

3.2.6 SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

3.2.6.1 General

This space use category includes military training rooms, athletic and physical education spaces, media production rooms, clinics, demonstration areas, field buildings, animal quarters, greenhouses, and other room categories that are sufficiently specialized in their primary activity or function to merit a unique room code.

3.2.6.1.1 Recreation Facilities

- Recreation facilities should be warm, inviting, and friendly. Colors and large areas of glazing are often used to create an inviting atmosphere.

3.2.6.2 Facility Planning and Design

3.2.6.2.1 Recreation Facilities

- Requirements for gymnasiums and aquatic facilities shall be dictated by the appropriate National Governing Body (NGB).
- Where feasible, locate columns at the perimeter and corridor wall. Design large activity spaces such as rooms for strength training and conditioning, group fitness, martial arts, and gymnasiums to be free of columns for maximum flexibility and functionality.
- For basketball courts, the space between the outside line of the court and perimeter walls may be a minimum of 3'-0", but a greater distance of between 3'-0" and 10'-0" is preferred. Provide padding on walls less than 10'-0" from courts.
- Provide an uninterrupted ceiling height of 20'-0" for multi-purpose rooms and weight rooms to allow hanging heavy kick bags in multiple locations. A minimum ceiling height of 14'-0" is permitted if a greater ceiling height is not feasible.
- Open ceilings are preferred in gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms.
- Provide adjacent storage areas in lieu of the outdated "goody box" storage solution for racquetball courts..
- Provide adequate storage rooms that are easily accessible to the spaces they support.
- Locate housekeeping closets in close proximity to service areas to reduce travel and labor time.
- Locate equipment checkout and membership services outside of access control.
- Provide unisex toilets and family changing rooms.

3.2.6.3 Windows and Walls

3.2.6.3.1 Recreation Facilities

- Walls behind basketball backboards and soccer goals must be solid enough to withstand direct hits by balls and other objects.
- Walls used for medicine ball exercises shall be reinforced and covered with an appropriate surface.

- The bottom 18" of weight room walls shall be protected with a hard surface to prevent damage and discoloration. Carpet or the same floor surface in a dark color may be used, preferably with sound absorption properties.
- Racquetball courts are also used for wallyball and must be designed to withstand high impact.
- Select exterior glazing with a maximum UV rating. Exterior glazing on the east and west face of the building shall be fitted with electronic curtains.

3.2.6.4 Doors

3.2.6.4.1 Recreation Facilities

- Areas used for high activity and/or with flying objects must have doors that are not alarmed or have the alarm feature protected.
- Emergency egress doors within access control shall have panic hardware with a minimum 15 second delay before opening once activated.

3.2.6.5 Accessibility

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3.2.6.6 Furniture and Equipment

3.2.6.6.1 Recreation Facilities

- Provide space to accommodate large fans in weight, cardio and multi-purpose rooms. In the case that the ceiling height is restrictive, fans may be located on the floor in a corner.
- Provide at least one mirrored wall in weight rooms and multi-purpose rooms, and mirrors on columns where it is feasible.
- Provide a stretch bar mounted to one wall in dance rooms.
- When nets are used to divide a gymnasium, maintain visual access to allow supervision across the space. The weight of the net may be enhanced with vinyl on the bottom portion, however, the height of the vinyl shall be a maximum of 4'-0". Provide maximum flexibility with sectioned nets. Areas at the corners must remain open.
- Utilize walk-off mats at facility entrances to prevent dirt and water trailing.

3.2.6.7 Materials and Finishes

3.2.6.7.1 Recreation Facilities

3.2.6.7.1.1 Wall Finishes

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3.2.6.7.1.2 Floor Finishes

- Use suspended wood floors for gymnasiums, with special consideration for shock absorption. Consider the logistics of future maintenance to allow for the repair of minor damages without replacing the entire floor.

- For wet spaces such as pool decks and locker rooms, use 2” tile or smaller on the floors. Provide maximum slip resistance.
- Mason prefers modular carpet tiles (opposed to broadloom or wall-to-wall carpet) due to ease of repair and replacement.

3.2.6.7.1.3 Ceiling Finishes

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3.2.6.8 Building Systems

3.2.6.8.1 Plumbing

3.2.6.8.1.1 All Special Use Facilities

- Refer to Section 3.3.3 – Plumbing Systems.

3.2.6.8.1.2 Recreation Facilities

- Hot, cold water and drains are important. Often they are available in locker rooms and in predesigned athletic training rooms. The ability to adapt other spaces in proximity to activity/locker room spaces is often a costly adaptation.
- Aquatic systems shall be connected to proper wastewater disposal systems and be provided with appropriate wastewater backwater valves and have appropriate domestic water backflow preventers.
- Hose bibs shall be installed at various locations where they are beneficial.
- Chemical delivery systems shall be adequately protected, yet accessible to qualified staff. Pre-design access to repair and replace these systems.

3.2.6.8.2 Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

3.2.6.8.2.1 All Special Use Facilities

- Refer to Section 3.3.1 – HVAC Systems.

3.2.6.8.2.2 Recreation Facilities

- Indoor aquatic centers produce large quantities of chlorine laden water vapor through the process of surface evaporation. Design the HVAC system to provide adequate dehumidification year round to remove the vapor as liquid waste water. This waste water shall be properly disposed of per the applicable plumbing code or recycled and reused in the aquatics systems. A proper air change rate and air supply/return configuration shall be provided to adequately remove all harmful water vapors that could condense on building surfaces and designed to control the chloramine levels at the water surface.

3.2.6.8.3 Electrical

3.2.6.8.3.1 All Special Use Facilities

- Refer to Section 3.3.2 – Electrical Design Criteria.

- Normal lighting for these areas shall consist of a mixture of 2x4, 2x2 compact fluorescent, sconces, and pendant decorative fixtures to meet the program requirements and as designed and specified by the interior designer and/or lighting consultant of the projects.
- Illumination levels shall be maintained in accordance with associated tables in Section 3.3.2 of this manual.
- Lighting in these areas shall be controlled by lighting relay panels overridden by local switches.
- Audiovisual fire alarm devices shall be provided in all of these areas as required by NFPA and local codes.
- Emergency and exit lighting shall be provided in accordance with national and local fire codes.
- Provide protection for fire alarms, fire suppression devices, clocks, scoreboards, lights and sprinkler heads in high activity areas.

3.2.6.8.3.2 Recreation Facilities

- Provide lights with motion sensors in racquetball courts where it is feasible.
- Additional electrical capacity is needed in gymnasiums as these spaces are often multipurpose and the need for five 20 amp breakers in addition to existing power is costly.
- Weight rooms and cardio spaces often need 220 Volt dedicated circuits to accommodate the equipment, data, televisions etc.
- Provide security cameras at access and egress points, and at locations where financial transactions will occur. Cameras may also be desired for educational purposes.

3.2.6.8.4 Communications

3.2.6.8.4.1 All Special Use Facilities

- Tel/data/AV outlets wall mounted or floor mounted shall be provided as required by the furniture layout in training rooms, physical education spaces, production rooms, clinics, and demonstration areas.

3.2.6.9 Acoustics

3.2.6.9.1 Recreation Facilities

- Acoustical products may be employed to mitigate sound issues.

3.2.6.10 Security

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