

# TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The APTA is committed to elevating our approach to overseeing the game's technical specifications, and more importantly, helping facilitate improvements in court construction with an aim of 1) reducing injuries, 2) lowering the overall costs of construction and 3) encouraging multi-sport use of our courts (including pickleball and U10 tennis).

## **I. Technical Specifications:**

As custodian of the Rules of Platform Tennis, the APTA has the sometimes difficult task of judging whether innovations in platform tennis equipment may bring about a benefit to those who play, or whether such developments constitute a threat to the nature of the game. To this end, the Committee maintains close contact with equipment and facility manufacturers, and other parties with interests in the future of the game so that the Rules of Platform Tennis (as they relate to equipment) are administered on the basis of the best and most up-to-date information.

**Paddle technology** – The Committee determines how far modern technology will allow paddles to develop and to predict how this might affect the way platform tennis is played, both at the tournament level and for the tens of thousands of players who play platform tennis for recreation.

**Platform Tennis ball technology** – The Committee studies the way in which the ball interacts with the different types of court surface on which platform tennis is played. Balls supplied by all major manufacturers are regularly tested to ensure that standards are maintained.

**Court surface testing** - Underpinned by its publication 'ITF Guide to Test Methods for Tennis Court Surfaces', the Technical Committee monitors the performance characteristics of court surfaces and develops test methods by which they can be measured.

## **II. Facilitating Improvements\***

Goal: facilitate improvements in court construction with an aim of 1) reducing injuries, 2) lowering the overall costs of construction and 3) encouraging multi-sport use of our courts (including pickleball and U10 tennis).

- A) Ground level (with or without) radiant heat
  - a. Ground level non-aluminum courts are less expensive to build than raised aluminum platform tennis courts.
  - b. Surfaces similar to hard tennis courts are easier on the body than current aluminum decking with heavily textured grit.
  - c. Radiant heat has the potential to be lower cost and offer more effective heating than existing propane tank heating systems.
  - d. Ground level non-aluminum courts can be lined to use for pickleball and U10 tennis.
  - e. Initial test at Exmoor Club in Illinois supports potential for broad use of ground level non-aluminum courts.

- B) Improving “raised aluminum platform” courts
  - a. Perforating and pitching existing aluminum style courts
  - b. Modifying the type of surface grit
  - c. Introducing composite materials for court surface
  - d. Finding better, more efficient heating systems
  - e. Finding alternative screen materials
- C) Pursuing a “Court in a Box” solution with local builders putting up courts
  - a. Goal of eliminating the inefficiencies of use of court building crews
  - b. Enabling building materials for more than one court to be transported on a flat bed truck.
- D) Introduction of surface that overlays existing platform tennis courts for use of pickleball and U10 Tennis