

The Padel Court Operator's Risk Guide

10 Risks Every Padel Facility Should Understand

Padel is one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK. New courts are being built across the country as tennis clubs, leisure centres, investors and entrepreneurs recognise the growing demand for this exciting and accessible sport.

While the opportunity is clear, operating a Padel facility also introduces a number of risks that many new operators may not immediately consider.

From player injuries and court damage, to equipment liabilities and loss of income, understanding the potential exposures involved in running a Padel facility is an important part of protecting both your players and your investment.

This short guide outlines **10 key risks every Padel court operator should understand.**

Whether you are planning a new facility or already operating courts, being aware of these issues can help ensure your venue runs safely, successfully and sustainably.



The Risks

1. Player Injuries During Play

Padel is a fast-paced sport played within a relatively small enclosed court. Players frequently make rapid directional changes, stretch for difficult shots and react quickly to rebounds from the walls. This style of play can lead to injuries such as:

- Sprained ankles or knees
- Wrist and elbow injuries
- Facial injuries caused by fast-moving balls
- Collisions between players in doubles matches

Although most injuries are minor, more serious incidents can occasionally occur, particularly among inexperienced players.

Facilities can reduce risk by ensuring courts are well maintained, providing clear safety guidance for players and ensuring appropriate supervision during organised activities.

2. Collisions with Glass Walls

The enclosed glass walls are a defining feature of Padel. Players often run close to the walls during rallies and may make contact when chasing difficult shots. Particularly given that the transparent nature of glass can cause perceptual-depth challenges when moving at speed.

Modern Padel court glass is designed to be extremely strong, and collisions can result in injuries such as:

- Head or shoulder impacts
- Bruising or cuts
- Falls following contact with the glass

Good court design, appropriate run-off areas and clear player awareness can help reduce the likelihood of these incidents.

3. Glass Panel Damage

Having said that, although Padel courts use specialist toughened glass panels designed to withstand heavy use, they can occasionally be damaged due to:

- Player impact
- Structural stress
- Extreme weather conditions
- Vandalism or accidental damage

Replacing glass panels can be costly and may require specialist contractors. Courts may also need to close temporarily while repairs are carried out, affecting bookings and revenue.



4. Slips and Falls on Artificial Surfaces

Artificial turf surfaces are designed to provide grip and allow controlled movement during play. However, certain conditions can increase the risk of slips or trips. Potential causes include:

- Wet surfaces following rain or condensation
- Debris such as leaves or dirt
- Worn or uneven areas of turf
- Poor drainage

Regular inspection and maintenance of playing surfaces is essential to ensure safe playing conditions.

5. Floodlighting and Electrical Failures

Many Padel facilities operate during evenings, particularly in winter months, making floodlighting essential. Electrical issues or lighting failures can cause:

- Sudden darkness during play
- Increased accident risk
- Disruption to bookings
- Refunds or lost revenue

Proper installation, routine electrical inspections and preventative maintenance are important for reducing these risks.

6. Spectator and Visitor Injuries

Padel is a social sport and attracts spectators during matches, coaching sessions and tournaments. However, spectator areas can introduce additional risks such as:

- Balls leaving the court
- Slips or trips in walkways
- Crowding around courts during busy sessions

Clear viewing areas, appropriate signage and good facility management can help reduce these exposures.

7. Equipment Hire and Retail Risks

Many Padel clubs rent rackets or sell equipment to players. While this can be a useful additional revenue stream, it also introduces product-related risks. Potential issues include:

- Faulty rackets causing injury
- Poorly maintained rental equipment
- Defective products supplied by manufacturers

Regular inspection of rental equipment and working with reputable suppliers can help minimise these risks.

8. Coaching and Training Activities

Facilities offering coaching sessions may face additional responsibilities. Claims could potentially arise if a player believes that:

- Poor instruction contributed to an injury
- Their ability level was not properly assessed
- Inadequate supervision led to an accident

Ensuring coaches are qualified and follow appropriate safety procedures can help reduce these risks.

9. Weather and Environmental Damage

Outdoor courts are exposed to weather conditions that can affect both safety and the integrity of the facility. Potential risks include:

- Storm damage to fencing or lighting
- Flooding affecting surfaces
- High winds damaging structures
- Vandalism when facilities are unattended

Regular inspections and preventative maintenance can help minimise the likelihood of damage.

10. Court Closure and Loss of Income

If a Padel court becomes unusable due to damage or safety concerns, the resulting loss of bookings can quickly affect revenue. Examples include:

- Glass panel replacement
- Surface repairs
- Electrical failures
- Structural maintenance

Even short closures can have a financial impact for facilities that rely on consistent bookings and memberships.



Protecting Your Padel Facility

Padel offers exciting opportunities for clubs, investors and sports operators, but like any sports facility it's important to understand the risks involved.

It's about balance: recognising the business potential but taking the steps to manage the risks inherent with that business potential. With the right insurance protection in place, we can help safeguard your facility, your players, your staff and your business.

Speak to C&C About Padel Court Insurance

At C&C Insurance Brokers, we work with sports clubs, leisure operators and investors to help arrange insurance solutions designed for the unique risks associated with Padel facilities.

If you operate or are planning to build Padel courts, we would be happy to discuss how insurance can help protect your investment.

Contact C&C today to discuss Padel court insurance.



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