

# Fencing Information Sheet



## Introduction

Traditionally, tennis court perimeter fences have been rectangular “box like” fencing enclosures. This traditional approach is not essential for play and there are alternatives to consider. Unless there are security or adjacent hazards, a high perimeter fence completely surrounding the playing area is not essential. The fence height depends to some degree on the tennis court’s surface bounce characteristics.



## Alternatives

Consideration should be given to alternative fencing profiles to suit local viewing, aesthetic and economic reasons.

Some favoured fencing alternatives included:

- Splayed corners,
- Reduced side fencing heights for viewing,
- Dividing fence between courts,
- Reduced height dividing fence,
- Partial length dividing fence,
- Draw curtains (external or dividing),
- Top and bottom rails,
- PVC coated chainwire mesh.

Splayed corners on adjacent courts are an ideal and aesthetic location for the access gates.

## External versus internal enclosures

If the tennis court enclosures are internal and separate from the perimeter enclosure fence, interesting and aesthetic enclosure combinations can be achieved using a mix of the alternatives described above.

## Colour

The fencing of a tennis court complex can be an imposing structure. It is desirable that the court fence blend into the local environment by choosing an appropriate colour for the fence. An Evergreen colour can be chosen to blend with adjacent foliage, whilst Black is preferable where the fence is to blend into a mixed colour environment such as a suburban development. These coloured fences provide good background contrast against the ball colour.



# Fencing Information Sheet



## Structural considerations

The standard tennis court fence is designed to withstand normal wind loads in a typical built up area. If the court is exposed to high wind loads with no shielding, where windscreens are to be installed or creepers are to be grown over the fence, it would be appropriate to install a strengthened fence.

## Other considerations

The following are some additional issues to consider:

- Think ahead, could more courts be added,
- Could windscreens be added in the future,
- Could creepers or vines be grown over the fence,
- Low level lighting posts could double as fence posts,
- Ensure gates are wide enough for any maintenance equipment,
- Gate positioning for retrieval of balls,
- Likelihood of branches falling on fence.



## Maintenance

As with all tennis facilities, there is always some degree of maintenance and repair, with associated costs, for an enclosure structure, albeit generally minimal. Some items to keep in mind:

- Falling branches,
- Gate hinge and bolt lubrication,
- Repairing holes in chainwire mesh,
- Repairing broken or bent posts,
- Tying back excessive chainwire curl-up,
- Re-tensioning the chainwire mesh and the cable wires,
- Broken cord on curtains,
- Good drainage near fence to reduce corrosion.

No responsibility can be accepted by Tennis Australia for loss occasioned to any person or entity doing anything as a result of any material in this publication. Information correct at 14/10/2011. Copyright © 2003-2005 Tennis Australia. All rights reserved.

