

No. 03

POSITION	25.34°N 55.52°E
SETTING	Covered · Shade all day
SURFACE	Blue turf, 10mm
BEST HOUR	14:00 – 17:00, out of the sun
WIND	None. That's the point.
LIGHT	Even, all hours

THE FILE

The covered court, and in this country that is not a small thing. From June to September, when the outdoor courts are honestly unpleasant between ten and five, Court 03 is the reason the club stays open through the afternoon. No wind, no glare, no excuses.

This is also where the coaching happens, and it's not a coincidence. The 10mm turf is a shade slower than the 8mm outside – the coaches asked for it, the rest of us complained for a week, and they were right. The ball sits up a fraction longer, which is exactly what you want when you're learning where to put it and exactly what you'll blame when you lose here to someone who trains here.

The acoustics are livelier than outdoors; the roof gives every shot an echo that flatters your smash and announces your mishits to the café. Mornings are coaching blocks, most days. Afternoons are open play, and in August they are the best-value hours on the board. The Wednesday group class ends at nine and usually wants a sixth for the game after – ask Lena.