

## Indoor Netball Flooring Guidance

When deciding on your sports floor there are several factors to consider as you will be investing in a surface that will be part of your facility for many years. Therefore, we feel it is important for you to make an informed choice. Our official partners DYNAMIK Sport have provided us with their expert opinion on options for playing indoor netball at Community, Club, Premier or International Level. This, together with our own experience of netball surfaces has allowed us to share valuable insight into the decision-making process when choosing which type of sports flooring to go for.

As a comparison we have listed below 5 options for indoor surfaces:-

### 1. **SPRUNG WOODEN SPORTS FLOOR (A3 or A4 area elastic)**

This is considered a suitable surface for all levels of netball up to and including International netball. Sprung wooden floors that meet England Netball's performance requirements allow the highest level of netball to be played. All sprung wooden floor systems require regular maintenance and if used for non-sporting events must use floor protection such as giant carpet tiles in order to protect the surface.

#### **Example 1 – University of Essex Arena, Chelmsford**



*DYNAMIK sprung oak floor.  
Photo courtesy of the University of Essex Sport Arena.*



*Saracens Mavericks vs Wasps at Essex Uni Arena.  
Photo credit Courtney Ferns*

For their new Sport Arena, The University of Essex selected a sprung engineered oak floor which meets International performance standards for both England Netball & Basketball England. Replicating the surface players' experience at Commonwealth Games and Netball World Cup events, the sports flooring at Essex Sport Arena was specifically designed with international level sport in mind. Due to its large seating capacity, it is now one of the home venues used by Vitality Netball Superleague team - Saracens Mavericks. When the seating is not being used, it has 3 netball courts, making it a valuable indoor venue for Club training and junior camps.

### 2. **SPRUNG SPORTS FLOOR FINISHED WITH A SOLID SYNTHETIC SURFACE (A3 or A4 area elastic)**

A solid (non-foam backed) synthetic surface installed onto a sprung base or undercarriage replicates the performance and feel of a wooden sprung floor. This type of sprung system utilises a synthetic playing surface which can be polyurethane (PU), sport linoleum or sport vinyl and offers low levels of maintenance compared to a



sprung wooden floor. It is therefore is a very cost-effective option over a period of time. It is suitable for all levels of netball up to Premier level. Some lower level International fixtures may be played but it wouldn't be considered suitable for events such as the Commonwealth Games or Netball World Cup.

#### Example 2 – Badminton School, Bristol



*DYNAMIK A4 area elastic sprung floor finished in Sports Vinyl as installed at Badminton School.*

Badminton School's new sports hall surface needed to accommodate both performance netball training, multi-sport and non-sporting events. Durability was therefore an important consideration. They opted for the **DYNAMIK London A4 Area Elastic Sprung System** finished in a solid (non-foam backed) sports vinyl. This system replicates that of a DYNAMIK sprung wooden floor, however has all the benefits of a synthetic playing surface which keeps future maintenance to a minimum due to not needing to be sanded, sealed or re-lacquered throughout its life cycle.

#### Example 3 – Beacon of Light, Sunderland



*A4 area elastic sprung floor finished in Seamless Polyurethane (PU) as installed at the Beacon of Light, Sunderland.*



The Foundation of Light's requirements for their new 3 court sports hall surface combined the ability to accommodate high performance netball, County League fixtures, Club training and recreational programmes such as walking netball and Back to Netball. As a multi-use venue used for corporate events, there was a need to combine performance with durability, and indentation resistance. Their choice was an A4 Area Elastic Sprung System finished in seamless PU. Feedback from netball users has been very positive.

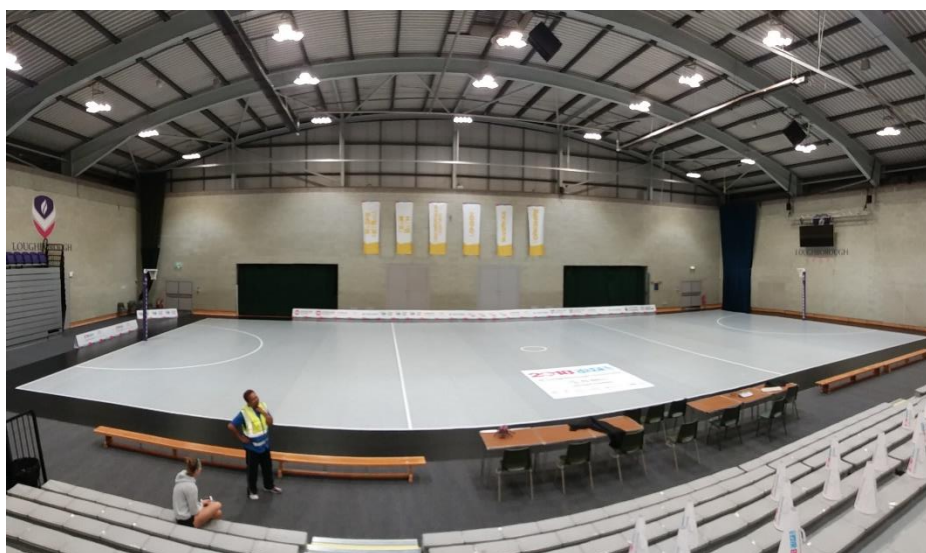
### 3. FOAM BACKED VINYL ON SPRUNG FLOORS (combined elastic)

Vitality Netball Superleague fixtures are currently played on roll-out vinyl courts – these mats are typically installed over an existing area elastic sprung wood floor in order to create a clean showcourt. By overlaying a vinyl mat over an area elastic surface, a combined elastic surface, a combined elastic surface is created.

Combined elastic surfaces that meet England Netball's performance standards are considered suitable for all forms of netball up to and including VNSL fixtures and lower level International fixtures. It is not considered a suitable surface for events such as the Commonwealth Games or Netball World Cup.

If you are considering purchasing this system in order to create a clean court environment for elite level fixtures, consideration must be made for the storage, installation time and installation expertise required.

**Example 4 – Foam backed vinyl showcourt installed over Loughborough University's timber sprung floor at Sir David Wallace Sports Arena.**



### 4. FOAM BACKED VINYL ON SOLID FLOORS (point elastic)

This surface option is mainly suited to Community and Club levels of netball. It is possible for Premier level netball to be accommodated but is not considered ideal. It is unsuitable for International level netball.



Whilst a popular choice amongst the education sector, current requirements from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) states that activity spaces, such as those used for sport, must now be sprung A3 or A4 area elastic floors.<sup>i</sup> A foam-backed vinyl is a point elastic floor (P1, P2 or P3) and as such would not meet the current legislation.

Whilst spongy point elastic surfaces offer a good level of player comfort, caution needs to be applied if using tables, chairs or heavy sports equipment as these can indent or damage foam-backed surfaces. They also come in varying degrees of sponginess and thicker spongier point elastic surfaces are not considered ideal for wheelchair users due to their high rolling resistance and fatigue.

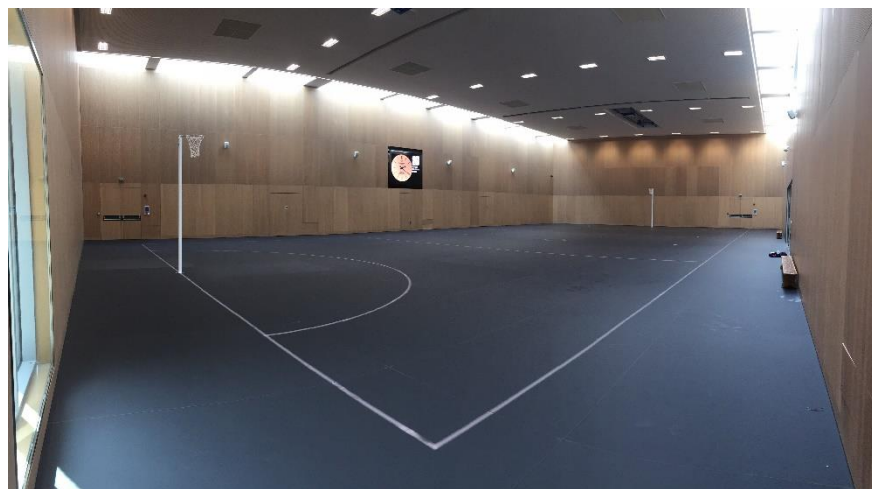
#### Example 5 – Barking & Dagenham College, East London



*Point Elastic Floor at Barking & Dagenham College*

#### 5. Glass Flooring with LED Line Marking Technology (A4 area elastic)

Glass flooring is new to the UK sports flooring market and in 2018 DYNAMIK installed the first 'ASB GlassFloor' at Oxford University. The LED line marking technology allows different sports markings to appear individually at the touch of a button and has exciting applications that we're hoping will revolutionise sports halls and netball events in the future. Although it is the most expensive of all the options, it has the lowest maintenance costs, high levels of durability and a life expectancy of in excess of 60 years.



*ASB GlassFloor at Oxford University (A4 area elastic).*



## About England Netball's Facility Development Service

England Netball provides facility development support to its network of affiliated Clubs and organisations and their valued venue partners without whom the game could not be played. Further advice and information on protecting, enhancing and providing netball facilities in England is available from:-

[facility.development@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:facility.development@englandnetball.co.uk)

<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/facilities>

## About DYNAMIK Sport

DYNAMIK provide free of charge quotations and site surveys which are carried out if your facility is looking to upgrade or maintain their sports flooring. Contact DYNAMIK for more information on how we can help you find a solution for your indoor sports flooring.

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<sup>i</sup> Education & Skills Funding Agency, *Output Specification. Technical Annex 2D Internal Elements & Finishes*, June 2017, 7.2.1.4.d.

