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1.7 GUIDE FOR BASKETBALL FACILITIES



WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS CHAPTER?

Building the Facility That is Right for You

The building or the refurbishing of basketball facilities is a vast, technical topic.

It requires financial as well as technical knowledge, plus it requires support from the political and social communities in the area.

This chapter is not designed to outline all the details mentioned above but to highlight the requirements needed to ensure that the right facility is being built.

Before building or refurbishing, you need to carefully evaluate what's best for you, for basketball in your area, but also for your community as such. This means that your facility should be created to fulfill a need.

To persuade your local authorities that a basketball facility is what is needed in your area you need to be prepared to answer questions. The better you are prepared, the more you can prove the facility will be used at full potential. This preparation will lead to greater success.



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1. Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to give guidelines for the National Federations for the construction or refurbishment of basketball arenas. The following three facilities are detailed in the guide:

- Basketball facilities for high-level competitions
- Small basketball facilities
- Outdoor and semi covered courts

When deciding the size of a new basketball facility, demand is a fundamental element to be considered, since the supply of services, including the planning is to be promoted and organized accordingly. The demand for facilities depends on:

- The favorite sports activities of the population
- The sports interests of the population
- The promotion of local sports events
- The existing sport facilities

Over the past few years the demand for sports has been increasing in almost every country, partly under the influence of mass media, thus converting sports events into great social happenings. An aspect to be considered separately is a modern concept of planning facilities based on the idea of real entertainment not just merely a basketball game. In many countries, mainly due to economical conditions outdoor or semi-covered basketball facilities are preferred to the indoor halls. With high quality sport equipment (i.e. synthetic floorings, backstop units, etc.) the training of the young basketball players can be very effective.

The main advantage provided by indoor basketball facilities is the total independence from meteorological conditions. Smaller facilities may this way be exploited by planning their use according to a weekly timetable envisaging the presence of school pupils in the morning, young people belonging to sports associations in the early afternoon. Finally, in the evening, basketball is practiced by working people wishing to remain healthy and physically fit.

Facilities where high level basketball competitions take place, in order to fill the arena that often has the capacity of more than 10.000 – 15.000 spectators, the idea of multifunctional purpose should be studied. For these facilities two main aspects deserve consideration:

- the organization of various events and/or entertainment
- the multifunctional use of the areas for the practice of sports

Apart from conceiving facilities as multifunctional infrastructures catering for different sports, it is advisable to envisage their use also for other purposes than sports competitions (for instance: concerts, fairs, public meetings, etc.) The advantages of this approach include increased direct proceeds from the hiring of auxiliary services (bar, cloakroom, car parks, etc.) as well as advertising banners, which may reach a wider target.

The correct management of sports facilities is not easy. The under-exploitation of facilities, low levels of personnel efficiency, inadequate service, running costs are all aspects on account of which facilities often become unmanageable. Unfortunately the management problem is often raised when the construc-



tion of the facilities is already advanced or even completed. Particularly for high-level sport facilities, the managers are often confronted with the situation of formally beautiful facilities, which end up being unmanageable on account of excessive administrative and personnel costs as well as complicated maintenance. Therefore when planning to construct a new basketball facility, the National Federation shall assess the following:

- Catchments area of the structure
- Location of the facilities in the local sports environment
- Adequate service provision
- Sports activities practicable within the arena
- The use of facilities by individual users, associations, etc. (Professional athletes, spectators, amateur sportsmen, etc.)
- Sport management personnel
- Costs

In order to avoid problems in the future, a budget shall be prepared that includes the following major items:

- Income, deriving from sport competitions, cultural programs, fairs, sports practice, etc. and advertising and marketing activities.
- Expenditure, that is consumption, technical services and administrative/personnel expenses.

When all the above criteria are carefully studied, the national federation, local governments, etc, can decide on the capacity and the function of the new arena.

In the next section, the requirements for facility with different functions and capacities are detailed.

2. Basketball Facilities for High Level Competitions (+3000 seats)

The following events are considered as high level basketball competitions with the minimum seating capacities indicated:

- The Olympic Tournaments
 - Preliminary round: 7,500 seats
 - All further rounds: 12,000 seats
- The Olympic Qualifying Tournaments for Men and Women
 - Preliminary round: 6,000 seat
 - All further rounds: 10,000 seats
- The FIBA World Championship for Men
 - Preliminary round: 7,500 seats
 - All further rounds: 15,000 seats
- The FIBA World Championship for Women





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- Preliminary round: 4,000 seats
- All further rounds: 8,000 seats
- The FIBA U-21 World Championship
 - Preliminary round: 4,000 seats
 - All further rounds: 8,000 seats
- The FIBA Women’s U-21 World Championship
 - Preliminary round: 4,000 seats
 - All further rounds: 8,000 seats
- The FIBA U-19 World Championship
 - Preliminary round: 4,000 seats
 - All further rounds: 8,000 seats
- The FIBA Women’s U-19 World Championship
 - Preliminary round: 3,000 seats
 - All further rounds: 5,000 seats
- All Continental or Zone Championships, including all qualifying tournaments and games for these championships
 - Preliminary round: 5,000 – 8,000 seats
 - All further rounds: 10,000 – 15,000 seats

In order to be approved by FIBA for high level competitions, the basketball facilities have to meet the basic requirements contained in this section. For further details please refer to the FIBA Safety Standards publication.

2.1 Parking Areas

Every facility shall be provided with sufficient space to be used as parking areas for personal and public transport vehicles. Special arrangements should be made for those involved at the game (players, referees, game officials, media, etc.)

Spectator Parking

The minimum of total parking area shall conform with the construction regulations in force but not be less than 1 square meter for every spectator.

Participant and Guest Parking

Adequate parking places are provided for the athletes’, officials and the representatives of the media. These parking shall be located in the close proximity of the relevant entrances.

Television Broadcast van parking

Sufficient space to form a TV compound must be provided at each stadium for the parking of all production vehicles, OB vans, transportable earth stations and computer technical vehicles. It must be fully secured with no access for the general public.



2.2 Arena Access

The entrance hall shall provide for the unhindered flow of the public, where secure and separate access shall be guaranteed for the following groups:

- Teams
- Referees and game officials
- Accredited media representatives
- VIPs
- Volunteers
- Local staff

2.3 Sports Activities Areas

In addition to the central playing court, it is recommended to provide at least two other courts with a minimum seating capacity for training purposes and pre-game warm-ups, as well as a work-out and fitness room measuring at least 50 square meters for training and specific muscle exercises.

Playing Court

The playing court shall be rectangular, level, made of wood and clear of any obstacles, measuring 28 meters x 15 meters with a minimum height of 7 meters.

Playing Area

In addition to the central playing court, the playing area includes a 2 meter wide perimeter line around the court's end lines and sidelines. The outer limits of this perimeter might have advertising boards (at least on the 3 sides, opposite to the players' benches and the scorers' table).

Provisions should be made in every facility for a further line at least 1.80 meters in width, off-limits to the public and reserved for:

- Commissioners, photographers at the ends of the court
- An external safety area, on the length of the court
- Game officials and team benches on one length of the court

The first row of spectator seating may not be less than 5 meters away from the playing court's outer limits.

2.4 Support Services Areas

The support services areas comprise all the zones where operations which are essential to competitions are carried out. It is recommended to plan with a height of at least 2.70 meters. In the changing rooms, toilets and showers, the height shall be no less than 2.40 meters.

Athletes changing rooms

The facility shall be equipped with at least 4 changing rooms for the athletes. The rooms shall be divided up to the following functions:

- Area where the players get changed with synthetic or tiled floor. It shall be equipped with benches, coat racks or wardrobes, one small bed for massage and one blackboard. (Minimum 20 square meters)



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- Antechamber with non-slip waterproof covering, that links the changing rooms with the toilets and showers, equipped with mirrors and coat racks. (Minimum 5 square meters)
- Shower area, covered with non-slip waterproof material, with at least 4 showers for 15 persons. (Minimum 12 square meters)
- Toilets and washbasin

Changing rooms for referees and other game officials

At least 2 changing rooms for the referees and other game officials should be planned with a minimum surface of at least 15 m². The officials' changing rooms shall include the following:

- Area where the officials get changed with synthetic or tiled floor. It shall be equipped with benches, coat racks or wardrobes, one small bed for massage and one blackboard. (Minimum 12 square meters)
- Antechamber with non-slip waterproof covering, that links the changing rooms with the toilets and showers, equipped with mirrors and coat racks. (Minimum 3 square meters)
- Shower area, covered with non-slip waterproof material, with at least 2 showers. (Minimum 8 square meters)
- Toilets and washbasin

Staff changing rooms

The staff changing rooms shall be sized based on the number of staff involved in the preparation of the playing court, cleaning, technical plant maintenance, etc. These rooms shall be located away from the area of the athlete's and officials' changing rooms.

Doping control area

The doping control area must be located inside the building, so that it may be easily reached from the playing area. The area shall accommodate at least 10 persons at the same time. The doping control station shall not be used for any other purpose such as storage, sick room, office, toilet, etc. The room must contain the following:

- A waiting area with chairs (Minimum 15 square meters)
- The doping control area itself, where the controls are carried out shall be equipped with a series of visible toilets with front facing mirrors (Minimum 15 square meters).
- A sanitary area with a shower (Minimum 5 square meters)

First aid area

The first aid area shall enable first aid as well as normal preventive medical consultation to be given and be within easy reach of all the other sections of the facility.

There shall be a separate first aid room for the players and the public. The first aid room for players shall be situated so as to be directly and rapidly reached by the emergency services outside the hall as well as from the playing court itself. The access shall be possible from the ground floor and free of all obstacles, so the injured player may be conveyed there quickly.

The first aid room for the public shall enable first aid to be administered to the public. It shall be easily accessible from the tribunes and to the ambulances coming from outside the hall through reserved routes.



Both areas shall include a toilet and a sink preferably with an antechamber allowing direct access from the first aid room. The area shall be adequately equipped and have a minimum dimension of 30 square meters. The furniture and equipment shall include:

- A bed for medical examinations, approximately 2.40 meters long and 0.60 meters wide
- A folding stretcher
- A desk with armchair
- A wardrobe
- A coat rack
- An oxygen cylinder

Storage rooms

The storage rooms shall be lockable and large enough to hold all the equipment necessary for the various sports. This area shall enable easy access of all equipment from outside the hall and unhindered transportation of the equipment within the building. There shall be a separate room for storing the material of the International Federation/commercial partners.

Administrative offices

The offices shall allow the facility's technical administrative operations to be carried out. They shall be sized according to how large the arena is, although it is recommended that every area have a floor space of no less than 20 square meters. For high level competitions, offices shall be dedicated to the International Federations' President/Secretary General and Secretariat.

Hospitality Area

The Arena shall be equipped with a hospitality room, which shall be situated close to the Tribune of Honor. The following of reserved areas shall be provided to receive VIP guests in an efficient and functional manner:

- At least 1 hospitality room that is suitable for at least 100 persons
- A least 1 small reserved room for approximately 15 persons

Parking spaces for a minimum of 50 cars shall be positioned in an easily accessible area well connected to the inside of the hall and possibly close to the hospitality room.

Media Area

Particular care is required in terms of positioning of media representatives and the facilities they require. In order to provide appropriate working conditions for the media, the arena shall have the following facilities: (For further details please check the Media relations section.)

- Media entrance
- Media welcome desk
- Press and commentator tribunes
- Media workroom
- Press conference room
- TV area and facilities



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- Photographer area
- Mixed zone

2.5 Tribunes

Spectators' tribunes

Areas intended for spectators shall allow free movement of members of the public, including persons with a disability and a comfortable view of the sporting event.

The first row of the spectators' seating shall not be less than 5 meters from the perimeter of the court. Every facility that has a crowd capacity in excess of 2000 shall have areas subdivided into sections. The capacity of each section shall not exceed 400 spectators in each one. Every section shall have at least 2 exits.

The area intended for spectators shall be equipped with toilets and first aid facilities in accordance with local hygiene and safety standards. It is also recommended to construct refreshment and rest areas for the spectators.

VIP tribune (Tribune of Honor)

The tribune of honor shall be located in a central position, close to the playing field and if possible, opposite to the players' benches. It shall be suitable for at least 50 guests and shall be right next to the VIP hospitality room. The area shall be inaccessible for the public.

Participants' tribunes

A sufficient number of seats shall be reserved in a special tribune for the players, coaches and other officials of the participating teams.

2.6 Technical Installation Plant

The technical installation plant is required to ensure suitable environmental conditions in terms of air, lighting, etc. These requirements are met by providing rooms and equipment for the following technical installation systems:

- Electricity
- Lighting
- Heating and air-conditioning
- Water and sanitary facilities
- Sound systems
- Fire safety facilities
- Energy saving systems

3. Small Basketball Facilities (100 – 3,000 seats)

It is recommended to construct small basketball facilities for:

- National Basketball League games
- School activities
- Sport clubs
- Multisport Associations



To make a facility as useable as possible, it is recommended to allow a certain number of functions which could take place either simultaneously or at different times, i.e. to make a multi-purpose structure.

The facility can be subdivided into the following sections:

- Sporting activities section
- Support services section
- Public section
- Technical plant section

3.1 Sporting Activities Section

The sporting activities section is the central component of the facility. In the below diagram the perfectly regular playing court is envisaged with small spectator section on one side for 100 people. In case of demand, telescopic tribunes can be installed around the playing court.

The playing court shall be a rectangular, flat, hard surface free from obstructions. For the FIBA competitions, the dimensions shall be 28 meter in length by 15 meter in width, measured from the inside edge of the boundary line.

The height of the ceiling or the lowest obstruction shall be at least 7 meter. The playing surface shall be uniformly and adequately lighted. The light units shall be placed where they will not hinder the players' vision.

The playing court shall be at least 2 meters away from the spectators, advertising boards or any other obstruction including the bench personnel.

3.2 Support Services Section

The support services section consists of all places where functions are carried out, such as changing rooms, first aid services, storage rooms, administration facilities, etc. Such areas should be planned totally free of architectural barriers to the extent that they are useable by the disabled. It would be a good rule to make specific provisions for at least the following:

Changing rooms:

At least two rooms for the athletes shall be foreseen and one for referees, which if of a certain size will be able to be used as three athletes' changing rooms. In addition to that provision should be made for one room for court officials, which can be used outside of the competition times as a trainer's changing room.

All changing rooms shall be fitted with showers and toilets. The space necessary for each person to undress and change which can be defined as a "changing area" should be calculated at 1.6 square meters per person.

First aid room:

This area must allow quick medical action as well as normal preventive medical consultations. Therefore, this area shall be located in such way that access is easy. It should be fitted with an examination table, a stretcher, a writing desk, a cupboard, a coat peg and the relevant medical equipment for the first aid.

The first aid room shall be available for both the athletes and for the members of the public.



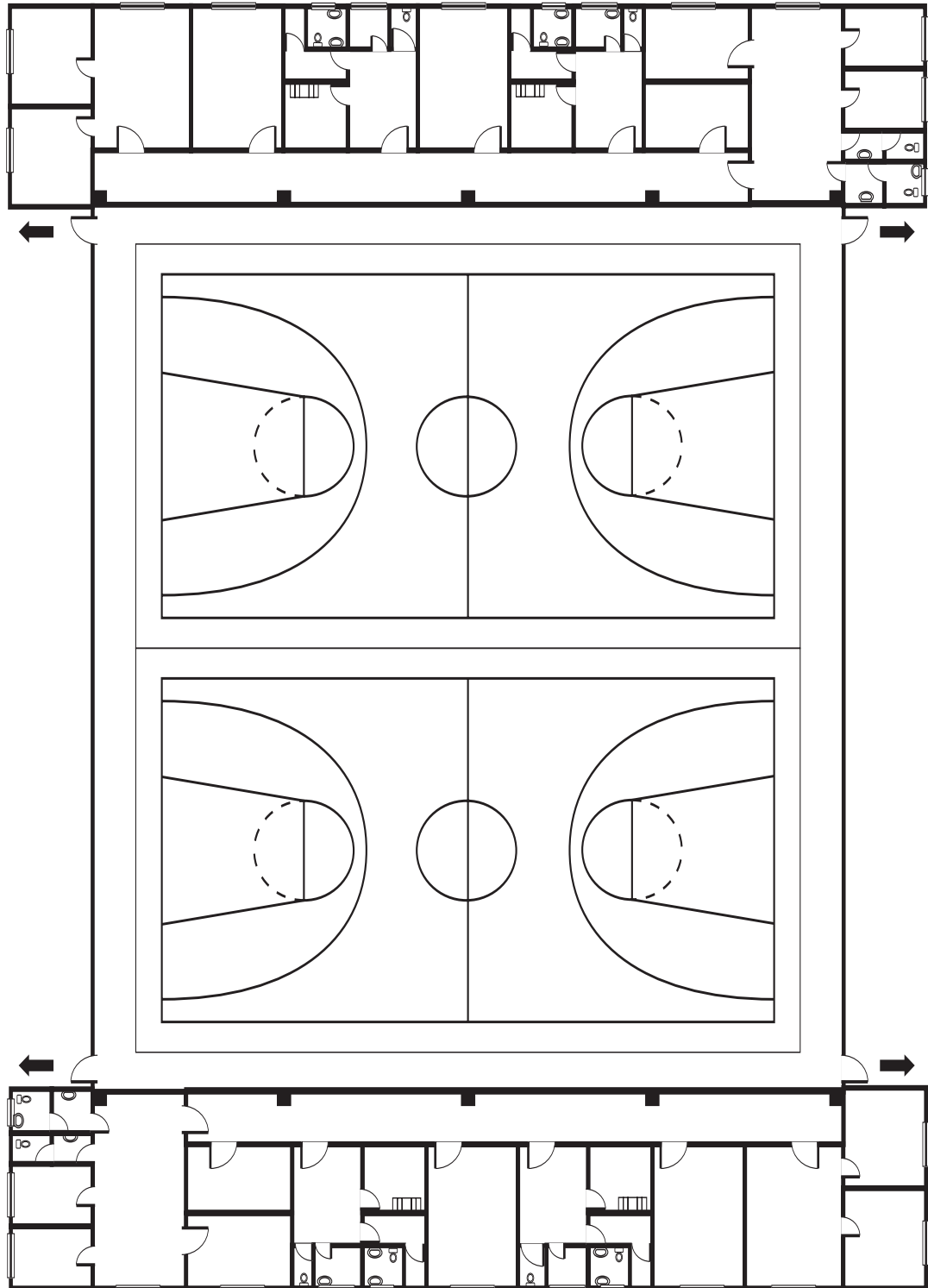
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Small basketball facility plan





Equipment storage:

This should be of a sufficient size for the storage of various pieces of equipment and must allow easy access from outside of the sporting facility with the same ease of access to the sporting activities area. The temperature and the humidity level must be kept within suitable levels so as not to damage the wooden equipment stored on site.

Administrative office:

This must allow for the facility administration and coaching staff to carry out their work, with a floor space of at least 10 square meters, although this should be assessed depending on the requirements of the sports facility in question.

3.3 Public Section

The public section allows spectators to view sporting activities as they take place, as well as all the ancillary and additional functions such as entry and exit to and from the facility, payment for tickers and the care and hygiene of each person. The public section consists of:

- Foyer
- Ticket office
- Bar – cloakroom
- Toilet facilities
- Seating

Foyer:

This serves as a channel of the public entering and leaving, provide public information services about activities and match results, enable checks by staff members as well as providing telephone and ticketing services. The area in front of the foyer can be used by spectators for parking. (It is advisable to calculate 1 square meter parking per spectator.)

Ticket office:

This must be located so as not to block the flow of the public. For security purposes it would be a good rule to fit out the premises with protection from break-ins or people climbing over.

Bar – cloakroom:

Provision may be made for this in the immediate vicinity of the staircase to allow spectators quick access to the refreshment service. The cloakroom service can be integrated and built in an appropriate size, depending on the requirements and according to the location of the facility.

Toilet facilities:

At least two toilets should be planned, respectively for men and for women, in an easily accessible location, each one equipped with a vestibule and a toilet, including one for disabled.

Seating

Seating for members of the public must allow access, ordered spectator seating, viewing of the court, access to various services (toilets, bar, etc.) and shall be built in such a size in accordance with the requirements. Given the multi-purpose nature of the structure, fixed seating may be replaced with pre-fabricated or telescopic stands which can be removed for sporting activities not attended by the public



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3.4 Technical Plant Section

Power plant:

This enables installation of the technical plant necessary for the operation of the facility (heating, air-conditioning, etc.) with a minimum floor space of 10 – 15 square meters, which can vary depending on the requirements and the size of the sports facility.

Heating ventilation room:

This must be located in the immediate vicinity of the power plant and will be used for mixing air at closely regulated temperature and humidity levels as required for the use of the facility.

Supplementary plant room:

Provision may be made for the location and monitoring of the plant (production of hot water for personal use, water for showers and toilets, fire extinguisher systems, lighting protection, earth-fault protection, electrical systems including transformers, distribution, normal and emergency lighting, service signs, security and public address systems, etc.)

4. Outdoor Facilities

As previously mentioned, in many countries due to economical or climatic reasons the construction of outdoor basketball courts is necessary.

It is important to place the outdoor basketball courts in the immediate proximity of facilities already providing for the possibility of socialization such as schools; existing sports centers; green spaces available in densely inhabited areas; parking facilities that are not in frequent use; and trade fairs exhibition areas.

Moreover, it should be reminded that it is possible to realize outdoor basketball courts in tourist sites that experience seasonal peaks in population to allow an alternative for leisure time (i.e. outdoor facilities built in proximity of beaches in seaside locations).

4.1 The Playing Court

As in the case of indoor facilities, the outdoor playing courts should also measure 28 meters x 15 meters with a perimeter zone of 2 meters. The court shall be free from any obstacles. For outdoor

It is important to place the outdoor basketball courts in the immediate proximity of facilities of socialization.

basketball courts a slope of maximum 1 per cent is allowed from the center of the court to allow easy run-off of water in the event of rain.

In outdoor basketball courts another climatic factor may arise, that is solar radiation, glare affecting players and referees should therefore be kept to a minimum by ensuring that the sun is in a lateral position with respect to the main axis of the court of play. Therefore, a North/South orientation of the main axis with a tolerance of 10° to 15° deviation is advised depending on the country where the court is built.

The above consideration will also have to take into account the latitude at which the court is being built.

In addition to the playing court, additional optional structures such as changing rooms and lighting for evening and night use of the field may be present.

The construction of the changing rooms will have to be cost-effective and environmental friendly.



4.2 Area Parameters

The specific characteristics of the area where the outdoor basketball court will have to be built, in addition to the more general features specified above, are as follows:

- the site should take into account the need for the proper orientation of the court and any future extensions;
- the site is to be chosen according to the geographical characteristics and morphology of the terrain: it should be geologically stable and flat in order to limit earth movements and the need for supporting structures (walls, etc.);
- the site should not be prone to flooding and should not need anything more complex than a simple drainage system;
- the site should be protected from particular weather conditions such as strong winds (for the building of natural windbreaks);
- the site should be in a location that has an integrated transportation network system (roads; railways; buses; underground, etc.) to enable visitors to gain access to the site easily; to enable the access of emergency vehicles; and to allow the orderly and safe dispersal of spectators crowds;
- the site location must allow easy use of public services such as lighting, water and sewage;
- the site is to have a flexible character, in order to allow for multi-purpose use of the playing court and a subsequent possible conversion of the court into a different use according to future requirements;
- the area must be built away from large electro-magnetic sources and noise pollution for screening reasons;
- the area is to be subject to a simple geological inspection in order to ascertain which type of terrain is present and to establish whether there are underground water streams.



4.3 The Surface

Having determined the location, dimensions and orientation of the court, an analysis of the construction concepts should be provided so that the building work can proceed. To do this, it must consider how the surface will be built with the appropriate subgrade (binder). The structure of the surface will be as follows:

- base level
- base course
- subgrade
- surface



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Base level (excavation and filling material)

This is the base on which the various layers of the surface must rest; therefore, it must have the necessary stability and uniformity requirements. If the chosen site is flat, general excavation will be carried out to eliminate the top layer by cm 30 to 40.

If the site is on a slope, excavation will be by terracing of the higher part, transporting the material to the lower part, and containing the material with support work. Adequate consolidation should be ensured to avoid subsequent differentiated settlement or subsidence.

Base course (aggregate)

The base course consists of granular material, from a river or quarry, stabilized with natural binding material or crushed quarry stones in continuous grading, covered with gravel and chippings 8-10 cm thick, well rolled and compacted. Compaction tests must be carried out on the aggregate in line with the current regulations at the place of construction.

The two solutions that are possible for the type of surface and its subgrade are asphalt and concrete surface.

Asphalt surface:

Subgrade (binder)

The subgrade will consist of hot bitumen-coated chippings, spread with a vibratory finisher and rolled with a sufficiently heavy roller, after spraying the aggregate with bitumen emulsion. The function of this layer is to link the surface subject to wear and the base course, and it will therefore not be as resistant to wear as the upper layer.

Surface (upper layer)

The upper layer will consist of hot bitumen-coated chippings and sand, spread with a vibratory finisher and rolled with a sufficiently heavy roller, after spraying the binder below with bitumen emulsion.

The mixture of components must guarantee a surface which is uniform, resistant to the compression of active loads, flexible and resistant to abrasion and stable in external temperatures. It must be possible to paint the surface, to mark out the court, and it must also be possible to apply a resin or rubber surface.

Concrete surface:

Subgrade (concrete base)

The base will consist of a 9-10 cm layer of concrete, with cement mixture of 350 kg/m³, reinforced with electrically welded mesh, and placed on the underlying layer of fine sand 2-3 cm thick, separated by a polythene sheet (2/10 thick). The function of the sand and polythene is to separate the base from the aggregate and therefore allow movements of the base due to shrinkage and variations in temperature.

Surface (base finishing layer)

The base must have a surface finish with cement screed and final finishing and smoothing; the court lines should then be painted on.



The choice of one solution over the other will depend on the availability and therefore the cost of the materials, and the heat and climatic conditions of the place where the facility is to be built.

For both solutions it is highly recommended to use a PVC resin or rubber surface.

4.4 Basketball Equipment

The following equipment will have to be provided:

Baskets

A pair of baskets fixed to the ground with one or two poles, for each basket, placed at a height of 3.05 m from the ground. The distance of the pole from the end court line must be at least 1 m.

The backboard and net must comply with the dimensions laid down in the regulations while the choice of material must take into account the problems of damage and wear due to the meteorological and climatic conditions of the place where the facility is built.

Players' benches

These must be set out on the same side as the court officials' table.

They can be either benches or seats for coaches and players who are temporarily not on the court. The bench area must be marked out in accordance with FIBA rules.

Court officials' table

This must be set up alongside the half way line. It must be positioned at a distance not less than 1 m from the side line.

4.5 Additional Options

In addition to the general requirements described above, some other items can be provided, to make the facility more comfortable.

PVC resin or rubber surface

The main addition which would make the basketball facility more comfortable could be a PVC resin or rubber surface. This surface may provide considerable improvements in terms of any abrasions when players fall, flexibility, shock absorption, more controlled friction etc. The FIBA rules allow these surfaces to be used even in some international competitions.

Fencing

The court, measuring 32 x 19 m including the outer bands, can be surrounded by a fence, probably made from wire mesh to a height of at least 3 m. This fencing must be of such a size as to resist any lateral pressure by a load in accordance with the safety standards where the facility is built.

The choice of the dimensions and technical features of the fencing will depend on the cost and availability of the product and will be in line with the current safety regulations.

The fencing will be supported by posts, possibly galvanized, and fixed in the edging which will be completely buried on the perimeter around the entire court. Access to the court will be through two gates situated at the corners of the fence, each possibly being no less than 1.20 m.

Changing rooms

If there are no changing rooms at all in the immediate vicinity, it is recommended that a structure should be built for this purpose. This structure can be of a prefabricated type in metal or PVC resin or in another suitable material. This allows the structure to be erected and dismantled extremely easily and quickly as required.

Alternatively, changing rooms could be provided as a fixed structure in concrete, steel, laminated wood etc, with obviously higher costs. In this case the structure must also include changing rooms for referees, a first aid room, storage, etc.

Multiplying the court

In the planning phase, it would be advisable to provide for an adjacent free space alongside the court, where it would be possible to build a second or third court, in the near or distant future. In addition to bringing down the building costs, this would allow savings in the management of the facility and a better service to the user if extension were necessary.

On the above drawing the central court, which is equipped with spectator tribunes, benches for the players and the scorers' table, is surrounded by 4 other courts. In addition to the playing fields, tents are installed that can serve as refreshment area for the participants and for the public, first aid room, administrative office, VIP room, etc.



5. The FIBA Research and Study Centre

The FIBA Research and Study Centre was founded in 1993 with the objective to equip and increase the number of sports facilities throughout the world, encourage the construction of basic facilities and the refurbishment of older ones, coordinate research initiatives and offer consulting services for materials, equipment design and construction. The goal was to attain a high standard of quality, safety and technology for the athletes, the public and the media. All of this could be obtained by a constant management and inspection of facilities and equipment.

One of the main tasks of the FIBA Research and Study Centre is to produce publications concerning the construction and safety of basketball facilities. So far the "Guide to small basketball facilities", the "Guide to basketball facilities for high level competitions" and the "FIBA safety standards in halls" were published. In the very near future the new "FIBA outdoor facilities" publication will be finished.

In the 2004 edition of the FIBA Internal Regulations it is stated:

"Before each official competition of FIBA, the court as well as all the technical equipment must be examined and approved by the appropriate body of FIBA. Only technical equipment whose make and type have been approved by FIBA (Study Centre) may be used on the occasion of main official competitions of FIBA."

There are more than 75 top quality sports equipment manufacturers received a FIBA certificate in the following categories:

- Backboards Support Units
- Wooden Floorings
- Synthetic Floorings
- Electronic Scoreboards
- Electric and Electronic Systems
- Miscellaneous Products
- Basketballs

For further details, please visit on the HYPERLINK "<http://www.fiba.com>" www.fiba.com website the Equipment section.