

10 and Under Tennis - 36 Foot Court Standards (for Pavement and Playgrounds)

The Court

The standard 36 foot court shall be rectangular, 36 feet long and 18 feet wide, made up of 2 base lines (18 feet) and two sidelines (36 feet). Clear (Overrun) distances from sidelines to fixed objects or the edge of the pavement should be a minimum of eight (8) feet, and from baselines to fixed objects or the edge of the pavement should be a minimum of ten (10) feet. To stripe one 36 foot court, the minimum pavement area necessary is 56 feet by 34 feet.

Preferred orientation of the 36 foot court is in a north-south direction.

Tools and supplies needed:

One (1) Paint Striper Machine (similar to that manufactured by SoccerOne, <http://www.soccersupplies.com>)
One half dozen cans of Field Marking Paint
Two (2) Open Reel Tape Measures (minimum 50 foot length)
One (1) Dozen 2 1/2" Masonry Nails
One (1) Spool of Twine
One Hammer
One Pair of Scissors (to cut the twine)

Suggestions on How to Establish 36 Foot Court Playing Lines

1. In laying out court dimensions, first establish one base line for the court, making sure this line is set 10 feet from fixed objects or the edge of pavement. The ends of this line should be a minimum of eight (8) feet from fixed objects or the edge of pavement. Hammer two masonry nails into the pavement to establish this line (18 feet long). Tie string between these nails. This line is designated as Point A and Point B on the diagram.
2. Using two open reel tape measures, loop the zero (0) end of one tape to Point A and let out the tape to the 36'-0" measure. Loop the zero (0) end of the other tape to Point B and let out the tape to the 40'-3" measure. Holding the two measures together in one hand and stretching both tapes taut, you will establish a court sideline that is square to the baseline. Hammer one nail into the pavement which will be point C. Tie a string between Point A and Point C.
3. Switch the zero (0) ends of each tape measure and pull taut to establish the fourth corner of the court, Point D. Hammer a nail into the pavement. Tie strings between Point B and Point D and between Point C and Point D. Check the dimension of line between Point C and Point D (it should be 18'-0").

4. Using the Paint Striper Machine, paint the outer perimeter of the 36 foot tennis court. Note that the machine should paint the lines on the inside of the string line rectangle, since the measurements were taken to the outside edge of the playing lines. Playing lines should be 2 inches wide.
5. Next establish the service lines from each end of the court, which are 4'-6" from the baselines. Measure from the outside edge of the baseline to the outside edge of the service line. Hammer two nails into the pavement to establish the service line on each end of the court. Tie a string between these nails (Points E-F and Points G-H).
6. Using the Paint Striping Machine, paint the service line on each end of the court, making sure the line is painted on the net side of the string (refer to diagram).
7. Next establish the net line for the court. Measure 18'-0" from the outside edge of the baseline of the court. Hammer two nails into the pavement to mark the center of the court along each sideline. Tie string between the nails (Points I-J).
8. Using the Paint Striping Machine, paint two, 2-3 inch long marks from the sidelines to mark where the portable net should be set while playing. Keep in mind that the Paint Striping Machine must paint the marks centered on the string line. (Note- You can slide the string line half the width of the playing line toward one of the baselines, if following the string line along the paint edge is easier than approximating the middle of the paint mark, but you must remember which side of the string line the mark should be painted).
9. Next establish the center service line and the two center marks along the base line, the center of these lines being 9'-0" from the outer edge of the court side lines.
10. Hammer two nails into the pavement just outside the base lines of the court (Points K-L). Tie string between the nails.
11. Using the Paint Striping Machine, paint two 4 inch long marks from the baselines to establish the center marks, and a center service line the runs between the two service lines. Again, you can slide the string line half the width of the playing line toward one of the sidelines, if following the string line along the paint edge is easier than approximating the middle of the paint marks and line, but you must remember which side of the string line the mark and line should be painted.
12. Pull the various nails from the pavement and dispose of the string.

Important Hints:

1. Be sure to not hammer the nails too deep that pavement damage will occur when removing.
2. Be sure that the nails are sufficiently low to clear the bottom of the Paint Striping Machine.
3. If multiple courts are being striped, it is best to use Open Reel Tape Measures that are longer than the minimum 50 foot length listed above. Determine the longest dimension of the court battery to determine the required length.
4. On pavements where multiple activity lines are present (basketball, 4 square), use unique line colors to distinguish between activities.