



# AFL PREFERRED FACILITY GUIDELINES

State, Regional, Local, School and Remote Facilities (2019)



## FOREWORD

Close to 3,000 grounds are currently used for Australian football. This number is increasing each year due to the strong participation growth being experienced in our game in all corners of our nation.

Our need for facilities continues to expand to support participation growth and the changing profile of participation.

Increasing the capacity of grounds and pavilions and the development of facilities that welcome all participants and umpires has never been more important.

The industry is heavily focused on developing the right plans in collaboration with Councils, clubs and all other stakeholders in each project. When done well, this maximises any returns on investment through increased participation levels, club sustainability and community wellbeing.

We trust that the AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines will be an effective tool that assists us all to achieve this for your next key project.

Shayne Ward

National Venues and Community Facilities Manager

# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>03</b>
1.1	Using the Preferred Facilities Guidelines	04
1.2	Changing trends in football	06
1.3	Community Facility hierarchy model	07
<b>2</b>	<b>PLAYING FIELDS</b>	<b>08</b>
2.1	Natural Turf	09
2.2	Synthetic Turf	10
2.3	Size and Line Marking	11
2.4	On Field Amenities	13
2.5	Quick Guide	15
<b>3</b>	<b>LIGHTING</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1	Lighting for Training & Competition	17
3.2	Benefits of LED Lighting	18
3.3	Quick Guide	19
<b>4</b>	<b>PAVILIONS &amp; CHANGE FACILITIES</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1	Main Pavilion	21
4.2	Inclusive Design	23
4.3	Refurbishment Options	25
4.4	General Amenities	27
4.5	Design Options	28
4.6	Quick Guide	32
<b>5</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL FACILITIES</b>	<b>33</b>
5.1	Supporting Infrastructure	34
5.2	Quick Guide	35
<b>6</b>	<b>CASE STUDIES</b>	<b>36</b>
6.1	Hurlingham Park – New amenities	37
6.2	Snowtown Oval – Modular amenities	39
6.3	Gore Hill Park – Synthetic oval	41
6.4	City of Ballarat – Improved playing surfaces	43
6.5	Keith Dunne Oval – LED lighting	45
6.6	Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct – Greenfield multi oval site	47
<b>7</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>49</b>
7.1	Consolidated Summary of Preferred Provision	50
7.2	Natural Turf Surfaces	56
7.3	Natural Turf Maintenance	58
7.4	Synthetic Turf Testing	59
7.5	Modular / Off Site Building Construction	60

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Using of the Preferred Facilities Guidelines



The AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines are a consolidated resource for state bodies, clubs, leagues, government and other key stakeholders to assist in guiding the planning process for community facilities.

### GUIDELINE OVERVIEW

The AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines (*'the Guidelines'*) should be used by State and Territory Australian Football Controlling Bodies, Councils, Leagues, Clubs, Schools and associated stakeholders to inform the provision and development of appropriate facilities for community level Australian Football venues.

The Guidelines outline the preferred facility requirements for State League, Regional and Local level facilities. Individual Associations and/or public land managers may decide to provide additional facilities or larger sizes depending on specific local requirements on a case by case basis.

It is acknowledged that many existing facilities may not meet preferred provision. However, it is not intended that these Guidelines be used as a basis for assessing the suitability of existing facilities. Rather, should existing facilities be considered for upgrade, then where possible, the Guidelines should be used to inform facility provision and as a road map for future development.

The Guidelines were initially developed in 2012 to provide direction for the development of new facilities and/or those being considered for major refurbishment or redevelopment.

This 2019 edition aims to recognise changing trends in the facility space. These trends include:

- the growth in female participation and the subsequent need to address amenity provision and provide welcoming, inclusive club environments;
- innovation in facility and ground surface design; and
- the need to access an increasing number of venues to address ground capacity issues.

The Guidelines can be used as a key tool during the planning phase of a project and assume an assessment has been undertaken to identify the need for a new / upgraded facility. They also provide relevant guidance, particularly around spatial requirements that can inform concept and/or master planning processes.

### ASSUMPTIONS

**Room sizes quoted in these Guidelines are based on requirements for a single oval facility catering for one 'home' and one 'away' team at any given time.** Where more than one playing field is to be provided and results in more than two teams operating simultaneously, additional facilities are likely to be required.

This may not necessitate a complete duplication of facilities. Rather, additional core facilities for players and officials (change rooms, amenity areas and umpires rooms) will be required, along with a review of the overall sizes of other facility components. This will ensure adequate spaces to cater for multiple playing fields and peak crowds.

Where new sites are being established, it is preferable that two oval venues be provided. A minimum of 8-10 hectares is required to provide two full size football ovals, pavilion, car parking and circulation space. Two oval venues provide sufficient facilities to enable a club to grow and be more sustainable. It allows a club to spread use across the two playing fields, protecting them from overuse whilst catering for future participation growth in a geographic area. It also provides economies of scale in terms of pavilion / amenity developments, where a single pavilion can be developed to service two ovals.

The key amenities identified in these Guidelines can in some cases be consolidated (for example, change rooms and strapping room). However, if this approach is adopted the individual areas allocated for each amenity needs to be combined. For example if the change rooms are 75m<sup>2</sup> and strapping room 15m<sup>2</sup> and the areas are to be combined then the overall size of the area is preferred to be 90m<sup>2</sup>.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Using of the Preferred Facilities Guidelines

### HOW TO USE THESE GUIDELINES

AFL recommends that all stakeholders involved in the planning and management of State, Regional, Local, School and Remote level football facilities refer to these Preferred Facilities Guidelines.

The Guidelines are provided to help inform and educate stakeholders on the preferred minimum standards to facilitate Australian Football at the community level, manage growth of the game and its implications on facilities and improve the experience of all participants, coaches, officials and spectators.

The Preferred Facilities Guidelines are provided in four district sections:

**Preferred facility guidelines:** Details information on the range of Australian Football facility and amenity provision across playing fields, lighting, pavilions, change facilities and other match-day and competition amenities. *This section is best used when planning new sites and when preparing site and venue improvement or master plans.*

**Case studies:** Showcase successful venue improvement or facility provision projects and the positive impact they can have on football. *Case studies provide practical examples of how facilities can be adapted or improved, understand the benefits achieved and used to demonstrate and promote innovative options for venue improvement.*

**Quick guide:** Provides a consolidated summary of all preferred facility and amenity provision (including dimensions) for venues across the AFL Community Facility Hierarchy. *The Quick Guide can assist in evaluating existing facilities that are seeking to achieve a higher level of provision than currently exists, supporting development of funding applications and informing facility design or architectural briefs.*

**Appendices:** Refers to further technical information on ground surface management and modular building options. *References in the Appendices provide access to additional technical information that ground managers, land owners and technical consultants can use and adapt to support sustainable management and facility provision.*

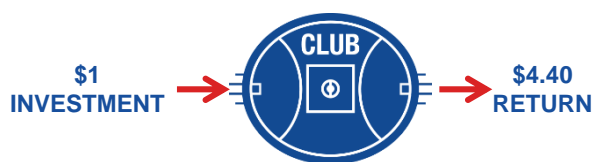
### The Value of a Community Football Club

In addition to providing guidance on facility planning and development, the AFL have endorsed AFL Victoria's research into the Value of a Community Football Club, undertaken by La Trobe University. This research provides the industry with additional information to help demonstrate the social value and contribution that football makes to local communities.

*The Value of a Community Football Club study undertaken by La Trobe University found that for every \$1 spent to run a community football club, there is at least a \$4.40 return in social value.*

*This "social value" is measured in terms of increased social connectedness, wellbeing and mental health status, employment outcomes, physical health and support of other community groups.*

*The Study identified that the reach of a community club is significant; "for every 1 player, football clubs reach 10 people in their community."*



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.2 Changing trends in football



**The football environment is changing and the AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines have a responsibility to reflect these changes and provide facility guidance that best caters for diversity and growth in our game.**

### GROWING CAPACITY

Facility access demand is increasing through the growth in junior and female participation. Further facility pressure is being experienced through the expansion of community football talent arms, limited development opportunities in land locked municipalities and planned development of new facilities in growth areas across Australia.

The AFL recognises the increased financial pressures in the Government sector and the need to provide facility options that are innovative, cost effective and deliver a high return on investment.

#### Schools

Improving access to appropriately develop school facilities provides opportunity to address capacity issues, particularly in land locked municipalities or where ground shortages exist.

AFL State bodies are actively working with their State Government Education Department counterparts to reform the way school ovals and associated amenities are designed so that they may be of more value to community football.

Partnerships with schools to improve access and identify mutually beneficial facility projects at all levels of Australian Football is critical to support future football participation. For example, Melton Secondary College, based on the western fringe of Melbourne, is developing a full AFL standard synthetic oval, match lighting and change rooms that will double as a satellite classroom during school hours. Such a facility will be used for up to 70 hours per week and exemplifies opportunities to maximise the benefits of project collaboration in a fast growing community.

### LED Lighting

Whilst LED lighting is currently an additional capital cost compared to traditional metal halogen lights, use of this type of lighting has the capacity to reduce lighting maintenance and operational costs, increases lighting life span and improve lighting uniformity. LED lighting can also provide dimmable options to assist in managing training and competition lighting levels around the entire playing field.

### Synthetic and Hybrid Turf

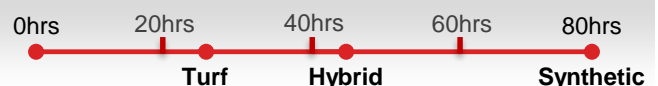
AFL endorsed synthetic fields can offer the equivalent usage of three natural turf fields and can cater for growing demand for sports fields in both football and partner sports like cricket. Synthetic turf also relieves pressure on natural turf fields and can assist in alleviating the impact of overuse, particularly as a shared training venue option and in high wear areas of playing fields. Location or co-location of synthetic fields adjacent to schools can also promote shared use of space and increase capacity for both school and community football use.

Reinforced natural turf (hybrid turf) combines the positive properties of natural grass with the strength of synthetic turf to create a consistent, higher quality year-round playing surface. Hybrid turf is able to sustain wear, increasing carrying capacity from approximately 25 to 45 hours per week, has multiple uses and can be installed at approximately half the cost of a full synthetic field.

The capacity of natural turf can also be supported by the use of synthetic or hybrid turf surfaces in high traffic areas, such as goal squares, rather than full investment into synthetic oval installation or oval resurfacing.

Pre-season training requirements and participation growth also provides opportunity to identify public or open space areas that could benefit from synthetic installation to better support growing access needs.

**Surface type and hours per week of use to maintain good quality playing field**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.3 Community Facility Hierarchy Model

Classifying facilities is important when assessing provision against proposed facility use. Classification provides direction for the development of new facilities and/or those being considered for upgrade and ensures facility provision is fit for purpose. The following table provides an overview of the AFL Community Facility Hierarchy.

### HIERARCHY LEVEL AND FACILITY PURPOSE

#### STATE



**State level facilities contribute 3% of venues nationally** and primarily service State leagues and elite underage competitions and are seen as second tier competition facilities. These facilities are also used for competition finals as they are maintained to a showcase level, offering higher standard of amenities with perimeter fencing and the capacity to cater for larger crowds.

#### REGIONAL



**Regional facilities contribute around 5% of venues nationally** and service a collection of suburbs, townships or geographic areas within a municipality (or across municipal borders) and often cater for more than one code or activity. These facilities ideally have perimeter fencing to restrict vehicle and pedestrian access, amenities with capacity to host finals and representative games and have oval surface quality maintained to a high standard.

#### LOCAL



**76% of all community venues fall within this category or classification.** Local facilities are designed to cater for local level competition within individual suburbs, townships, or municipalities and are usually also the 'home' of a seasonal club. Facilities and playing surfaces are provided to home and away competition standard only. However, local leagues should aspire to get local facilities used for finals to regional level standards.

#### REMOTE



Like local level facilities, remote grounds cater for local level competition held in remote communities and **provide 1% of all venues**. Provision at these grounds is generally a dirt playing field with no or limited player, official or spectator amenities. At times, investment has been made at these venues to provide lighting to a level that supports night competition structures. Provision of night competition lighting addresses player welfare concerns in warmer climates.

#### JUNIOR / SCHOOL



**Junior / school venues contribute 15% of venues nationally** and are used for the introductory forms of Australian Football such as Auskick, junior or school competitions and act as overflow training venues. Generally facility provision expectations are limited to oval size and condition and access outcomes are generally driven by individual negotiations with individual schools.



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.1 Natural Turf



The playing surface is an essential element in Australian Football. Players move at fast pace, mark, jump, turn and tackle without protective padding. Providing a high quality even playing surface is paramount to player safety, avoiding injuries and ensuring a quality experience for players and umpires.

#### INTRODUCTION

Whilst there is flexibility in playing field size, the playing field surface should be provided to a high quality and not be the cause of any injury. Surface gradient, traction, evenness, smoothness/trip index, ground cover, hardness and weed content all impact on player safety, smoothness of ball roll/bounce, surface appearance and uniformity.

Surface hardness is an important safety index measure and relates to injury potential after impact with the ground. Traction relates to surface stability and injury risk to players due to insufficient or excessive traction. Low traction also relates to surface damage due to divotting.

Construction of natural turf playing fields should incorporate adequate sub-surface drainage and irrigation. Robust drought resistant/low water use grasses can be effective in many instances. The playing field must have an even turf cover and level surface with no obvious depressions or holes.

Playing field maintenance should reflect local environmental requirements and the standard of play to be hosted. All grounds should be deemed 'fit for play' following an oval inspection undertaken by both teams (home and away) and officials prior to any games being played.

Specific standards exist for elite level ovals (AFL) in relation to surface stability, hardness, traction and consistency. Separate Guidelines are available from the AFL regarding these standards.

#### PREFERRED ORIENTATION

Playing fields should ideally be developed with north-south orientation goal-to-goal to avoid players having to look directly into the sun, with provision of key change and social facilities on the western wing if possible.



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.2 Synthetic Turf



#### INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the AFL, Cricket Australia (CA), Sport and Recreation Victoria and JLT Trustees (the insurer to both the AFL and Cricket Australia), commissioned the University of Ballarat (now Federation University) to determine whether specific criteria could be developed for the use of synthetic grass for Australian Football and Cricket. An expert panel now regularly review the criteria to ensure that the products are safe and comparable with the playing characteristics of natural grass.

A Synthetic Turf Product Certification System was developed in response to the need for a system to serve and protect AFL/CA synthetic field manufacturers whilst providing a solution to meet the substantial demand for additional playing fields for each sports' participation needs in to the future.

The purpose of this Certification System is to ensure compliance with AFL/CA requirements to safeguard the health of players and officials and to guarantee the integrity of the performance of the synthetic field.

The AFL/CA Synthetic Turf Product Certificate is not intended as a product endorsement beyond one of suitability and acceptability for community football and cricket competitions under AFL/CA.

The system is administered by the AFL/CA Community Facilities Departments in co-operation with the AFL/CA Synthetic Turf Technical Committee.

#### WHY SYNTHETIC TURF?

Synthetic Turf fields have the ability to address a number of issues that can impact on participation. These include:

##### **Weather variability**

Australia has been impacted by both drought and significant rain events in recent years which has meant grounds have been closed for training and play. It is predicted that these events will become more common place and as such the ability for synthetic turf to continue to provide a safe and playable surface no matter what the weather brings is a distinct advantage.

##### **Venue supply and participation increases**

Rapid rises in female participants in recent years has made a significant contribution to growth in both Australian Football and Cricket. Participation increases in both sports is also placing additional demand on grounds that may already be at capacity.

##### **Optimising finite open space resources**

We know that accessing additional land for new sporting ovals is increasingly difficult. Synthetic surfaces allow up to three times more use than natural turf ovals and can therefore create better usage outcomes out of the existing space available. As an added advantage, synthetic turf ovals also provide the ability to harvest significant amounts of water that can be used to irrigate adjacent natural turf ovals or nearby landscaped areas.

**Refer Appendix 4 for more detail on Synthetic Turf**



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.3 Size and Line Marking

#### Senior Oval

The preferred playing size of a senior oval is 165m x 135m (boundary line to boundary line). This provides the greatest flexibility to cater for all standards and ages of play (and can cater for other sports such as cricket, soccer, rugby union and athletics).

#### Junior Oval

If a venue is to be used for junior competitions only then a smaller field size can be adopted. Suggested junior playing field sizes to cater for a range of players per team, player ages and ability levels are:

Under 8: 80m x 60m

Under 9/10: 100m x 80m

Refer to the *Australian Football Match Policy* when considering venue provision for junior level competitions.

#### Training Space

A training space should be a safe, flat, even, well grassed area of any shape that can be used. Ideally, the space should be lit with toilet and car parking access. Refer to the *Lighting for Training and Competition* section for lighting levels.

Spaces other than a traditional football oval, can be prepared and utilised for this purpose.

#### Boundary Run Off

For insurance purposes the preferred minimum distance for existing facilities is:

**State:** 5m | **Regional:** 4m | **Local Level:** 3m

The playing field boundary line should ensure adequate run-off from any perimeter fencing or potential obstacles.

Where new ovals are constructed it is encouraged that the higher run-off distance of 5m be provided.

It is recommended that all new or redeveloped playing fields be developed to accommodate the maximum recommended sizes for senior play. This creates opportunities to reduce boundaries (via rope or line marking) for all relevant forms and formats of participation. This is to maintain the safety of players, spectators and other site users.

## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.4 On Field Amenities

#### GOAL AND POINT POSTS

**Goal Posts** - two posts with a 6.4m gap at ground level (measured by the closest point of contact between the two posts).

**Padding** - from ground to 2.5m, 35mm high-density foam covered in canvas or painted.

**Flag holder** – to be included on each goal post (50mm diameter PVC pipe, 500mm length, capped at bottom, 600, off the ground).

**Point Posts** - two posts 6.4m either side of the goal posts. Point posts are preferably 2/3 the size of the goal posts with padding to be the same as that for goal posts.

**Post height** - height of posts out of the ground:

	State	Regional	Local
Goal	12m	10m	10m
Point	8m	6.5m	6.5m

#### SCOREBOARDS

There is an emerging trend to provide electronic scoreboards. These not only provide better spectator experiences but can be an income source for clubs through sponsorships.

There is no defined standard for scoreboard design or construction, however all scoreboards should have the capacity to display scores in the format below (electronic or manual) and where possible, include a time clock.

Scoreboards should be positioned to minimize glare from the sun and face towards the ground and main spectator viewing or vantage point.

	G	B	P
Home	10	12	72
Away	8	5	53

#### BEHIND GOAL NETTING

To increase functionality of playing areas, reduce time periods of balls being out of play (or lost), protect spectators and reduce potential damage to adjacent vehicles and property, behind goal netting is a valuable addition to any ground.

There is no defined standard for behind goal netting, however netting should extend the width of goal and point posts and be provided at least to the height of point posts (preferably to the height of goal posts).

Behind goal netting can either be permanently positioned chain mesh fencing or posts with curtain mesh netting than can be temporarily removed and/or replaced. Any behind goal netting must be appropriately engineered to meet site conditions.



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.4 On Field Amenities

#### INTERCHANGE AND COACHES

Provision of two interchange / coaches benches (home and away teams) are to be provided on the western side of the ground (both on the same side, looking away from the sun during day matches where it is a factor), positioned adjacent to the 'Centre Wing' position.

These are to be permanent structures that have three fixed sides to provide shelter, form part of the boundary fence and seat club officials and interchange players. Ideally the facilities should not impede viewing of the ground.

Depending on the design and impact on spectator viewing of the playing field, two tiered (elevated) structures may also be appropriate. Elevated structures should be considered when building new or renovating existing benches.

#### INTERCHANGE / UMPIRES / OFFICIALS BOX

The interchange / umpires / officials box should be located between the two coaches boxes and be of a similar design and construction.

#### PLAYERS AND UMPIRES RACE

To separate spectators, teams and umpires entering the playing field, two individual players races should be provided. Races should be at a suitable incline to the playing field with each team race separated by at least 20m. This supports player safety and surface wear and tear due to the number of players entering / exiting the playing field.

Umpires should also have a separated race to players directly from the field of play to the umpires amenities to ensure umpire safety. Where player and umpire amenities are in the same building location, match day officials should assist to manage umpire safety.

#### DATA / MEDIA ACCOMMODATION

As the game evolves, higher level competitions require access to data and media space for match days. Consultation with the AFL and State League competition providers should be undertaken to ensure provision for these amenities is made.



## 2. PLAYING FIELDS

### 2.5 Quick Guide to Preferred Provision

The following table shows the **preferred minimum standard guidelines** for the provision of playing field facilities for State, Regional and Local state level facilities.

All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Playing Field Facilities	Recommended		
	State	Regional	Local
Coaches Boxes (x2)	Elevated above interchange bench	Forms part of interchange bench	Forms part of interchange bench
Interchange Benches (x2)	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)
Goal and Point Posts	Goal Posts: 12m out of ground  Point Posts: 8m out of ground	Goal Posts: 10m out of ground  Point Posts: 6.5m out of ground	Goal Posts: 10m out of ground  Point Posts: 6.5m out of ground
Interchange / Umpires / Officials Box	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)
Playing Field Marking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Field Size	<p><b>Preferred size:</b> is 165m x 135m in order to optimise the potential range of use for training and competition activities, however playing fields can range in size depending on the number of players per team and the age and ability of players:</p> <p><b>Length:</b> between 130 m and 185 m  <b>Width:</b> between 110 m and 155 m.</p>		
Boundary run-off area	5m minimum	4m minimum	3m minimum
Playing Field Condition / Maintenance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scoreboard	Yes	Yes	Yes

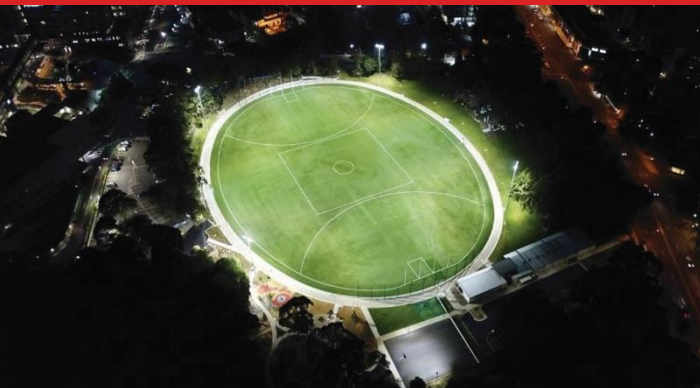


## 3. LIGHTING



## 3. LIGHTING

### 3.1 Lighting for Training & Competition



**Good lighting is important for all levels of Australian Football. It provides clubs with more opportunity to train and play and assists in ensuring that the use of facilities can be maximised.**

#### INTRODUCTION

The growth in participation, particularly the explosion of female football and in some areas population growth, has put increasing demand on sporting facilities. This has led to many clubs and councils providing more uniform, higher quality and practical sports lighting to grow ground capacity, improve fixturing flexibility and help address this demand.

Lighting extends oval use later into the evening, especially in the winter months, allowing greater programming, flexibility and optimisation of facility use. It is important to balance the many benefits of providing lighting against initial costs and ongoing maintenance and energy costs. The AFL also supports the lighting of ovals to provide increased activity from other sports and competition events that do not significantly affect our sports' ability to schedule training and matches.

#### LIGHTING STANDARDS FOR AFL

The Australian Standard (series 2560.2.3) contains recommendations and requirements specific to the lighting of Australian Football. The Standard deals with training and competition, and takes into consideration spectator viewing requirements. The Standard contains information highlighting the maintained horizontal illuminance (lux) required for training and club competition at a recreational, amateur, semi-professional and professional level for Australian Football.

AFL also prefer to take into consideration the type of match that is being played at a particular venue in addition to the level of play. We encourage clubs, councils land owners to consider the overall long-term playing field and lighting needs for competition, training, spectating and community uses when initiating and evaluating floodlighting installations.

#### Options to Provide Higher Illumination

The lux ratings provided in these Guidelines are an average minimum requirement to meet the Australian Standard.

Clubs and land managers are however encouraged to provide higher illumination where possible to support participation growth, alternate competition structures and optimise ground capacity. As a minimum, planning for additional power and lighting poles is encouraged.

#### AFL / AFLW Matches

Any venue seeking to attract AFL / AFLW or pre-season matches should contact the AFL for lighting requirements.

#### Spectator Viewing

Whilst the average minimum lux levels for club night competition is 100 lux, clubs, leagues and councils should consider providing a minimum 150 lux should they wish to take contemporary spectator requirements into account.

Where possible, it is recommended that clubs and councils inspect sites with recent installations to increase their understanding of the impact of different lighting levels.

## 3. LIGHTING

### 3.2 Benefits of LED Lighting



#### LED LIGHTING

The two typical sports lighting source options are metal halide and light-emitting diode (LED). If supported by a well-designed system of light control, structures, electrical, and application, both light sources can result in good quality of lighting. However, hours of use have a major impact on the economics of balancing capital and operating cost.

For high usage grounds, the energy savings and other benefits of using an LED light source can generally pay back its higher capital equipment cost over the life of the asset.

#### Immediate full brightness

LED lighting provides instant on/off control. With no warm-up time, full lights come on immediately. This provides options for turning lights on and off between matches or training, presenting cost saving options.

#### Less maintenance

Bulb life span can extend beyond 70,000 hours, with no need to regularly change lightbulbs, reducing work loads for club volunteers or venue and ground managers.

#### Reduce energy consumption

LED lighting generally has 40% less power usage compared to metal halide lights translating to operational cost savings.

#### Spill control

LED lighting showcases a fine bright white light on an entire playing field at an even intensity. LED resembles daylight, making it easier to enhance both the player and spectator experience. Digital controls for dimming can also improve lighting uniformity across the playing field.

LED lighting supports players to track the entire flight of the ball, reduces impact on surrounding residents, increases lighting life spans and helps to improve lighting uniformity across ovals.

Investigating LED lighting options in growth and high ground usage areas should be considered for new lighting installations or where existing lighting is to be upgraded.

## 3. LIGHTING

### 3.3 Quick Guide to Preferred Provision

#### AUSTRALIAN STANDARD (AS2560.2.3 – LIGHTING FOR FOOTBALL (ALL CODES))

The following table provides an overview of the Australian Standard for minimum lighting requirements for football.

Level of Play	Typical Activity	Maintained Average Horizontal Illuminance (lux)	Minimum Horizontal Uniformities		Maximum Glare Rating
			(U1)	(U2)	
<b>Recreational Level</b>					
Touch and Tag	Touch and tag football	50	0.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Amateur Level (Local, Remote, Junior, School Venues)</b>					
Ball and Physical Training	May be suitable for training at local club level. <sup>1</sup>	50	0.3	N/A	N/A
Club Competition and Match Practice	Minimum requirement suitable for competition at local club level. Provides minimal viewing distances for spectators. <sup>2</sup>	100	0.5	0.3	50
<b>Semi Professional Level (Regional Venues)</b>					
Match Practice	Suitable for training at a semi-professional level.	100	0.5	0.3	50
Competition	Minimum suitable for competition at a semi professional level.	200	0.6	0.4	50
<b>Professional Level (State League and AFL)</b>					
The needs of AFL / AFLW and second tier competitions can alter based on competition regulations, broadcast needs and local environments. Venue owners wishing to conduct games at these levels should consult closely with their AFL State body or relevant competition governing body to ensure lighting design and levels meet all stakeholder requirements.					

Source: *Lighting Criteria (Standards Australia, Sports lighting Part 2.3: Specific applications – Lighting for football (all codes))*

**Note 1:** According to AS25260.2.3 footnote e; Ball and Physical Training is considered to differ from match practice in that ball and physical training is more controlled, involves fewer participants (typically two to four) and the paths of the participants and that of any ball used are more predictable than in a match-practice environment.

**Note 2:** If a club, league or council is looking to develop a night football venue, a minimum of 150 lux is recommended to ensure contemporary spectator viewing expectations are met. It is recommended that Clubs and Councils inspect recent lighting installations to increase their understanding of the strengths and limitations of differing lighting levels.



## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

### 4.1 Main Pavilion



The main pavilion plays a crucial role for football clubs, extending beyond the functional aspects of change rooms, toilets and kiosks. They provide a central meeting place for a club and community.

This section provides information on pavilion facility features for AFL, preferred area schedules and minimum standards.

#### Location of Main Pavilion

Pavilions (and main viewing areas) should be positioned to allow viewing of the entire field of play and to avoid looking into the sun. For this reason, pavilions are generally positioned on the western side of the playing field.

#### Social / Community Room

The provision of social / community rooms facilitate opportunities for social interaction, community building, social capital and club sustainability. Based on these benefits, AFL strongly recommends that social / community rooms and support infrastructure be provided at all levels. Total sizes may be influenced by likely average crowd attendance.

Social / community areas may include specialised bar facilities and/or access to an appropriate kiosk / kitchen servery. State level facilities are likely to require a separate cool room for food and beverage storage, while a lockable fridge is likely to be adequate for Regional and Local standard facilities.

Flexibility of the space is desirable to enable it to cater for a variety of community uses. This can be achieved with operable walls.

#### Third Umpire / Match Referee / Venue Management Room

Provision of an elevated room with unobstructed views of the playing field that can be used by match officials and for crowd monitoring / management will be required at State League level facilities. The room should allow for adequate telecommunication connections and use.

#### Utility Cleaners Room

Fit out to include an appropriate cleaners sink, hot and cold water, shelving, hooks and drainage.

#### External Covered Viewing Areas

The objective is to provide adequate space for viewing the playing field whilst providing sufficient protection from the weather. Final sizes may depend on likely crowd attendance and should not impede the boundary run-off area.

#### Kitchen and Kiosk

Facility designs will require local municipal Health Department approval. Access to storage immediately adjacent to the kitchen / kiosk and internal / external servery is paramount.

Where possible kiosks and serveries should allow volunteers manning these areas a view of the playing field.

#### Office / Administration / Meeting

The inclusion of an office / administration / meeting room is required to facilitate club management. These spaces are important in assisting volunteers in the significant duties they undertake.

The room should provide access to broadband internet connections, telecommunications and include appropriate shelving, file storage (secure) and computer equipment.

## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

### 4.1 Main Pavilion

#### Public Toilets

Final sizes will depend on likely crowd attendance based on historical data, municipal town planning requirements and building code requirements. Public toilets should be easy to access from inside and outside the building and be signed appropriately with consideration of gender neutral provision.

#### Storage

Internal and externally accessible storage areas are needed that provide adequate space for seasonal storage of club equipment, files, stock and other material. An externally accessible storage facility is important for maintenance equipment, materials and secure services (for example rubbish bins).

Storage areas may need to provide separate secure areas (cages or lockers) for storing equipment used by a variety of pavilion users (seasonal and casual).

#### Timekeepers / Scorers Box

Facilities need to provide a clear view of the playing field, usually located on the centre wing position (central to the playing field). The timekeepers / scorers box is usually provided as part of the main pavilion although it can also be provided as a stand alone building.

The facility should be fitted with electronic siren control and (ideally) electronic scoreboard controls, although manually operated scoreboards are acceptable at all levels.



## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

### 4.2 Inclusive Design



Female football is now the fastest growing segment of our game. This is expected to continue as more leagues, competitions and clubs establish dedicated girls and women's teams and competitions. In addition to players, umpiring ranks are also seeing growing female involvement, along with all other aspects of our sport.

#### INTRODUCTION

Most of the facilities that are used for our game have historically been built to cater for male usage only. If we are to continue to attract more girls and women, there is a need to provide welcoming physical environments. This includes ensuring that all players and umpires have access to appropriate change, shower and toilet facilities.

This section has been developed to provide more detail around what is considered best practice in the design of rooms and amenities for all users.

People often think of female change rooms as separate dedicated change facilities. This is not the case. Rather it is about transforming the existing amenities to cater for greater flexibility in use, removing urinals and open showers and replacing with toilet cubicles and shower cubicles that allow showering and changing in privacy. In other words, great change facilities cater equally well for all users.

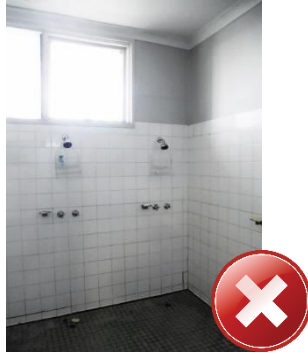
There are also other facility elements that help make a welcoming facility and club environment. These include cleanliness of the change, shower and toilet areas, provision of sanitary bins and external pavilion and car park lighting to provide additional safety and security during and after training and night matches. These elements should also be front of mind when considering new and upgraded facilities.

It is hoped that the following information on inclusive change facilities will help transform existing facilities that have largely catered for male use, to welcoming and vibrant facilities that continue to attract people of all ages, genders and abilities to our great game.

# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.2 Inclusive Design

The following diagrams provide examples of facilities and amenities that do not meet the minimum standards in providing welcoming environments for users, as well as preferred amenity provision solutions.



Avoid open shower pillars, open stalls and glazed shower screens.  
Provide compact laminate shower cubicles with dedicated seating.  
Provide vandal-resistant fitting and fixtures such as recessed soap dishes.



Avoid trough and individual wall hung urinals.  
Convert all urinals into individual partitioned toilet pans.  
Provide as a minimum one ambulant accessible toilet cubicle in each amenities and umpires rooms as required by current codes and standards.



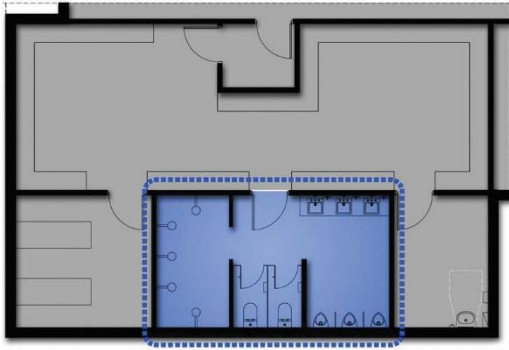
Avoid wall-hung basins with no shelf space.  
Provide vanity / shelving / ledge and mirror behind.  
Provide electrical outlets in close proximity to vanities.



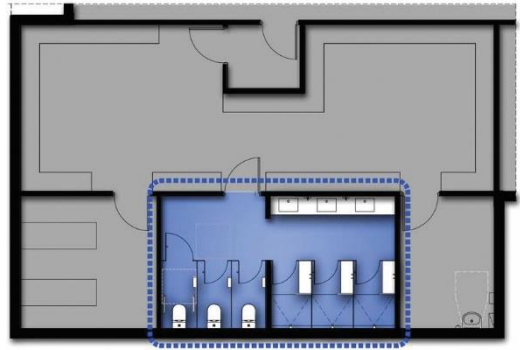
# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.3 Refurbishment Options

### REFURBISHMENT OPTION – Conversion where there is sufficient space in the existing Amenities.

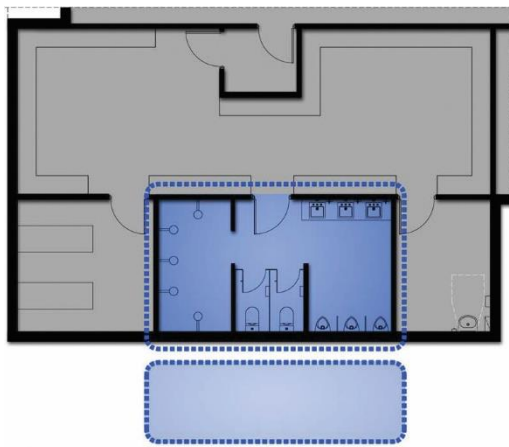


EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

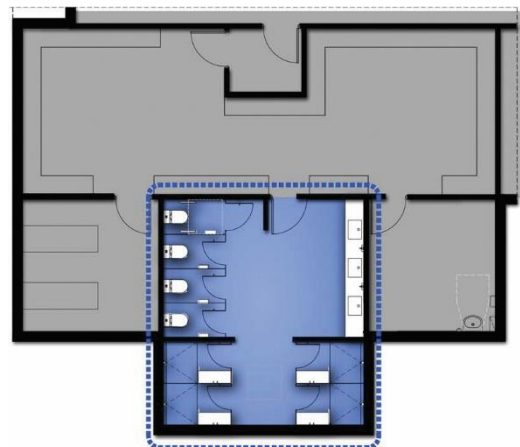


PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

### REFURBISHMENT OPTION – Extension option 1 where there is insufficient space in the existing Amenities.



EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

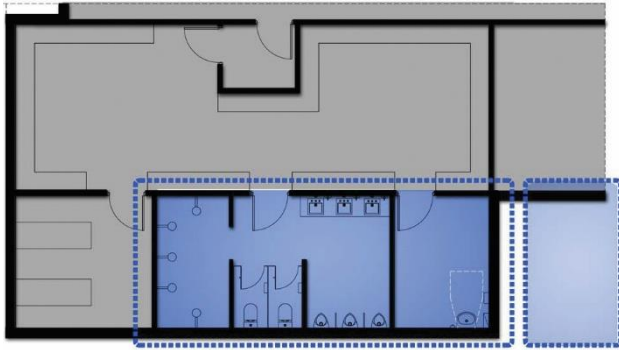


PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

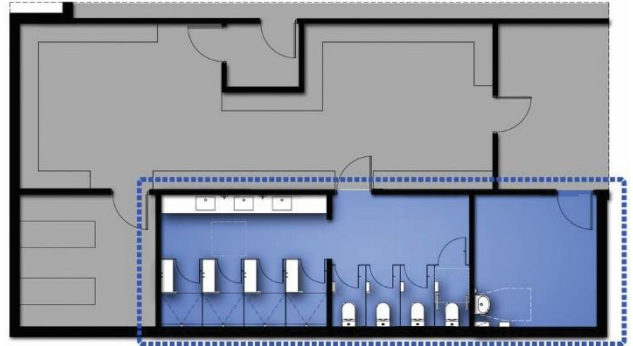
# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.3 Refurbishment Options

**REFURBISHMENT OPTION –**  
Extension option 2 where there is insufficient space in the existing Amenities.

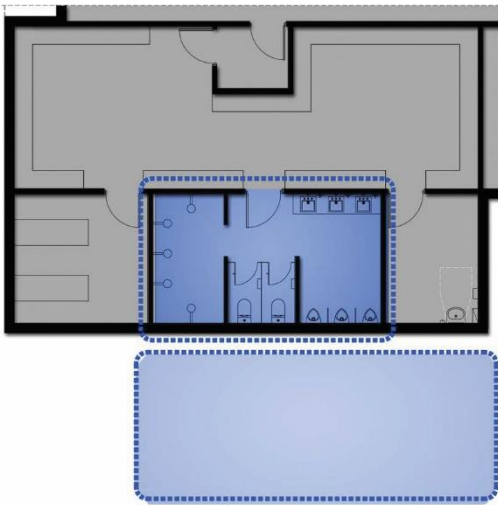


EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

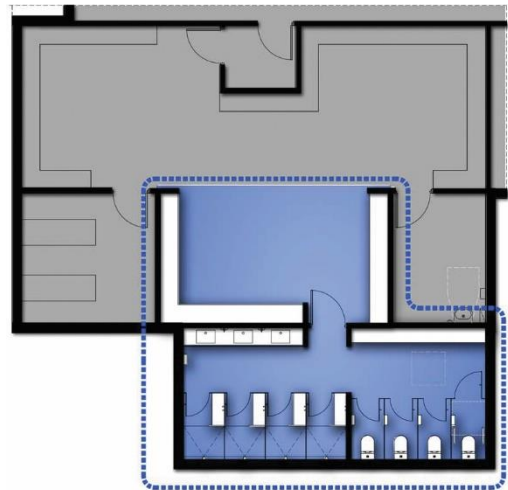


PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

**REFURBISHMENT OPTION –**  
Extension option 3 where there is insufficient space in the existing Amenities.

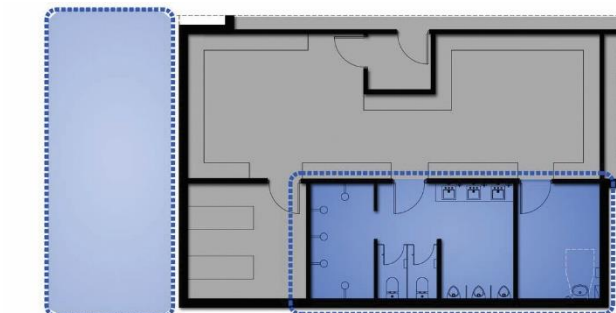


EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50



PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

**REFURBISHMENT OPTION –**  
Extension option 4 where there is insufficient space in the existing Amenities.



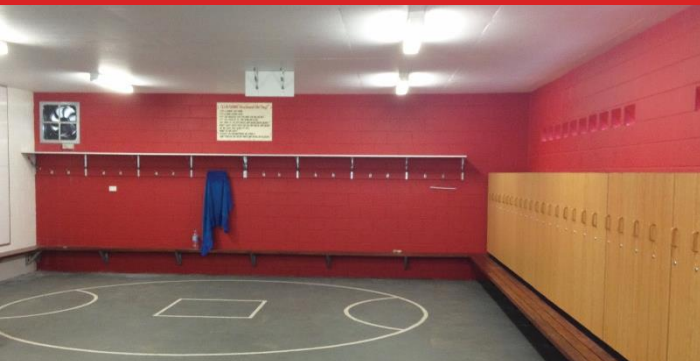
EXISTING CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50



PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
SCALE 1:50

## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

### 4.4 General Amenities



The provision of well designed, welcoming and inclusive change facilities is critical to the continued growth of Australian Football and to optimize the range of potential users.

#### GENERAL AMENITIES

##### Player amenities (toilet / showers)

As a minimum, provision for two change rooms to cater for home and away teams per oval on site is required.

**Showers:** lockable cubicle showers are preferred. Refer to the *Change Facilities – Inclusive Design* section of these Guidelines.

**Toilets:** there is no expectation to install urinals in player amenity areas. Replacement of urinals with an additional toilet pan or appropriate screening should be considered to provide more flexible usage options.

**State:** minimum of five showers with five pan toilets

**Regional:** four showers with four pan toilets

**Local:** three showers with three pan toilets

##### Changes rooms

Two separate change rooms (one home and one away team) with bench seating provided around the room perimeter. If lockers are included then the size of the room may need to increase to compensate.

**State:** 30 individual lockers in each change room

**Regional:** clothing bags / hooks above bench seating

**Local:** clothing bags / hooks above bench seating

##### Massage / strapping room

A separate room immediately adjacent to each change room is to be provided with massage / strapping tables for use by home and away teams.

**State:** four massage / strapping tables

**Regional:** two massage / strapping tables

**Local:** can be performed within a change room with appropriate screening to cater for more flexible usage options

##### Umpires rooms

Umpires rooms need to be gender neutral and cater for diversity, particularly female umpires. The provision of areas where changing can occur in private is critical to the retention of umpires. Options also should be considered for a 'common area' with benches for use during breaks where umpires are able to congregate.

##### All facility hierarchy levels

**Showers:** two (minimum) within a lockable cubicle toilet

**Hand basin:** one

**Seating:** bench seating and clothes / bag hooks

#### STATE LEVEL VENUES – ADDITIONAL CORE AMENITIES

State level venues require the following additional amenities with optional provision for Regional and Local level venues facilities:

**Doctors room:** a separate area to cater for desk and treatment bed with a sink.

**Gymnasium/fitness room:** spatial requirements to be determined in consultation with likely tenant clubs.

## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

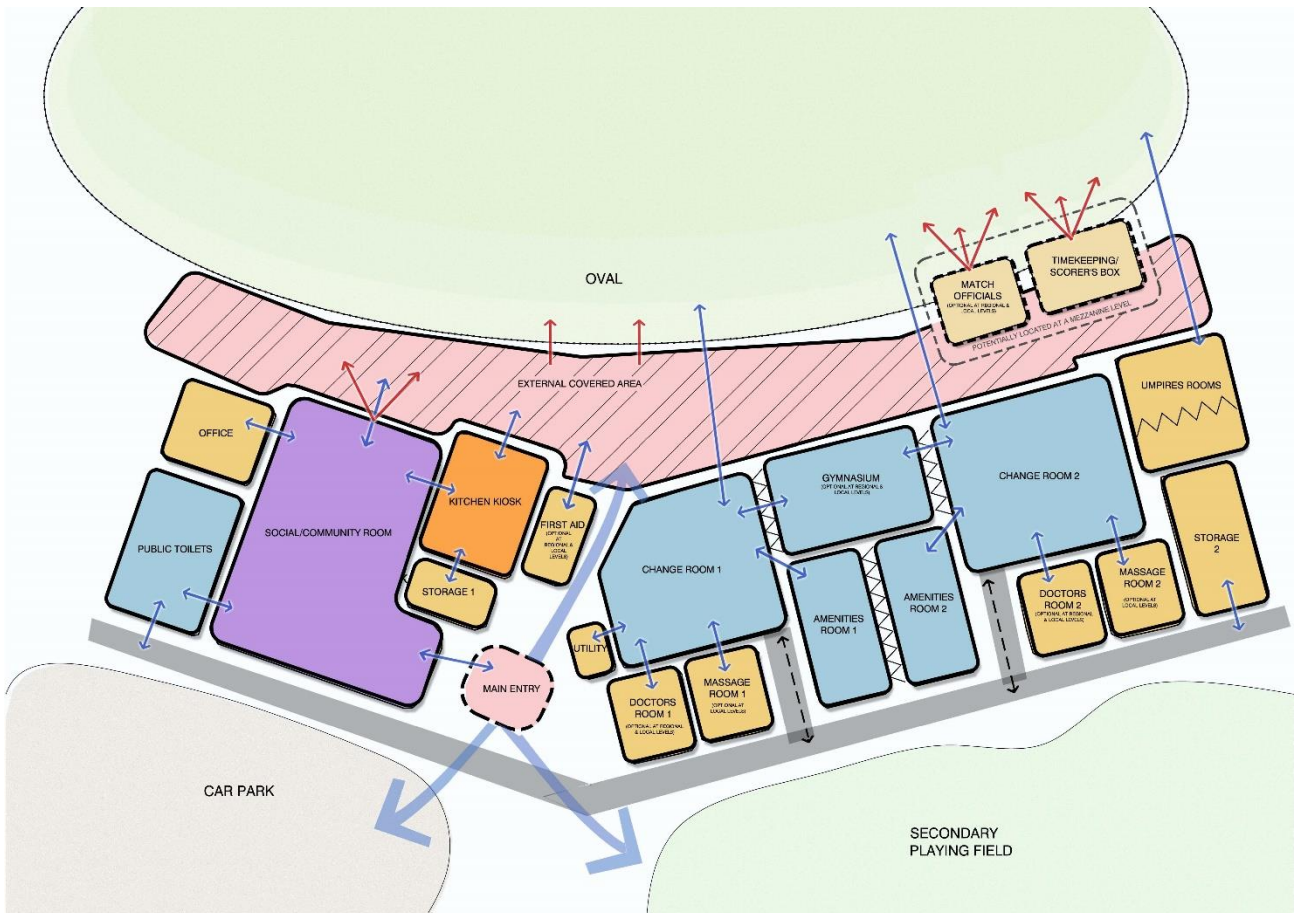
### 4.5 Design Options

The following illustrations in this section outline indicative design options for single playing field State, Regional and Local level venues. Illustrations are provided courtesy of JMA Architects. Indicative designs set out preferred facility provision for football in terms of spatial relationships and room area dimensions. Individual site conditions and the consideration of innovative solutions to maximise flexibility and a range of uses should be given to individual facility design projects.

The sample floor plans provided within this document are not intended to be used as detailed designs or plans suitable for construction or tendering purposes. Each pavilion or building project should seek independent architectural advice to ensure user, budget and functional needs are met.

#### 4.5.1 GENERIC PAVILION FUNCTIONAL DIAGRAM

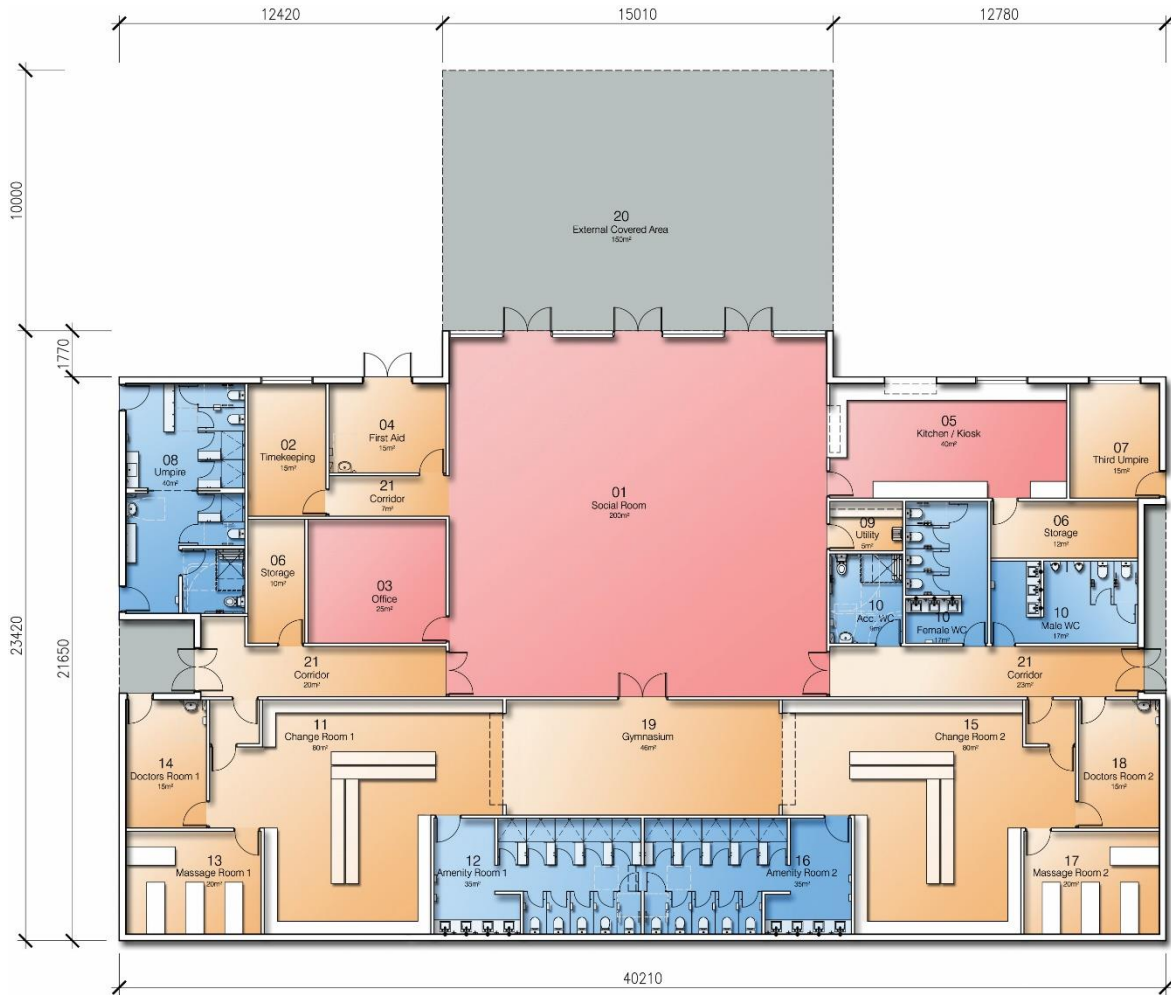
The suggested functional pavilion diagram below depicts a generic football pavilion facility with a range of room and functional areas. It has been developed only to show the functional relationships between building areas and with the associated site amenities, playing fields and spectator areas.



# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.5 Design Options

### 4.5.2 STATE FACILITY



### STATE FACILITY AREA SUMMARY

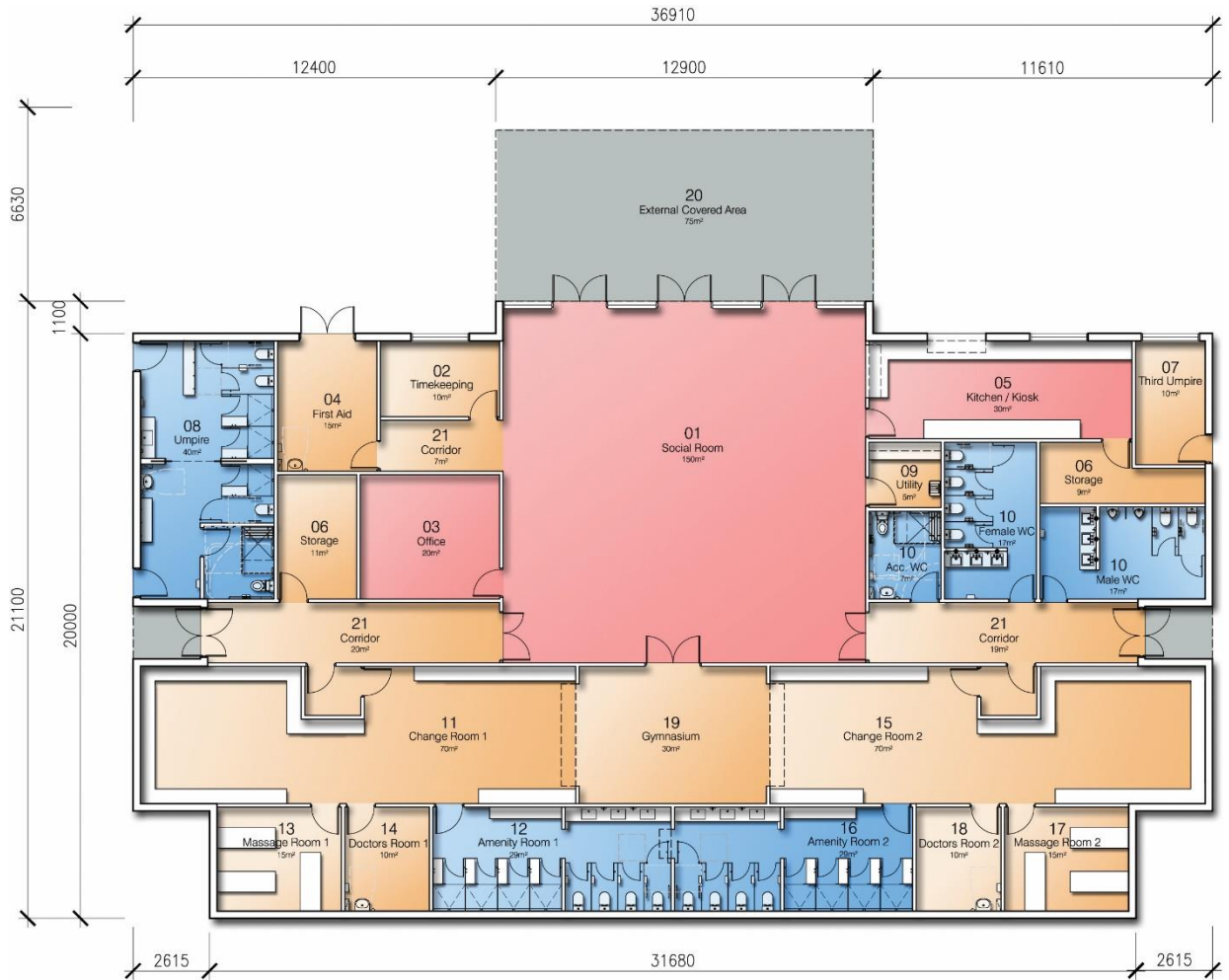
No.	Room Name	Area	No.	Room Name	Area
01	Social Room	200m <sup>2</sup>	11	Change Room 1	80m <sup>2</sup>
02	Timekeeping	15m <sup>2</sup>	12	Amenity Room 1	35m <sup>2</sup>
03	Office	25m <sup>2</sup>	13	Massage Room 1	20m <sup>2</sup>
04	First Aid	15m <sup>2</sup>	14	Doctors Room 1	15m <sup>2</sup>
05	Kitchen / Kiosk	40m <sup>2</sup>	15	Change Room 2	80m <sup>2</sup>
06	Storage	22m <sup>2</sup>	16	Amenity Room 2	35m <sup>2</sup>
07	Third Umpire / Match Officials	15m <sup>2</sup>	17	Massage Room 2	20m <sup>2</sup>
08	Umpire	40m <sup>2</sup>	18	Doctors Room 2	15m <sup>2</sup>
09	Utility	5m <sup>2</sup>	19	Gymnasium	46m <sup>2</sup>
10	Acc.WC	9m <sup>2</sup>	20	External Covered Area	150m <sup>2</sup>
10	Female WC	17m <sup>2</sup>	21	Corridors	84m <sup>2</sup>
10	Male WC	17m <sup>2</sup>			

**Total: 1,000m<sup>2</sup>**

# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.5 Design Options

### 4.5.3 REGIONAL FACILITY



### REGIONAL FACILITY AREA SUMMARY

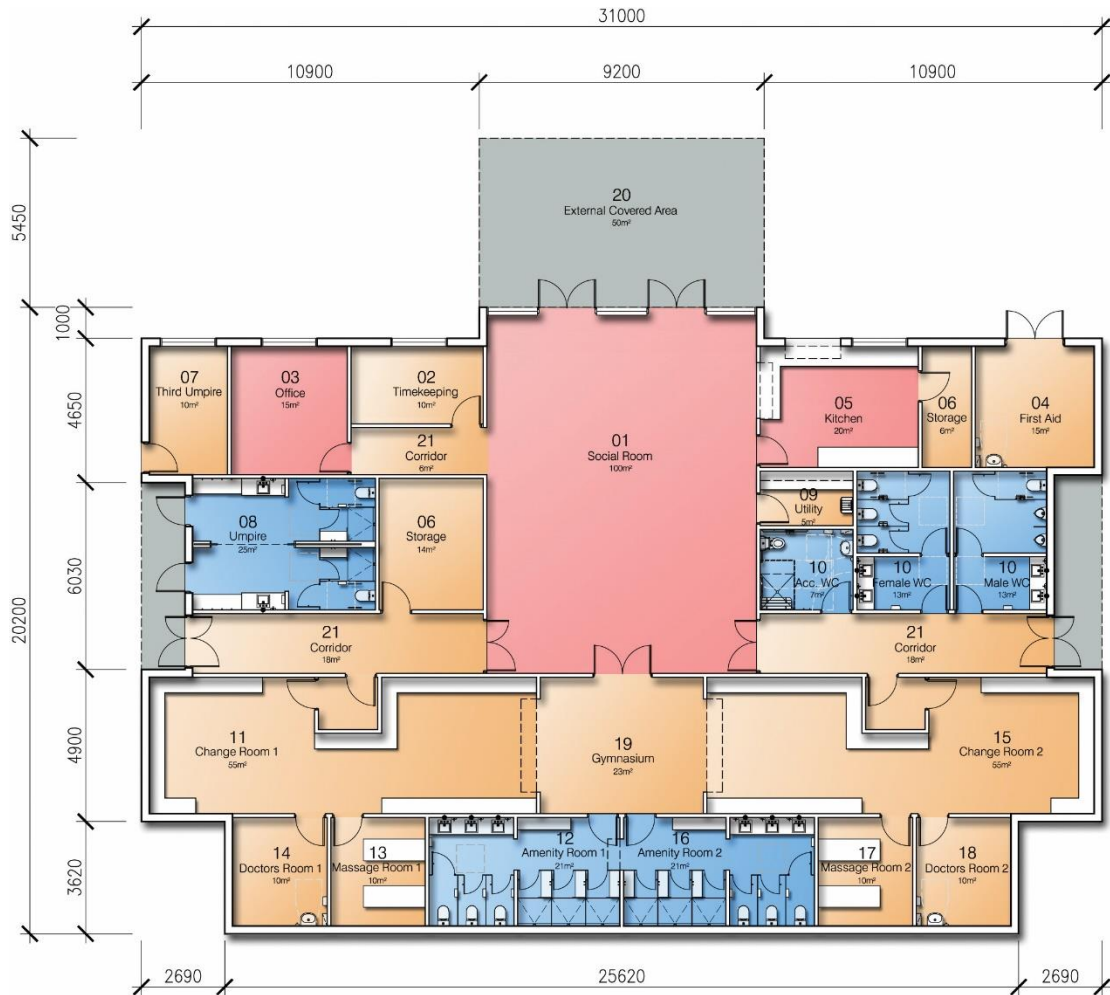
No.	Room Name	Area	No.	Room Name	Area
01	Social Room	150m <sup>2</sup>	11	Change Room 1	70m <sup>2</sup>
02	Timekeeping	10m <sup>2</sup>	12	Amenity Room 1	29m <sup>2</sup>
03	Office	20m <sup>2</sup>	13	Massage Room 1	15m <sup>2</sup>
04	First Aid	15m <sup>2</sup>	14	Doctors Room 1	10m <sup>2</sup>
05	Kitchen / Kiosk	20m <sup>2</sup>	15	Change Room 2	70m <sup>2</sup>
06	Storage	20m <sup>2</sup>	16	Amenity Room 2	29m <sup>2</sup>
07	Third Umpire / Match Officials	10m <sup>2</sup>	17	Massage Room 2	15m <sup>2</sup>
08	Umpire	40m <sup>2</sup>	18	Doctors Room 2	10m <sup>2</sup>
09	Utility	5m <sup>2</sup>	19	Gymnasium	30m <sup>2</sup>
10	Acc.WC	7m <sup>2</sup>	20	External Covered Area	75m <sup>2</sup>
10	Female WC	17m <sup>2</sup>	21	Corridors	75m <sup>2</sup>
10	Male WC	17m <sup>2</sup>			

**Total: 728m<sup>2</sup>**

# 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

## 4.5 Design Options

### 4.5.4 LOCAL FACILITY



### LOCAL FACILITY AREA SUMMARY

No.	Room Name	Area	No.	Room Name	Area
01	Social Room	100m <sup>2</sup>	11	Change Room 1	55m <sup>2</sup>
02	Timekeeping	10m <sup>2</sup>	12	Amenity Room 1	21m <sup>2</sup>
03	Office	15m <sup>2</sup>	13	Massage Room 1	10m <sup>2</sup>
04	First Aid	15m <sup>2</sup>	14	Doctors Room 1	10m <sup>2</sup>
05	Kitchen / Kiosk	20m <sup>2</sup>	15	Change Room 2	55m <sup>2</sup>
06	Storage	20m <sup>2</sup>	16	Amenity Room 2	21m <sup>2</sup>
07	Third Umpire / Match Officials	10m <sup>2</sup>	17	Massage Room 2	10m <sup>2</sup>
08	Umpire	25m <sup>2</sup>	18	Doctors Room 2	10m <sup>2</sup>
09	Utility	5m <sup>2</sup>	19	Gymnasium	23m <sup>2</sup>
10	Acc.WC	7m <sup>2</sup>	20	External Covered Area	50m <sup>2</sup>
10	Female WC	13m <sup>2</sup>	21	Corridors	72m <sup>2</sup>
10	Male WC	13m <sup>2</sup>			

**Total: 590m<sup>2</sup>**

## 4. PAVILIONS & CHANGE FACILITIES

### 4.6 Quick Guide to Preferred Provision

The following table shows the preferred minimum standard guidelines for the provision of main pavilion facilities for State, Regional and Local level facilities at single playing field venues. While these areas set the minimum levels, exceeding these guidelines to meet a range of other uses and users may be a consideration for project partners.

Multiple playing fields may require additional amenities to cater for concurrent use. All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Playing Field Facilities	Preferred Minimum Sizes (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	State	Regional	Local
Player Amenities (toilet/showers)	35m <sup>2</sup> x 2*	25m <sup>2</sup> x 2*	25m <sup>2</sup> x 2*
Number of showers	5 x showers per amenity	4 x showers per amenity	3 x showers per amenity
Number of pan toilets	5 x toilets per amenity	4 x toilets per amenity	3 x toilets per amenity
Player Change Rooms	2* x 75m <sup>2</sup> -90m <sup>2</sup>	2* x 55m <sup>2</sup> -75m <sup>2</sup>	2* x 45m <sup>2</sup> -55m <sup>2</sup>
Doctors Room	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Massage / Strapping Room	2 x 20m <sup>2</sup>	2 x 15m <sup>2</sup>	2 x 10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
External covered viewing area	150m <sup>2</sup>	75m <sup>2</sup>	50m <sup>2</sup>
Gymnasium / Fitness Room	40m <sup>2</sup> -50m <sup>2</sup>	25m <sup>2</sup> -30m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	20m <sup>2</sup> -25m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Kitchen & Kiosk	40m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>
First Aid / Medical Room (Public Access)	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	15m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Office / Administration / Meeting	25m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>
Public Toilets	Male 20m <sup>2</sup> Female 20m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>	Male 15m <sup>2</sup> Female 15m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>	Male 10m <sup>2</sup> Female 10m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>
Storage (internal and external)	25m <sup>2</sup> +	20m <sup>2</sup> +	20m <sup>2</sup>
Social / Community Room	200m <sup>2</sup>	150m <sup>2</sup>	100m <sup>2</sup>
Third umpire / match referee / venue management room	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Timekeeping / Scorers Box	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>
Umpires Rooms (including toilet and showers)	30m <sup>2</sup> -40m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup> -40m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup> -25m <sup>2</sup>
Utility / Cleaners Room	5m <sup>2</sup> +	5m <sup>2</sup> +	5m <sup>2</sup> +

\* **Note:** Individual sites that cater for higher level competition and/or back-to-back schedules may consider the provision of additional player change rooms and amenity areas.





## 5. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

## 5. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

### 5.1 Supporting Infrastructure



Outside of the playing fields, lighting, change room and pavilion facilities there are several key support infrastructure items that need to be considered and planned for when developing a new or upgrading an existing community Australian Football venue. This section explores several areas of supporting infrastructure that contribute to venue benefits for players, spectators family members and the wider community.

#### Car Parking

Adequate car parking will be required at all venues to cater for anticipated levels of use, including spectators. Car parking may be sealed or unsealed as appropriate and designated accessible car parking should be provided. The number of car spaces will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

#### Clock

An approved match time clock that can be seen by spectators, players and officials shall be provided at all State League venues. Any finals venue should strongly consider installing a time clock, potentially as part of an electronic scoreboard.

#### Cricket Practice Nets

Inclusion of cricket practice nets should not encroach on the playing surface or surrounding safety run-off zone for Australian Football. Bowlers run-ups are preferably provided off the oval surface to avoid soil compaction, wear and uneven playing surfaces within the designated playing field.

#### Oval Fencing

Oval fencing serves to define the area of play, assist to manage spectators, protect playing surface against vehicle access and provide opportunity for match day promotion.

Oval fencing should be approximately 900mm high with chain link in-fill or similar and allow adequate run-off distance from the playing field boundary line. Fencing of Local ovals is desirable although not essential. *Australian Standard AS1725.5 (2010) – Chain link fabric fencing – Sports ground fencing – General requirements* makes provision for key design and installation needs for chain link fencing.

Adequate gates / access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, players and officials is required and should be clearly signed.

#### Reserve Fencing

Reserve fencing is required at State League venues to control crowd access and management, including collection of entrance fees. Fencing of Regional and Local reserves is also preferred for the same reasons, however this will depend on local conditions and anticipated use.

Many football associations will not schedule finals at venues that do not have reserve fencing. Reserve fencing can be provided in such a way as to assist in crowd management on match days, whilst still facilitating public access at all other times (ie sliding gates / fence panels).

#### Public Address System

A public address system is not essential, although highly desirable, particularly at State League level venues.

#### Siren

An approved siren shall be installed and operated in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football (Section 10). Multiple sites for amplification around the ground may be required.

#### Spectator Seating / Grandstand

Determined on a case by case basis having due regard to the standard of competition to be hosted, anticipated crowds and site appropriateness.

#### Water Harvesting / ESD

The inclusion of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) features in a facility can reduce operating costs and the environmental impact of a facility. The use of natural light, installation of solar panels and water harvesting for pavilion plumbing (toilets) and/or ground irrigation are strongly encouraged.

## 5. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

### 5.2 Quick Guide to Preferred Provision

The following table shows the preferred minimum standard guidelines for the provision of additional facilities for State, Regional and Local level facilities.

All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Additional Facilities	Recommended Provision		
	State	Regional	Local
Car parking	No specific standards (150-180 desired)	No specific standards (120-150 desired)	No specific standards (80-120 desired)
Clock	Yes	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Oval Fencing	No specific standards	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Public address system	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Reserve Fencing	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Siren	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spectator Seating / Grandstand	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>

#### Cricket pitch covering

Synthetic cricket pitches need to be covered during football season to protect both the cricket pitch surface and for the safety of players. Two options are recommended for synthetic cricket pitch covering: Synthetic pitch covers and covering with soil.

Covering with soil can in some instances create an uneven or raised surface surrounding the pitch, which can result in unpredictable deviation of the ball once in play or a water pooling effect in the event of wet weather.

Synthetic covers provide an alternative to using soil and in most instances can provide a more level playing field. It is important that synthetic covers meet AFL/CA approved synthetic turf product performance and testing standards. *Refer section 2.2 Synthetic Turf for technical details.*

Consideration of line marking centre circles adjacent to covered synthetic or turf wicket areas should be considered where practical or where surface condition may impact play.



## 6. CASE STUDIES

## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.1 Hurlingham Park (Victoria)



**IMPROVED LIGHTING  
AND PARTICIPANT  
AMENITIES TO  
SUPPORT GREATER  
DIVERSITY IN USE AND  
INCREASED VENUE  
CAPACITY**



#### **CLUBS**

East Brighton Football Netball Club  
East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club



#### **CLUB COUNCIL**

Bayside City Council (Victoria)



#### **FACILITY PARTNERS**

Bayside City Council  
East Brighton Football Netball Club  
East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club  
Brighton Union Cricket Club



#### **PROJECT VALUE**

\$3,419,245

The Hurlingham Park redevelopment saw extensive collaboration between tenant users and Bayside City Council to plan the transformation of the facility into a state of the art community venue that supports diversity and club growth.

The pavilion design incorporates four gender neutral change rooms, gender neutral umpire amenities, elevated scorer room, first aid room, accessible public amenities, extensive storage, regional level social spaces and office accommodation. Lighting upgrades of 100 lux on Oval 1 and 50 lux on Oval 2 were also actioned with additional power planned for to potentially increase lux levels in the future.

The pavilion was designed to create a “heart” for the 800+ members based at the venue between football and cricket. It acknowledged the need for appropriate infrastructure to support community sports, not only with the sport specific requirements, but also the need to create a space for people to gather and foster a sense of community.

The new pavilion accommodates game day luncheons and fundraising events, assisting to support tenant revenue raising and ongoing sustainability. The four change rooms cater for the dual oval site and dividing roller shutters allow flexible use of change amenities. Gender neutral umpire facilities and elevated scorer areas ensure officials and volunteers are appropriately catered for.

The pavilion has supported growth in participation of 140+ players during the winter tenancy. The inclusion of 100 lux lighting on Oval 1, facilitated night matches for women’s football home matches and supported the expansion of female and junior participation within the Bayside community.

The installation of 50 lux lighting on Oval 2 has increased the training capacity of the reserve by 100% to support participation growth into the future.

Also of interest is the 64 strips of low-energy LED lights that circle the building and illuminate it at night. The low cost, energy efficient lighting, enables Bayside City Council to change the colours of the building to reflect the team colours of the different sports clubs who operate out of the new facility or even to reflect the season.

While the lights help to add visual appeal and club spirit to the building, their real purpose is far more practical. Underpinning the lighting are principles of Safety by Design which helps to reduce anti-social behaviour and makes the area around the pavilion a safer place to be after hours.

Bayside City Council’s investment of \$3.4M to the redevelopment exemplifies their commitment to developing multipurpose community spaces that maximise the potential of their facilities and sportsgrounds and meet the needs of community sports clubs by allowing training and games to continue after dark.

## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

- Collaboration between football, cricket and Council
- Improved facility provision that caters for club growth and sustainability
- Improved ground capacity
- The transformation of the venue into a inviting, accessible community facility that caters for diversity and club growth into the future on and off the field

## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.2 Snowtown Oval (South Australia)



#### MODULAR SOLUTION TO PROVIDE TIMELY, INCLUSIVE FACILITIES AT AN AFFORDABLE COST



#### CLUBS

Blyth-Snowtown Football Netball Club



#### CLUB COUNCIL

Wakefield District Council (South Australia)



#### FACILITY PARTNERS

SANFL

Ausco Modular

State Government

Local Caravan Park



#### PROJECT VALUE

\$620,000

SANFL and Ausco Modular have partnered to assist in meeting the growing infrastructure needs of football and sporting clubs across South Australia due to the rapid rise in female participation. With the popularity of Australian Football accelerated among women since the inception of the AFLW and SANFL State-wide Super Women's League, the requirement for female-friendly facilities has become paramount.

And that's where the union between SANFL and Ausco Modular is already making a swift impact at grassroots level by producing purpose-built facilities for the needs of the local community from a design, quality and cost perspective.





The efficiency of the building method is expected to be a game-changer across the industry in providing facilities to service the rapid growth in female football. Along with saving time during the planning and construction phases, another significant benefit is to the tireless volunteers who run the community football clubs across South Australia.

Through SANFL's cooperative arrangement with Ausco, clubs now have access to free design and project management services. This ensures the project will meet the needs of their community while reducing the project management burden on volunteers.

Blyth-Snowtown Football and Netball Club is the first in South Australia to reap the rewards of the partnership, after securing funding from the State Government, Wakefield District Council and SANFL to build the first high-specification modular building in Australia.

This whole of community project provides quality change facilities for players and umpires involved in football and netball, as well as users of the caravan park.

Included in the \$620,000 project is two gender neutral AFL change rooms, a netball change room, an AFL standard umpire facility, storage facility, public toilets and a canteen.

All the buildings adhere to the AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines by providing quality assurance through the inclusion of sound-rated walls, increased ceiling height, private wet areas and dynamic building finishes.

Importantly, with less site disruption in terms of area and timeline – due to 90 per cent of the building being completed prior to delivery and installation – it also significantly reduces the impact on local football and other sports clubs users continuing to function during the construction phase.

## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS:

- New building innovation is proven to provide sporting facilities 60 per cent faster at 30 per cent less cost.
- Collaboration between football, Council, SANFL, Ausco Modular, State Government and community
- Minimal disruption to tenants during the building phase and through the reduced construction period
- Cost effective option for all funding bodies
- The transformation of the venue into a inviting, accessible community facility catering for diversity and club growth



## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.3 Gore Hill Park (New South Wales)



#### PROVISION OF SYNTHETIC PLAYING FIELD AND NEW AMENITIES TO CATER FOR GROWTH AND DIVERSITY



#### CLUBS

North Shore Football Club  
Willoughby Wildcats Junior Football Club



#### CLUB COUNCIL

Willoughby City Council (NSW)



#### FACILITY PARTNERS

Federal Government



#### PROJECT VALUE

\$10,500,000

The Gore Hill Park Redevelopment was a \$10.5 million project for Willoughby Council with \$9.5 million of funds provided by the Federal Government's Community Development Grants Program.

The Park had been a sporting field for over 90 years and was in need of an upgrade to support the needs of the growing and changing community in St Leonards CBD and the wider Willoughby, North Sydney and Lane Cove areas.

The objective of the redevelopment was to increase the number of people, the range of users and the range of times that Gore Hill Park can be used.

The redevelopment project and associated works included:

- The construction of a modular building including pavilion, change rooms and toilet facilities
- Re-aligning the existing oval and installing a synthetic playing surface with a cricket wicket
- Permanent AFL oval markings and dot identifiers to support cricket and soccer to the new synthetic playing surface
- The installation of 200 lux level oval lighting
- Provision of netting behind goal posts
- The construction of a regional playground, associated outdoor ball courts and outdoor gym
- The construction of a perimeter walking track
- Public domain works to facilitate access and public spaces
- The installation of an on-site storm water detention system
- Upgrading and re-aligning the southern car park.

The conversion of the oval to a synthetic sports surface improved oval capacity, addressing high demand and community participation in the area. The new regional playground provides for varying age groups, combining play equipment and natural play elements in a unique play setting.

The multi-purpose indoor sporting complex is located near the Pacific Highway frontage for easy public access with underground car parking which allowed for the removal of the existing car park for more landscaped parkland.

The Gore Hill Park Redevelopment highlights the value of investment into synthetic surfaces to address ground capacity and condition issues in land locked inner suburban areas whilst supporting passive recreational options and community diversity by providing appropriate landscaping, play equipment options and multi-purpose spaces that are inclusive and welcoming.

## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

- Collaboration between local council, federal government and community
- The transformation of the venue into a inviting, accessible community facility that caters for diversity and club growth
- Conversion of the oval to a synthetic surface to address ground capacity in land locked areas

## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.4 City of Ballarat (Victoria)



**A SUCCESSFUL LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR PLAYING FIELD REDEVELOPMENT THAT HAS RESULTED IN 60% MORE WEEKLY HOURS OF USE**



#### **CLUBS**

Multiple



#### **CLUB COUNCIL**

Ballarat City Council (Victoria)



#### **FACILITY PARTNERS**

AFL Victoria  
AFL Goldfields  
State Government

In 2013 Ballarat City Council identified a number of infrastructure improvements for AFL facilities through the development of a Recreation Strategy.

During this process and through the development of AFL Victoria's Growing the Heartland, Football Facilities Development Strategy 2017-2022 it was identified that there was deficient levels of facilities meeting the current playing standards and needs for football. To address these issues council developed a rolling seven year capital works program to improve the facilities currently provided.

AFL Victoria and AFL Goldfields also undertook detailed audits of all facilities in the City of Ballarat and through that identified which facilities were in most need of upgrade. This process assisted in refining the seven year capital works program for Council and ensured that there was alignment of strategic priorities between Council, AFL Victoria and AFL Goldfields.

The Ballarat City Council, AFL Victoria and AFL Goldfields established that the highest priority in Ballarat was to improve the condition and usability of playing surfaces and lighting to provide for current and future demands. The delivery of safe, high standard playing environments was identified as critical to the growth of local clubs.

**Since implementing their ground renewal strategy, grounds in Ballarat are now providing 60% more usage hours for participation and servicing an additional 1,180 football participants.**

The commitment from Council is to provide a rolling annual improvement program to ensure that clubs and participants are regularly seeing improvements to the playing conditions of their facilities.

**Heath Scotland - former Ballarat Football Netball League Club Coach and AFL player (Collingwood FC and Carlton FC)**

*“Providing high quality training and playing conditions is more important than some realise to increasing both the standard of competitions and enabling players to reach their full potential. In Ballarat we now have the right conditions to achieve high levels of performance for clubs and players. I’ve played on a lot of grounds in my career and I can honestly say that these grounds are among the best I have competed on.”*

**EXAMPLE OF PROJECTS DELIVERED SINCE 2013**

VENUE	VALUE	PROJECT	CAPACITY GROWTH
Marty Busch Recreation Reserve	\$1.9M	Oval, lighting and power supply upgrades	175% increase in hours used and new events. Winner of AFL Victoria’s Best Community Football Facility Project 2017
CE Brown Recreation Reserve	\$1.4M	Oval and lighting upgrades	15% increase in winter bookings
Northern Oval 2	\$1.2M	Oval and lighting upgrades	96% increase in hours used
MARS Stadium	\$2.55M	Oval and lighting upgrades	Increase in major events including AFL matches
City Oval	\$1.9M	Oval, lighting, power and parking upgrades	8% increase in winter hours used

## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.5 Keith Dunne Oval (Queensland)



#### STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION TO DELIVER LED LIGHTING THAT BENEFITS A RANGE OF USERS



#### CLUBS

Bay Power Amateur Football Club (AFC)



#### CLUB COUNCIL

Fraser Coast Regional Council (Queensland)



#### FACILITY PARTNERS

Fraser Coast Regional Council  
Bay Power AFC  
AFL Queensland  
Cricket Queensland  
Queensland Government  
Federal Government



#### PROJECT VALUE

\$440,000

Lighting upgrades at Keith Dunne Oval saw a range of stakeholders collaborate to deliver a \$440,000 project to cater for participation growth in football and cricket and support night competition options.

Night-time cricket and football finals will now be regular features at the Oval following the successful installation of LED lighting at the Hervey Bay ground.

Lighting provision at Keith Dunne Oval had been a community concern for well over a decade, with existing lighting provision limiting the ability of football to expand training and competition structures.

The upgrade means that players can safely train after dark, especially in winter, which was also a concern raised by football club users.

The LED lighting now allows the scheduling of night games for both junior and senior competition structures. It also facilitates growth in female participation and capacity to extend training options to new teams and match formats such as AFL 9s.

LED lighting is providing a range of benefits for the club, making it more attractive for new players and giving club sponsors better value for money.

Collaboration on the project was key to meeting investment deliverables with stakeholders including the Federal Government, Queensland State Government, Fraser Coast Regional Council Cricket Queensland, AFL Queensland and Bay Power Australian Football Club, all of which are thrilled with the project outcomes.

The partnership with cricket in the project resulted in the lux level being raised to 350 lux which is also suitable for AFL State League training and possible AFL club preseason camps in the bayside city.

The provision of match standard lights has had a direct benefit for female football locally, allowing scheduling of club matches at the same venue and on the same day as the senior men's teams. This permits all of a club's senior teams to travel and play as one group, with the single day schedule greatly relieving the load on club volunteers.

The LED lighting also provides longer use times at the venue, enabling the cross over of games with teams from adjoining Leagues, providing variety in playing fixtures and competitive games throughout the season.

The investment will ultimately improve lifestyles and build stronger community links in Hervey Bay, with the upgrade set to increase participation in sport and enhance the sustainability of the football and cricket clubs and their respective leagues.

## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

- Collaboration between local council, state government, AFL, cricket and the community
- Capacity for the venue to cater for a diverse range of users and sports and support club growth
- Support player attraction and club financial sustainability with reduced electrical costs

## 6. CASE STUDIES

### 6.6 Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct



#### PROVISION OF NEW GRASS OVAL AND SYNTHETIC SPORTS FIELD ACCOMODATING FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTS WITH SUPPORTING AMENITIES



#### AFL CLUBS

Gisborne Football Netball Club  
Gisborne Rookies Junior Football Netball Club



#### CLUB COUNCIL

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (VIC)



#### FACILITY PARTNERS

Federal Government, Sport and Recreation Victoria, AFL Victoria



#### ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE

Total Sports Precinct \$31.44M

A mix of state-of-the-art facilities, the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct is estimated to receive over a quarter of a million visits per year and provide facilities for:

- A range of organised indoor sports, AFL Football, cricket, soccer and tennis.
- Local sport groups central operations. Office and administration areas.
- Key community hubs for social gatherings, meetings, sports presentation nights and community group functions.

Planned project and associated works involve:

- The construction of new community infrastructure including pavilion, change rooms and toilet facilities.
- A centralised pavilion placement and design that provides players immediate access to both ovals with social spaces, canteen and associated amenity.
- A new natural turf oval and a synthetic sports field that accommodates Australian Football use while supporting other sports such as cricket and soccer.
- Priority access to Council's existing high participation clubs, with flexibility to host a range of regional events.
- New family friendly facilities for all including tennis and netball courts, outdoor gym equipment, play spaces, barbeques and tracks for walking, cycling and running.
- A genuine connection between the indoor sport and the outdoor sport facilities that will benefit communities across the region.
- Public domain works including new reserve entry, car parking, landscaping, tree planting and fencing to improve the ease of access for local and regional events.

With participation rates above the state average for Australian Football and cricket, combined with a growing local population, there is a demonstrated need for new sporting facilities to accommodate families in the Macedon Ranges.

As at March 2019, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council had confirmed a funding mix of \$22.4M (Victorian Government \$11.6M, Council \$10.7M, AFL Victoria \$100k) as the municipality closes in on its Stage One target of \$31.44M.

This brings the local community ever closer to delivering a premier sporting destination in the Macedon Ranges.

For the latest news on the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct please visit [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au).

## PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

- Collaboration between Local Council, Federal and State Government and community.
- The transformation of the venue into a inviting, accessible community facility that caters for diversity and club growth on a local and regional level.
- The introduction of a synthetic oval that will address existing overuse conditions.
- Provide the ability to host regional events that will increase ground capacity in land locked areas.
- Multiple stakeholders has strengthened the community intent and support for the project.







## 7. APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## Playing Fields

The following table shows the **preferred minimum standard guidelines** for the provision of playing field facilities for State, Regional and Local state level facilities.

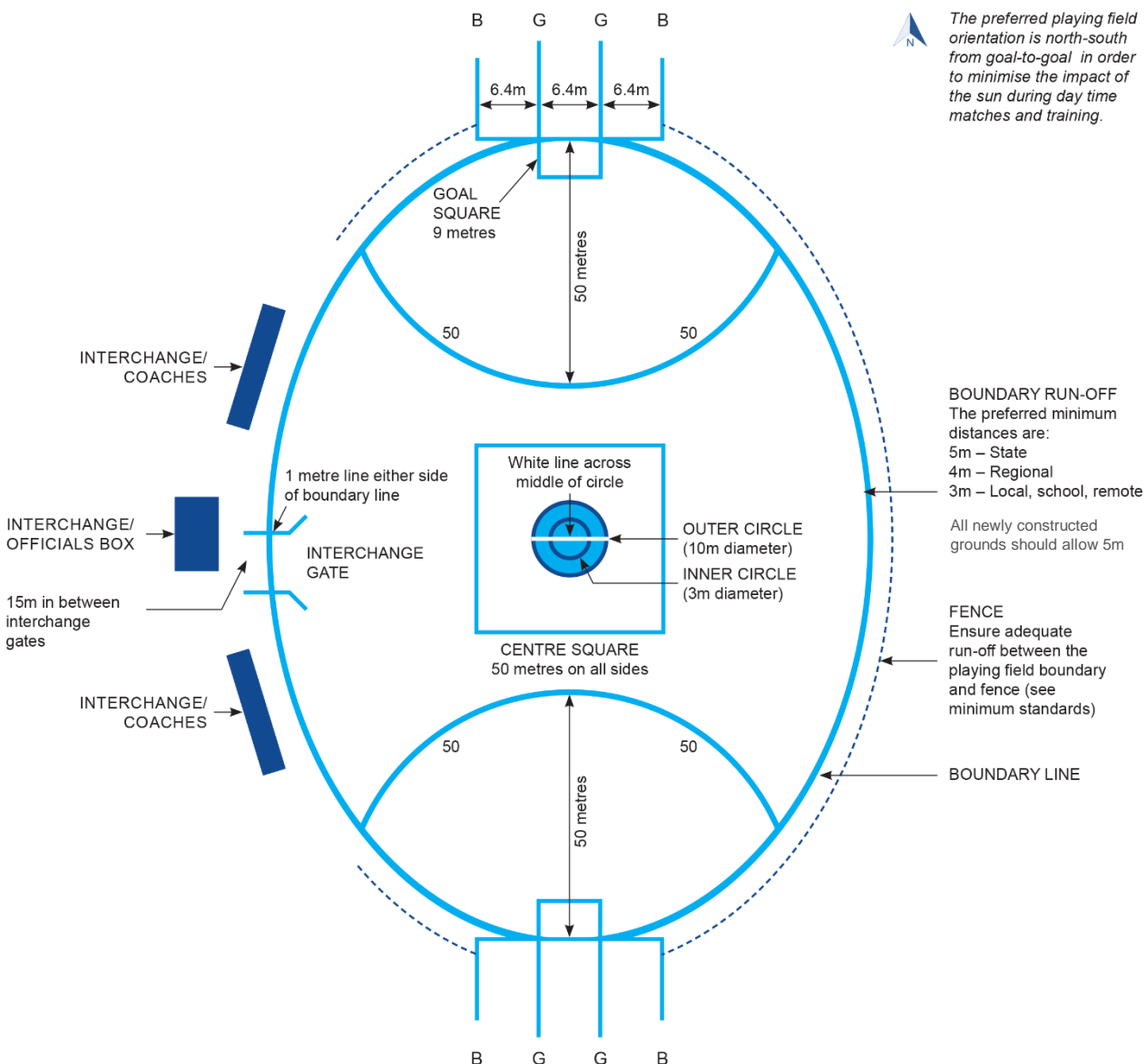
All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Playing Field Facilities	Recommended		
	State	Regional	Local
Coaches Boxes (x2)	Elevated above interchange bench	Forms part of interchange bench	Forms part of interchange bench
Interchange Benches (x2)	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)	4.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 8 people)
Goal and Point Posts	Goal Posts: 12m out of ground  Point Posts: 8m out of ground	Goal Posts: 10m out of ground  Point Posts: 6.5m out of ground	Goal Posts: 10m out of ground  Point Posts: 6.5m out of ground
Interchange / Umpires / Officials Box	6m long x 1.2m wide (seat 10 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (seat 3 people)
Playing Field Marking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Playing Field Size	<p><b>Preferred size:</b> is 165m x 135m in order to optimise the potential range of use for training and competition activities, however playing fields can range in size depending on the number of players per team and the age and ability of players:</p> <p><b>Length:</b> between 130 m and 185 m</p> <p><b>Width:</b> between 110 m and 155 m.</p>		
Boundary run-off area	5m minimum	4m minimum	3m minimum
Playing Field Condition / Maintenance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scoreboard	Yes	Yes	Yes

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## Playing Fields

This illustration outlines the recommended ground dimensions, run off area, facility placement and line markings. Refer to the Quick Guide on Page 14 for playing field dimensions and ranges.



**THE IDEAL PLAYING AREA FOR NEW PLAYING FIELDS IS 165M IN LENGTH GOAL-TO-GOAL AND 135M IN WIDTH BOUNDARY-TO-BOUNDARY.**

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## Lighting

### AUSTRALIAN STANDARD (AS2560.2.3 – LIGHTING FOR FOOTBALL (ALL CODES))

The following table provides an overview of the Australian Standard for minimum lighting requirements for football.

Level of Play	Typical Activity	Maintained Average Horizontal Illuminance (lux)	Minimum Horizontal Uniformities		Maximum Glare Rating
			(U1)	(U2)	
<b>Recreational Level</b>					
Touch and Tag	Touch and tag football	50	0.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Amateur Level (Local, Remote, Junior, School Venues)</b>					
Ball and Physical Training	May be suitable for training at local club level. <sup>1</sup>	50	0.3	N/A	N/A
Club Competition and Match Practice	Minimum requirement suitable for competition at local club level. Provides minimal viewing distances for spectators. <sup>2</sup>	100	0.5	0.3	50
<b>Semi Professional Level (Regional Venues)</b>					
Match Practice	Suitable for training at a semi-professional level.	100	0.5	0.3	50
Competition	Minimum suitable for competition at a semi professional level.	200	0.6	0.4	50
<b>Professional Level (State League and AFL)</b>					
The needs of AFL / AFLW and second tier competitions can alter based on competition regulations, broadcast needs and local environments. Venue owners wishing to conduct games at these levels should consult closely with their AFL State body or relevant competition governing body to ensure lighting design and levels meet all stakeholder requirements.					

Source: *Lighting Criteria (Standards Australia, Sports lighting Part 2.3: Specific applications – Lighting for football (all codes))*

**Note 1:** According to AS25260.2.3 footnote e; Ball and Physical Training is considered to differ from match practice in that ball and physical training is more controlled, involves fewer participants (typically two to four) and the paths of the participants and that of any ball used are more predictable than in a match-practice environment.

**Note 2:** If a club, league or council is looking to develop a night football venue, a minimum of 150 lux is recommended to ensure contemporary spectator viewing expectations are met. It is recommended that Clubs and Councils inspect recent lighting installations to increase their understanding of the strengths and limitations of differing lighting levels.

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## Pavilions & Change Facilities

The following table shows the preferred minimum standard guidelines for the provision of main pavilion facilities for State, Regional and Local level facilities at single playing field venues. Multiple playing fields may require additional amenities to cater for concurrent use.

All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Playing Field Facilities	Preferred Minimum Sizes (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	State	Regional	Local
Player Amenities (toilet/showers)	35m <sup>2</sup> x 2*	25m <sup>2</sup> x 2*	25m <sup>2</sup> x 2*
Number of showers	5 x showers per amenity	4 x showers per amenity	3 x showers per amenity
Number of pan toilets	5 x toilets per amenity	4 x toilets per amenity	3 x toilets per amenity
Player Change Rooms	2* x 75m <sup>2</sup> -90m <sup>2</sup>	2* x 55m <sup>2</sup> -75m <sup>2</sup>	2* x 45m <sup>2</sup> -55m <sup>2</sup>
Doctors Room	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Massage / Strapping Room	2 x 20m <sup>2</sup>	2 x 15m <sup>2</sup>	2 x 10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
External covered viewing area	150m <sup>2</sup>	75m <sup>2</sup>	50m <sup>2</sup>
Gymnasium / Fitness Room	40m <sup>2</sup> -50m <sup>2</sup>	25m <sup>2</sup> -30m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	20m <sup>2</sup> -25m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Kitchen & Kiosk	40m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>
First Aid / Medical Room (Public Access)	15m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	15m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Office / Administration / Meeting	25m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup>	15m <sup>2</sup>
Public Toilets	Male 20m <sup>2</sup> Female 20m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>	Male 15m <sup>2</sup> Female 15m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>	Male 10m <sup>2</sup> Female 10m <sup>2</sup> Accessible 5m <sup>2</sup> <i>(or can be gender neutral to size specified)</i>
Storage (internal and external)	25m <sup>2</sup> +	20m <sup>2</sup> +	20m <sup>2</sup>
Social / Community Room	200m <sup>2</sup>	150m <sup>2</sup>	100m <sup>2</sup>
Third umpire / match referee / venue management room	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>	10m <sup>2</sup> <i>Optional</i>
Timekeeping / Scorers Box	15m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>	10m <sup>2</sup>
Umpires Rooms (including toilet and showers)	30m <sup>2</sup> -40m <sup>2</sup>	30m <sup>2</sup> -40m <sup>2</sup>	20m <sup>2</sup> -25m <sup>2</sup>
Utility / Cleaners Room	5m <sup>2</sup> +	5m <sup>2</sup> +	5m <sup>2</sup> +

\* **Note:** Individual sites that cater for higher level competition and/or back-to-back schedules may consider the provision of additional player change rooms and amenity areas.

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## Additional Facilities

The following table shows the preferred minimum standard guidelines for the provision of additional facilities for State, Regional and Local level facilities.

All facilities are considered **core components** unless identified otherwise.

Additional Facilities	Recommended Provision		
	State	Regional	Local
Car parking	No specific standards	No specific standards	No specific standards
Clock	Yes	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Oval Fencing	No specific standards	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Public address system	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Reserve Fencing	No specific standards	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>
Siren	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spectator Seating / Grandstand	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>	No specific standards <i>Optional</i>

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PROVISION

## AFL Category 4 Venues

Venues seeking AFL pre-season competition matches, AFLW matches or State League Centres of Excellence (classified as AFL Category 4 Venues) require the amenities outlined below.

Further detail on specific amenity sizing and provision requirements can be found in the *AFL Venue Guidelines* released annually or by contacting the AFL National Venues and Community Facilities Manager.

Facilities	AFL Category 4 Venues
<b>Safety and Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancillary power supply</li> <li>• Public address system</li> <li>• Behind goal nets</li> </ul>
<b>Media and Broadcast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Television Broadcast - Commentary Box</li> <li>• Outside Broadcast Compound</li> <li>• Radio Boxes</li> <li>• Print and Online Media Area</li> <li>• Interview / Press Conference Room</li> </ul>
<b>Competing Team Facilities (for each team)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Rooms</li> <li>• Wet Area</li> <li>• Medical Room</li> <li>• Team Interchange Bench</li> <li>• Coaches Box</li> <li>• Competing Team Parking</li> </ul>
<b>Umpire / Officials Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Room</li> <li>• Wet Area</li> <li>• Umpires/Officials Access to Arena</li> <li>• Officials Bench</li> <li>• Umpire Observers Box</li> <li>• Timekeepers Box</li> <li>• Siren</li> <li>• Match Day Official Parking</li> <li>• AFL Official Statistics Provider Box</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoreboard</li> <li>• Prayer Room</li> <li>• Cheer Squad Venue Access</li> </ul>
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non Televised AFL matches &gt;500 lux</li> <li>• Televised AFL Pre-season and AFLW matches &gt;1000 lux</li> </ul>
<b>Arena</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal and Behind Posts</li> <li>• Post Padding</li> <li>• Flag Holders</li> <li>• Turf Condition and Management (specific requirements)</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX 2: PLAYING FIELD SURFACES

## Natural Turf Surfaces

The below illustrations outlines the profiles of playing surfaces of natural turf surfaces. Illustrations are provided courtesy of SportEng.

### SANDY LOAM

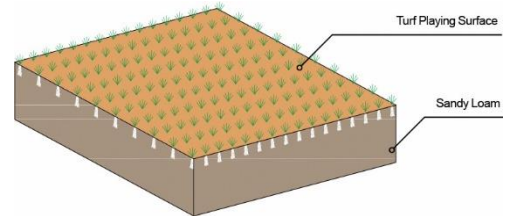
COST: \$

**Overview:** Blended mix; sand with silt/soil. Typical construction profile of older Council grounds.

+ **Advantages:** Good moisture retention. Easy to establish turf initially.

- **Disadvantages:** Poor drainage (low infiltration). Susceptible to compaction. Subsoil drainage relatively ineffective unless sand slit drains used.

**Hours of use\*:** 10 - 15 hours / week.



### SAND CARPET

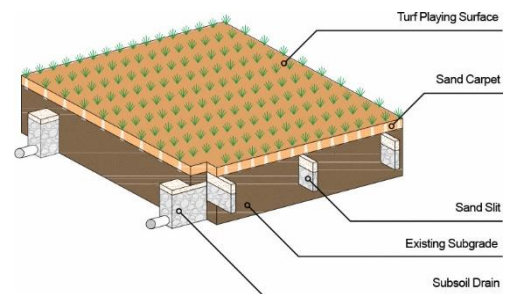
COST: \$\$

**Overview:** Thin sand layer over existing soil profile with sand slits & subsoil drains.

+ **Advantages:** Improved performance than sandy loam. Similar advantages as full depth rootzone sand profile but less expensive.

- **Disadvantages:** Construction duration. Not as effective as full depth sand profile. Specialist construction equipment required.

**Hours of use\*:** 15 - 20 hours / week.



### ROOTZONE SAND

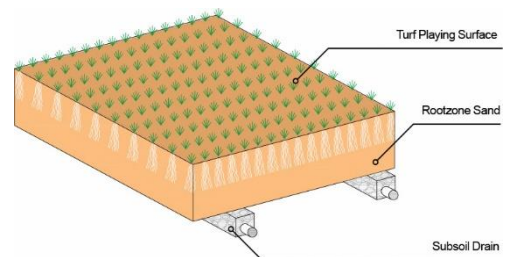
COST: \$\$\$

**Overview:** Constructed from natural sand deposits (ie. dune/river sand) or processed sand.

+ **Advantages:** High infiltration rates. Not susceptible to compaction.

- **Disadvantages:** Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Stability can be an issue with some natural sands.

**Hours of use\*:** 20 - 30 hours / week.





## PERCHED WATER TABLE

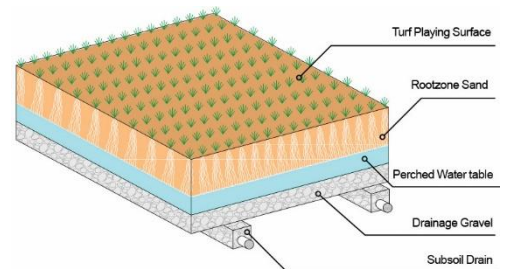
COST: \$\$\$\$

**Overview:** Rootzone sand overlying drainage gravel which creates a perched water table at interface between sand and gravel.

**+ Advantages:** High infiltration rates. Not susceptible to compaction. Perched water table encourages deep root growth.

**- Disadvantages:** Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Stability can be an issue with some natural sands.

**Hours of use\*:** 20 - 30 hours / week.



## PROFILE REINFORCED

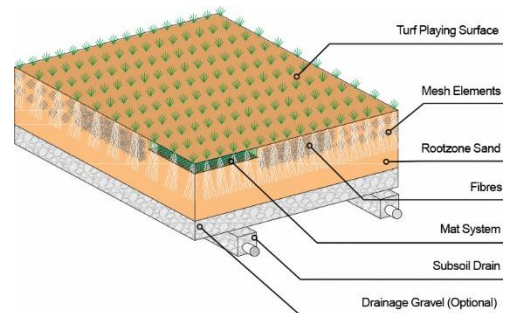
COST: \$\$\$\$\$

**Overview:** Rootzone sand/perched water table profile with proprietary reinforcement product either blended (i.e. individual elements) or grown-in (i.e. mat system).

**+ Advantages:** Improved playing surface stability and load bearing capacity. Can be utilised as 'ready-to-play' turf.

**- Disadvantages:** Required amendments to improve moisture retention. Minor adjustment to maintenance regime. Profile can be hard.

**Hours of use\*:** 20 - 30 hours / week.



## HYBRID

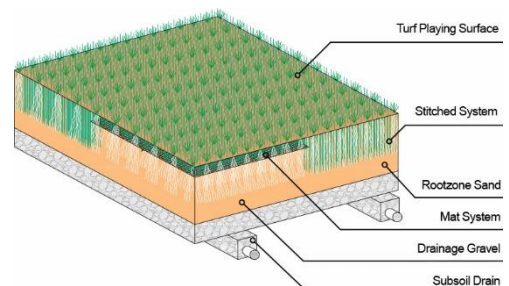
COST: \$\$\$\$\$\$

**Overview:** Combination of synthetic fibres with natural turf. Rootzone sand/perched water table profile with proprietary hybrid product either stitched or grown-in (i.e. mat system).

**+ Advantages:** Improved playing surface durability, stability and load bearing capacity. Can be utilised as 'ready-to-play' turf product (mat system only). Synthetic fibres provide traction even if turf grass is worn.

**- Disadvantages:** Requires amendments to improve moisture retention. Minor adjustment to maintenance regime. Profile can be hard.

**Hours of use\*:** 30 - 40 hours / week.



*\*Dependent on quality of construction, footfall per sqm, and level of maintenance.*

**SPORTENG™**

# APPENDIX 3: PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE

## Natural Turf Maintenance



### MAINTENANCE

Each oval should have a planned maintenance program to ensure ground quality that considers

Aeration at a minimum of six times per year

Fertilizer application at a minimum of three times per year

Regular mowing as appropriate for geographic and seasonal conditions, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass leaf.  
Avoid weed seed distribution from machinery

Weed management and an appropriate herbicide program

Irrigation: late evening/early morning with an automated system

**SPORTENG™**

# APPENDIX 4: SYNTHETIC SURFACES

## Synthetic Turf Testing

### TEST PROCEDURES

The AFL/Cricket Australia 'Approved Synthetic Turf Product' mark is awarded to those products that have been subject to a series of stringent laboratory tests. These tests include durability, joint strength, resistance to weathering, ball roll and bounce, hardness, critical fall height, traction and abrasion.

Every oval installed must meet a second stage of testing. This occurs on site once the oval has been laid and filled to produce the playing surface and has been allowed to settle and be played on for a period of one month or 160 hours of play. This allows consolidation before testing. Testing is undertaken at a variety of points on the field to ensure compliance across the field.

Once an oval has met all the requirements of the field testing it will be issued with official certification that the oval complies with AFL / Cricket Australia Standards.



Retesting is required every two years to ensure ongoing accreditation.

The testing and certification process ensures:

- surfaces have the same playing characteristics as natural turf;
- quality and durability of the product; and
- maximises playing comfort and safety.

The following table provides a summary of requirements for synthetic field testing.

Characteristic	Test Method	Requirement
Critical Fall Height	Uniaxe Impact Tester (AS/NZS 4422) or (BS EN 1177)	$\geq 1.3$ m
Hardness	Clegg Impact Tester	$\leq 120$ G
Force Reduction	Advanced Artificial Athlete	55 – 75%
Energy Restitution	Advanced Artificial Athlete	30 – 50%
Vertical Deformation	Advanced Artificial Athlete	4 – 11 mm
Traction Football Studs	Studded Boot Apparatus (EN 15301–1)	25 Nm – 50 Nm
Traction Cricket Spikes	Studded Boot Apparatus (EN 15301–1)	15 Nm – 25 Nm <sup>a</sup>
Traction Cricket Cleats	Studded Boot Apparatus (EN 15301–1)	7 Nm – 15 Nm <sup>a</sup>
Ball Roll Calibrated Ball	Inclined Ramp (EN 12234)	4 m – 12 m
Ball Roll Cricket	Inclined Ramp (EN 12234)	3.5 m – 15.0 m
Vertical Ball Rebound Calibrated Ball	Vertical Rebound Frame (EN 12235)	0.6 m – 1.0 m
Vertical Ball Rebound Cricket	Vertical Rebound Frame (EN 12235)	0.1 m – 0.4 m

Go to [www.aflcommunityclub.com.au](http://www.aflcommunityclub.com.au) for more information on Synthetic Turf

**Footnote:** The rotational traction with cricket spikes and cricket cleats will only be undertaken where there is a synthetic field with a natural wicket.

# APPENDIX 5: ALTERNATIVE BUILDING PROVISION

## Modular / Off Site Construction



**The dramatic surge in grassroots football participation especially in the female football, has highlighted the lack of unisex amenity options for players and officials and the need to provide affordable facility solutions to support diversity.**

**Through a collaboration with Ausco Modular, the AFL have endeavored to achieve a building solution option that will enable the health and growth of the game, delivering club facilities efficiently and at less cost.**

### INTRODUCTION

The Ausco offsite construction program is aimed to have pricing and delivery security. This innovation in construction allows State Government, Councils and clubs to invest in best practice facilities that meet the requirements of their sporting community from a design, cost and quality perspective.

The Ausco set of designs comply with the National Construction Code of Australia and meet these Guidelines. The designs support not only the AFL but other sporting codes and diversity in participation through the provision of safe and private changing facilities.

The lower build cost, significant time savings and end-to-end project management make modular sporting facilities perfect for clubs where administrative and playing resources are already stretched.

### Addressing Facility Challenges

Modular building design solves many of the challenges faced when considering new or upgraded facilities:

- Minimal ground works are required and little space beyond the built area of the building.
- Building times are up to 60% faster than conventional on-the-ground construction.
- Estimated cost savings of 20% to 30%.
- The building methodology makes facilities suitable for the landfill and reclaimed substrates under many playing fields.

### Building Features

Modular buildings feature:

- Unisex facilities in all change rooms;
- Increased ceiling heights to support activity within the building;
- Rigid floor structure ensuring floor feel;
- Sound-rated, operable walls that allow one space to be used several different ways;
- Robust wall materials to prevent damage from ball impact; and
- Dynamic building finishes to enhance visual appearance and blend with the surrounding environment

### Sustainability

Because modular buildings are built offsite they have inherent sustainability advantages:

- The factory environment allows for strict quality and environmental controls.
- In-house manufacture produces around 30% less waste than building on-site.
- End-to-end quality management, creating a constant loop of improvement.
- R&D to learn from earlier designs, particularly for cyclonic wind resistance, energy efficiency, materials and engineering design

# APPENDIX 5: ALTERNATIVE BUILDING PROVISION

## Ausco Sample Modular Designs

### FACILITIES

- Airlocks for player privacy
- Private shower cubicles
- Ample shelving and hooks
- White boards
- Sensor lighting for energy efficiency
- Mechanical ventilation throughout

### KEY:

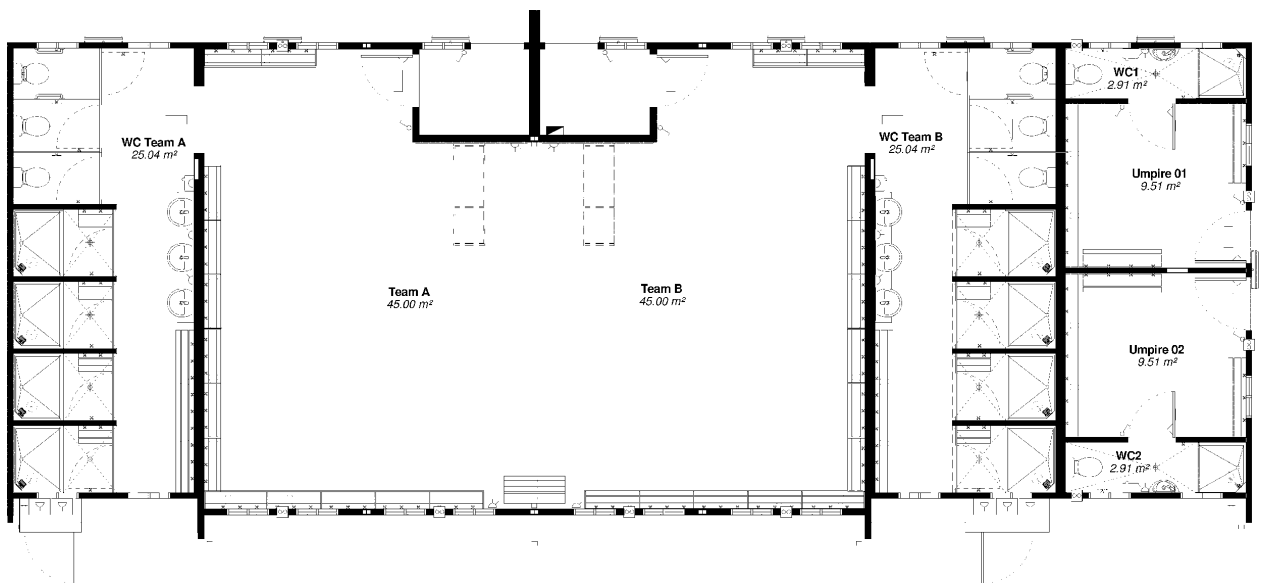
	Changerooms		Amenities		Umpire Room
	Massage Room		Store Room		Cleaning Room
	Medical Room		Unisex/Disabled Amenities		
	Netball Room		Male / Female Amenities		

## LM184

### SAMPLE LOCAL VENUE WITH UMPIRE FACILITIES

- Two 45m<sup>2</sup> change rooms with an operable wall between them
- Two 25m<sup>2</sup> amenity rooms
- Two 12m<sup>2</sup> umpire rooms with their own amenities

2  2  2 



# APPENDIX 5: ALTERNATIVE BUILDING PROVISION

## Ausco Sample Modular Designs

### FACILITIES

- Airlocks for player privacy
- Private shower cubicles
- Ample shelving and hooks
- White boards
- Sensor lighting for energy efficiency
- Mechanical ventilation throughout

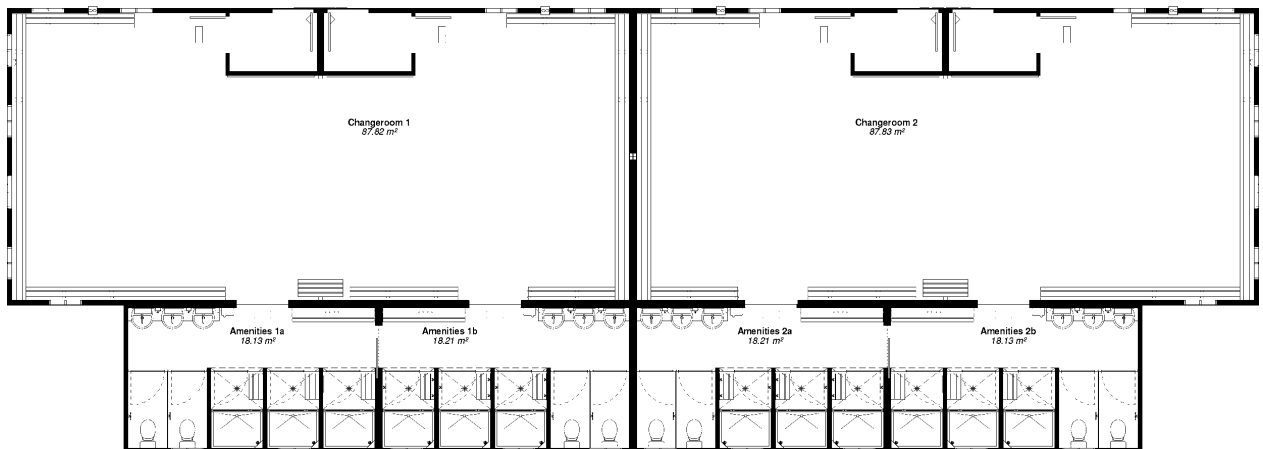
### KEY:

	Changerooms		Amenities		Umpire Room
	Massage Room		Store Room		Cleaning Room
	Medical Room		Unisex/Disabled Amenities		
	Netball Room		Male / Female Amenities		

## RM277

### SAMPLE REGIONAL VENUE

- Four 45m<sup>2</sup> changerooms, each with 18m<sup>2</sup> amenity rooms
- Each pair can be combined by opening the walls to create two 90m<sup>2</sup> changerooms with 36m<sup>2</sup> amenities



# APPENDIX 5: ALTERNATIVE BUILDING PROVISION

## Ausco Sample Modular Design | Club Headquarters

**SM880**

**SAMPLE CLUB HEADQUARTERS**



**Player Facilities**

- Two pairs of 45m<sup>2</sup> changerooms, each with 18m<sup>2</sup> amenity rooms
- Operable walls allow each pair to become a 90m<sup>2</sup> changeroom with 36m<sup>2</sup> of amenities

- Two 15m<sup>2</sup> massage rooms
- Two 10m<sup>2</sup> doctor rooms or offices
- An 18m<sup>2</sup> umpire room with its own amenities
- A store room of 10.5m<sup>2</sup>
- A 45m<sup>2</sup> gym

**Public Facilities**

- Internal 150m<sup>2</sup> meeting and socialising space with optional bar facilities
- Adjoining 30m<sup>2</sup> kitchen with external access, fitout optional

- Pantry/internal store for kitchen, 15m<sup>2</sup>
- Office space of 30.5m<sup>2</sup>
- Timekeepers box of 15m<sup>2</sup>
- External equipment store, 40m<sup>2</sup>



**KEY:**

- Changerooms
- Amenities
- Umpire Room
- Medical Room
- Kitchen
- Gym
- Massage Room
- Store Room
- Utility Room
- Netball Room
- Office
- Pantry
- Meeting room
- Unisex/Disabled Amenities
- Male/Female Amenities
- Internal/external airlock
- Equipmenty store
- Timekeepers box



## Australian Football League

140 Harbour Esplanade

Docklands Vic 3008

[www.afl.com.au](http://www.afl.com.au)



*inside* **EDGE**  
sport and leisure planning

**JMA**  
**ARCHITECTS**

 **AUSCO**  
MODULAR

**SPORTENG™**