are recommended for State (5m), Regional (4m) and Local (3m) ovals and playing fields.

3.1.3 Line marking and layout

The following diagram outlines the preferred oval dimensions, run-off area, match day infrastructure provision and associated line markings for community competition. Refer to Appendix 5 - Guide to line marking ovals and playing fields for further detail.



1 BEHIND GOAL NETTING

2 ACCESS GATE FOR MAINTENACE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

3 ACCESS GATE FOR PLAYERS AND UMPIRES

4 PLAYER BENCH

5 OFFICIALS BENCH

6 INTERCHANGE GATE

7 SCOREBOARD

G GOAL POST

P POINT POST

OVAL LIGHTING

3.1.4 Goal and point posts

Goal and points posts should be provided to the following heights. **The distance between each post should be 6.4m** (measured by the closest point of contact between posts).

	GOAL	POINT
State	12m	8m
Regional	10m	6.5m
Local & Remote	9m	6m
Junior, School & Training	7.5m	5m

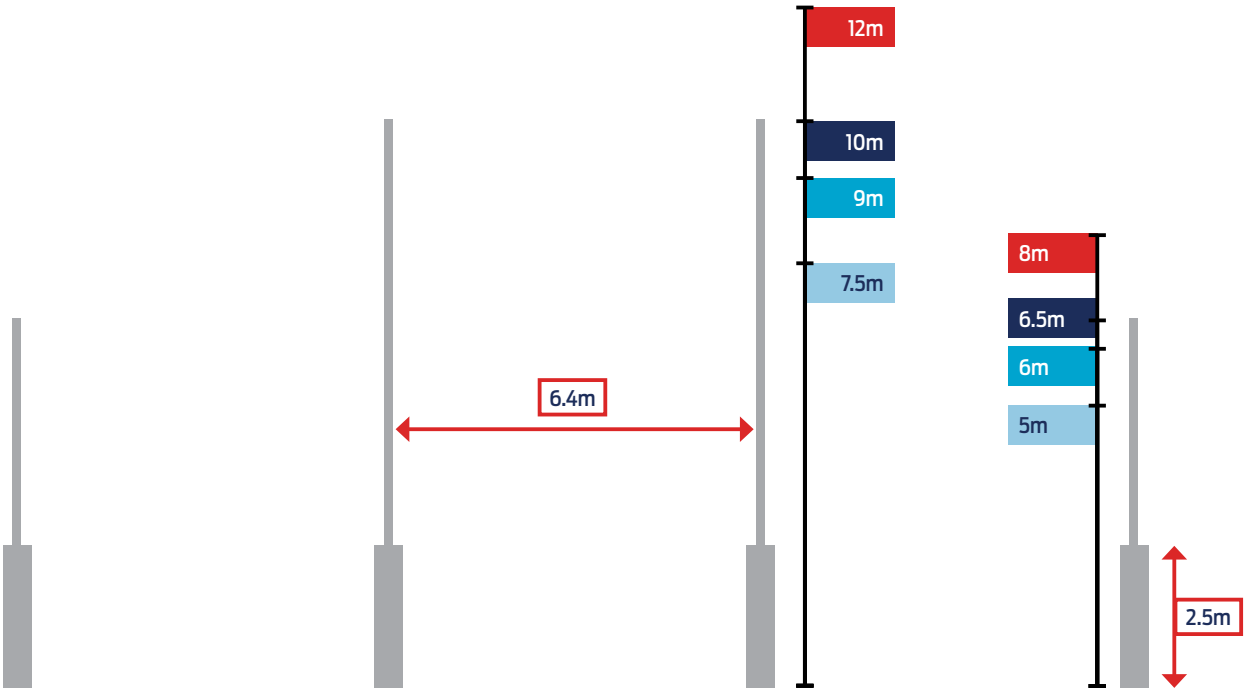
Padding made from 35mm high-density foam covered in canvas or painted, should be provided on all goal and point posts. Padding should extend 2.5m from the ground.

Flag holders should be included on each goal post. Flag holders are typically a 50mm diameter PVC pipe, 500mm length and capped at the bottom. Flag holders should sit 600mm from the ground.

Concordia Lutheran College, Harristown QLD

TIP

Across Australia there are varying weather conditions and other environmental factors that should be considered when selecting and installing goal and point posts. Due consideration, research and consultation with your local AFL State/Territory office is recommended.



City Oval, Ballarat VIC

OVAL DEVELOPMENT TIP

It is recommended that all new or redeveloped ovals accommodate the maximum recommended sizes for senior play, plus required minimum run-offs for the intended level of use. Ovals that are developed to full-size can be modified or configured to provide flexibility (for football and other sports) and offer all levels of play, training and programming opportunities.

BOUNDARY RUN-OFF TIPS

All boundary run-off areas for ovals, playing fields and training spaces should be free of any fixed infrastructure and potential obstacles (e.g. fencing, drainage, grates, light towers, interchange benches etc). Where fixed infrastructure or playing field boundaries cannot be moved, an appropriate risk management plan and risk mitigation measures should be employed (e.g. padding on poles, covers on grates).

Where new senior competition ovals are constructed, it is encouraged that the higher run-off distance of 5m be provided.

Pennell Reserve, Braybrook VIC

3.1.5 Behind goal netting/fencing

Behind goal netting/fencing is recommended (where appropriate) for ovals and playing fields. Netting or fencing helps to increase functionality, reduce time periods of balls being out of play (or lost), to protect spectators and property (e.g. vehicles, neighbouring houses, playgrounds or buildings) and increase safety by limiting the need to enter or cross roads to retrieve balls.

There is no defined standard for behind goal netting or fencing, but the following considerations should be taken into account when planning and designing infrastructure.

- In addition to keeping balls within the field of play area, consider what else can be protected behind netting or fencing.
- Netting or fencing should extend at least the width of point post-to-point post (minimum 20m), but ideally beyond this width to accommodate balls kicked from different angles or off target.
- Netting or fencing should be at least the height of the goal posts and positioned outside the relevant minimum recommended oval run-off area. Fixed fencing may form part of or be integrated into oval perimeter fencing.
- Netting can be permanent netting or curtain mesh netting that can be removed if needed or permanent chain mesh fencing (either stand alone or integrated into the oval boundary fence).
- Engineering of posts, post footings and netting / fencing is essential and should be undertaken by a qualified structural engineer.
- A planning and/or building permit may be required for the installation of behind goal netting and consultation with your local council and/or planning authority is essential.

3.1.6 Scoreboards

Scoreboards are recommended for all ovals used for competition, where game scores are captured. There is an emerging trend towards electronic scoreboards, which provide a better spectator experience and can potentially become a revenue generating source for clubs (e.g. via sponsorship or advertising).

There are no defined standards for scoreboards, but the following considerations should be taken into account when planning for scoreboard installation.

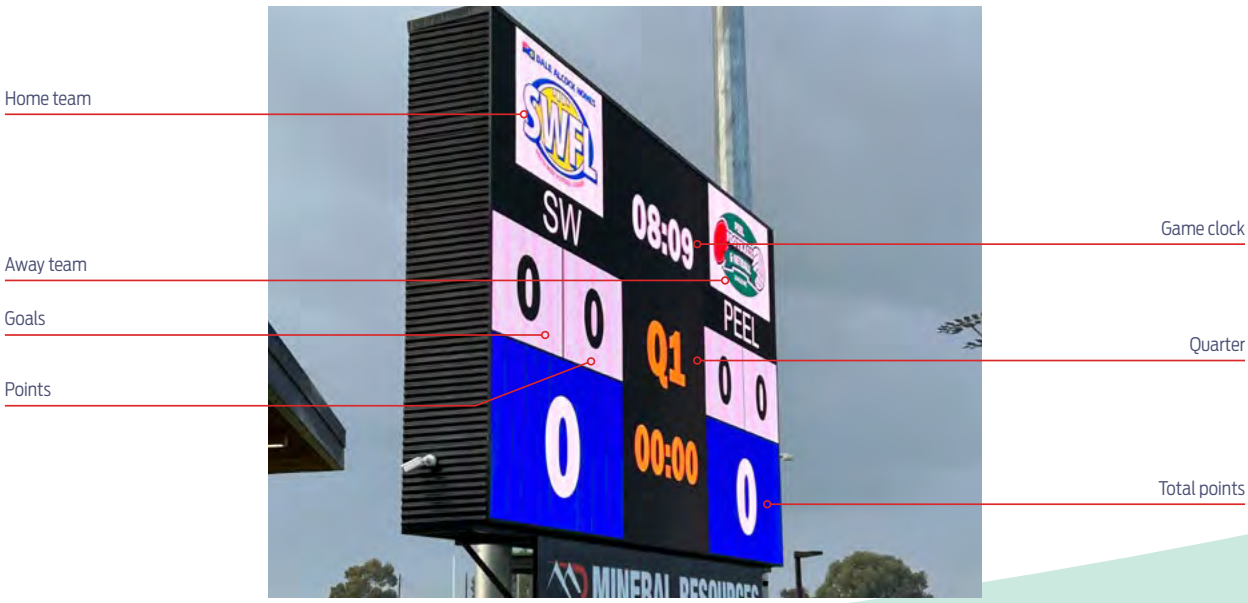
- All scoreboards should have the capacity to display (electronically or manually) **the number of goals, behinds and total points for each participating team**. The ability to provide participating team names is also desirable.
- A time clock and the relevant quarter of play is also desirable to display on the scoreboard.
- Scoreboards should be located to minimise glare, be raised to a height that optimises viewing from long distances (i.e. across an oval) and face towards the main spectator viewing area.
- Electronic scoreboards will require an adequate power source to function. Power capacity across the site should be assessed by a qualified technician.
- Consider provision for in-ground electrical conduits during new facility construction.
- Scoreboard installation and commissioning should be conducted by a qualified contractor in conjunction with the product manufacturer and/or product manufacturer's guidelines.
- Engineering of scoreboard framing, posts and post footings is essential and should be undertaken by a qualified structural engineer.
- A planning and/or building permit may be required for the installation of scoreboards and consultation with your local council and/or planning authority is essential.
- As technology improves, scoreboards should have the capacity to integrate with PlayHQ competition management software to display live scoring.

ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD TIP

Data transmitting capability between the electronic scoreboard and scoreboard operating system (e.g. laptop or tablet) is required. Operating systems are likely to be located in the timekeepers/scorer's box, where data cabling or Wi-Fi connection to the internet will be required.

TIP

Across Australia there are varying weather conditions and other environmental factors that should be considered when selecting and installing scoreboards (particularly electronic scoreboards). Due consideration, research and consultation with your local AFL State/Territory office is recommended.



Mineral Resources Park, Lathlain WA

3.1.7 Playing field amenities

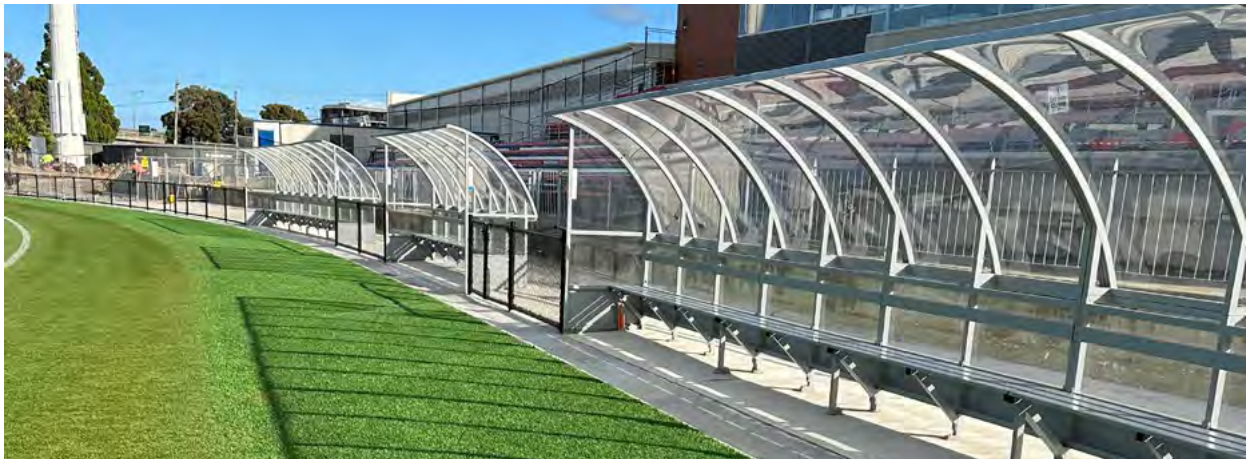
The following support amenities for players, umpires and other officials should also be provided at each competition venue.

AMENITY	RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
Player interchange & coaches boxes	› Two interchange/coaches' benches (one for each participating team) should be provided for each competition oval and be a minimum of 25m apart. › The provision of water to interchange/coaches' benches should be considered to support player hydration. › Interchange benches are to seat interchange players, club officials (such as medical staff and trainers) and coaches. › Interchange benches should be located on the central wing area, ideally on the western side of the oval (or side not facing the sun) to reduce sun glare. › Interchange benches should have at least three fixed sides to provide shelter and not impede viewing. › Interchange benches should be located outside the minimum oval run-off area, but may form part of the boundary fence (ensuring any part of the structure does not impeded on or into the field of play). › When building new or renovating benches, elevated structures should be considered for coaching personnel. › The provision of water and power to coaches boxes may provide enhanced benefits and functionality and support boundary-side technology use by coaching personnel.
Interchange/ umpires/officials box	› Umpires/officials box should be located between the two interchange benches and be a similar construction. › Not all levels of play require an umpires / officials box. It is recommended that you check with your relevant League regarding match day requirements.
Player & umpires race	› Designed to separate spectators, teams and umpires when entering and exiting the field of play. › Player races should be at least 20m apart from each other and provide a direct path from player change rooms to field of play. › A separate race for umpires to enter the field of play directly from the umpires' amenities is desirable.

MEDIA & BROADCAST FACILITIES

Higher level competitions, including State Leagues require access to data, statistics and media broadcasting space for match days. This level of infrastructure provision is not covered within these Guidelines.

Consultation with the AFL and State League competition providers in your State or Territory should be undertaken to ensure provision for these amenities is made at your venue.



3.1.8 Summary of oval and playing field amenities

The following table provides the preferred minimum guidelines for the provision of ovals and playing field amenities by venue hierarchy. All facilities and amenities are considered core components unless identified otherwise.

	RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
Preferred oval size[1]	165m x 135m	165m x 135m	165m x 135m	165m x 135m	Refer to AFL Junior Football Rules for recommended playing field sizes	Refer to AFL Junior Football Rules for recommended playing field sizes	n/a
Oval fencing	Required	Required	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	n/a	n/a
Minimum boundary run-off	5m	4m	3m	3m	3m	3m	3m
Goal posts	12m	10m	9m	9m	7.5m	7.5m	7.5m
Point posts	8m	6.5m	6m	6m	5m	5m	5m
Coaches benches (x2 – one for each participating team)	Elevated above interchange bench	Forms part of the bench	Forms part of the bench	Forms part of the bench	Forms part of the bench	n/a	n/a
Player interchange benches (x2 – one for each participating team)	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	n/a	n/a
Umpires/officials benches	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Scoreboard	Electronic	Electronic	Electronic or manual	Manual	Manual	No	No

1. If your site cannot accommodate the preferred oval size, it is recommended that ovals or playing fields be developed within the following ranges - Length between 130m and 185m AND Width between 110m and 155m.

Morwell Recreation Reserve, Morwell VIC

3.2 OVAL LIGHTING

Oval lighting is important for all levels of Australian Football. It provides clubs with more opportunity to train and play and assists in maximising the use of facilities.

The lighting levels (i.e. lux levels) provided in these Guidelines are an average minimum requirement to meet Australian Standards (AS).

AS 2560.2 advises on lighting for training and competition and takes into consideration spectator viewing requirements.

Clubs, councils and land managers/owners are encouraged to provide higher illumination where possible to support participation growth, cater for a range of competition levels and optimise ground use and capacity.

When planning your oval's lighting scheme, the sport with the highest lighting levels and/or level of play should be taken into account.

The AFL encourages clubs, councils and landowners to consider the overall long-term playing field and lighting needs for competition, training, spectating, other sports and community uses when initiating and evaluating floodlighting installations.

AUSTRALIAN LIGHTING STANDARDS

The Australian Standards (AS 2560.2 – Sports Lighting, Part 2: Specific applications) contains recommendations and requirements specific to the lighting for Australia Football. AS 2560.2 was published in 2021 to supersede the previous AS 2560.3 – Lighting for football (all codes).

When planning, designing and implementing any lighting system for Australian football, the minimum requirements detailed in this Standard must be met or exceeded.

3.2.1 Lighting for training and competition

The following considerations are provided to assist the implementation of lighting systems for football competition, training and programming.

- The growth in participation has placed increased demand on facilities used for Australian Football leading to many clubs and councils providing more uniform, higher quality sports lighting to help grow ground capacity, improve fixture flexibility and help address demand pressures.
- Lighting extends oval and training area use later into the evening, allowing more efficient programming, flexibility and optimisation of facility use.
- When providing lighting and increasing the use of ovals and training areas, it is important to consider the surface quality and durability and the capability of sub-surface infrastructure to support increased usage.
- Balancing the benefits of lighting against the initial costs and ongoing maintenance and energy costs is important.
- Regular testing of lighting performance is recommended to ensure lighting systems continue to provide the necessary and expected lighting levels.
- All lighting for Australian football should be designed by a qualified lighting engineer.
- Assessments of power supply and its adequacy to accommodate new or improved lighting systems is required. Geotechnical investigation and associated engineered design of lighting pole footings is also required.
- Pending the height of new lighting poles or structures, it is recommended you consult with your relevant Building Authority to confirm if a building permit is required.

3.2.2 Recommended lighting levels

The following table provides an overview of the Australian Standard for minimum lighting requirements for Australian football (non-broadcast level lighting). Refer to AS 2560.2 (2021) for all technical requirements and minimum standards to be met with all Australian football lighting installations.

LEVEL OF PLAY	RELEVENT COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITY HIERARCHY	TYPE AND LEVEL OF ACTIVITY	MINIMUM MAINTAINED AVERAGE HORIZONTAL ILLUMINANCE (LUX)
Recreational	Junior, School, Training Areas	Touch and tag	50
		Auskick and modified programming	50
Amateur[1]	Local, Remote, Junior, School, Training Areas	Touch and Tag	50
		Ball and physical training[2]	50
		Club competition and match practice	100
		Enhanced provision for club competition and match practice[5]	150
Semi-professional[3]	Regional	Ball and physical training	50
		Match practice	100
		Semi-professional competition	200
Professional[4]	State, Regional	Ball and physical training	100
		Match practice	200
		Professional competition	500[4]

1. Amateur generally refers to participation in community football league competitions, school competitions and community club training activities.
2. Ball and physical training is considered to differ from match practice in that ball and physical training is more controlled, involves fewer participants (typically two to four) and the paths of the participants and that of any ball used are more predictable than in a match-practice environment.
3. AFL pathway and talent league competitions are considered to be semi-professional football competitions. Regional level venues that host semi-professional training and competition activities should provide lighting commensurate with the relevant requirements.
4. In Australian Football terms, professional generally refers to participation in AFL, AFLW and State League competitions within each State or Territory (e.g. VFL/VFLW, SANFL, WAFL, NTFL, TFL, NEFL, QFL). Individual competitions may have a standard that should be considered for lighting (such as 300 lux for VFL/VFLW).

MINIMUM LIGHTING LEVELS

[5] Whilst the average minimum lux levels for amateur community club* night competition is 100 lux, AS 2560.2 identifies that where practical, the provision of **minimum 150 lux is preferred to take account of contemporary viewing expectations of spectators**.

In general terms, 1 additional lux provides an improved viewing experience for 1 extra metre across an oval.

LIGHTING FOR PROFESSIONAL & STATE LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

The needs of AFL/AFLW and second tier competitions can alter based on competition regulations, broadcast needs and local environments. Venue owners wishing to conduct matches at these levels should consult closely with their AFL State body or relevant competition governing body to ensure lighting design and levels meet all stakeholder requirements.

3.2.3 Options and benefits of higher illumination

The lux ratings provided in these Guidelines are an average minimum requirement to meet the Australian Standards.

During project planning stages, it is recommended that the site capacity and cost difference for providing additional power and lux levels is considered, particularly when only considering 50 lux or 100 lux installations.

If the estimated capital costs of providing higher lighting levels at the time of project delivery exceed your project budget, consider providing the relevant in-ground services that could accommodate higher lighting levels in the future.

A small additional investment at the time of lighting installation may help future proof lighting systems over their life-span and provide additional technology features to remotely control and/or monitor use. It is recommended that any investigation of this nature be conducted with a qualified lighting engineer.

ADDITIONAL LIGHTING LEVELS & COSTS

In general terms the overall capital cost difference between a 50 lux LED lighting installation and a 100 lux system is approximately 15-20% more to deliver. Similarly, the difference between a 100 lux system and 150 lux is likely to be approximately 15-20%.

These estimates are based on a new 4-pole LED lighting system installed at an existing oval where lighting has not previously existed, and an adequate power source and local site conditions can accommodate the greater lux level. **It is recommended that any investigation or cost assessment of this nature be undertaken with a qualified lighting engineer.**

RECOMMENDED INDUSTRY PRACTICE FOR TESTING LIGHTS

Test lighting systems regularly. This confirms ongoing compliance with the original lighting design and installation and is recommended industry practice. The verification of ongoing compliance is done by light tests and field measurements and should be followed. All light tests should be carried out with a cosine corrected light meter that has been calibrated within 12 months of the date of the test.

The frequency of the light tests will depend on the lighting technology installed and the respective manufacturers recommendations and guarantees of light level performance. LED lighting systems are likely to require testing every 2 to 3 years whilst HID (metal halide) lighting system should be tested annually as the lamps depreciate faster, having a resulting effect on light level performance.

It is important to note that without following recommended manufacturers maintenance requirements, HID lighting systems will likely underperform to the target light levels as originally designed.

3.2.4 LED lighting

Over recent years, light-emitting diode (LED) technology has continued to mature, both in terms of cost effectiveness and in quality of output and is now the preferred lighting technology for Australian Football ovals, playing fields and training areas.

Metal halide lighting systems have reduced availability and many suppliers are only carrying parts and replacement lighting infrastructure to see existing metal halide systems through to the end of their functional life. At which type, it is recommended they are replaced with an LED system.

The hours of use have a major impact on the economics of balancing capital and operating costs for the lighting of ovals. For high usage grounds, the energy savings and other benefits of using an LED light source can generally pay back its higher capital equipment cost over the life of the asset.

LED lighting is recommended for all new and replacement oval lighting installations as it provides several benefits, including:

- instant on/off control with no warm-up period
- energy efficiency (generally 40% less power usage) compared with metal halide
- uniform lighting with quality illumination, also reducing light spill into neighbouring properties
- LED provides an enhanced player and spectator experience
- longer life-span and lower levels of maintenance through longer life
- flexibility and control of lighting for different levels of activity (e.g. training versus match play)
- ability to remote control activation from anywhere or via use of fobs/swipe cards.

Xavier College, Kew VIC

3.3 PAVILIONS AND CHANGE FACILITIES

3.3.1 Introduction

Pavilions and indoor amenities for players, officials, spectators and volunteers are integral to creating welcoming and inclusive environments for all. They play an important role in how a venue is used and how clubs operate and connect with their community.

When referring to the minimum recommended provision levels outlined throughout this section of the Guidelines, strong consideration should be given to the following factors. Each factor may contribute to or impact on the provision of a functional, flexible and sustainable pavilion and the range of spaces required to cater for a diverse mix of users and uses.

- The number of teams using the venue (during football and non-football seasons)
- The number of regular users and participants
- The diversity of users and participants and their needs (age, gender and culture)
- The volume of use and competition levels
- The schedule and timing of use
- Fair access and equity policies
- Any anticipated growth over time
- Existing use, tenancy or occupancy conditions
- Land ownership and any related policies regarding permitted use.

MINIMUM ROOM AND FUNCTIONAL AREA SIZES

Room sizes and spatial references quoted in these Guidelines are based on requirements for a single oval facility catering for one 'home' and one 'away' team at any given time.

At venues where more than two teams or clubs are operating simultaneously or where back-to-back matches are hosted, additional facilities (such as player and umpire change rooms) are likely to be required.

PROVISION BEYOND THE MINIMUM GUIDELINES

In some instances, the consideration of the above factors may lead to the provision of facilities and amenities beyond the minimum recommended requirements outlined within the Guidelines. In these cases, a needs test should be carried out to ensure all user needs are met and are aligned with AFL, landowner, funding partner(s) and broader stakeholder objectives.

This section of the Guidelines provides information on the following topics and should be read in conjunction with guidance provided in **Section 2: Project and Site Planning**.

- Planning and compliance
- Design principles
- Pavilion functionality
- Provision tables
- Pavilion attributes
- Change rooms and amenities for players and umpires
- Social spaces, kitchens and kiosks.

3.3.2 Planning and compliance

It is important that relevant Australian Standards, Codes, Acts and Regulations are complied with during the planning and design of new and refurbished pavilions, change rooms and other associated building amenities.

A summary of planning and design principles and relevant industry standards for reference can be found in Appendix 2. In general, the following overarching industry codes of practice should be referenced (but limited to) when designing and constructing buildings.

- Planning and/or Building Permits, issued by local planning authorities.
- Australian Standards, including Design for Universal Access and Mobility.
- National Construction Code (NCC).
- AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines.

3.3.3 Inclusive design

Girls and women's football is the fastest growing segment of our game. As demand continues to evolve, more leagues, competitions and clubs are providing more opportunities for girls and women to participate. In addition to players, growing female involvement in umpiring, volunteerism and administration are also evident.

Inclusivity also extends beyond just the inclusion of all genders and must also consider ability and cultural needs, as well as the needs associated with safeguarding children and young people.

All pavilions and associated surrounding amenities must be accessible and universally designed, allowing and promoting use for all.

As we continue to attract a growing diversity of participants to the game, the physical environments provided need to keep pace with all user needs and expectations. Creating welcoming and vibrant facilities that continue to attract people of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities to our great game is paramount.

3.3.4 Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)

ESD features should be a strong consideration in any building project. ESD features have the capacity to create operational efficiencies in use and in managing ongoing operational costs, in addition to contributing to a healthier indoor and outdoor environment.

Consideration of the following ESD features within pavilion and building related projects will potentially add value and create operational efficiencies following construction.

- **Solar** to reduce operational costs.
- **Renewable energy** and the provision of energy efficient appliances.
- **Thermal insulation** to improve occupant comfort.
- **LED lighting** with sensor control, reducing power cost.
- **Rainwater harvesting** for toilet flushing and irrigation, reducing water use and related cost.
- **Water efficient fixtures and fittings**, reducing water use and related cost.
- **Timed tapware** for showers and taps, potentially reducing water wastage.
- **Hand dryers** in lieu of paper towels, reducing waste.
- **Waste systems** aligned to Council collection streams.
- **Smart landscaping** to maximise positive biodiversity outcomes.
- **Low VOC** paints and floor finishes, improving indoor air quality.
- **Electric vehicle (EV)** parking, to promote EV and hybrid vehicle use.
- **Bicycle racks** to promote active transport.
- **Natural ventilation** to reduce powered heating and cooling consumption and related cost.
- **Building orientation** to help manage climatic impacts.
- **Modular buildings** can create efficiencies in the development and construction process.

3.3.5 Technology

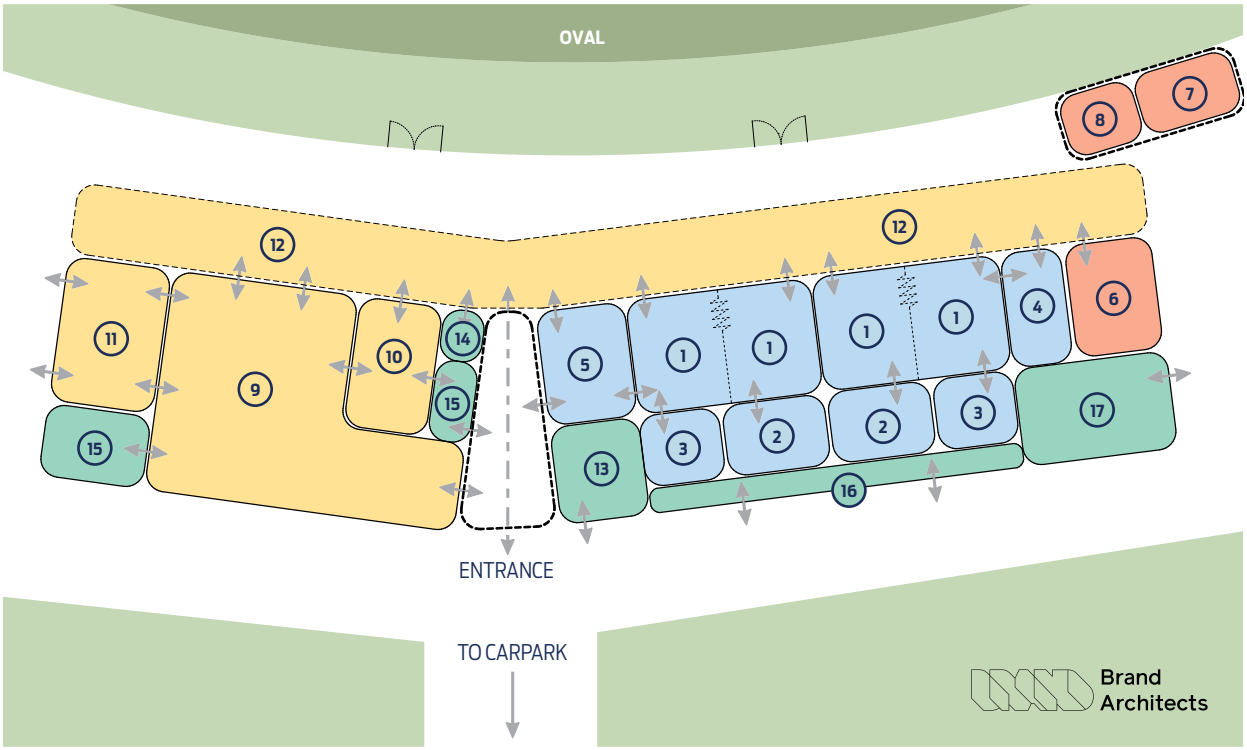
Designing pavilions and functional spaces with technology in mind will be critical in helping to provide flexible spaces that cater for a wider variety of use(s). Sporting pavilions with access to community and multi-use spaces can be enhanced by providing the capabilities to accommodate broader activities beyond their match-day function.

From a community football perspective, the consideration of the following technology related features may add value to building projects and venue operations.

- **Live streaming capabilities** with dedicated camera positions or platforms provided.
- **Live scoring** integration capability with PlayHQ to improve spectator experience and reduce administration.
- **Electronic scoreboards** and game sirens, controlled remotely from time-keeper's area where scoreboard integration with PlayHQ exists.
- **Wi-Fi and NBN connectivity** for venue, match-day and visitor use.
- **Hearing loops** to improve building accessibility.
- **TV's** for digital honour boards and sponsor signage and promotion.
- **IT equipment** for event, function, meeting room and conference use.
- **PA systems** and integrated media and sound production.
- **Swipe card** or similar fob access, for remote and flexible building and room access control.
- **CCTV or Bluetooth cameras** for internal and external security and monitoring.
- **Point of sale systems (POS)** for club purchases and food, beverage and stock monitoring.
- **Sensor lighting** for more efficient building management and reduced power costs.
- **Communications rooms**, to safety locate technology and security equipment.

3.3.6 Pavilion functionality

The positioning of various pavilion spaces and attributes can have a significant impact on building functionality, ease of use, access, management, maintenance, cleaning and servicing. The following local level pavilion diagram provides guidance on the general spatial relationships and ideal connections recommended within and surrounding pavilions. The relationships between spaces are highlighted to help demonstrate improved functionality and to assist in pavilion design projects. Rooms and spaces are numbered, with further details provided in the following tables and in **Pavilion and Amenity Room Examples provided in Appendix 4**.



1 PLAYER CHANGE ROOMS
2 PLAYER AMENITIES
3 TRAINERS ROOM
4 FIRST-AID / MEDICAL
5 GYM/FITNESS AREA
6 UMPIRES
7 MATCH OFFICIALS/ VENUE MANAGEMENT*
8 TIME KEEPERS*
9 COMMUNITY/SOCIAL SPACE
10 KITCHEN/KIOSK
11 PUBLIC AMENITIES
12 EXTERNAL COVERED VIEWING AREA
13 OFFICE/MEETING
14 INTERNAL STORAGE
15 CLEANERS
16 SERVICES/PLANT
17 EXTERNAL STORAGE

* **Time Keepers/ Match Officials**: Potentially located at a mezzanine level (or within the pavilion. i.e. In place of gym location, should a gym not be required)..

Each local AFL State/Territory office has access to a library of actual floor plan designs used in various locations across Australia. Contact your local office to discuss similar projects and to access relevant designs.

3.3.7 Pavilion and amenity area schedules

The below area schedule outlines the required, desirable and optional areas for pavilions and supporting amenities, relevant to the Community Football Facility Hierarchy. While these areas set the preferred minimum levels, exceeding these Guidelines to meet a range of other uses and users may be a consideration at the early planning stages of your project. The identified colour coded Zones within the following tables link to the pavilion relationship diagram above and the **Pavilion and Amenity Room Examples provided in Appendix 4**.

PLAYER FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

PAVILION AMENITY	PREFERRED MINIMUM AREA SIZES (M^2)						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
1. Player change rooms[2]	2 x 75m²-90m²	2 x 55m²-75m²	2 x 45m²-55m²	Dedicated lockable change room space with access to toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	Dedicated lockable change room space with access to toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	n/a[1]	n/a
2. Player amenities (wet areas)[2]	2 x 35m²	2 x 30m²	2 x 25m²			n/a	n/a
2. Number of lockable showers[3]	5 x lockable shower cubicles per amenity area	4 x lockable shower cubicles per amenity area	3 x lockable shower cubicles per amenity area			n/a	n/a
2. Number of pan toilets[4]	5 x pan toilet cubicles per amenity area	4 x pan toilet cubicles per amenity area	3 x pan toilet cubicles per amenity area			Access to toilets on-site essential	Access to toilets on-site essential
3. Trainers room	2 x 20m²	2 x 15m²	**Optional** 2 x 10m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. First-aid/medical room	15m²	**Optional** 15m²	**Optional** 15m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. Doctors room	15m²	**Optional** 10m²	**Optional** 10m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5. Gym/fitness area	40m²-50m²	**Optional** Size to be determined by anticipated use	**Optional** Size to be determined by anticipated use	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1. **An "n/a" reference** indicates that this amenity is not required for the relevant venue hierarchy level. However, where and if possible, the amenity should be delivered to at least accommodate the relevant Local level recommended provision.
2. Recommended 2 player change rooms and associated amenities per competition oval provided at the venue. Individual sites that cater for multiple ovals and/or back-to-back matches should consider the provision of additional and/or divisible player change rooms and amenity areas. Consider fold away baby change table in amenities area (where practical).
3. All showers should be provided as separate lockable cubicles to support inclusive use.
4. All toilet cubicles should provide sanitary bins and lockable doors to support inclusive use.

OFFICIALS FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

PAVILION AMENITY	PREFERRED MINIMUM AREA SIZES (M^2)						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
6. Umpire briefing room[6]	$30m^2$-$40m^2$	$30m^2$-$40m^2$	$20m^2$-$25m^2$	Dedicated space with access to lockable toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	Dedicated space with access to lockable toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	n/a[5]	n/a
6. Umpire amenities (wet areas)[6]	$24+m^2$	$18+m^2$	$12+m^2$			n/a	n/a
6. Number of lockable amenity cubicles	4 x lockable ensuite cubicles	3 x lockable ensuite cubicles	2 x lockable ensuite cubicles			n/a	n/a
7. Third umpire/venue management room	$15m^2$	**Optional** $10m^2$	**Optional** $10m^2$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
8. Timekeeping/ scorers box	$15m^2$	$10m^2$	$10m^2$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

5. **An "n/a" reference** indicates that this amenity is not required for the relevant venue hierarchy level. However, where and if possible, the amenity should be delivered to at least accommodate the relevant Local level recommended provision.
6. Umpire amenities should be designed large enough to accommodate the expected number of officials umpiring at any one location. Depending on the level of competition, umpire numbers may fluctuate from one to more than nine, more for multiple ovals venues operating concurrent matches. Consider providing one large umpire and officials briefing space with capacity to provide separate change and amenity areas. Umpire amenities should be ideally located at one end of the pavilion, with an open view and ideally away from social and spectator gathering spaces.

CHANGES WITHIN SHARED UMPIRE AMENITIES

Umpire change rooms should accommodate for all genders using and sharing the space concurrently. **All personal changing is recommended to take place within designated ensuite cubicle areas.**

To better cater for this, it is recommended that any new or redeveloped umpire amenities are designed with individual ensuite cubicles that contain a shower, change space, pan toilet and hand basin. Providing pan toilet cubicles separate to shower cubicles may also be considered to increase flexibility of use.

The inclusion of an umpires briefing room or area for umpire panel discussions (pre, during and post match) is preferred and strongly encouraged.

The number of umpires officiating matches will vary by league, competition level and availability. In terms of planning amenities to support umpires at each level of the facility hierarchy, the following provides "**a guide to the general number of umpires**" officiating during any single match.

State level: 3 field umpires, 4 boundary umpires, 2 goal umpires (9 in total).

Regional level: 3 field umpires, 2 boundary umpires, 2 goal umpires (7 in total).

Local level: 2 field umpires, 2 boundary umpires, 2 goal umpires (6 in total).

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SPACES

PAVILION AMENITY	PREFERRED MINIMUM AREA SIZES (M^2)						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
9. Social, community or multi-purpose room[8]	200m^2	150m^2	100m^2	n/a[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a
10. Kitchen or kiosk[9]	40m^2	30m^2	20m^2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11. Public toilets[10]	Male 20m^2 Female 20m^2 Accessible 5m^2	Male 15m^2 Female 15m^2 Accessible 5m^2	Male 10m^2 Female 10m^2 Accessible 5m^2	Ensure availability on site	Ensure availability on site	Ensure availability on site	Ensure availability on site
12. Minimum external covered viewing area	150m^2	75m^2	50m^2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
- Spectator viewing	Mix of seated & standing desirable	Mix of seated & standing desirable	Standing	Shaded areas	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
- Drinking water	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

7. **An "n/a" reference** indicates that this amenity is not required for the relevant venue hierarchy level. However, where and if possible, the amenity should be delivered to at least accommodate the relevant Local level recommended provision.
8. Where the demand exists (e.g. venues with multiple ovals or larger clubs with multiple teams), larger social spaces can be considered subject to needs assessment and funding. An increase in floor area may require an increased provision of amenities. Reference to the NCC is required in order to determine any additional amenity needs.
9. The proposed functionality of the kitchen or kiosk may influence the size and fit-out requirements. The preparation of on-site food, cooking and/or deep frying versus selling of pre-prepared food only, alters requirements for this space. Consultation with your local council and associated health authority is recommended. Provision for dry storage should be considered in conjunction with kitchens or kiosks and would be in addition to the sizes specified in the above table.
10. We encourage the inclusion of all gender toilets, based on the localised needs of the facility and community. Public toilets do not necessarily need to be provided as separate traditional male and female toilets. The sizes for public toilet amenities are provided as a general guide only. The NCC and the overall use / volume of use will determine the ultimate public toilet provision needs for your facility. Ensure baby change facilities are provided and accessible to people of any gender.

ESTIMATING SOCIAL, COMMUNITY OR MULTI-USE ROOM SIZES

A number of factors should be considered when estimating needs for these spaces. To help gauge the adequacy of room sizes for your venue, the following rules can be applied.

- For seated functions or events allow 1.5m^2 per person.
- For standing functions or events allow 1m^2 per person.

ANCILIARY SPACES

PAVILION AMENITY	PREFERRED MINIMUM AREA SIZES (M^2)						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
13. Office/administation/ meeting room[12]	$25m^2$	$20m^2$	$15m^2$	n/a[11]	n/a	n/a	n/a
- Family room[13]	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
- Multi-faith room[13]	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
- Sensory room[13]	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14. Utility/cleaners store	$5m^2$	$5m^2$	$5m^2$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15. Internal storage[15]	$25m^2$	$20m^2$	$20m^2$	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
17. External storage[15]	$25m^2$	$20m^2$	$15m^2$	$15m^2$	$15m^2$	$15m^2$	$15m^2$

11. **An "n/a" reference** indicates that this amenity is not required for the relevant venue hierarchy level. However, where and if possible, the amenity should be delivered to at least accommodate the relevant Local level recommended provision.
12. Office, administration and/or meeting room areas may be a combination of smaller individual spaces and one combined space fitted out to meet club and operational needs.
13. The needs, size and design of these spaces should be undertaken during project needs assessment and refined during planning, feasibility and concept design stages. Likely users should be engaged in any associated stakeholder consultation processes aligned with these spaces.
14. Refer to the AFL's Club Help website via www.play.afl/clubhelp/club-management/managing-facilities/ for further details on Sensory Room considerations and design guidance.
15. Both internal and external storage is recommended within all pavilions. Internal storage typically supports club operations and building functionality. External storage should be for training and match-day equipment, BBQs etc. Consider the provision of power and plumbing for potential laundry use (where appropriate and designed to be fit-for-purpose).

3.3.8 Materials and finishes

The following tables provide a range of materials, finishes, equipment and fittings to consider for various rooms and amenity areas within the pavilion environment. Relevant choices and selections should be made in consultation with architects, designers and/or project managers at the detailed design stage of projects. Further considerations for floors, walls, ceilings and furniture/fittings are provided as a guide to support building use and functionality.

CHANGE ROOM AREAS – PLAYER AND UMPIRE CHANGE / BRIEFING AREAS

SURFACE	MATERIAL OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS	OTHER FEATURES
Floors	> Polypropylene carpet > Epoxy chip/epoxy flooring > Coved skirtings > Recycled rubber flooring	> Slip resistance > Robustness/durability > Washability > Recessed entry matting is useful if players are entering change rooms directly from playing field	> Regular washing and cleaning required
Walls	> High impact plasterboard > Fibre cement sheeting > Blockwork, brickwork or plywood	> Robustness/durability (consider ball impact) > Consideration for plywood substrate behind wall lining for additional durability > Washability > Resilient, impact resistant and low maintenance materials	> Natural ventilation > Power points
Ceilings	> High impact plasterboard > Villaboard	> Impact resistant > Washability	> High efficiency LED sensor lighting > Mechanical heating/cooling
Furniture & fittings	> Timber seating (fixed) > Aluminium seating (movable) > Coat hooks (timber or metal)	> Timber seating (framing fixed to floor/wall for safety) > Mobile seating where operable walls are used	> Water point and bottle filler > Whiteboards

WET AREAS – CHANGE ROOMS, TOILETS, MEDICAL, FIRST-AID, TRAINERS AREAS

SURFACE	MATERIAL OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS	OTHER FEATURES
Floors	> Epoxy chip/epoxy flooring > Floor tiles > Safety sheet vinyl	> Slip resistance wet areas and showers > Washability (surfaces / grout) > Robustness/durability > Coved skirting for vinyl flooring > Waterproofing membrane to wet area surfaces	> Floor wastes for cleaning
Walls	> Water resistant plasterboard > Sheet vinyl > Wall tiles	> Washability (surfaces / grout) > Robustness/durability > Coved skirting for vinyl flooring > Waterproofing membrane to wet area surfaces (including shower cubicles / vanity splashbacks)	> Natural ventilation > Power points
Ceilings	> High impact/waterproof plasterboard > Villaboard	> Washability	> High efficiency LED sensor lighting > Mechanical ventilation
Furniture & fittings	> Compact laminate shower and toilet partitions	> Partitions to be full floor to ceiling height or minimum 2100mm > Where partitions are full height, each cubicle requires its own lighting and exhaust	> Built-in seating to shower cubicles > Coat hooks in shower and toilet cubicles > Mirrors > Joinery for storage > Low water usage tapware

CATERING AREAS - BAR, KITCHEN AND SERVERY AREAS

SURFACE	MATERIAL OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS	OTHER FEATURES
Floors	> Safety sheet vinyl > Floor tiles	> Slip resistance, particularly around cooking areas > Durability > Washability (surfaces and grout) > Coved skirting where vinyl flooring is used	> Floor wastes for cleaning
Walls	> Water resistant plasterboard > Stainless steel splashback > Sheet vinyl splashback	> Durability > Cleanability > Washability / hygiene > Splashback to rear of cooking equipment (e.g. stove, oven, deep fryer) required to be non-combustible and extend to underside of rangehood	> Fixed shelving > Power points > Pinboards for safety signage > Splashback height typically 1800mm to 2100mm high
Ceilings	> Water resistant plasterboard	> Hygiene	> High efficiency LED sensor lighting > Mechanical heating / cooling > Mechanical ventilation
Furniture & fittings	> Stainless steel benches and shelving > Built-in stainless steel sinks > Laminate cupboards and drawers	> Cleanability > Equipment power demands > Fridge(s) / freezer(s) locations > POS system	> Joinery and/or shelving for storage > Low water usage tapware

OTHER AREAS – PAVILION, CLUBROOM, SOCIAL SPACES, ADMINISTRATION AREAS, OFFICES

SURFACE	MATERIAL OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS	OTHER FEATURES
Floors	> Carpet/carpet tiles > Polypropylene carpet (to external doors) > Floor tiles > Sheet vinyl > Polished concrete	> Slip resistance > Durability > Cleanability > Resilient floor finishes to interface with wet areas (near bar/kitchen)	> Carpet tiles are more easily replaced when damaged
Walls	> Plasterboard > Feature plywood > Feature fibre cement sheeting > Acoustic panelling	> Durability > Cleanability > Acoustic performance > Aesthetics	> Natural light > Power points > Pinboards > Operable walls for flexibilitY
Ceilings	> Plasterboard > Acoustic ceiling tiles > Feature plywood	> Acoustic performance > Aesthetics	> High efficiency LED sensor lighting > Dimmable lighting > Mechanical heating / cooling > Mechanical ventilation
Furniture & fittings	> Laminate joinery	> Audio visual needs > Hearing augmentation/hearing loop > Memorabilia display (physical and/or digital)	> Joinery for storage

3.4 SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

There are several key support infrastructure items that need to be considered and planned for. The following table provides guidance and considerations for the provision of supporting infrastructure.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE	CONSIDERATIONS
Car Parking	› Adequate car parking will be required at all venues to cater for anticipated levels of use, including spectators. Consider the number of ovals, scheduling, back-to-back fixtures, other site users and visit length times when planning car parking needs. › Car parking may be sealed or unsealed as appropriate and designated accessible car parking should be provided. Adequate accessible paths must be provided between car parking and pavilion, spectator and other activity areas. Refer to NCC for required levels of provision. › The number of car spaces will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will be informed by your local planning authority requirements.
Spectator Seating	› Determined on a case-by-case basis having due regard to the standard of competition to be hosted, anticipated crowds and site appropriateness and capabilities. › Covered, uncovered and accessible spectator seating should be considered within any spectator accommodation plan.
Reserve or Enclosed Venue Fencing	› Reserve fencing is required at State League venues to control crowd access and management, including collection of entrance fees. › Fencing of Regional and Local venues is also preferred for the same reasons, however this will depend on local conditions, anticipated use and local football league requirements. Many community football leagues will not schedule finals at venues that do not have reserve fencing. › Reserve fencing can be provided in such a way as to assist in crowd management on match days, whilst still facilitating public access at all other times (i.e. sliding gates / fence panels).
Oval Perimeter Fencing	› Oval fencing serves to define the area of play, assist to manage spectators, protect playing surface against vehicle access and provide opportunity for match day promotion. › Oval fencing should be approximately 900mm high with chain link in-fill or similar and allow required minimum run-off distance from the playing field boundary line. › Adequate gates / access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, players and officials is required and should be clearly signed.
Game Clock	› An approved match time clock that can be seen by spectators, players and officials shall be provided at all State League venues. › Any finals venues should strongly consider installing a time clock, potentially as part of an electronic scoreboard.
Game Siren	› An approved siren shall be installed and operated in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football (Section 10). Multiple sites for amplification around the ground may be required.
Public Address System	› A public address system is not essential, although highly desirable, particularly at State League venues.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE	CONSIDERATIONS
Cricket Pitch Covering	> Synthetic cricket pitches need to be covered during football season to protect both the cricket pitch surface and for the safety of players. > Two options are recommended for synthetic cricket pitch covering: Synthetic pitch covers and covering with soil. > Covering with soil can in some instances create an uneven or raised surface surrounding the pitch, which can result in unpredictable deviation of the ball once in play or a water pooling effect in the event of wet weather. > Synthetic covers provide an alternative to using soil and in most instances can provide a more level playing field. It is important that synthetic covers meet AFL/CA approved synthetic turf product performance and testing standards. > Natural turf pitch areas are not usually covered, however their condition should be monitored across the season to ensure playability across the area is optimised. > Consideration of line marking centre circles adjacent to covered synthetic or turf wicket areas should be considered where practical or where surface condition may impact play.
Cricket Practice Nets	> Cricket practice nets should not encroach on the playing surface or surrounding safety run-off zone for ovals, playing fields or training areas. > Bowlers' run-ups are preferably provided off the oval surface to avoid soil compaction, wear and uneven playing surfaces within the designated playing field. > If the bowler run-up area does encroach onto the field of play due to site specific constraints, and a club/council is seeking to install a synthetic surface as the bowler run-up area, that synthetic product should be a AFL-CA approved product.

For more information on covering cricket pitches, please refer to Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines via **https://play.cricket.com.au**

3.4.1 Summary of supporting infrastructure provision

The following table shows the preferred minimum guidelines for the provision of supporting infrastructure for all levels of the Community Football Facility Hierarchy. All facilities and amenities are considered core components unless identified otherwise.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE	RECOMMENDED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
Car Parking	150-180 desired	120-150 desired	80-120 desired	50+ desired	50+ desired	50+ desired	50+ desired
Spectator Seating	500+ desired	Optional	Optional	n/a[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reserve or Enclosed Venue Fencing	Required	Optional	Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oval Perimeter Fencing	Required	Required	Optional	Desirable	n/a	n/a	n/a
Game Clock	Required	Optional	Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Game Siren	Required	Required	Required	Air horn	Air horn	Air horn	n/a
Public Address System	Required	Optional	Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1. **An "n/a" reference** indicates that this amenity is not required for the relevant venue hierarchy level. However, where and if possible, the amenity should be delivered to at least accommodate the relevant Local level recommended provision.

Frankland Park Sports & Community Facility, Hammond Park, WA

Morwell Recreation Reserve, Morwell VIC

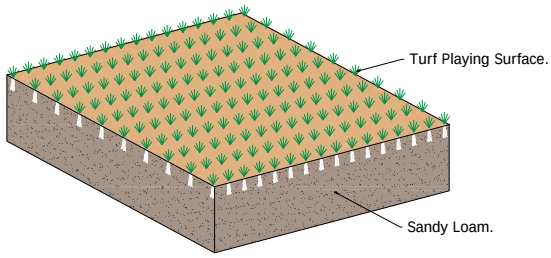
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: NATURAL AND HYBRID TURF PROFILES AND ATTRIBUTES

The below illustrations outline the profiles of natural and hybrid turf playing surfaces. The Illustrations and related attributes are provided courtesy of SportEng.

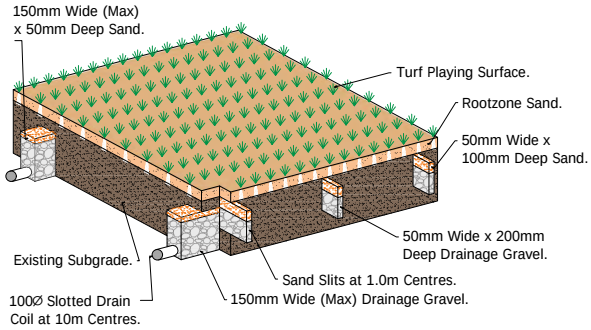
SANDY LOAM

Overview	Blended mix; sand with silt/soil. Typical construction profile of older Council grounds.
Advantages	Good moisture retention. Easy to establish turf initially.
Disadvantages	Poor drainage (low infiltration). Susceptible to compaction. Subsoil drainage relatively ineffective unless sand slit drains used.
Hours of use*	10 - 15 hours / week.



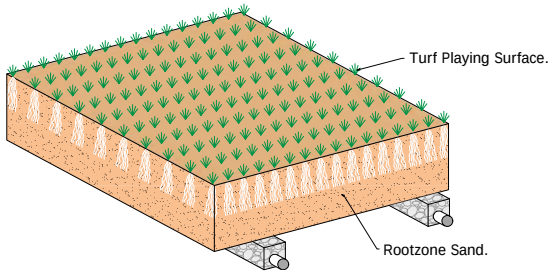
SAND CARPET

Overview	Thin sand layer over existing soil profile with sand slits & subsoil drains.
Advantages	Improved performance than sandy loam. Similar advantages as full depth rootzone sand profile but less expensive.
Disadvantages	Construction duration. Not as effective as full depth sand profile. Specialist construction equipment required.
Hours of use*	15 - 20 hours / week.



ROOTZONE SAND

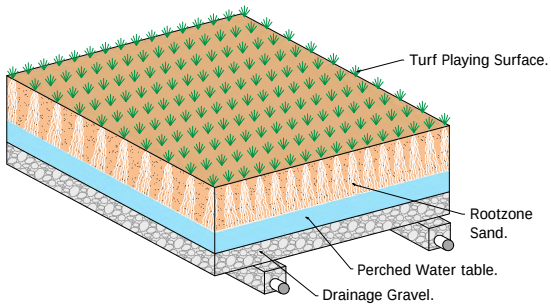
Overview	Constructed from natural sand deposits (ie. dune/river sand) or processed sand.
Advantages	High infiltration rates. Not susceptible to compaction.
Disadvantages	Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Stability can be an issue with some natural sands.
Hours of use*	20 - 30 hours / week.



SPORTENG™

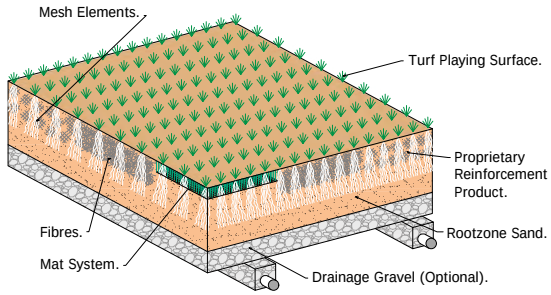
PERCHED WATER TABLE

Overview	Rootzone sand overlying drainage gravel which creates a perched water table at interface between sand and gravel.
Advantages	High infiltration rates. Not susceptible to compaction. Perched water table encourages deep root growth.
Disadvantages	Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Stability can be an issue with some natural sands.
Hours of use*	20 - 30 hours / week.



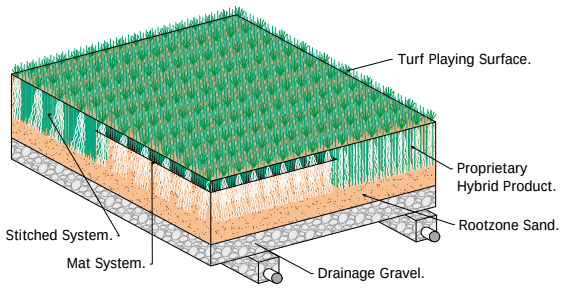
PROFILE REINFORCED

Overview	Rootzone sand/perched water table profile with proprietary reinforcement product either blended (i.e. individual elements) or grown-in (i.e. mat system).
Advantages	Improved playing surface stability and load bearing capacity. Can be utilised as 'ready-to-play' turf.
Disadvantages	Required amendments to improve moisture retention. Minor adjustment to maintenance regime. Profile can be hard.
Hours of use*	20 - 30 hours / week.



HYBRID

Overview	Combination of synthetic fibres with natural turf. Rootzone sand/perched water table profile with proprietary hybrid product either stitched or grown-in (i.e. mat system).
Advantages	Improved playing surface durability, stability and load bearing capacity. Can be utilised as 'ready-to-play' turf product (mat system only). Synthetic fibres provide traction even if turf grass is worn.
Disadvantages	Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Minor adjustment to maintenance regime. Profile can be hard.
Hours of use*	30 - 40 hours / week.



*Dependent on quality of construction, footfall per sqm, and level of maintenance.

APPENDIX 2: INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE

In addition to football specific facility guidelines detailed in this document, it is important that relevant Standards, Codes, Acts and Regulations are complied with and fully considered during the planning and design of pavilions, change rooms and associated buildings:

- The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999); and the requirements of State and Territory Departments and Authorities responsible for planning and environmental matters.
- Work Health and Safety Acts (2011) (WHS).
- The Building Code of Australia: National Construction Code (NCC).
- Australian Standards (using the version applicable).
- The National Standard for Construction Work document, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission - NOHSC:1016.
- The Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF) document promulgated by the Australian Government Security Construction and Equipment Committee (SCEC).
- The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) advisory notes.
- National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry and the Australian Government Implementation Guidelines for the Code.

In addition, all designs (new and refurbished facilities) must fully comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and relevant Australian Standards, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Disability Discrimination Act (1992).
- Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010.
- AS 1428.1 – Parts 1, 2, & 4 - Design for access and mobility.

Despite the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, nor the State/Territory Child Safe Standards, not contemplating physical design standards, their standing should be considered as part of any design. For States where Child Safe Standards are legislated, in particular, provision of facilities that are inclusive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, diverse individuals (eg. with disability, children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those who are unable to live at home, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and young people) should be very carefully considered.

Further detail can be obtained here https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles and via childsafe@afl.com.au.

For venues likely to host junior football activities, programs and competitions, reference should be made to the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook – March 2023 for guidance on junior football formats and recommendations. The Policy Handbook and associated Match Day Checklist can be access via https://www.play.afl/clubhelp

The preparation of a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) for any facility related project is strongly recommended by the AFL. Information relating to the purpose, benefits and process for conducting a GIA can be found at https://www.genderequalitycommission.vic.gov.au/gender-impact-assessments

APPENDIX 3: VENUE PROVISION SUMMARY BY HIERARCHY

This venue provision summary provides the preferred provision for each level of the Community Football Facility Hierarchy, including playing fields and related infrastructure, lighting, pavilions and other supporting site infrastructure.

VENUE COMPONENTS	PREFERRED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
PLAYING FIELDS & AMENITIES							
Oval / Playing field size	165m X 135m	165m X 135m	165m X 135m	165m X 135m	100m x 80m (min)	100m x 80m (min)	n/a
Surface options	Natural / Hybrid	Natural / Hybrid	Natural / Hybrid / Synthetic	Natural / Dirt	Natural / Synthetic	Natural / Synthetic	Natural / Hybrid / Synthetic
Minimum run-off area	5m	4m	3m	3m	3m	3m	3m
Oval fencing	Required	Required	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	n/a
Training lighting	200 lux	100 lux	100 lux	100 lux	50 lux	50 lux	50 lux
Match lighting	300-500 lux	200 lux	150 lux	150 lux	100 lux	100 lux	n/a
Goal posts	12m	10m	9m	9m	7.5m	7.5m	7.5m
Point posts	8m	6.5m	6m	6m	5.5m	5.5m	5.5m
Coaches benches	2 x elevated	1 x home & 1 x away	1 x home & 1 x away	1 x home & 1 x away	1 x home & 1 x away	n/a	n/a
Player interchange benches	2 x seating (10 people)	2 x seating (8 people)	2 x seating (8 people)	2 x seating (8 people)	2 x seating (8 people)	n/a	n/a
Umpire / officials bench	1 x seating (10people)	1 x seating (3 people)	1 x seating (3 people)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scoreboard	Electronic	Electronic	Electronic / Manual	Manual	Manual	n/a	n/a

MATCH LIGHTING LEVELS

Whilst the average minimum lux levels for amateur community club night competition is 100 lux, AS 2560.2 identifies that where practical, the provision of minimum 150 lux is preferred to take account of contemporary viewing expectations of spectators.

In general terms, 1 additional lux provides an improved viewing experience for 1 extra metre across an oval.

VENUE COMPONENTS	PREFERRED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
PLAYER FACILITIES							
1. Player change rooms	2 x 75m²-90m²	2 x 55m²-75m²	2 x 45m²-55m²	Dedicated change space with access to lockable toilet(s) and shower(s) is desirable	Dedicated change space with access to lockable toilet(s) and shower(s) is desirable	n/a	n/a
2. Player amenities (wet areas)	2 x 35m²	2 x 30m²	2 x 25m²			n/a	n/a
2. Number of lockable showers	5 x lockable showers per amenity	4 x lockable showers per amenity	3 x lockable showers per amenity			n/a	n/a
2. Number of pan toilets	5 x toilets per amenity	4 x toilets per amenity	3 x toilets per amenity			Access to toilets on-site essential	Access to toilets on-site essential
3. Trainers room	2 x 20m²	2 x 15m²	"2 x 10m² Optional"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. Doctors room	15m²	"10m² Optional"	"10m² Optional"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4. First-aid/Medical room	15m²	"15m² Optional"	"15m² Optional"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5. Gym/fitness area	40m²-50m²	"25m²-30m² Optional"	"20m²-25m² Optional"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

VENUE COMPONENTS	PREFERRED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
OFFICIALS FACILITIES							
6. Umpire briefing room	30m²-40m²	30m²-40m²	20m²-25m²	Dedicated space with access to lockable toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	Dedicated space with access to lockable toilet(s) & shower(s) is desirable	n/a	n/a
6. Umpire amenities (wet areas)	24+m²	18+m²	12+m²			n/a	n/a
6. Number of lockable amenity cubicles	4 x lockable cubicles	3 x lockable cubicles	2 x lockable cubicles			n/a	n/a
7. Third umpire / venue management room	25m²-30m²	20m²-25m²	15m²-20m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
8. Timekeeping / Scorers box	15+m²	10+m²	10+m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

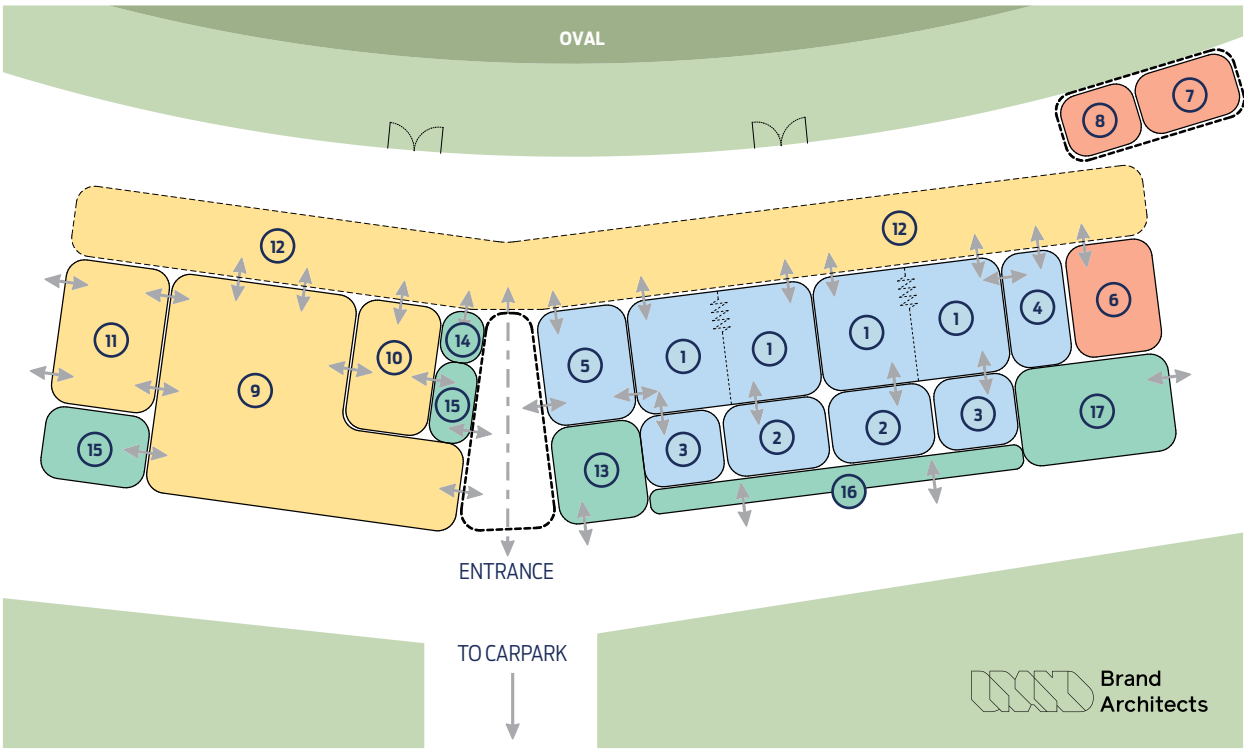
VENUE COMPONENTS	PREFERRED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
SOCIAL SPACE							
9. Social / Community room	200m²	150m²	100m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10. External covered viewing area	150m²	75m²	50m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11. Kitchen & Kiosk	40m²	30m²	20m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
12. Public Toilets	Male 20m² Female 20m² Accessible 5m² (consider all gender toilet provision)	Male 15m² Female 15m² Accessible 5m² (consider all gender toilet provision)	Male 10m² Female 10m² Accessible 5m² (consider all gender toilet provision)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spectator viewing	Mix of seated & standing desirable	Mix of seated & standing desirable	Standing	Shaded areas	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable
Drinking water	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

VENUE COMPONENTS	PREFERRED PROVISION						
	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL	REMOTE	JUNIOR	SCHOOL	TRAINING
ANCILLARY SPACES							
13. Office / Administration / Meeting	25m²	20m²	15m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Family room	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Multi faith room	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sensory room	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	As determined by project needs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14. Utility / Cleaners room	5m²	5m²	5m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15. Club storage (internal)	25m²	20m²	20m²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
17. Club storage (external)	25m²	20m²	15m²	15m²	15m²	15m²	15m²

APPENDIX 4: PAVILION AND AMENITY ROOM EXAMPLES

The information provided in this Appendix references live examples of how various designs have incorporated elements of the Preferred Facility Guidelines into their project or venue.

They are provided as examples only and are not intended to be used as adopted floor plans or recommended inclusions for each individual site. The pavilion diagram below provides some context to the examples provided. It also should be referenced as a guide only as it is not intended to be a standard pavilion floor plan.



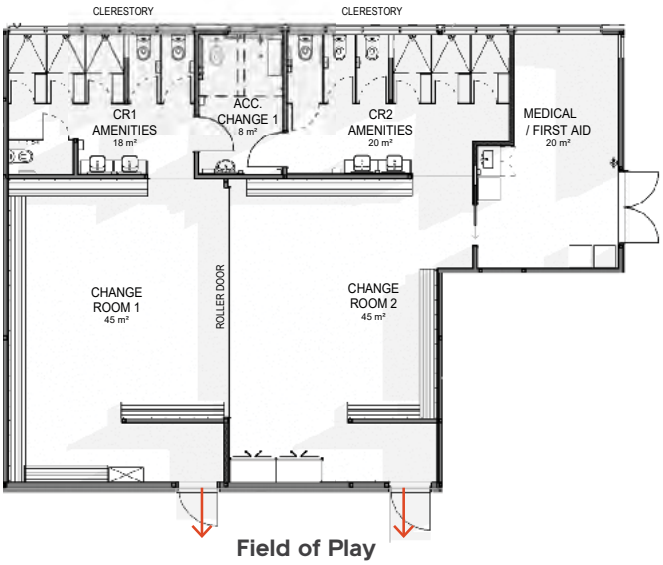
1 PLAYER CHANGE ROOMS
2 PLAYER AMENITIES
3 TRAINERS ROOM
4 FIRST-AID / MEDICAL
5 GYM/FITNESS AREA
6 UMPIRES
7 MATCH OFFICIALS/ VENUE MANAGEMENT*
8 TIME KEEPERS*
9 COMMUNITY/SOCIAL SPACE
10 KITCHEN/KIOSK
11 PUBLIC AMENITIES
12 EXTERNAL COVERED VIEWING AREA
13 OFFICE/MEETING
14 INTERNAL STORAGE
15 CLEANERS
16 SERVICES/PLANT
17 EXTERNAL STORAGE

* **Time Keepers/ Match Officials**: Potentially located at a mezzanine level (or within the pavilion. i.e. In place of gym location, should a gym not be required).

PLAYER CHANGE ROOM

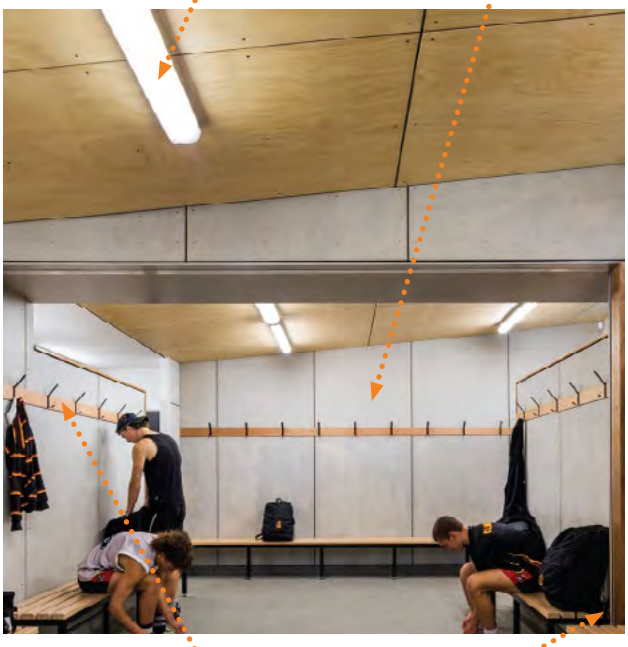
EXAMPLE: Herne Hill Sports Pavilion

Facility level	Regional
Location	Herne Hill, VIC
Client	City of Greater Geelong
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	St Joseph's Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Energy efficient lighting

Impact resistant wall and ceiling linings



Coat hooks

Benches with room to store bags below

High level windows above 1.7m

Natural ventilation

Resilient floor finish with seamless coved skirting. Epoxy floor shown.

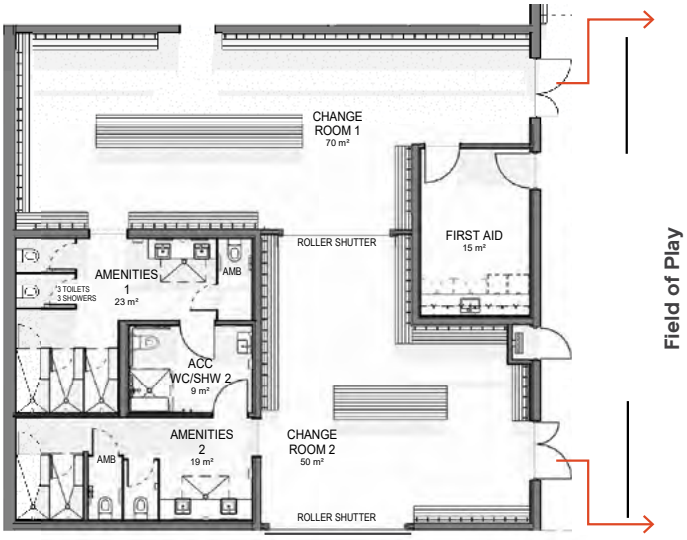
Privacy wall to block view from outside

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

PLAYER CHANGE ROOM

EXAMPLE: Reid Oval Pavilion

Facility level	Regional
Location	Warrnambool, VIC
Client	Warrnambool City Council
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Warrnambool Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects

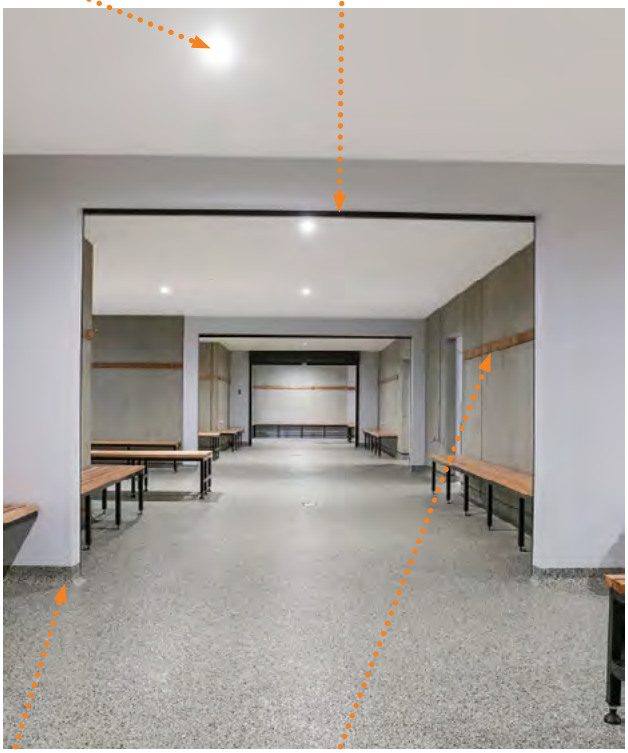


Energy efficient lighting

Dividing roller shutters

Plasterboard ceiling

Impact resistant wall linings



Resilient floor finish with seamless coved skirting

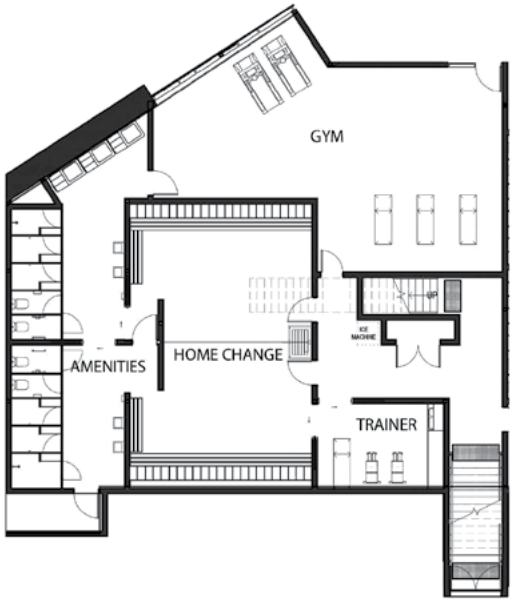
Coat hooks

Benches with room to store bags below

Timber batten seating. Wall mounted and mobile.

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

PLAYER CHANGE ROOM



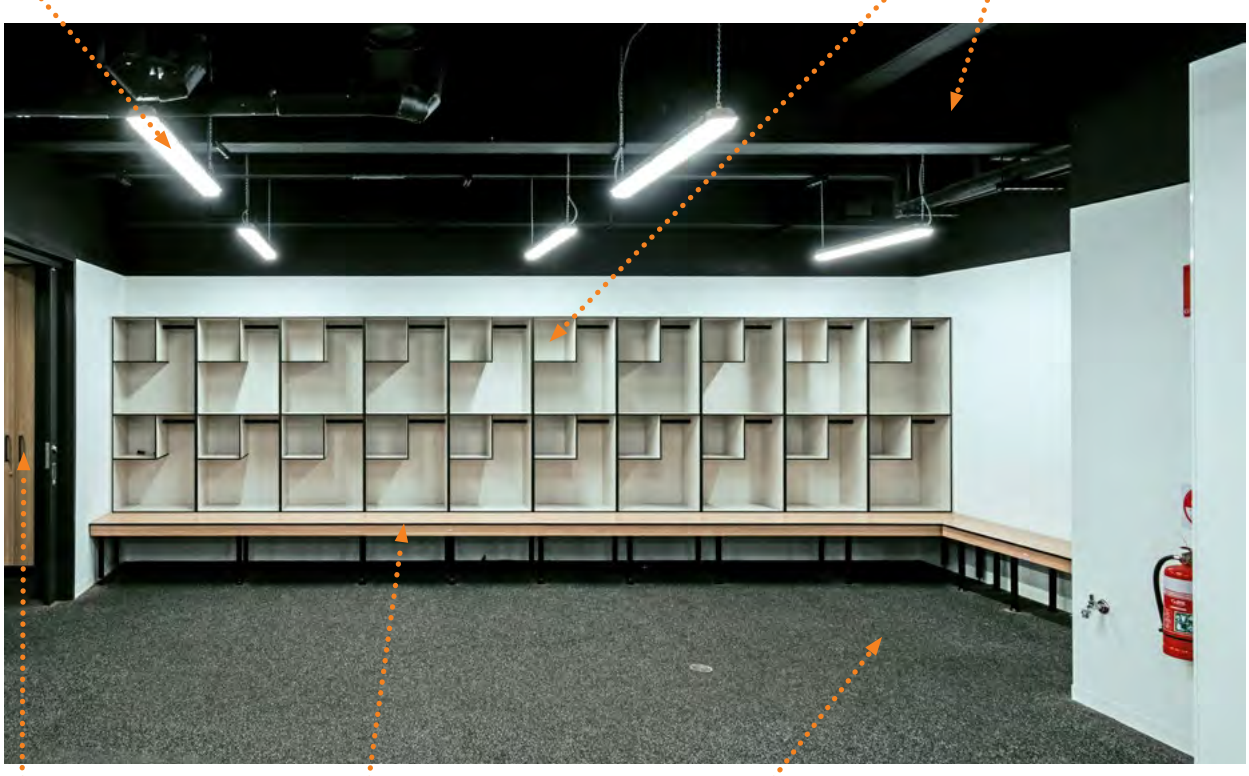
EXAMPLE: Max Amber Sportsfield

Facility Level	Local
Location	Paradise, SA
Client	City of Campbelltown
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Athelstone Football Club
Architect	Brown Falconer

Energy efficient lighting luminaire

Compact laminated lockers with edging

Exposed structure and services. Painted black



Direct access to amenities

Bench seat – laminated finish bench top and powder coated steel legs

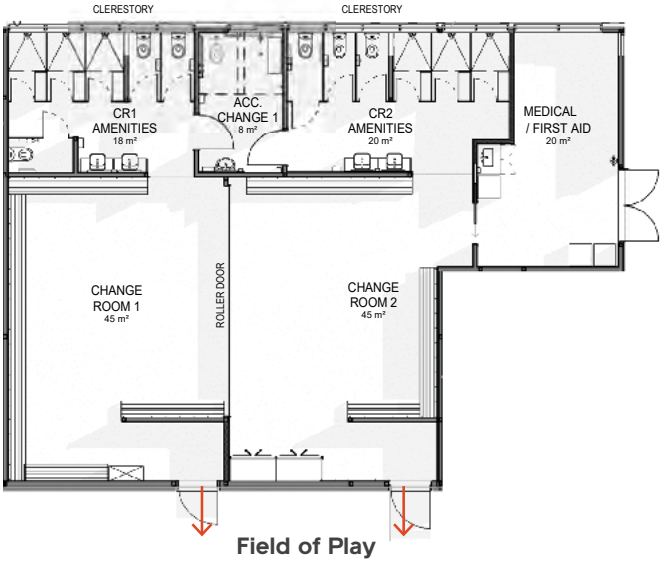
Recycled rubber, impact-resistant and low-maintenance flooring

Plan and photos courtesy of Brown Falconer Architects

PLAYER AMENITIES

EXAMPLE: Herne Hill Sports Pavilion

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Herne Hill, VIC
Client	City of Greater Geelong
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	St Joseph's Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects

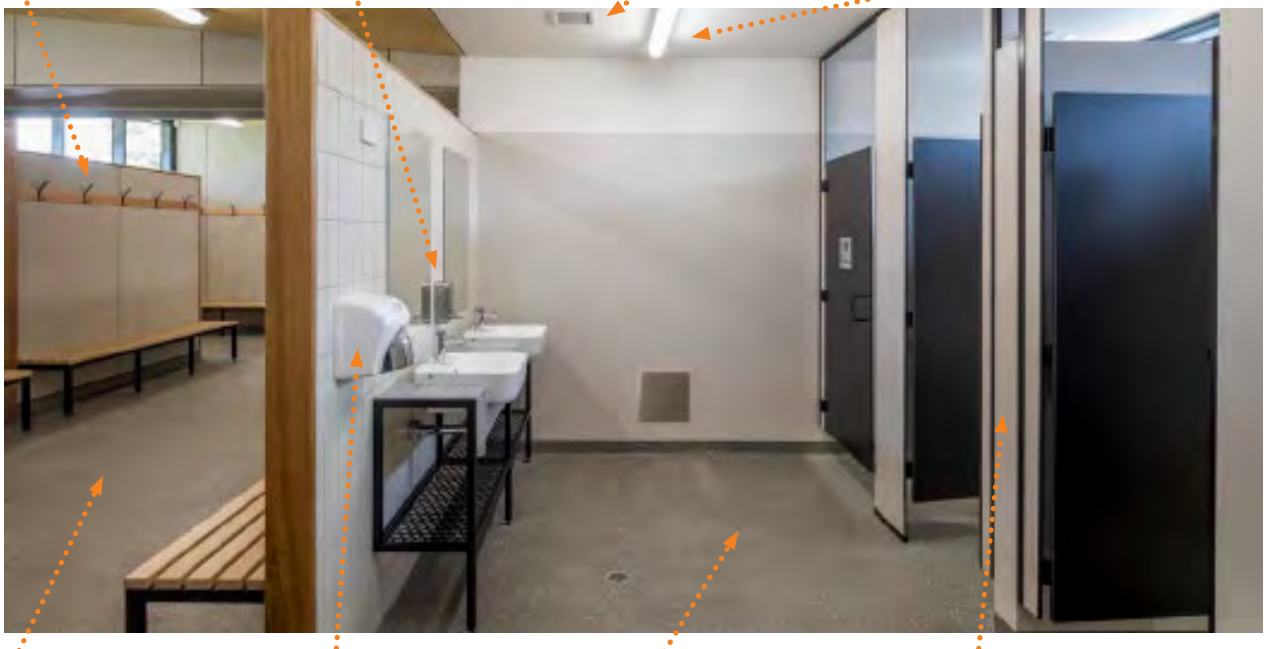


Coat hooks

Vanity bench, mirrors, wall mounted soap dispensers

Ventilation / air exhaust.

Energy efficient lighting



Directly accessed from Player Change Room

Power for electric hand dryers

Resilient, impact resistant and low maintenance materials

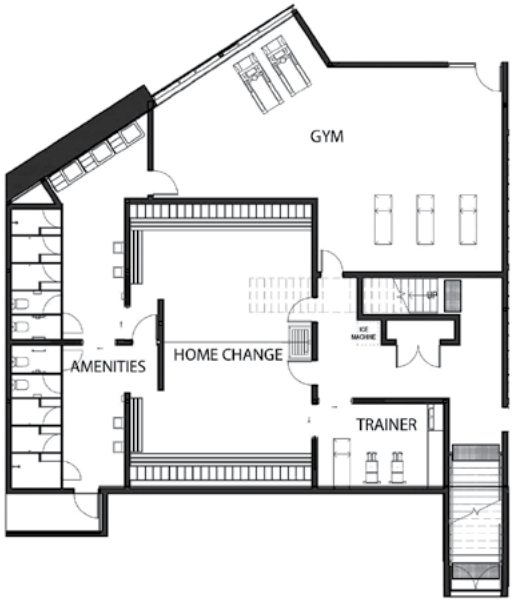
Cubicle partitions

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

PLAYER AMENITIES

EXAMPLE: Max Amber Sportsfield

Facility Level	Local
Location	Paradise, SA
Client	City of Campbelltown
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Athelstone Football Club
Architect	Brown Falconer

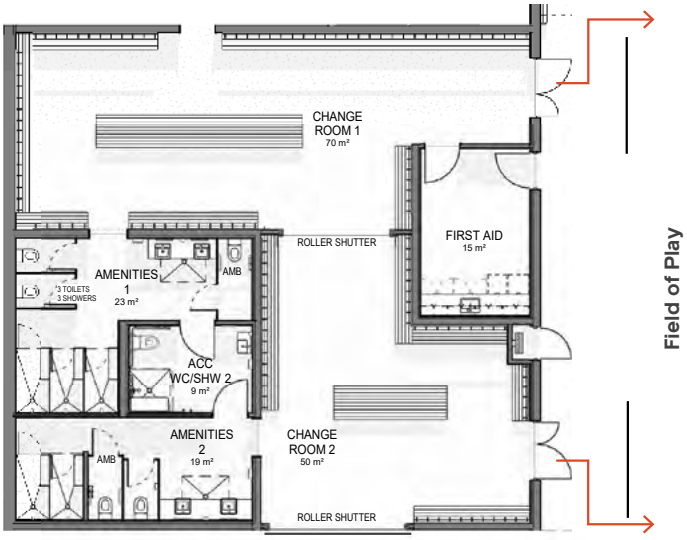


Plan and photos courtesy of Brown Falconer Architects

DOCTORS ROOM & FIRST AID/MEDICAL ROOM

EXAMPLE: Reid Oval Pavilion

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Warrnambool, VIC
Client	Warrnambool City Council
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Warrnambool Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Tiled or sheet vinyl lining on waterproof membrane to vanity basin splashback

Energy efficient lighting

Ventilation/air exhaust

Allow enough room for a first aid bed

Bench with cupboards/ drawers below - lockable

Basin & tapware

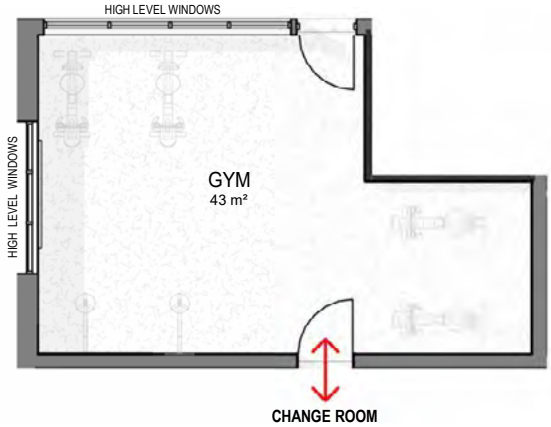
Door way should be wide enough for a stretcher to be carried through

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

GYMNASIUM/FITNESS ROOM

EXAMPLE: Reid Oval Pavilion

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Warrnambool, VIC
Client	Warrnambool City Council
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Warrnambool Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects

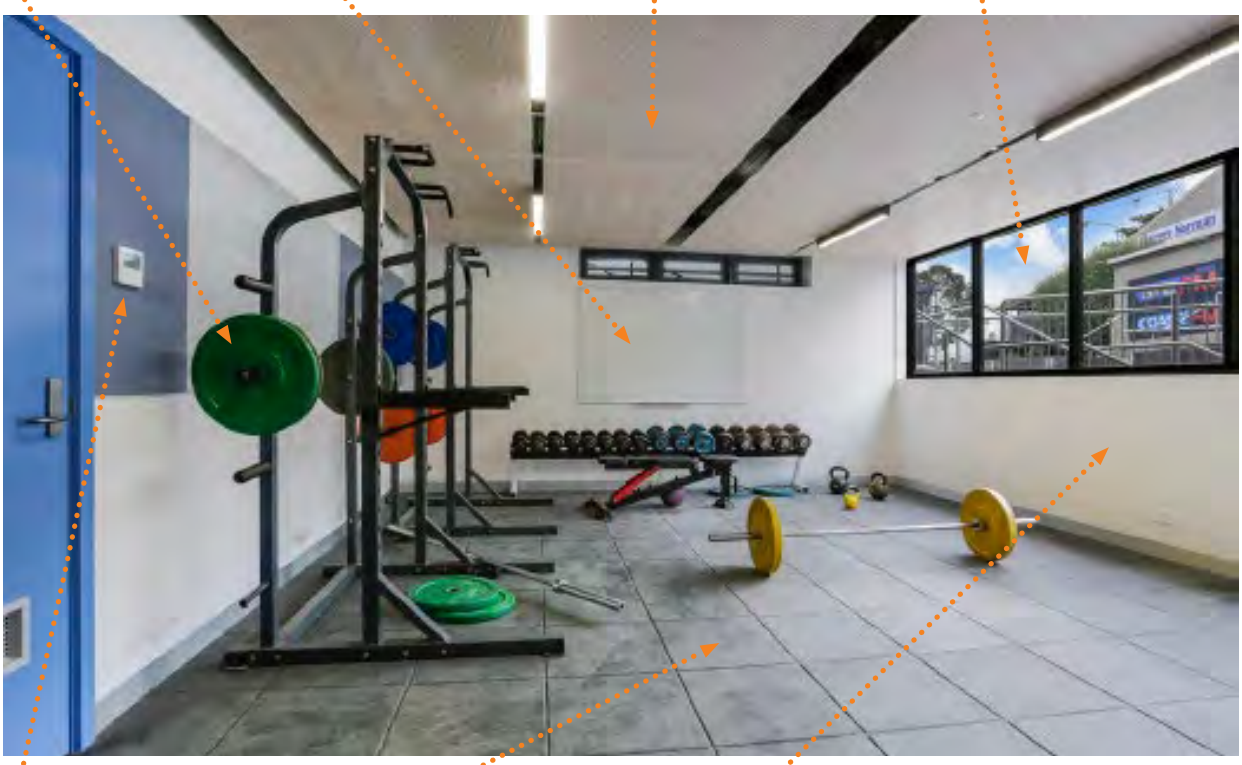


Gym equipment as required

Whiteboards

Acoustic Ceiling Tiles

Recommend window coverings for privacy



Heating and cooling

Gym flooring

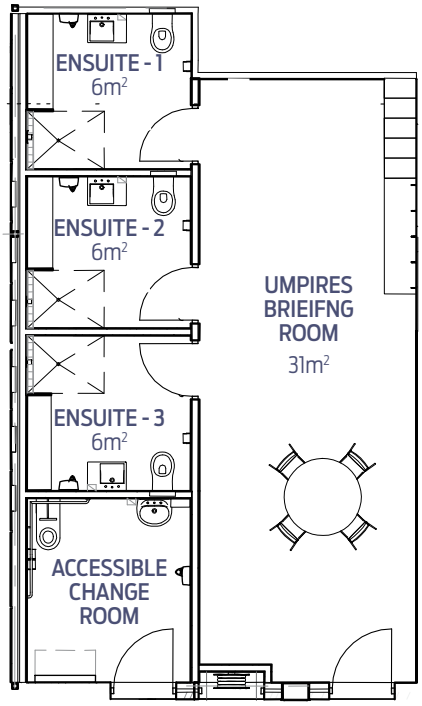
Impact Resistant Plasterboard

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

UMPIRES FACILITIES

EXAMPLE: Harry Trott Reserve

Facility Level	Local
Location	Bendigo, VIC
Client	City of Greater Bendigo
Year Built	2023
Tenant Club	South Bendigo Football Netball Club
Architect	Y2 Architecture

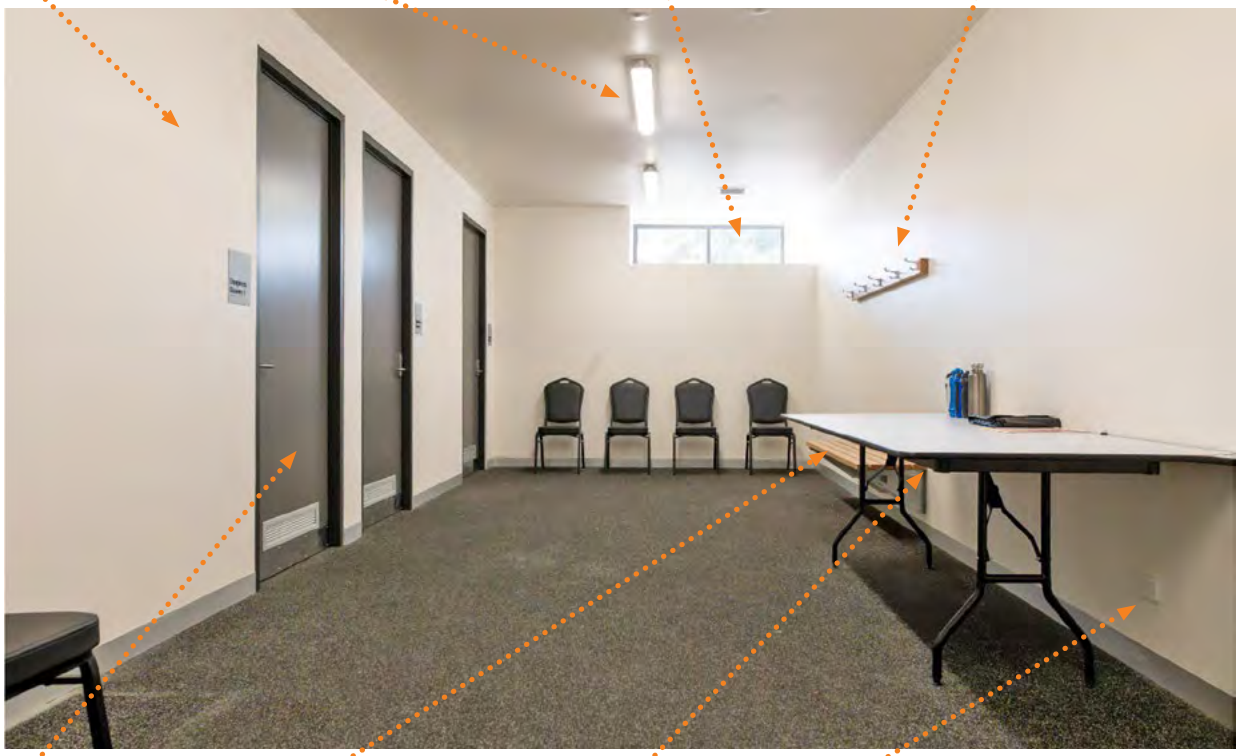


Single all gender briefing room

Energy efficient lighting

Natural light & ventillation

Coat hooks



Separate ensuite change area and amenities to promote inclusive use

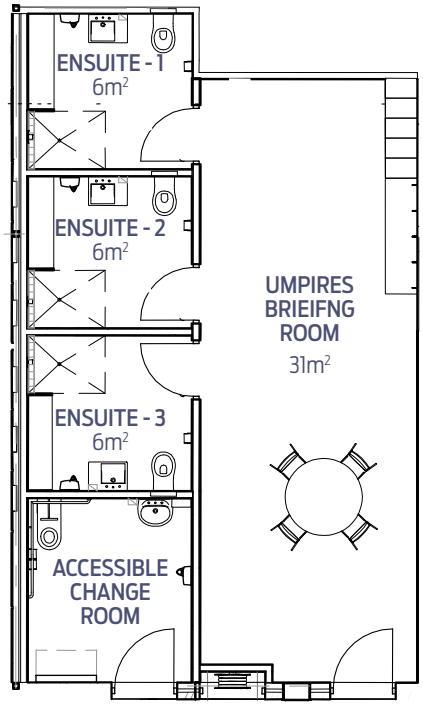
Mix of fixed bench and movable seating for flexibility

Table for umpires administration

Power points for IT & digital equipment use

Photo courtesy of City of Greater Bendigo
Plan courtesy of Y2 Architecture

UMPIRES FACILITIES



EXAMPLE: Harry Trott Reserve

Facility Level	Local
Location	Bendigo, VIC
Client	City of Greater Bendigo
Year Built	2023
Tenant Club	South Bendigo Football Netball Club
Architect	Y2 Architecture

Separate lockable ensuite change rooms and amenities

Ventilation

Lightweight, water resistant compact laminate shower partition

Power for cleaning equipment and personal care

Floor waste for ease of cleaning

Resilient vinyl flooring blended to provide wall skirting

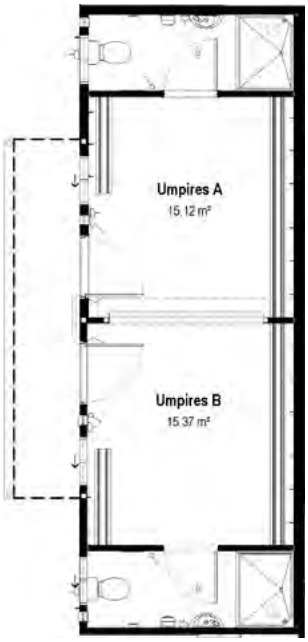
Lockable door

Photo courtesy of City of Greater Bendigo
Plan courtesy of Y2 Architecture

UMPIRE FACILITIES

EXAMPLE: Glenelg Oval

Facility Level	State
Location	Glenelg East, SA
Client	City of Holdfast Bay
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Glenelg Football Club
Architect	AUSCO Modular



Motorised roller shutter to divide space as required

Private en-suite toilet and shower cubicle

Modular construction

Overhead storage and coat hooks

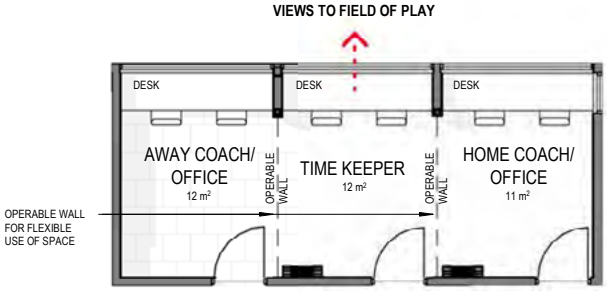
Natural light and ventilation

Plan and photos courtesy of Ausco

TIMEKEEPING/SCORER'S BOX

EXAMPLE: Geelong West Oval

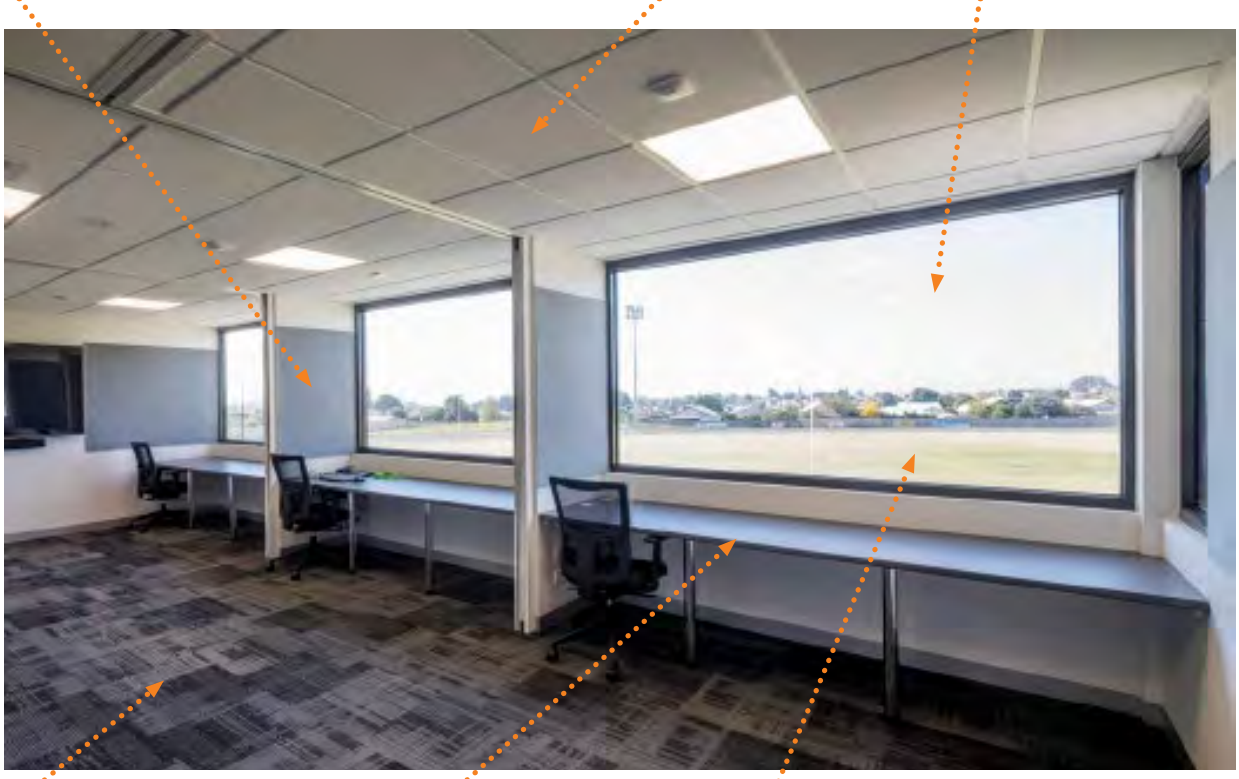
Facility Level	Regional
Location	North Geelong, VIC
Client	City of Greater Geelong
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Geelong West Giants Football & Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Partition walls for conversion into smaller offices or meeting rooms

Acoustic Ceiling Tiles

Clear view of Field of Play and scoreboard



Carpet tiles

Laminate joinery

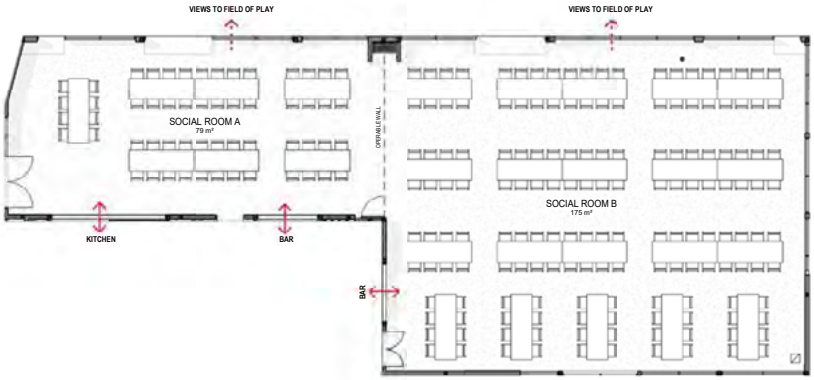
Elevated view

Plan and photo courtesy of Brand Architects

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ROOM

EXAMPLE: Geelong West Oval

Facility Level	Regional
Location	North Geelong, VIC
Client	City of Greater Geelong
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Geelong West Giants Football & Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Energy efficient lighting

Operable walls for flexibility of use

Natural Daylighting and views to field of play

Resilient materials

Acoustic ceiling treatment

Ventilation/climate control

Tables and chairs for functions

Power points & AV services

Plan and photo courtesy of Brand Architects

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ROOM

EXAMPLE: Max Amber Sportsfield

Facility Level	Local
Location	Paradise, SA
Client	City of Campbelltown
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Athelstone Football Club
Architect	Brown Falconer

Motorised roller blind

Featured wall: profiled timber veneer lining

Timber veneer perforated acoustic panel

Full height front double glazed with aluminium powder coated framing system.

Heavy-duty carpet tiles

LED spot light

Images courtesy of Brown Falconer Architects

EXTERNAL COVERED VIEWING AREA

EXAMPLE: Frankland Park Sports Centre

Facility Level	Local
Location	Hammond Park WA
Client	City of Cockburn
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Hammond Park Junior Football Club
Architect	Hodge Collard Preston Architects

Raised and stepped for tiered viewing and flood mitigation

External servery window with view to Field of Play

Direct access to playing field

Protection from the elements

Outdoor area adjacent to social space

Space for queuing and rubbish bins near kiosk servery

EXTERNAL COVERED VIEWING AREA

EXAMPLE: Max Amber Sportsfield

Facility Level	Local
Location	Paradise, SA
Client	City of Campbelltown
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Athelstone Football Club
Architect	Brown Falconer

Capacity to add individual seating

Covered spectator area across pavilion frontage

Canteen facing oval with wide servery

Players race access to and from change rooms

Large windows to promote viewing

Building raised above ground height promotes viewing and minimises potential of inundation

Tiered standing area to maximise spectator viewing

First-aid room directly accessed from building concourse

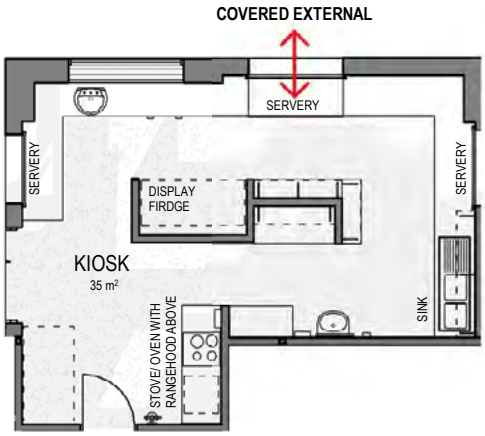
High windows for natural light

Image courtesy of Brown Falconer Architects

KITCHEN/KIOSK/BAR

EXAMPLE: MacPherson Park Recreation Reserve

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Toolern Vale, VIC
Client	City of Melton
Year Built	2020
Tenant Club	Melton Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



External servery

Water resistant plasterboard

Stainless steel benches and shelving

Rangehood exhaust

High-efficiency LED lighting

Stainless steel splashback

Safety sheet vinyl

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

KITCHEN/KIOSK/BAR

EXAMPLE: Reid Oval Pavilion

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Warrnambool VIC
Client	Warrnambool City Council
Year Built	2022
Tenant Club	Warrnambool Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects

Rangehood exhaust

Water resistant plasterboard

Stainless steel splashback

External servery

High-efficiency LED lighting

Safety sheet vinyl

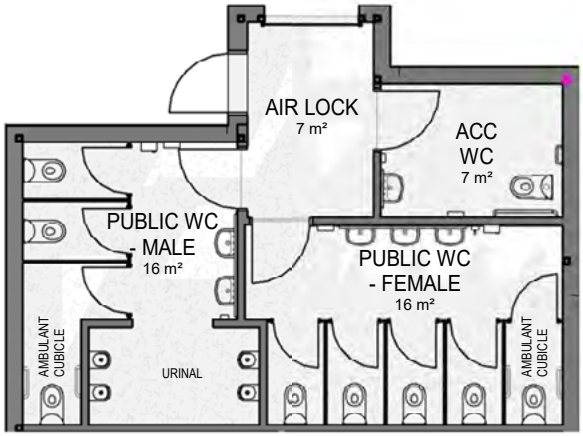
Stainless steel benches and shelving

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

PUBLIC TOILETS

EXAMPLE: MacPherson Park Recreation Reserve

Facility Level	Regional
Location	Toolern Vale, VIC
Client	City of Melton
Year Built	2020
Tenant Club	Melton Football Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Toilet partitions - compact laminates

High impact/Waterproof plasterboard

Electricity for hand dryers

Unisex Ambulant facility

Highly resilient tiles

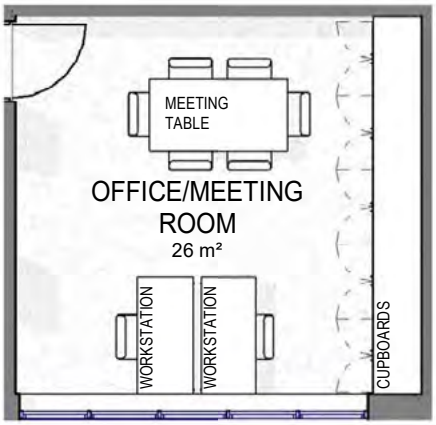
Unisex Accessible facility

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

OFFICE/ADMIN/MEETING FACILITIES

EXAMPLE: Geelong West Oval

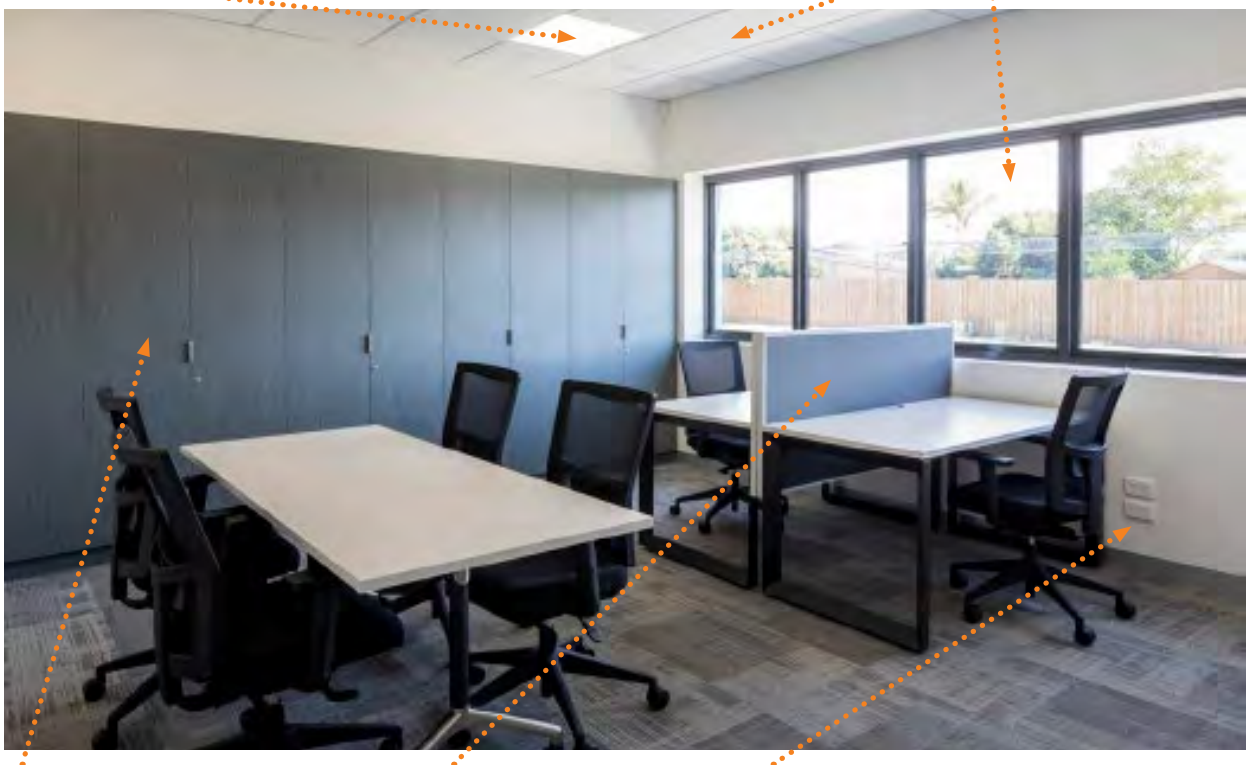
Facility Level	Regional
Location	North Geelong, VIC
Client	City of Greater Geelong
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Geelong West Giants Football & Netball Club
Architect	Brand Architects



Energy efficient lighting

Acoustic ceiling treatment

Natural daylighting



Storage cupboard for files/records

2-3 office chairs; 1-2 desk/s

General power & data, Wi-Fi

Plan and photos courtesy of Brand Architects

PARENTS ROOM / MULTI-FAITH / SENSORY ROOM

EXAMPLE: Wiigulga Sports Complex

Location	Woolgoolga NSW
Client	Coffs Harbour City Council
Year Built	2021
Tenant Club	Northern Beaches Blues AFL Club / Northern Beaches Blues JAFC
Architect	Populous

Heating/cooling

Acoustic Privacy is important

Walls should not be covered with pictures

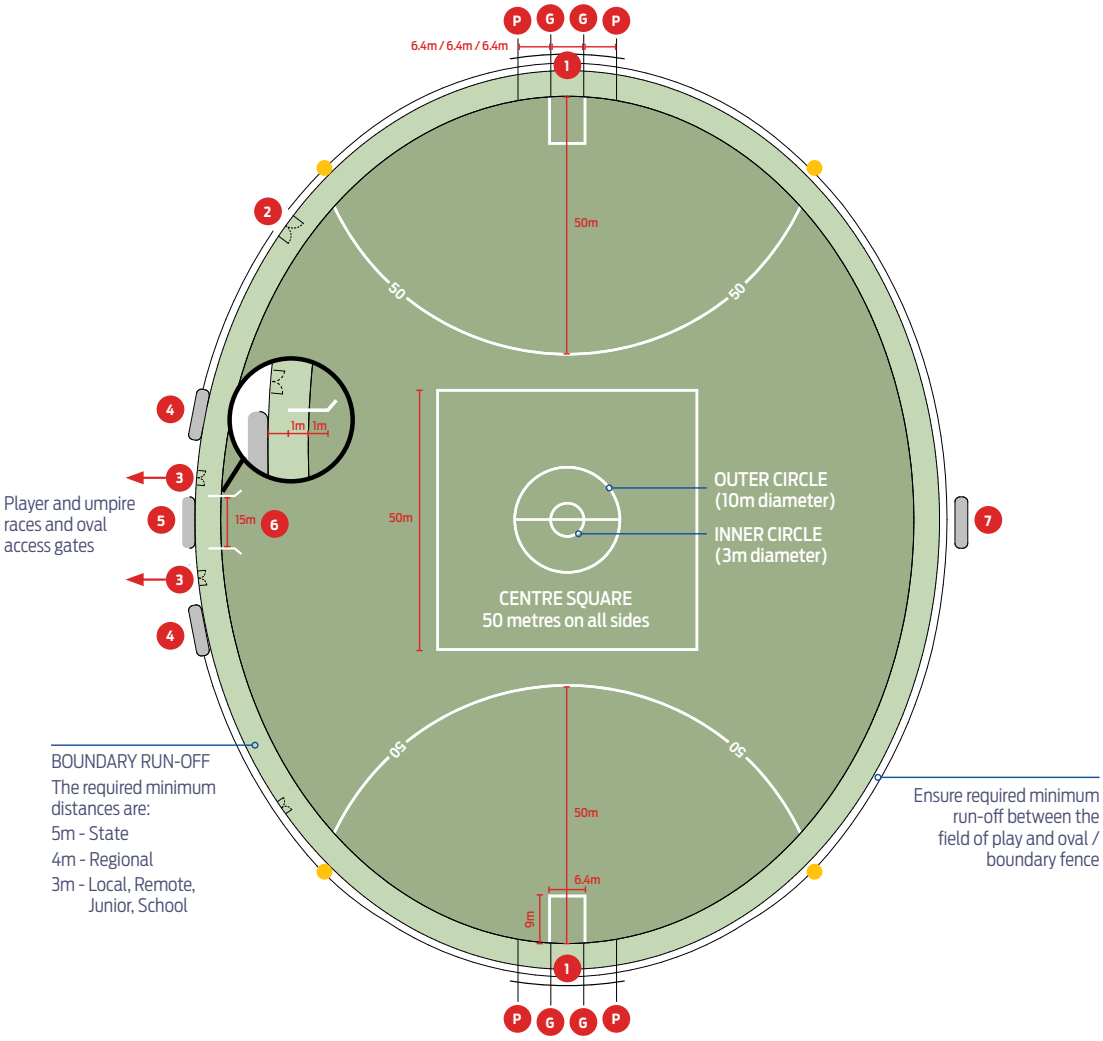
Furniture and decoration should be minimal, and perhaps be more casual

More detailed guidance on sensory rooms within the AFL environment can be found at **https://www.play.afl/clubhelp/club-management/managing-facilities**

APPENDIX 5: GUIDE TO LINE MARKING OVALS AND PLAYING FIELDS

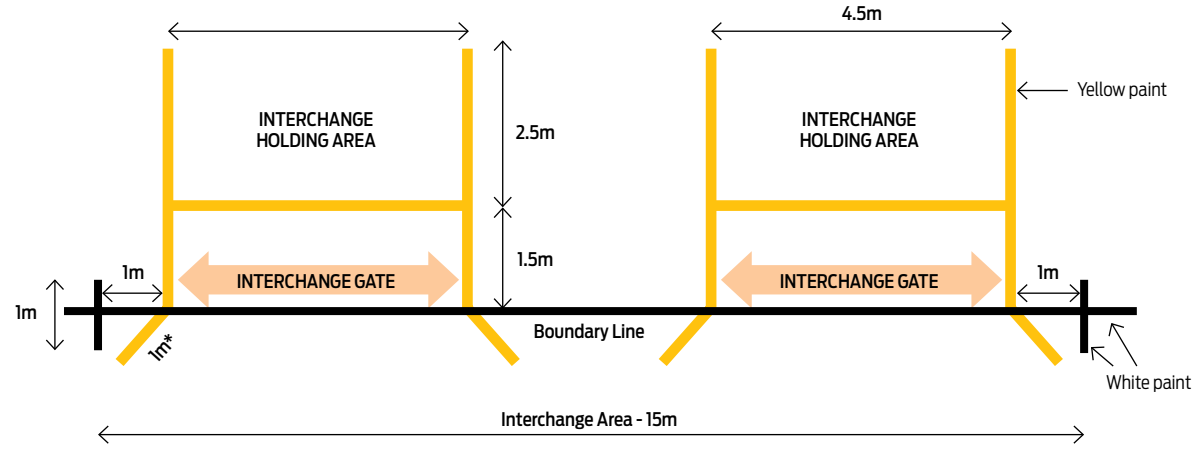
What you will need

- 2 x 50 metre tape measures
- 4 x tent pegs or screwdrivers to hold the tapes and string lines in place
- 165m length string line
- Trundle wheel or a method to measure required run-off from the fence to the boundary line
- Can of spot marking paint
- Line marking machine and paint



1 BEHIND GOAL NETTING
2 ACCESS GATE FOR MAINTENACE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES
3 ACCESS GATE FOR PLAYERS AND UMPIRES
4 PLAYER BENCH
5 OFFICIALS BENCH
6 INTERCHANGE GATE
7 SCOREBOARD
G GOAL POST
P POINT POST
OVAL LIGHTING

Interchange Gates



*45 degrees to the boundary line

Playing Surface

The process

1. Run a stringline from the middle of the goal line at one end to the middle at the other end.
2. Using a 50 metre tape measure or a 50 metre length of rope, anchor it on the goal line at your string line and walk along the string line until you reach the 50m measurement and mark a spot at the string line. This is the top of your 50-metre arc.
3. From there, walk in an arc with your tape or rope spot marking every few metres where 50m measures from the goal line. This will give you your arc.
4. Do the same at the other end of the ground.
5. Measure the distance along the stringline between the two 50 arcs.
6. Divide that number in half and that measurement will give you your centre. Spot mark the centre on the string line.
7. With your tape on your centre mark, measure out 5 metres and walk in the tapes arc and spot mark every couple of metres to dot out the outer centre circle.
8. With your tape on your centre mark, measure out 1.5 metres and walk in the tapes arc and spot mark every couple of metres to dot out the inner centre circle.
9. With your tape on your centre mark, measure 3 metres along the stringline and put a spot mark. We need to find the line that runs across the circle.
10. Keeping your tape on your centre mark, place a second tape measure on the mark 3 metres from centre.
11. With the centre tape, walk towards the wing away from the centre 4 metres, and then diagonally 5m from the 3m mark on the stringline to where those two measurements cross. Spot mark that point, then do the same for the other side of the stringline to form 2 points to guide you for the centre line.
12. Centre square. From the centre of the field, walk the tape and mark on the stringline at the 25m measurement.
13. With a second tape, anchor it at the 25m mark just marked.
14. With the second tape walking 25 metres towards the corner of where the square will be, and with the tape in the centre of the field, walk diagonally to cross the second tape. The diagonal tape should measure 35.35 metres where it crosses the second tape measuring 25 metres. This is the corner of your square. Repeat this for each corner.
15. Goal squares. You can either do these using the same method of 3-4-5 (same as finding the centre line in the centre circle) to get them square. If using this method, make sure the goal posts have been installed properly and they are square, otherwise the fullback might feel like he is kicking towards the carpark. Or you can measure 9 metres from the goal post and place an object there and walk back behind the goal and line up your object, so it falls in line with the 2 posts looking up the ground. Spot mark each corner.
16. Boundary line. If you have a fence measure a minimum of 4 metres off it. Spot mark every 10 metres around the ground to guide you for when you are ready to mark.
17. Interchange gates: White paint is ok to use for the interchange gates for Community Football (see over)
18. Once everything is spot marked, it is just a matter of following the spot marks. Use the stringline to get your centre square and goal lines straight.

Nathan Road Sporting Complex, Rothwell QLD