

Surface Types for Multi Use Games Areas

Multi use sports areas provide a cost effective solution for schools and other facilities with a wide range of sporting demands. The most commonly played sports on a multi use sports area include tennis, mini tennis, football, hockey, netball and basketball. It must be recognised that there will almost always need to be an element of compromise primarily in terms of dimensions and performance of the playing surface.

Porous Macadam Surfaces

Porous open textured macadam areas are used for rebound sports i.e. tennis, mini tennis, basketball and netball. Porous macadam is used in the construction of approximately 80% of all tennis courts in UK. Such courts may be colour coated by painting after installation.

These areas are suitable for wheelchair sports, however care is needed in warm weather during the first year of use.

Polymeric Surfaces

Polymeric surfaces have a degree of inherent shock absorption, which may be varied by increasing the thickness of the surfacing layer or altering the composition of the polymeric materials. The surface can be used for netball, tennis, mini tennis, basketball and is suitable for wheelchair use. Thicker forms of the surface may be specified where the intended sports include five-a-side, football or athletics training. This type of polymeric surface is also capable of taking a running spike.

Artificial Grass Surfaces

There are many different types of artificial grass surfaces with a range of properties, advantages and disadvantages. Most traditional artificial grass pitches are tufted sand filled surfaces. Experience has shown this form of surface to have good durability and performance in all weather conditions.

Sand dressed surfaces have a shorter denser pile than the standard sand filled systems with a reduced quantity of sand infill. They are primarily suited for MUGAs where hockey and football are the primary sports.

3G or Third Generation artificial grasses are also a popular option for MUGAs. Ideal for facilities where football and rugby are the priority sports, hockey can also be played on a 3G artificial grass surface. With a longer surface pile height, rubber granules and sand infill provide support and protection for the fibres of the surface, whilst contributing to the safety and performance of the surface for end users. Fully compliant with the performance requirements of the FA, IRB and RFL, our surfaces are also IATS and BS EN 15330-1 tested and certified.

For further information email info@thorntonsports.co.uk or visit our website at www.thorntonsports.co.uk