

## Section II.R. - Conversion of Hard Surface Courts to Fast Dry Tennis Courts

### 1.0 Definition

Fast dry is a porous tennis court surface material consisting of natural crushed stone, brick, or tile, that is ground, screened, well graded, and may or may not be mixed with a chemical binder to form a stable homogeneous mixture having an affinity for water.

### 2.0 Introduction

The following guideline is intended to provide viable alternatives for the conversion of hard surface courts to fast dry type courts, and to be used in conjunction with the Guidelines for construction of fast dry tennis courts (above surface irrigation or subsurface irrigation).

### 3.0 Objective

The main objective is to provide the optimum project conditions for the conversion of a tennis court from a hard surface to a soft surface.

### 4.0 Slope Requirements

The finished fast dry court surface slope should adhere to the recommendation for the fast dry court system selected for the project. Refer to the appropriate specification for fast dry tennis courts (above surface irrigation or subsurface irrigation).

### 5.0 Perimeter Edging

The perimeter edging should adhere to the recommendation for the fast dry court system selected for the project. Refer to the appropriate specification for fast dry type tennis courts (above surface irrigation or subsurface irrigation).

### 6.0 Court Construction Above Surface Irrigation System

Four alternatives are all generally acceptable. However, some may be eliminated due to local conditions; for example, it may be difficult to dispose of the existing hard surface. Cost of local materials may make one alternative more attractive than another.

In most cases, the finished surface elevation will be significantly higher than the original surface.

**Alternative A:** Overlay the hard surface with a standard base construction as per the guide specification for construction of fast dry tennis courts with the exception of thickness. A minimum thickness totaling 2" should be maintained at the high side with the low side thickness determined by the requirement for the new slope.

**Advantages:** The hard surface material does not have to be hauled away and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws. Provides a stable area to work on with fewer weather delays.

**Disadvantages:** A greater quantity of stone base material is required to change the slope. A higher perimeter edging is required to retain the additional stone. Because of the extra depth of stone on the high side of the court, more water may be required to maintain the court in optimum playing condition.

**Alternative B:** Overlay the hard surface with an acceptable fill material maintaining a minimum thickness of 1" at the high side and a low side thickness as required for the new slope. Construct the new fast dry court over the fill as per the guide specification for construction of fast dry tennis courts.

**Advantages:** The hard surface material does not have to be hauled away. In addition, the fill material is usually less expensive than stone. The uniform thickness of the stone layer may also help the surface to maintain moisture uniformly.

**Disadvantage:** The overlay of the fill requires an additional step during construction. The fill material may be susceptible to weather delays.

**Alternative C:** Remove the existing hard court surface and regrade the remaining base, establishing a new slope as required by the guide specification for construction of fast dry tennis courts. Install a minimum of 2" of new base material as detailed in the specification. Install the fast dry surface in accordance with the appropriate fast dry specification.

**Advantages:** A smaller quantity of new stone may be required depending on the quantity of existing base remaining under the hard surface. The new perimeter edging would be lower in height.

**Disadvantage:** The hard surface material would require disposal in accordance with applicable laws.

**Alternative D:** Grind or pulverize the existing hard surface material to a particle size no larger than 3/4". Regrade the existing base and pulverized surface establishing a new slope as required by the guide specification for construction of fast dry type tennis courts. Install a minimum of 2" of new base material as detailed in the specification. Install the fast dry surfacing per specification.

**Advantages:** A smaller quantity of new stone may be required depending on existing base beneath hard surface. The hard surface material would not require disposal.

**Disadvantages:** There may be limits to the availability of a pulverizer in a project location and to the accessibility for equipment to work in a confined area. Cost is also a consideration.

**Note:** Following conversion, if the existing fence remains, the height relative to the surface will be less than 10' in most cases. Gates may require adjustment to conform to the new court elevation. A tennis ball will not rebound as high on a fast dry court as it will on a hard court and, therefore, the reduced fence height may not adversely affect the play of the game.

The net posts will need to be adjusted to conform to the new surface elevation.

## **7.0 Court Construction Subsurface Irrigation System**

The four alternatives described above will be acceptable in preparation for subsurface irrigated fast dry systems. The base construction will vary with the selected subsurface irrigation system. Refer to applicable Guidelines and system manufacturer's recommendations.

## **8.0 Base Materials and Fast Dry Court Construction**

For base material and fast dry court construction, consult the Guidelines for construction of fast dry tennis courts (Above Surface Irrigation or Subsurface Irrigation).

**Note: Refer to Guidelines for:**

**[I.A. General Conditions for Construction](#)**

**[II.A. Tennis Court Orientation](#)**

**[II.B. Tennis Court Dimensions and Related Measurements](#)**

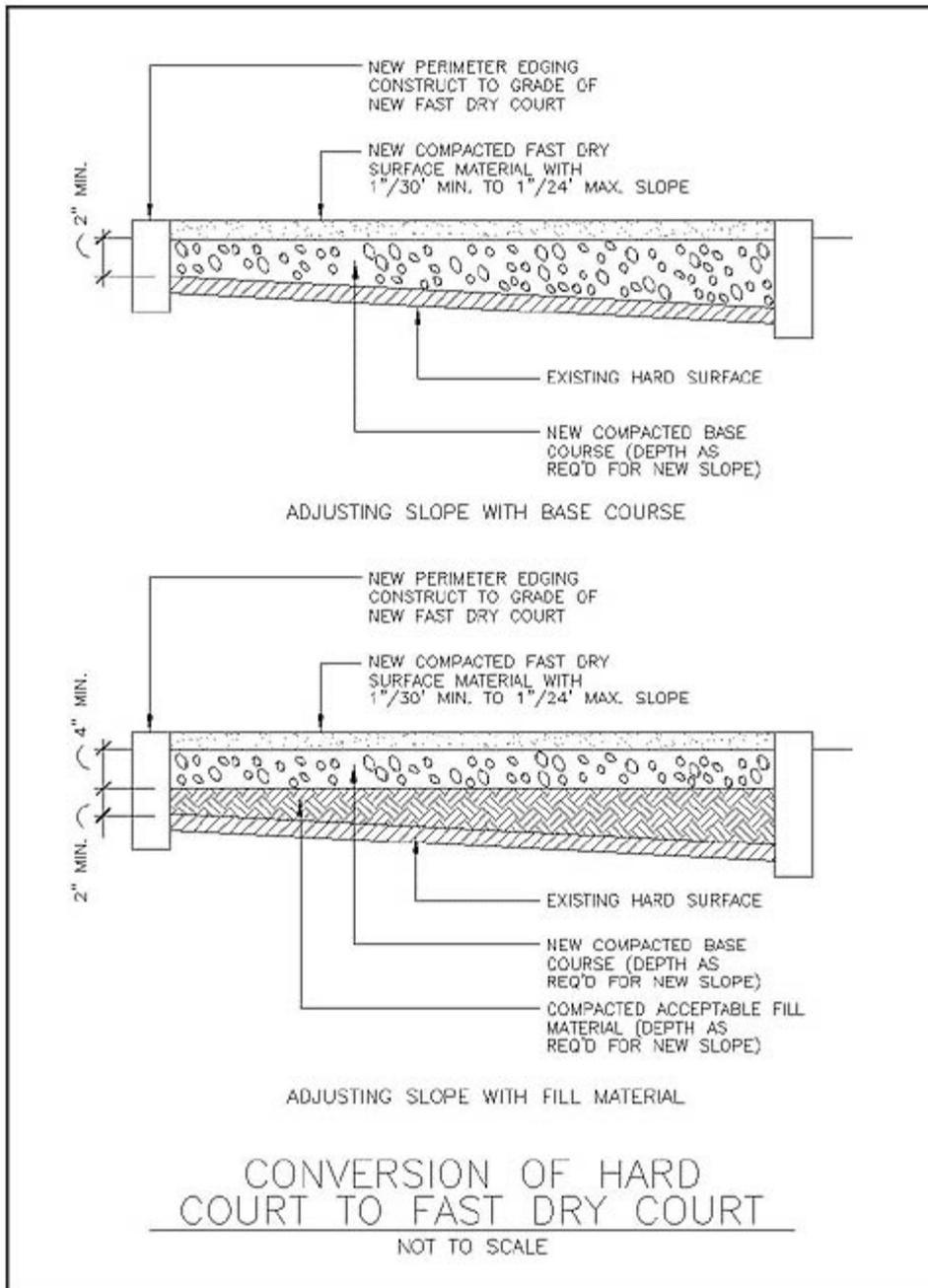
**[II.D.1. Fast Dry Tennis Courts for Use with Above Surface Irrigation](#)**

**[II.D.2. Fast Dry Tennis Courts for Use with Subsurface Irrigation](#)**

**[II.F.1. Above Surface Irrigations Systems for Clay and Fast Dry Tennis Courts](#)**

**Section II.R. - Drawings**

**Section II.R. - Conversion of Hard Surface Courts to Fast Dry Tennis Courts**



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### Notice

These Construction Guidelines are intended for use by architects, engineers, contractors, tennis court and running track owners. Parties not experienced in tennis court or running track construction are advised to consult a qualified contractor, consultant and/or design professional. Experienced contractors, consultants and/or design professionals can be identified through the American Sports Builders Association. Due to changing construction technology and techniques, only the most recent version of these Guidelines should be used. Variances in climate, soil conditions, topography and other factors may make these Guidelines unsuitable for certain projects.

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