



ECB

Developing  
cricket  
from playground  
to Test arena



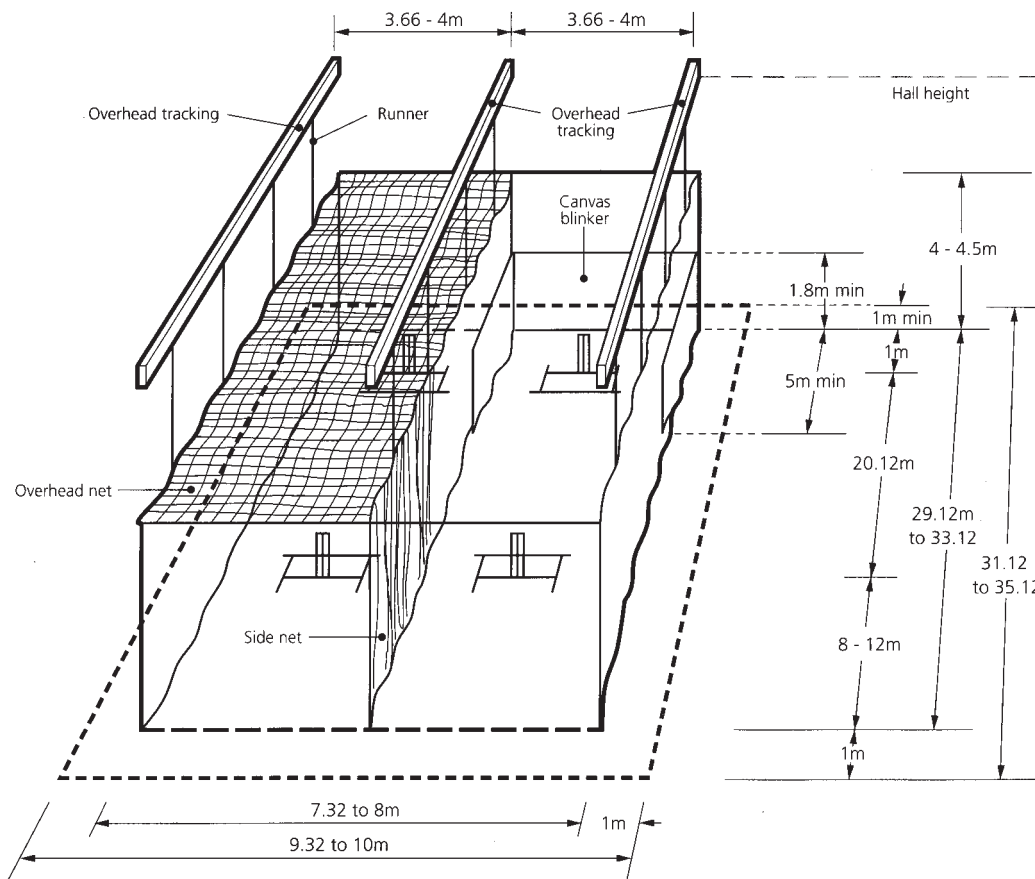
# Indoor Sports Halls with Cricket Provision

TS3

ECB Facility Briefs and  
Guidance Notes for Indoor Sports  
Halls with Cricket Provision

# Indoor Sports Halls with Cricket provision

Figure 1.  
Space diagram – a multi-wicket netted area, with Attached canvas blinkers and integral roof netting.



## For any new build or upgraded Indoor Sports Hall (with Cricket Provision):

Practice cricket nets can be installed in a number of varying sports hall designs from a multi-sports-hall (see fig 1) to a long narrow practice area with a low ceiling.

### It is essential that certain Critical Factors be identified when installation takes place:

- appropriate location of nets within a multi-sports layout;
- a safety margin to allow circulation around the enclosed net area;
- performance characteristics of either a roll-out mat/sports hall floor or all-purpose flooring. ( see ECB Technical Specification TS-6 (i)(ii));
- canvas 'blinkers' to stiffen side and end netting for safety
- protection of people in doorways
- quality lighting

The following lists suggest recommended minimum requirements for an Indoor Sports Hall with Cricket provision:

### Net Lanes

The overall dimensions of the, sports hall will determine the number of net bays with the following being suggested:

- Minimum of 2 lanes (see fig 1)
- Where possible, adequate space for bowlers run-up
- The outside back and side netting must be suspended to give a minimum of 1m clear space between the building walls and netting to allow for safety and access.

### Dimensions for a Double Bay Netted Area

	Minimum	Recommended Maximum
Safety Margin (surrounds)	1m	
Width	9.32m	10m
Length	31.2m	35.12m
Height of Horizontal top net	4m	4.5m

## Netting and Blinkers

### Netting

The individual net bay is separated from the adjoining bays by tracked side nets extending from end to end. The most efficient method is by independent overhead tracks, which allows nets to be drawn independently and which allows for flexible usage.

- It is recommended that nets be suspended from a heavy-duty aluminum tracking and trolley system, which conforms to BS.1892.

This type of system requires an independent overhead net, under which the tracking system is fixed. There must be no space between the roof netting and the tracking system through which the ball could pass from net to net.

- It is recommended that white nylon is used in the roof netting and is either sewn in or roof fitted with, 50mm knot to knot, (2") square mesh, with the leading edges taped for reinforcement.

However, if the roof net is fixed to the side net, the side nets cannot be drawn independently. This style of arrangement may be appropriate if the tracking has to be fitted to the roof joists well above the normal height requirements for roof netting; otherwise it should be avoided.

The side netting should be long enough for at least 0.3m of slack/drape to rest upon the floor. This creates added weight and prevents the net from billowing out when struck by the ball, thus interfering with adjacent nets. This is essential for safety.

Additional weighting could be added to the base of the netting (lead line).

- It is recommended that 48mm white nylon 2" square mesh be used
- All sports hall netting, canvas, storage pouches, etc. should be made of a fire retardant material in accordance with BS 5867 Part 2.
- All netting should be sound, not allowing balls through, under or out of the net area.
- The netting should not be tight thus making balls rebound dangerously.

### Blinkers

Blinkers must be fitted to all practice nets. Either heavy white canvas or nylon, they should be suspended on both the sides and rear net around the batsman.

- It is recommended that the blinkers should extend at least 3m in front of the batsman, 5m from the rear net, and at a minimum height of 1.8m. (see fig.1).

A similar system is recommended for the back netting behind the bowler to create a good visual background and safety against balls driven down the net bay.

- It is recommended that the bowling end blinker be 3m(9'9") high either as a Velcro attachment or sewn in to the netting.

### Playing Surface

The choice of floor surface is critical and above all should be chosen in accordance to its performance characteristics. Whether it is a multi-sport surface or rollout mat, it should perform well in terms of resilience, stiffness, friction, spin and resistance to wear. (See ECB Technical Specification TS-6).

The flooring chosen should be one that can be repaired or replaced without any effect on its playing characteristics, such as spin and pace. The flooring may be a polymer sheeting or carpet, laid on a concrete screed. The wear characteristics of sheeting are generally superior to those of carpets. An added advantage is that the density and thickness of polymer can be varied to give differing playing characteristics. The latter can also be varied by the installation of permanent underlays to the continuous surface and/or the use of temporary rollout mats.

Before making a final choice of surface, obtain test results indicating the performance of various product combinations. (See ECB Technical Specification TS-6).

If there is no alternative to using rollout mats, it should be firm with no extra cushioning, otherwise a combination of a subsurface and mat will seriously affect the ball bounce.



**Set out below are the suggested minimum requirements for an Indoor Sports Hall with Cricket provision:**

- Roll-Out matting for batting ends(with crease markings)
- Roll-Out matting for bowling ends with crease markings (or built in floor shock pads 3m past the popping crease)
- Additional spin mats if appropriate and available
- Full-length match pitch either marked in centre of hall (if using a multi-sport flooring) or roll-out match pitch. (this facility is dependant on the overall size of the hall)

### Lighting

It is essential to have good quality lighting so that the players can follow the movement of the ball travelling at speeds of up to 80mph, having been struck by the batsmen or bowled by the bowler.

The batsman must site clearly the bowler throughout all elements of the run-up and delivery and the ball throughout its flight, with the bowler having a clear view of the pitch. Glare or brightness of the lighting system must not distract the sight lines of both.

It is a mistake to economise on lighting, firstly as safety is paramount and secondly due to the specialist nature of cricket and the propulsion of balls at speed. A lighting system for Indoor Sports Halls (with cricket provision) must take into account the specialist nature of cricket and at least provide the minimum level of lighting over the netted areas.

- It is recommended that the minimum lighting level for Indoor Sports Halls (with cricket provision) be between 800 - 1000 Lux with a Uniformity Ratio (min/ave) 0.8.

When considering using Indoor Sports Halls as an arena for cricket, you are advised to carry out a thorough review of the lighting in the area to be used and if necessary proposing an upgrade to meet the recommended minimum requirements for cricket. If this is not an option, the level of cricket activity may have to be altered accordingly.



### Access for Disabled People

All sports facilities should be accessible to the whole population including people with disabilities. For further guidance please refer to the separate Sport England Guidance Note: Access for Disabled People.

### Further Advice

There are a number of Sport England Guidance notes on related matters. A current list is available from:  
Sport England Publications, PO Box 255, Whetherby LS23 7LZ.  
Telephone 0990 210255. Fax 0990 210266.