

— SPORTS — HALL SEATING GUIDANCE



SPORTS HALL SEATING

INTRODUCTION

The inclusion of seating at sporting facilities allows for spectator events to be held and also provides space for parents/fans to watch training sessions.

This can help a club to generate money through allowing spectators to attend sessions as well as hosting a variety of events, making it more attractive to external users looking for smaller arenas.

In Basketball England's NBL competitions there are minimum seating requirements:

NBL Division One & Two	250
NBL Division Three	100
WNBL Division One	100
WNBL Division Two	50
Jnr. NBL Leagues (as appropriate)	50

All of the above must have adequate provision for disability/wheelchair users. This should be six or one to every 100 of seated capacity.

PREMIER

This category relates to Premier Clubs competing in the NBL 1, BBL and WBBL.

RETRACTABLE SEATING UNITS:

Chair widths are typically 450 to 500mm with a normal row rise of 260mm, whilst the row depth varies between 650mm for benches to 800mm and 1000mm for benches with backrests or individual chairs. Seating banks up to 12m wide have one aisle whilst those over 12m have two aisles. The maximum number of rows is eighteen without a second upper exit.

Units are typically electrically operated and can also be designed to "travel" out from the recess where distances to the court side dictate. Seating units can be designed to part open for different circumstances.

A 30m long 18 row unit can accommodate approx. 950 spectators. Retractable seating can be adapted for most types of solid, semi or fully sprung floors and depending on the floor surface construction, wood/vinyl etc. additional wheels, runner boards can be added to the system if necessary or reverse-closing to reduce loadings to the floor.

Power requirements: Typically, a 10-amp three-phase power supply terminating in a commando socket approximately 1.5m from the floor and central to the seating bank.

Mobile retractable seating: portable or integral hydraulic trolleys can be provided or if suitable non-porous floor, then Air Hover trucks can be used.

Operation: For fixed retractable seating, one person can operate. For mobile units, the number of personnel to operate will depend on size.

CONSIDERATIONS:

It is important to consider the floor type when selecting seating for your sports hall. Seating is heavy and therefore, the floor needs to be able to withstand a considerable load. Additionally, the size of the hall needs to be able to accommodate the seats when in storage.



This type of seating will fold away into a recess that is approx. 1.3m deep depending on tread. It can be up to 18 rows without access from the top. Access from the top will increase capacity.

Self-storing side rails are advisable with cosmetic side draping to hide the underside.

Upholstered seats with armrests – usually automatic or manual fold down.

CLUB

This category relates to all clubs in the Division 3 NBL and Division 1 and 2 WNBL, plus Regional & Local Leagues, College and University Competitions.

FIXED SEATING:

2 rows of fixed or portable seating in a 1250mm recess can be used for team benches and table officials and/or for a small number of spectators. In a two-court hall, it can also be used at a later date to accommodate a retractable seating unit.



Economy fold down with plastic bucket seats or plain benches.

COMMUNITY

This category relates to School Competitions plus minimum standard for local league and informal recreational play.

PORTABLE SEATING:

Where there is a requirement for seating that can be removed and stored away, easily portable seating is available. Three rows in varnished steel with wood seating and non-slip walkways at 9.8m long would seat approx. 60 spectators.

TV Platforms: Removable chairs to provide clear flat areas or drop in decks can be provided to create space for TV equipment.

Considerations: The hall needs to have a sizeable storage room to be able to accommodate the seating when not in use.



Portable/stackable seating fold away for storage off the court. 60 seat units stacks away into 2.4m x 1.5m of floor space.

FLOOR PROTECTION

If the sports hall is to be used for other purposes, for example examinations, conferences or other events, it is advisable to protect the specialist floor from damage.

Options include rolls of vinyl which are easy to lay and can be taped at the seams when necessary; or giant carpet tiles that offer a more luxurious solution and are available with specially designed storage trolleys.



Carpet Tiles covering sports surface and storage trolley for 100 tiles.

SUPPLIERS

There are a range of suppliers to choose from, every project is bespoke, so it is advisable to contact seating suppliers in the early stages of design process.

E-mail infrastructure@basketballengland.co.uk for more information.