




Table Tennis Facilities

Table Tennis Victoria

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Lighting and Ceiling Height

- For the venue to be suitable for state tournaments and national competition, the minimum light intensity over the whole of the playing surface (measured at the table surface height) and the clear height from the floor to the light should be as follows:
 - The playing space of each court shall be not less than 10 meters long, 5 meters wide and 5 meters high. The 5m height is to the bottom of the lighting fixtures not ceiling height. Lighting levels should be consistent and uniform throughout the entire playing venue.
 - The light intensity, measured at the height of the playing surface, shall be at least 600 lux uniformly over the playing surface, and at least 400 lux elsewhere in the playing area of the court. For international competition lighting levels are much higher and need to satisfy the requirements for live streaming.
 - It is recommended that LED Lighting be used to significantly reduce running costs.
 - Lighting control must allow the lights above a table to be controlled individually as this will allow running costs to be reduced by only having lighting at tables in use

Flooring

- A good floor and/or floor covering is particularly important.
- The flooring's most important criteria is that it's non-slip, because players have to be able to move rapidly and re-position their feet without slipping. Floor cleaning is very important to minimize dust that causes slipping. Players need to wear suitable footwear to avoid tripping or damaging the floor surface.
- The floor must also be smooth and level and able to support the weight of the table tennis table and the players.
- Wooden semi-sprung floors provide the best surface whereas solid concrete and carpeted floors are unsuitable.
- The flooring must also provide a good visual contrast between the ball, table top surface and the surrounding areas, both for the benefit of the players and the spectators, so it should be dark and non reflective.
- All the modern table tennis venues now use specialist sports flooring on top of the wooden floor such as Taraflex® made by French company Gerflor and available from Floorwise (www.floorwise.com.au). The flooring is available in a total of 5 different colours. International specification requires a dark colour. Sections of flooring are welded together to ensure that there are no tripping hazards.
- If the venue has additional areas for other sports, then the floor surfaces on all areas should be at the same height.
- There should be large lockable double doors between these areas to enable the movement of equipment on trolleys when these areas may be needed for Tournaments.

Wall Colours

- The colour of the walls is important because players need a good visual contrast between the ball, floor, table and wall colours.
- • They should be non-reflective and painted with a dark colour up to a height of at least 2.5m.
- • Above 2.5m the walls should be painted a lighter colour so that you get maximum benefit from the lighting.
- • If there are any windows or other external light sources, there needs to be some method to enable them to be completely blanked out so that light, particularly sun light, does not leak through.
- • Hard areas or potential obstacles around courts where a collision could occur need to be padded to reduced the chance of player injury.

Heating and Cooling

- The ideal room temperature is 18-20 Degree C with a relative humidity of about 40%.
- It's also important that there's adequate ventilation because any condensation will make the floor slippery and dangerous. Condensation is also likely to damage the table surface and cannot be present on the table during play.
- If there are any air conditioning units, they need to ensure that they don't cause any air currents which will deflect the flight of the ball. Floor venting is a method suitable to avoid this problem. Whirly Gigs should be fitted with electrically controlled baffles to help minimise sunlight problems and to control air flow at different times of the year.
- Passive systems like insulation are encouraged to minimise ongoing costs and airflow problems. Insulation also assists with the efficiency of any active temperature control systems.
- Spectators' comfort should also be considered, but obviously the playing conditions take priority.
- Ideally temperature and humidity sensors for monitoring purposes should be located in the playing and social areas. Monitoring should match Sports Medicine Australia and the Table Tennis National Heat Policy guidelines.

Tables and Table Layout

- A 10m x 5m (33 feet x 17 feet) is a good standard court size to use at club level, not including player seating.
- The number of tables required is based on the numbers required for daily/weekly use (taking into account forecast expansion targets) and also what capacity is available to expand to run tournaments. The type and size of tournaments that can be run is directly related to the number of tables that are able to be operational at any one time. Operational means with suitable equipment, court sizes and lighting.
- Although a smaller playing area could be used, for wheelchair players it would not be ideal for players who are more advanced than beginners and social players.
- As the standard of the competition increases the court playing area needed, will also increase.
- At international level, an area of not less than 14m long, 7m wide is required.

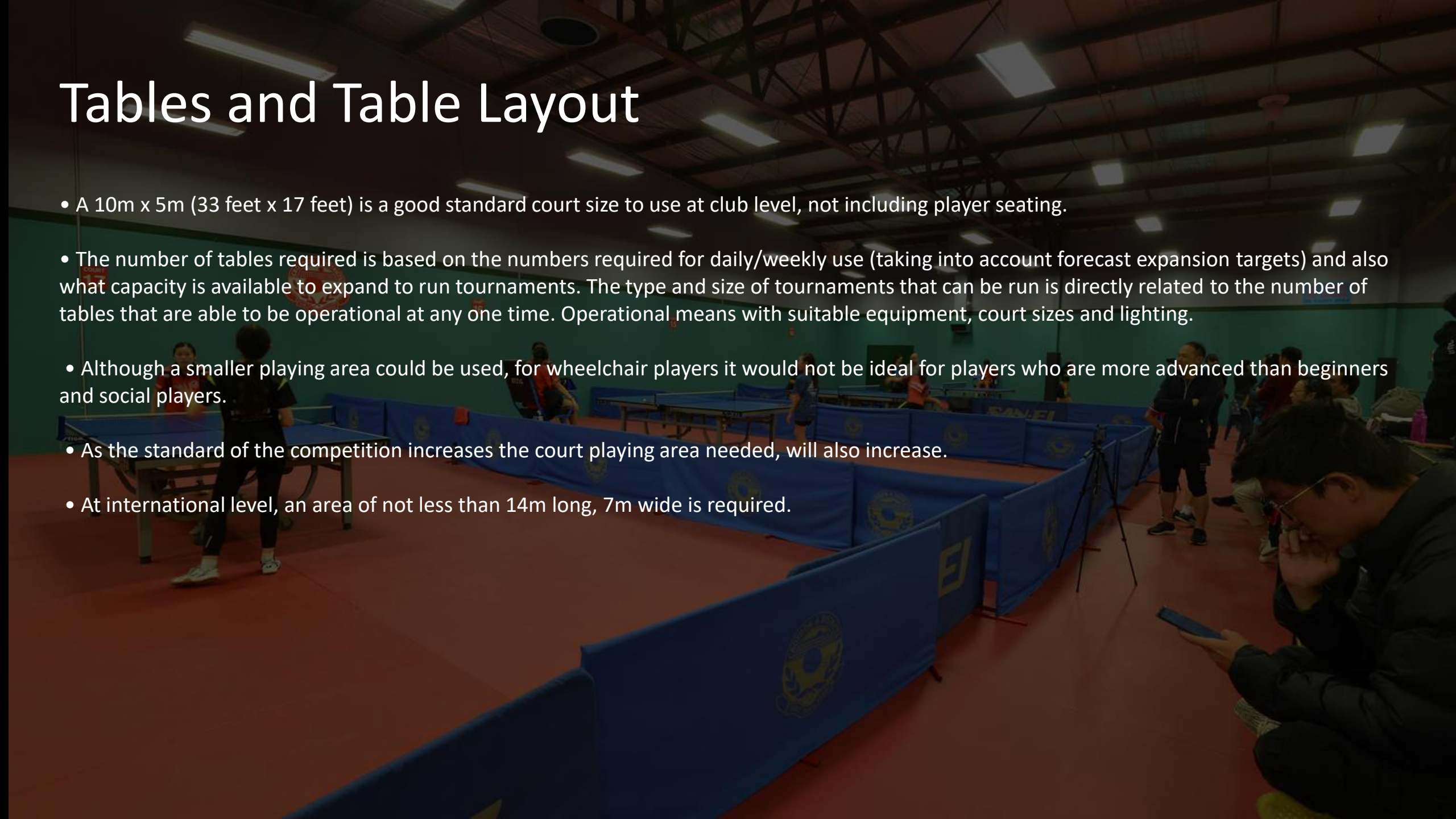


Table Tennis Surrounds and Barriers

- Barriers between your table tennis tables will be very useful to stop the ball from straying into adjoining courts and minimize interruptions from other tables.
- Barriers should not be permanent fixed types because they don't allow the flexibility to adjust court sizes to meet the different needs of social, competition or tournament play. Portable barriers also significantly improve the efficiency of floor cleaning and maintenance.
- Table tennis barriers must be collapsible rather than solid, so that they won't harm any player who runs into them.
- Ideally, they should be about 1.5m long and 75cm high and should completely enclose the playing area and be dark in colour. Colour and size of any logos on the barriers are regulated.

A photograph of a table tennis tournament in progress. In the foreground, a player in a blue and yellow shirt is in motion on the left side of a table. Several spectators are seated in blue plastic chairs, some with bags and equipment. The background shows a large hall with a balcony where more people are watching. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the court area.

Seating

Allowance should be made for sufficient space for the seating (and bags) of players at the court. During tournaments seating should be available for at least a coach and a player from each team, seating for pennant players should also be considered. This seating is in addition to the requirements of spectators, but it is important to leave enough practical access and emergency access space for people movement in any seating layout



Storage

A number of different types of storage areas will be needed.

- **SMALLER STORAGE**

- • There will need to be a smaller storage area that can be accessed quickly and easily. In this area will be used to store items that are accessed frequently. These might be things like bats for use by social players or school bookings. A first aid kit. Forms for membership application. Table cleaning apparatus etc. Pens, pencils, paper, scorebooks, trophy's awaiting presentation or pickup. Scoreboards, spare nets and posts and balls etc.
- • There will be other expensive items such as laptop computers, computer displays etc. that will be needed for tournament competition. Table Tennis Robot and accessories for practice sessions and coaches equipment. Office equipment that is used with reasonable regularity which might include printers, scanners, laminators, electric stapler, shredder etc.
- • This storage area should be attached to the Administrative Office as that is where most of this equipment will be used or distributed from.



Storage

2. Larger storage

- • Another area of storage would include an area large enough (typically 12m x 5m) to store all the extra tables, barriers, scoreboards, umpire's chairs, chairs etc. that would be needed for tournaments.
- • There may also be other larger pieces of cleaning equipment (floor scrubber) that may need to be kept there.
- • This storage area should be at floor level to allow easy movement of equipment.
- • All equipment should be able to be stored on movable trolleys to make the task of transporting equipment as easy as possible
- • There should be access points at either end of the storage area. This will allow delivery of any equipment easily and with minimum effort. Outside access will entail an area where a truck could back up to a storage area and drop off or pick up items.
- • A roller door rather than double doors would be more secure and allow the truck to backup to the door. A roller door means that an area that could be used for storage is not taken up because of the need to have a clear space to allow for doors when open.
- • At the other end of the storage area a large opening should be available whose floor level is at the same height as the playing area floor to allow easy transportation of equipment. Again, a roller door would be better due to the reasons already stated.
- • This storage area should have lighting and power points.



Cleaners Cupboard

- A cleaner's cupboard will be needed to allow storage of cleaning equipment (brooms, mops, buckets, vacuum cleaner etc. and chemicals).
- It should have a cleaners sink with hot and cold taps.
- The sink should be mounted at a height that will allow a mop bucket to be placed under the taps and filled
- The sink should be large enough to allow the emptying of mop buckets after cleaning.



Changing Toilet Facilities

- Toilet and changing rooms should be determined by the maximum participant attendance that the venue will cater for during tournaments. While pennant competition will have consistent numbers every week, tournament numbers will be much larger, so toilet facilities will need to cater for these numbers as the hire of portable toilets may not be feasible or even desirable.
- Changing rooms should have showers and a change area with seats and hooks for clothes available.
- These should be available for both men and women.
- A disability toilet with shower and changing facility should be available.
- There should also be a change room, with a change table and seating available for parents of young children.

Meeting Room

- • At different times meetings will need to take place. A meeting room or an area that could be used for meetings is needed. Consideration needs to be made to manage noise if the playing areas are also in use during meetings. Smaller tables that can be arranged to make a larger table are a good practical solution.
- • This area, if it is an open space could also be used for social events, presentation ceremonies and as a gathering place for players to socialise.
- • This area could be associated with a canteen that would function during larger events. A chair for each table space should be available. Extra chairs and tables needed for tournaments should be available in storage.
- • This area needs to have lots of wall space to enable information and promotional posters to be placed in plain sight and allow Honour Boards to be mounted.

Canteen

- • A canteen area needs to be provided. On most occasions the canteen will only need to have a fridge, hot water, tea, coffee, milk, sugar or sweetener available.
- • Canteens should have equipment such pie warmers, ovens, hot water urns and fridges available as well as a washing up sink, potentially a dishwasher and plenty of storage space for storage of equipment and other items such as tea towels, cutlery and crockery etc.
- • Though the canteen will probably not be in full use all the time it is an important source of income for the venue and should be included.
- • There should be plenty of bench space to allow preparation of food.
- • It needs to be able to be secured and also cater for several different user groups to store their items and use the facility.

A female table tennis player in an orange shirt is shown in a ready position, holding her paddle and ball. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium setting.

Other Equipment

Other equipment that is both necessary and profitable needs to be included in plans

- • There should be at least one chilled water dispenser that will work as a drink fountain and as a source where drink bottles can be filled.
- • There should be room to place both an automated drink dispenser and snack food dispenser. These can be put in place within the venue, they cost nothing to have there and the providers will pay the venue to situate them there. Again, another source of income.
- • Table Tennis Robot. This may be hired out for use and again provide another source of income.
- • Umpires chairs, one for each table are needed. Chairs should be higher than the tables to allow umpires a clear view of the playing area. Umpires chairs should have a swivel platform to allow scoring equipment and boards to be effectively used throughout matches.
- • A PA system with a wireless microphone to allow information and announcements from anywhere in the building should be installed. This is essential to communicate safety issues and is needed to run tournaments. Speakers need to be strategically located around the stadium so that players when playing can clearly hear the announcements above the background noise.
- • Phone and internet connections should be installed. This is now a requirement for many printers and Tournament software

Access

- The building should be designed to be readily accessible to wheelchairs and the visually impaired. Appropriate access is required onto the playing courts not just the social areas.
- Swipe Card access to the building should be considered. A card could be issued to financial members who could use the card to access the building at a time that suits them. This method could be used to cater for players who work during evenings, at night or shift work.
- The card system could also be used to record the lengths of lighting use and allow or prevent access to certain areas of the building.

A young boy in a red shirt is in the middle of a table tennis stroke, focused on the ball. He is in a large indoor sports arena with other people and tables in the background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

• Power Outlets

- Sufficient power outlets should be available in many areas to meet the needs of computers, catering and cleaning equipment or use of a table tennis robots.
- Some larger 15-amp sockets may need to be provided for high powered equipment.

Solar Power

- The building should incorporate the use of solar panels to reduce energy costs if at all possible, during construction.

Parking

- The amount of parking areas should be determined by anticipated tournament numbers. Parking needs to be able to cater for larger than usual daily usage, as on tournament days this may cause problems in surrounding streets with both access and safety concerns.
- During weekdays the parking areas of some municipality's may need to be time limited to prevent workers or shoppers or people using public transport from occupying parking spaces. Other methods may need to be devised to suit the situation.
- There must also be a dedicated parking bay for emergency vehicles such as ambulances. This area should be immediately adjacent to an area where an ambulance trolley can move directly from the inside of the building directly to the ambulance without the problem of stairs or gutters.
- There should also be disabled access parking areas for wheelchair access where people can leave their vehicle and use their wheelchair to enter the playing area without having to overcome steps or gutters

Administration Office

- There needs to be an Administration Office between the entrance and the playing area.
- It should be in a position where the playing area is clearly visible.
- The Administration office is the centre where playing fees for players will be collected
- It is also the area where scores and other information can be submitted or collected and contains the PA system. It is the area needed for the display of draws and other information and can be shown by computer display
- A clear window display so that the public can see into the office is required. It should be sufficiently large that all administration work can be completed during tournaments.
- The administration office could also incorporate a lockable storage area as mentioned as storage area 1 under the heading of storage.
- The office may also be used for the display of Trophies.
- The table tennis equipment sales could also be incorporated in the Administration Office.

Safety and Information

- There should be an area accessible to everyone where information covering all Essential Safety Measures and Building Maintenance Logs are kept.
- It should be placed in a labelled storage container and mounted on the wall in clear view of players and spectators.
- Emergency Evacuation Procedures should also be displayed in plain sight.
- An emergency evacuation exit is required, preferably several.
- A defibrillator should be an essential instillation. They can either be purchased or you may be able to obtain one through a grant (<https://defibshop.com.au/grants-fundraising/>)
- A fully stocked first aid kit should be readily accessible with cold packs available for sprains.

Security

- Security cameras should be prominent at the entrance to the venue to deter and to record any activity of intruders.
- Either outside lights should be on a time delay circuit to allow people to safely reach their cars late at night or lighting covering the exit to the parking area automatically switched on at night. This is particularly important for females exiting the building late at night.
- Rubbish Bins
 - There must be an area set aside for rubbish and recycle bins. The area must be located for easy access for both the facility users and bin collectors.
 - Sufficient space needs to be provided for bins inside the stadium. Bins should be able to be moved from inside the venue to the outside storage area without the need to use steps or other impediments.
 - Bins should be located in a secure area to prevent bin theft or vandalism.