

## APPLICATION OF SPORTS COATINGS

### Environment

The application of sports coatings are greatly affected by environmental conditions such as temperature, rain, wind, light, etc. To ensure that sports coatings are finished to the highest standards these environmental conditions must be suitable before coatings can be applied. For example, high temperatures will cause lap mark appearance, rain or moisture can cause discolouration, and wind causes the product to cure too fast or line marking to be uneven. For this reason, application cannot be managed based on a building schedule or an expected time frame. The application must be managed based on environmental conditions and ensuring these are suitable before applying products. Advantage Sports & Leisure will not apply sports coating outside the required conditions and will not be held to a time frame if conditions are not suitable.

### Cracking and Movement

Both Concrete and Asphalt courts can move by expanding and contracting. This movement is normally due to, but not limited to, environmental temperature and ground movement. This movement can cause cracking throughout the court. In a similar manner to roads and concrete footpaths, sports courts can also crack.

There are products that are used to help hide and disguise cracks however they are only reducing the appearance of the cracks, and they are not fixing the fundamental problem of movement which causes the cracks. A sports coating will not fix or prevent cracking in any surface; it will only reduce the appearance of the crack for a period of time.

### Expansion Joints and Concrete Joints

When pouring a concrete slab, it is standard practice to include expansion joints and saw cuts throughout the slab. Joints and saw cuts will be visible after the coating has been applied, so the positioning of the joints and saw cuts should be carefully considered to ensure they minimise the impact on the sport being played. For example, tennis court key joints should be placed under the net. Connolly or Danley key joints with removable capping are highly recommended. Avoid bull nosing any joints that are to be coated as large bull nose key joints tend to cause more fatigue on the sports coating.

Joints will be filled with a suitable polyurethane sealant. When temperature changes cause the slab to expand, the sealant will swell causing a lump to appear and when the slab contracts a depression will become visible. Fatigue of the sports coating may also occur along these joints. Although the polyurethane is flexible the sports coating isn't, so hairline cracks may occur along these joints.

