

COURT PREPARATION FOR A PSA TOURNAMENT



Contents

Court Specification Overview	p. 2
Court Condition	
Court Walls	
Court Markings	
Lighting	
Heating & Ventilation	
Maintenance	
Tournament Tin Height	
How to Sweep a Squash Court	
Court Floor Specification	p.4
PSA Court Floor Test	p.5
Renovating a Court Floor	p.6
FAQ's	p.7

COURT SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Court Condition

Tournament courts should adhere to the general requirements of the [World Squash Federation Specification for Squash Courts](#) and be built with products that meet the requirements of the WSF Accreditation scheme to ensure they are befitting of professional squash.

The following key requirements have been selected from the World Squash criteria:

Courts Walls

- Walls should be plane and have no indentations, holes or open joints of more than 2mm across in any dimension in the plane of the wall
- Walls should have a hard smooth finish and be free from condensation when the court or any adjacent spectator area is in use
- Walls should be clean and free from ball marks, racket streaks and dirt from bodily contact



Court Markings

- All court markings shall be 50 mm wide and contrast in colour to adjoining surfaces; all wall markings shall be the same colour and all floor markings shall be the same colour
- Court markings on the floor shall be flush with the finish and be anti-slip

Lighting

The court shall be uniformly lit by artificial light. The level of illumination measured 1000mm above the finished floor shall be:

- Minimum standard 300 lux
- Recommended standard 500 lux
- LED Recommended standard 750 lux
- TV standard minimum 1200 lux



Heating & Ventilation

All squash courts must be provided with a heating and/or air conditioning system which is capable of maintaining a temperature between 15-25°C.

The optimum temperature range for tournament play is 18-20°C.

Maintenance

Pre-match:

- All surfaces should be damp mopped (three days prior to the tournament), swept and checked to ensure suitable conditions for play.
- Court floors should be cleaned daily with a dry mop, using a synthetic or cotton head to remove the build up of dirt and dust.

During-match:

- Court floor must be kept dry at all times. PSA 25+ tournaments should have a court warden available to dry the court of moisture at the request of the match referee. As a minimum, all tournaments must have a dry towel available at each court for players to dry the court floor as agreed with the match referee.

Post-match:

- All surfaces should be cleaned, swept and checked to ensure suitable conditions for the following match.

PSA Rule: Tournament Tin Height

All PSA World Tour tournaments of PSA 25 and above are to be played on a 43 cm (17 inches) tin.

PSA reserve the right to waive this in exceptional circumstances. Any requests to play a PSA 25 or above on a 19" tin must be made in writing to PSA at registration and approved by PSA.

PSA 5-15 World Tour tournaments have the option of either 43 cm (17 inches) or 48 cm (19 inches).

The height of the tin must be the same for all matches throughout the tournament.

How to Sweep a Squash Court

Removing dust and dirt from the surface of your tournament courts with a sweep prior to play will considerably improve the traction for players.

Equipment: minimum of one large broom (approximately 2ft)

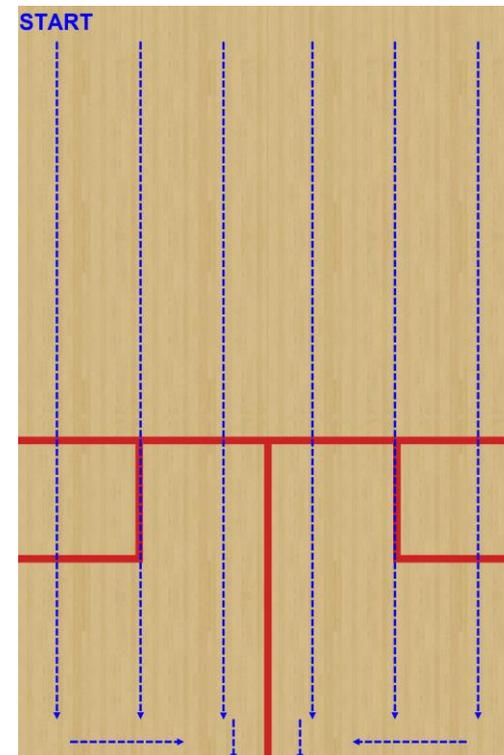
Process:

Step 1: Starting in the front left corner of the court by the tin, sweep in a straight line to the back of the court.

Step 2: Repeat step one from start points across the tin ensuring that the whole court is covered.

Step 3: Sweep from the back left corner along the back wall to the door and remove the particle build up out of the door.

Step 4: Repeat step three from the back right corner to complete the court sweep.



COURT FLOOR SPECIFICATION

Courts used for a PSA World Tour tournament must provide a safe, dry and clean surface for play. Where players report unsuitable conditions, PSA will investigate and may fine the tournament for not meeting the mandatory PSA standards.

Court Floor Basics

- Squash court floors are typically sanded to a 60 grit finish and left untreated to allow players the necessary grip to change direction quickly.
- 60 grit finish refers to the abrasiveness of the sandpaper – the higher the grit, the smoother the finish on the wood.
- Floors require regular cleaning, maintenance and sanding (yearly for untreated boards) to ensure an appropriate floor surface for competitive play.

Court floors must be able to absorb small amounts of moisture without becoming slippery and have a slightly roughened finish to allow for an appropriate level of traction.

Slippery court floors is one of the most common player complaints and PSA are committed to tackle to the issue!

For the purposes of this document there are three floor finishes:

1. Natural wood

Natural wood is the ideal court floor surface for a PSA World Tour tournament.

With no treatment applied to the wood either in the factory or during installation, this floor finish is preferred by professional players due to the greater ability to absorb moisture such as a sweat and reduced risk of slipperiness.

2. Treated wood

Treated wood refers to the impregnation of a substance which penetrates the surface of the wood but crucially does not impact the rough grit finish. Court manufacturers will often apply a substance to the wood before the floor arrives on-site to make the floor less sensitive to dirt, easier to clean and provide longer durability. PSA will sanction tournaments where wood has been treated with a penetrating substance but promoters must ensure that the pores of the wood are not closed and will not prevent moisture from penetrating the court surface.

3. Coated/Sealed wood

A coated or sealed floor refers to a finish that lays on the surface of the floor and results in a barrier between the wood pores and surface moisture. This floor is not safe for PSA tournament play and as a result, tournaments will not be sanctioned where courts have a coated/sealed floor finish.

If you are unsure about your tournament court floors please contact Andy Malley (andy@psaworldtour.com) who will be able to advise.

PSA COURT FLOOR TEST

Three easy steps to test if your court floor is suitable to host a PSA tournament:

Step 1: Place a small droplet of water onto the court floor and leave for 20 seconds.

Step 2: Gently rub the water with your index finger from side to side.

Step 3: Observe how the water disperses from the options below:

Option 1



Option 2



Where water does not permeate the court floor (option two) the surface does not meet the minimum requirements of PSA. To address the issue, please following the guidance on page 6 and contact PSA for advice.

RENOVATING A COURT FLOOR

Courts can be renovated and ready for competitive play in a minimum of six weeks from the completion of the appropriate work.

Tip: Contact a court engineer as soon as an issue with the court floor is raised; more time gives a greater number of options and may be cost effective!

If your tournament has been sanctioned and there is an issue with your court floor, please contact PSA office (office@psaworldtour.com) as soon as possible.

If your tournament has not yet been sanctioned and there is an issue with your court floor, please follow the steps below to renovate your courts to an acceptable standard for hosting a PSA World Tour tournament:



Step 1: Sanding

The court floor should be sanded to remove the top layer of wood, leaving a 60 grit finish with ideally no seal or lacquer applied. Sanding your court floor will not only improve the grip for players but will remove dirt and give the court a brighter and better finish.

If a seal is applied to the wood following sanding, it is important that the seal is applied by a reputable court floor company with assurances that the seal will not close the pores of the wood.

Step 2: Repaint floor markings.

Following the court sanding, the floor markings will need to be re-applied and should be in one colour, contrasting with the court colour and with a consistent width of 50mm. The floor paint should provide a non-slip surface and be fitted flush to the surface.

Step 3: Courts should be vacuumed and damp-mopped every day after treatment to ensure that all dust is removed.

It is crucial that courts are repeatedly cleaned and damp mopped following sanding. Use of the court after sanding will cause more dust to come out of the cracks so needs to be removed regularly.

Accumulated dust and dirt on the court floor will lead to slippery court floor so it's very important that repeated cleaning is carried out.

PSA suggest that any court renovation is only completed by reputable companies due to the skill and expertise required; if you wish to discuss this further please contact Andy Malley (andy@psaworldtour.com).

FAQ'S

Do all my tournament courts need cleaning before the tournament?

PSA recommend that all tournament courts are given a deep clean at least six weeks before the tournament start date. Promoters should be aware that when the courts walls are cleaned, this will create dust which reduces the needs to be removed from the court floor with a vacuum or damp mop well in advance of the tournament start date.

When should I carry out the renovation work on my tournament courts?

Court floor renovation, wall painting or any other major court work should be completed at least six weeks before the tournament start date. Small renovation work such as glass back cleaning can be completed at any time prior to the tournament.

What type of paint should be used on squash courts?

The best results are achieved when using a product which has been specifically developed for squash court walls. Squash court paint is designed to take the high velocity impact of a ball without causing damage to the wall paint.

How much does it cost to get a court floor renovated?

Court floor renovation costs vary between different floor companies and different countries. Promoters should contact their national federation to discuss the expected court renovation cost.

If we cannot afford to renovate the courts, can we not hold a PSA tournament?

Promoters are encouraged to discuss the costs incurred when renovating courts for a PSA tournament with the PSA office.

Why does it matter if the court is coated/sealed and doesn't allow moisture to permeate?

Player sweat will create moisture on the court floor which, if it does not pass through the pores of the wood, will lay on top of the floor and create a slippery surface. Players require a high level of traction to make ballistic movements on-court and any surface moisture increases the risk that a player make slip and sustain an injury.

Is there anything else I can do to reduce the affect of moisture on the court floor?

Ensuring the court and spectator areas have adequate ventilation to remove any moisture in the air will help reduce the risk of a slippery court floor. Keeping the courts at a stable temperature will also the reduce the likelihood of condensation forming on the walls and floor.

If the venue is brand new, do I still need to do the court floor test?

Yes, even new courts can have issues with how moisture disperses from the court floor. Using the court floor test is a useful process to confirm that your court floor has been fitted correctly.