



**AUSTRALIAN
ATHLETICS**

SHORT TRACK FACILITIES

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE



SHORT TRACK ATHLETICS FACILITIES OUTLINE

JANUARY 2026

Introduction

Globally, Athletics has traditionally divided competition between two separate track types – these being outdoor 400m tracks and indoor 200m tracks. In May 2023¹, World Athletics announced the introduction of “short track” to replace the term “indoor” which had traditionally described events conducted on a 200m track, predominantly indoors and generally conducted in colder climates. This move was aimed at allowing more flexibility in the establishment and use of 200m venues across the globe, including the permanent construction of 200m tracks outdoors or temporary 200m tracks in city locations.

As at January 2026, there are no permanent existing or planned 200m tracks, either indoors or outdoors in Australia. The introduction of short track by World Athletics led to the creation of the Australian Short Track Championships in 2024, with event disciplines pertaining to short track staged within existing 400m facilities – most recently at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre and Lakeside Stadium in Melbourne.

The Case for Short Track Facilities

Whilst Australian Athletics’ priority is to ensure the provision of an adequate number of high quality, fit for purpose 400m outdoor track and field facilities, the introduction of short track as a legitimate global discipline has created more flexibility and legitimacy for the potential installation of 200m short track facilities in the Australian environment. We see 200m short tracks as an opportunity to complement 400m facilities by expanding the number of available spaces for Australians to participate in athletics and to fit within a range of different environments where full-scale 400m facilities are simply not viable.

There are several advantages and opportunities created by short track including:

- The land footprint is significantly smaller, creating the option to install an athletics facility in locations where smaller parcels of land are available for development.
- The smaller footprint provides potential opportunities to lower construction and operating costs.
- The smaller footprint of a 200m track lends itself to co-location with other sporting activities, potentially increasing appeal and viability for landowners and operators.
- The scale of a 200m facility may afford better utility for other environments such as schools.
- Like 400m facilities, these facilities can be constructed outdoors.

¹ Short track competition formally came into effect on 1 November 2023.



- Where available land restricts the provision of a second 400m facility as a warmup track to accommodate the hosting of major events, a 200m track may be a viable alternative.
- Performances on appropriately certified 200m facilities are, depending on the level, recognised by Australian Athletics, and World Athletics.²

Purpose

The purpose of this *Short Track Facilities Overview* document is to:

1. Highlight the opportunities that 200m short track facilities provide to expand the type and number of spaces for Australians to participate in athletics.
2. Make landowners, facility operators, and key stakeholders of Australian Athletics aware of the opportunities that exist to consider the construction of 200m short track facilities to complement 400m facilities.
3. Demonstrate the flexibility that 200m short track facilities may afford to stakeholders to incorporate components of athletics in to existing or future multipurpose sporting facilities and public spaces.

Illustrative Concepts

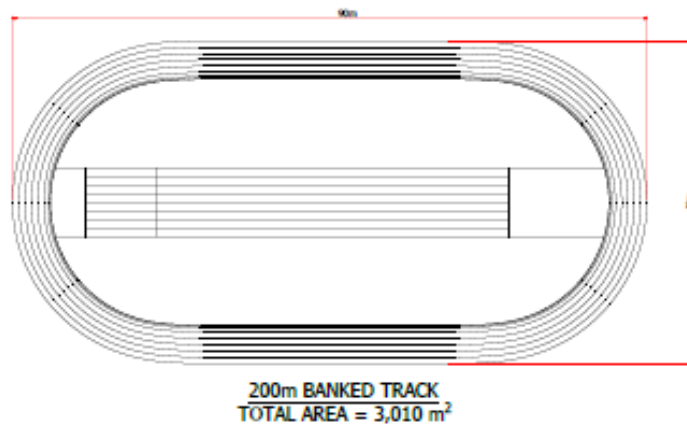
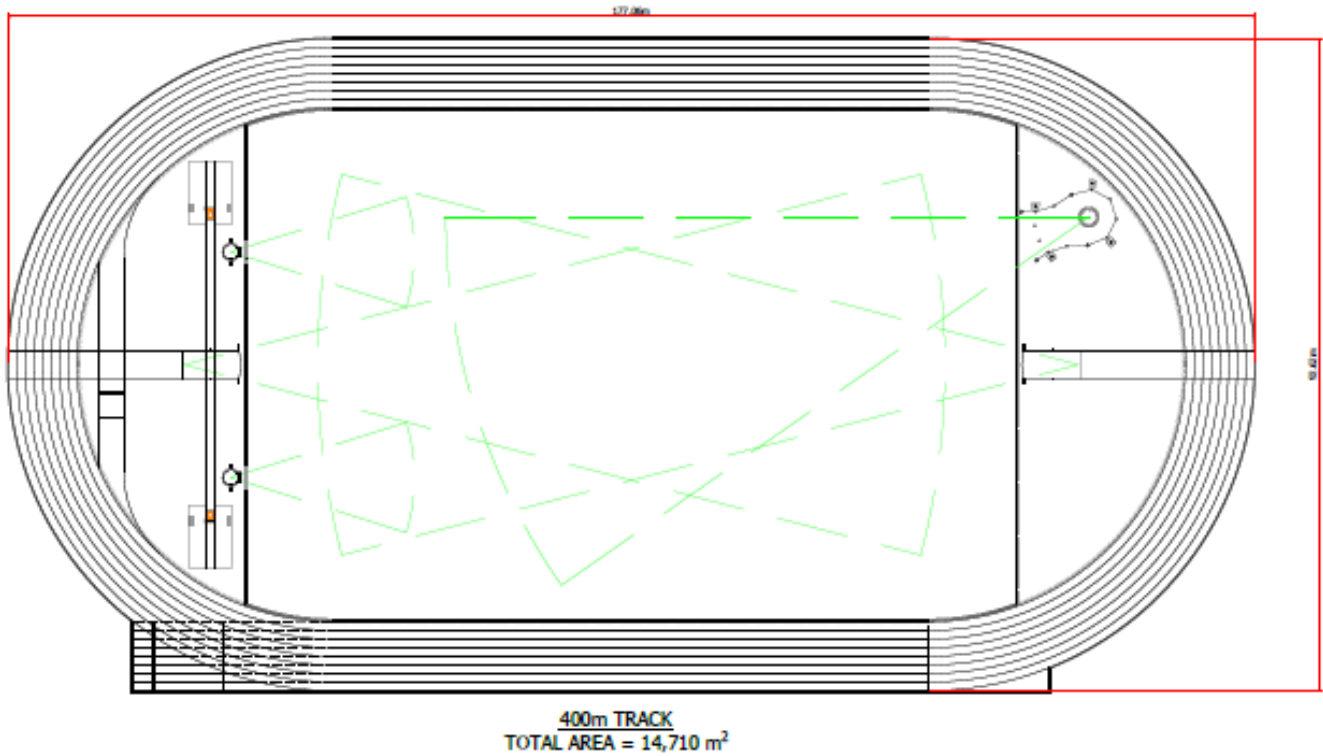
Australian Athletics has partnered with SPORTENG – a leading Australian sporting facilities design and engineering firm with significant experience in the development of athletics facilities - to develop some concept drawings for short track facilities. The following section presents these concept drawings to demonstrate potential use cases and configurations for 200m facilities. These concepts are provided for illustrative purposes only. The World Athletics rules should be referred to for specific information relating to the technical design and construction of short track facilities.

² Subject to all relevant criteria being met and subsequent ratification where required.



Standard 400m Track and 200m Short Track Comparison

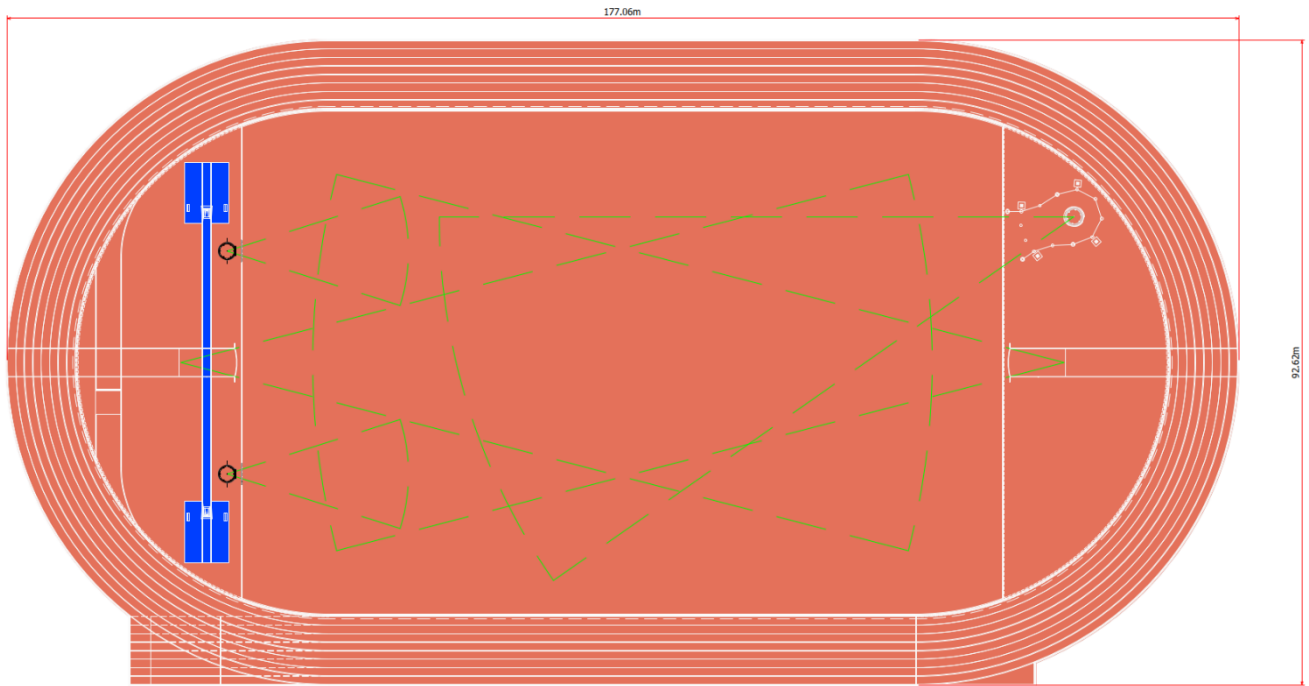
The diagram below provides a visual comparison between a 400m track and a 200m track. The total area of a 400m facility is over 14,000 square metres. In comparison, a 200m track has a footprint of just over 3,000 square metres.



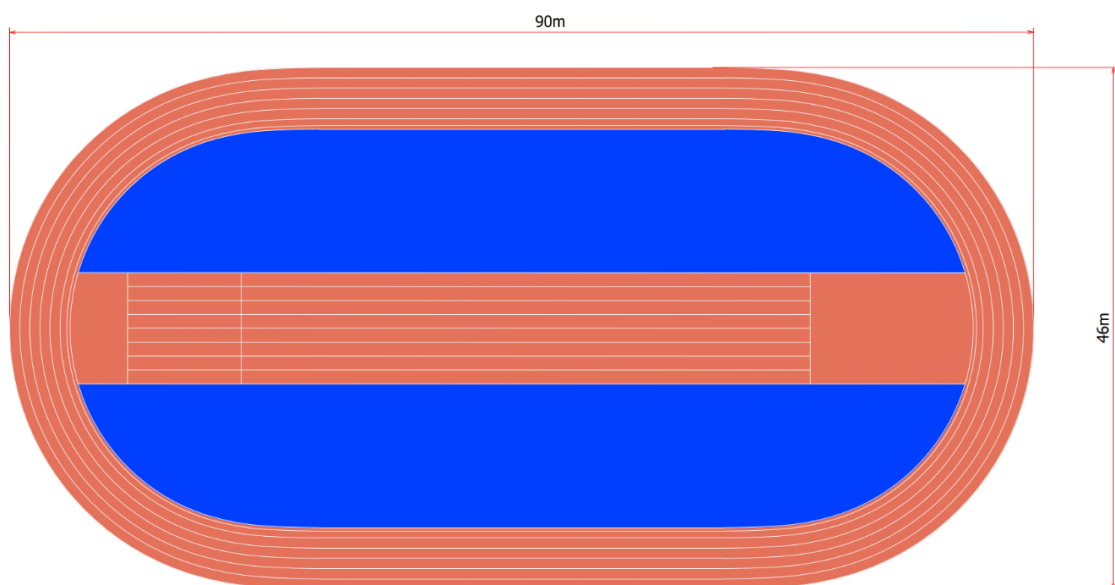


Note that unlike the previous page, the 200m and 400m track layouts below are not in the same scale. The images below are designed to show the comparative length and width measurements of a typical 400m and 200m track.

400m facility



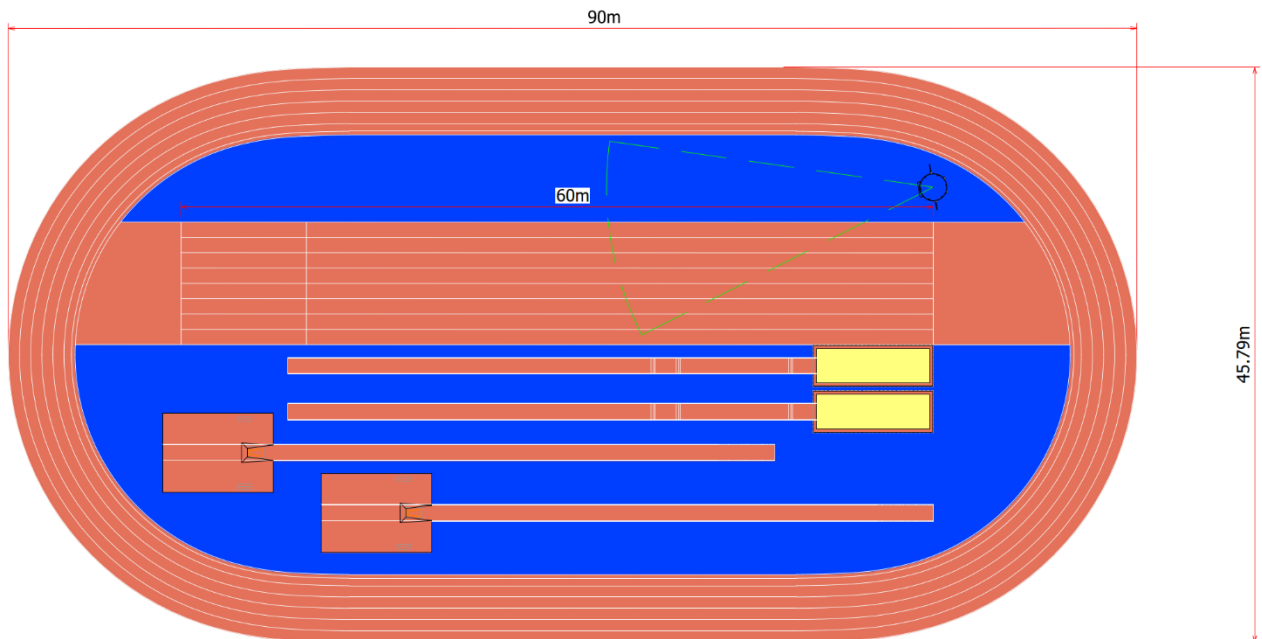
200m Facility





200m Short Track Layout

The illustration below shows an example of a 200m indoor short track layout, noting that, like 400m facilities, there are a range of different variations and configurations that can exist in line with the World Athletics rules and technical specifications.

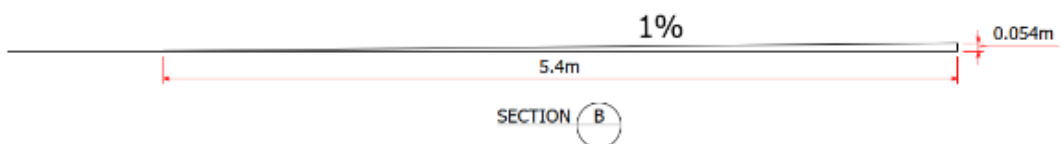
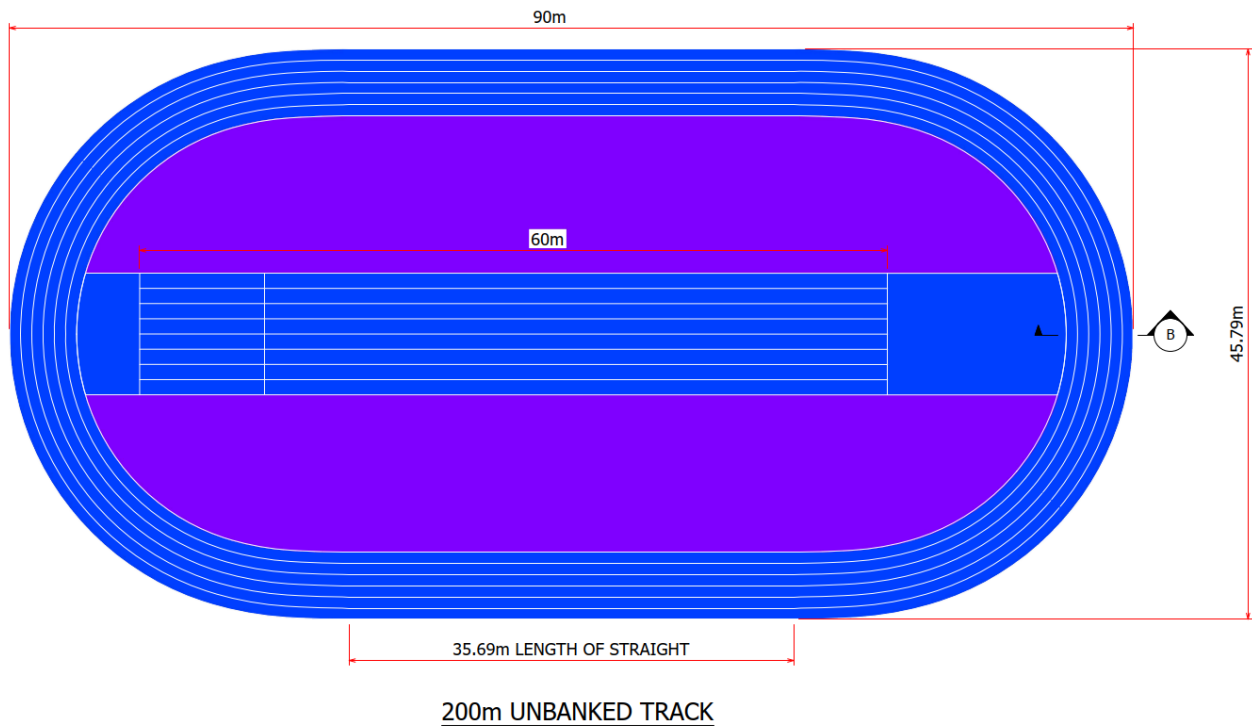
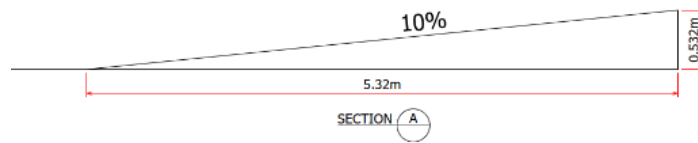
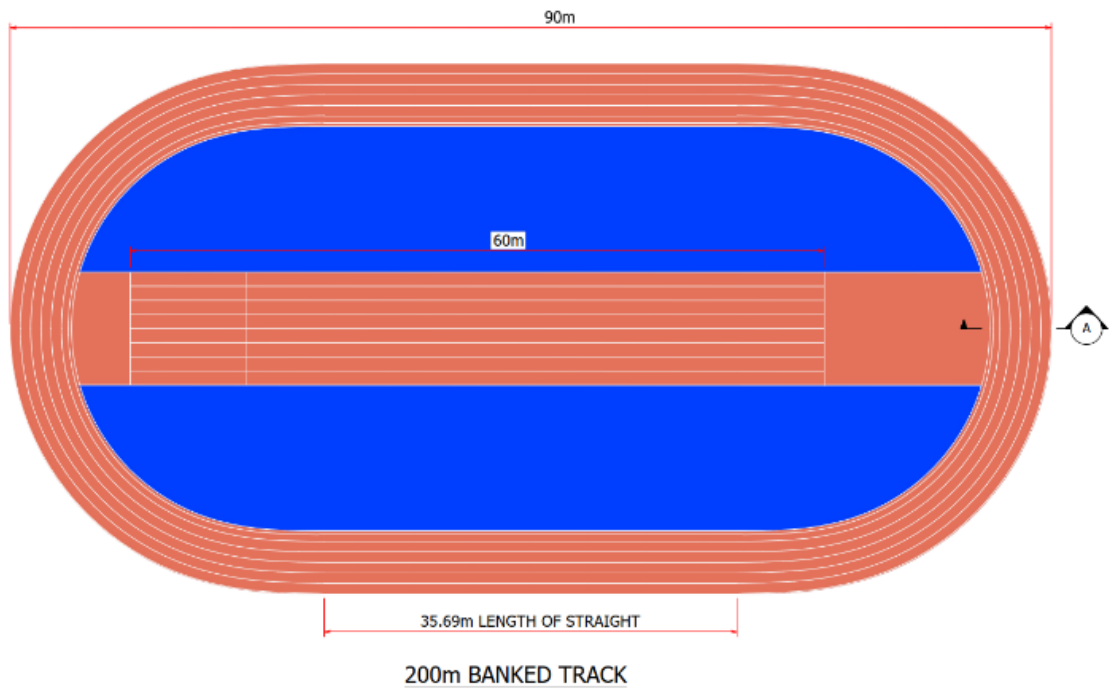


Banked and Non-Banked Short Tracks

Additionally, 200m short tracks can be constructed with or without banks creating opportunities for different configurations. Banked short tracks are generally reserved for higher-end or temporary facilities and assist athletes in navigating the significantly tighter bends in comparison to traditional 400m facilities. Non-banked tracks are generally installed outdoors, but can also be installed indoors as a permanent solution as a dedicated facility.

Additionally, there are options that allow for both banked and non-banked tracks in the same facility. For example, an outdoor hydraulic system can be installed under the 200m track. This then allows for the conduct of World Athletics international level meets by adding banks and converting back to a flat, non-banked facility when required, creating all-round usage for a short track facility.

The illustrations on the next page outline the difference in gradients between banked and non-banked facilities.

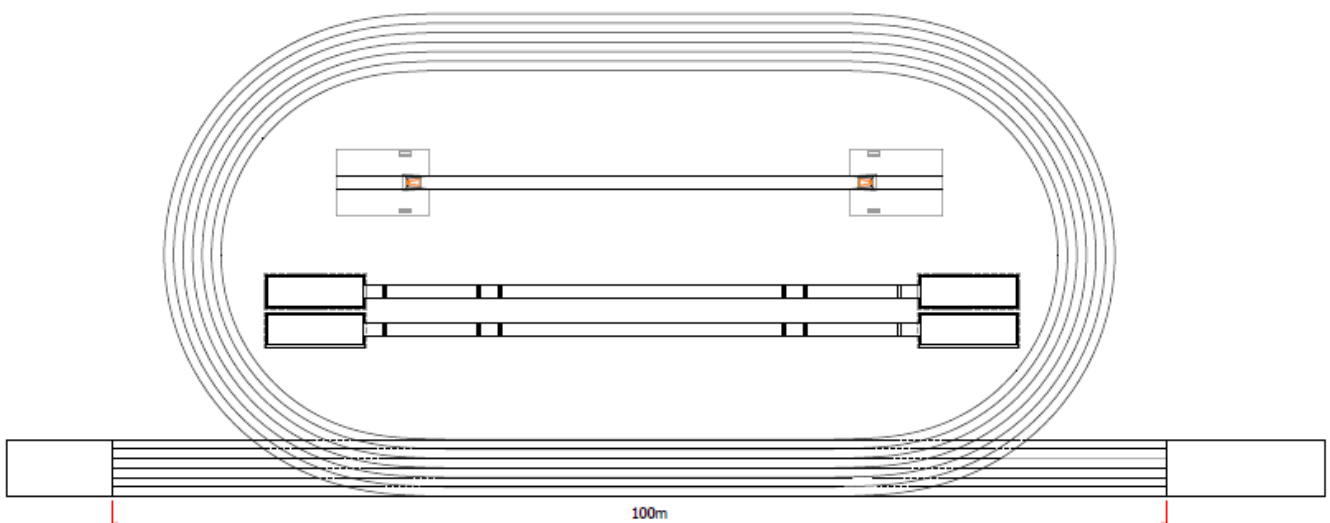
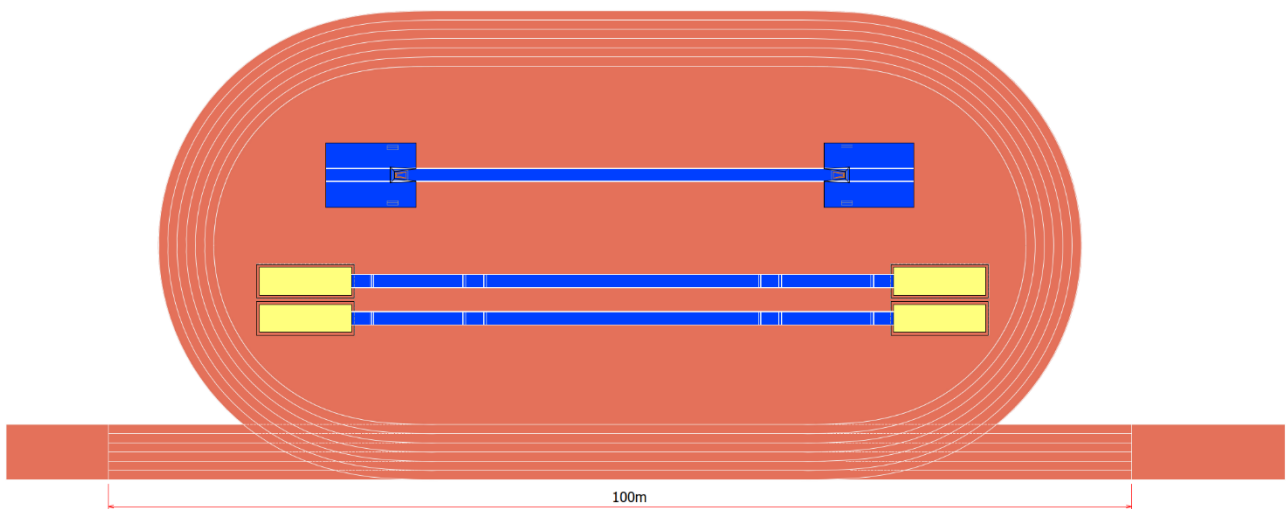


Short Track Concepts

The following section provides four separate examples of 200m short track facility configurations. Concepts are shown in both colour and mono. These examples demonstrate an outdoor application with an extended 100m main straight.

Example 1

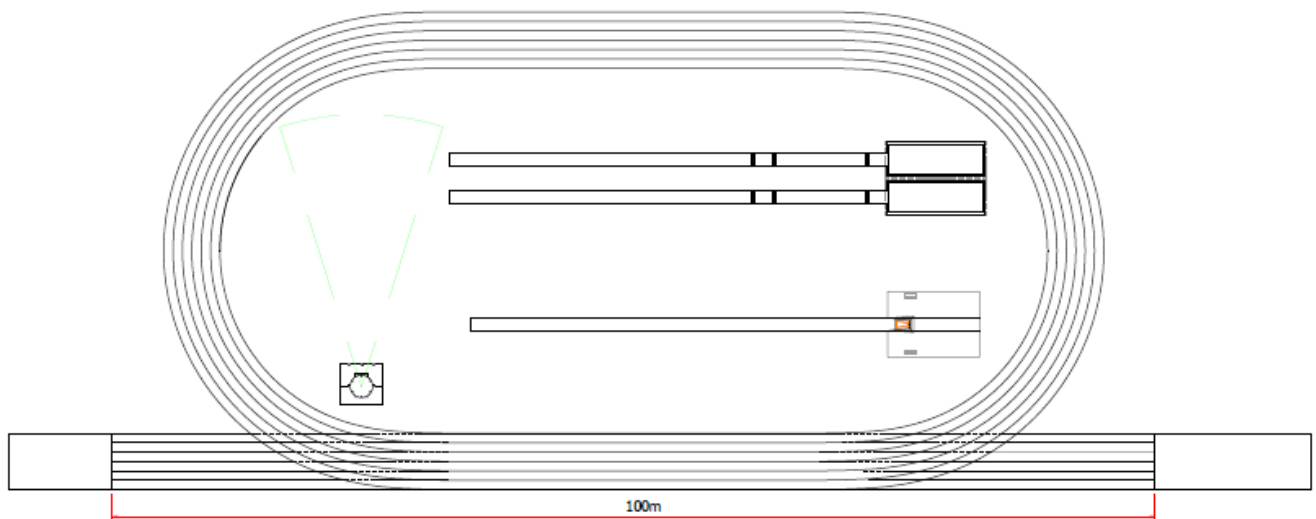
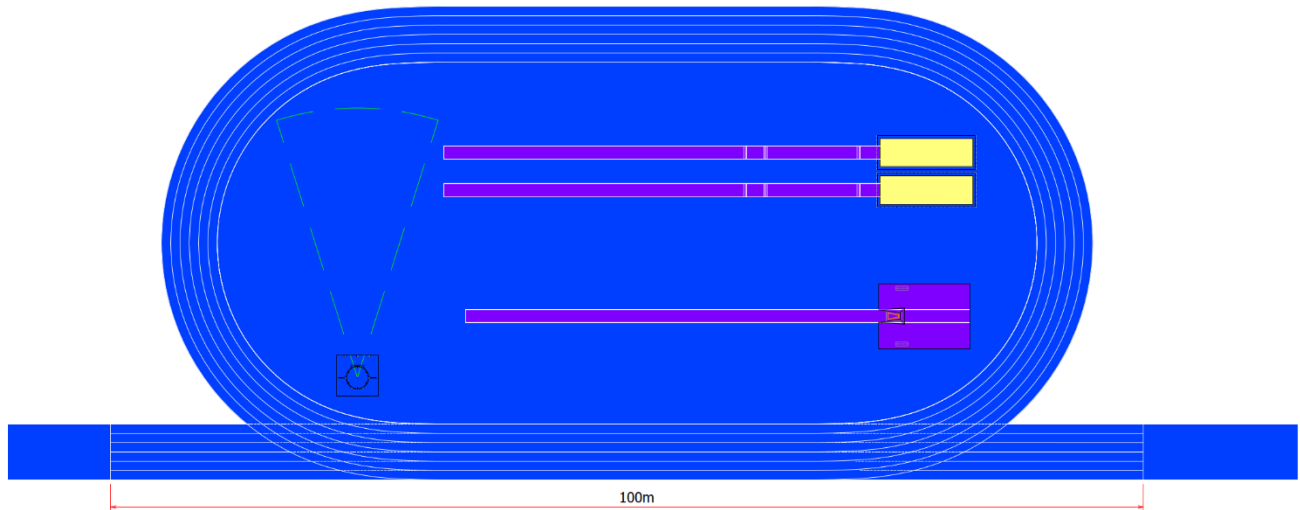
Incorporating 4 long jump/triple jump, and 2 pole vault runways and pits.





Example 2

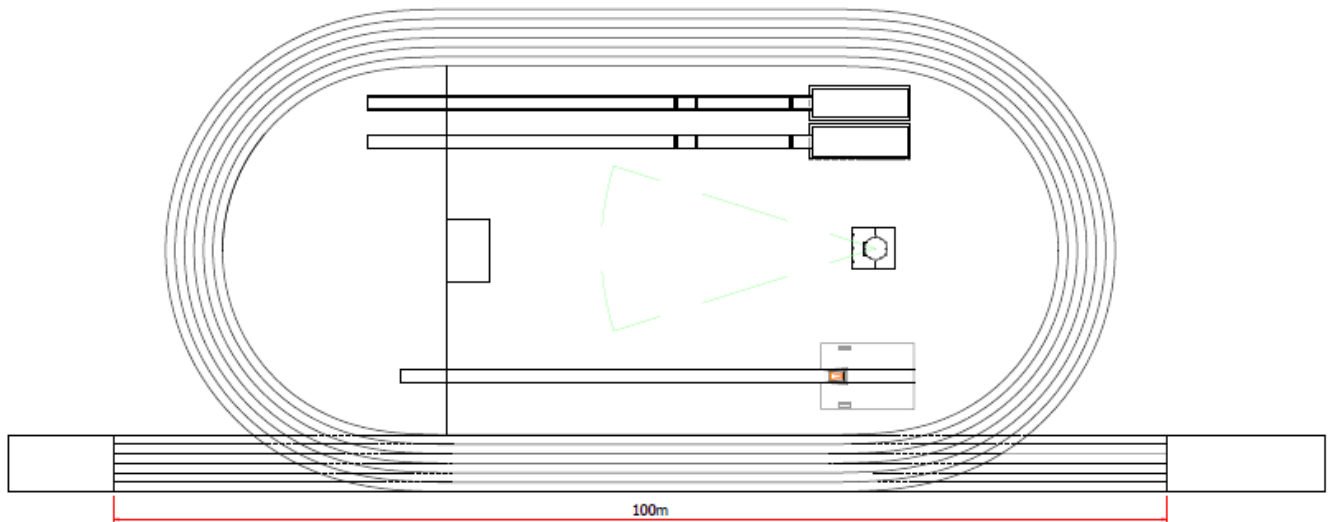
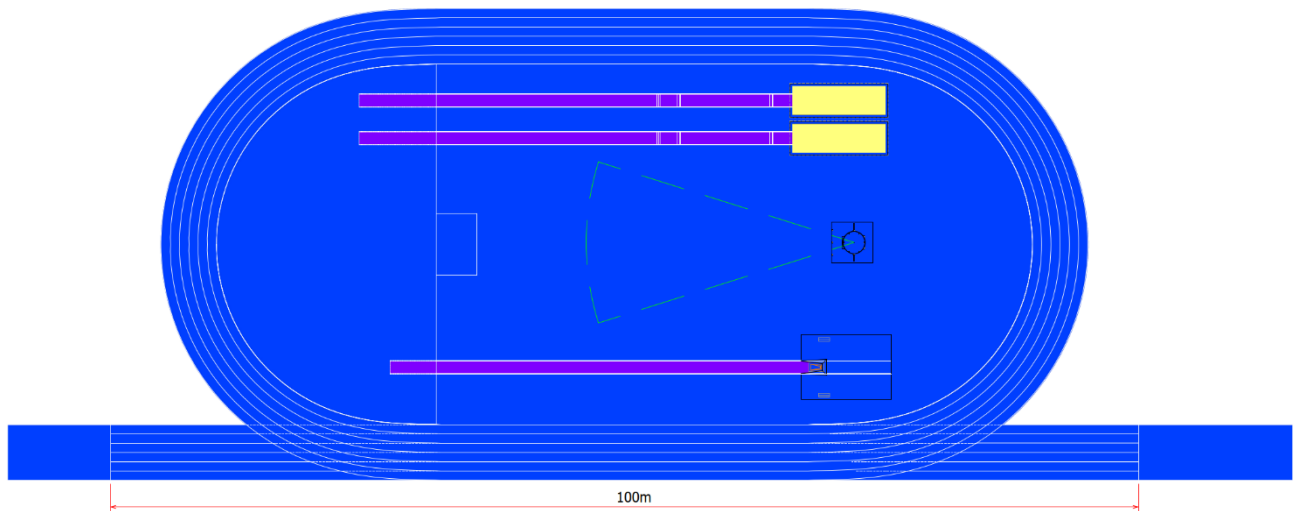
Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 2 long jump/triple jump runways and pits, and 1 pole vault runway and pit.





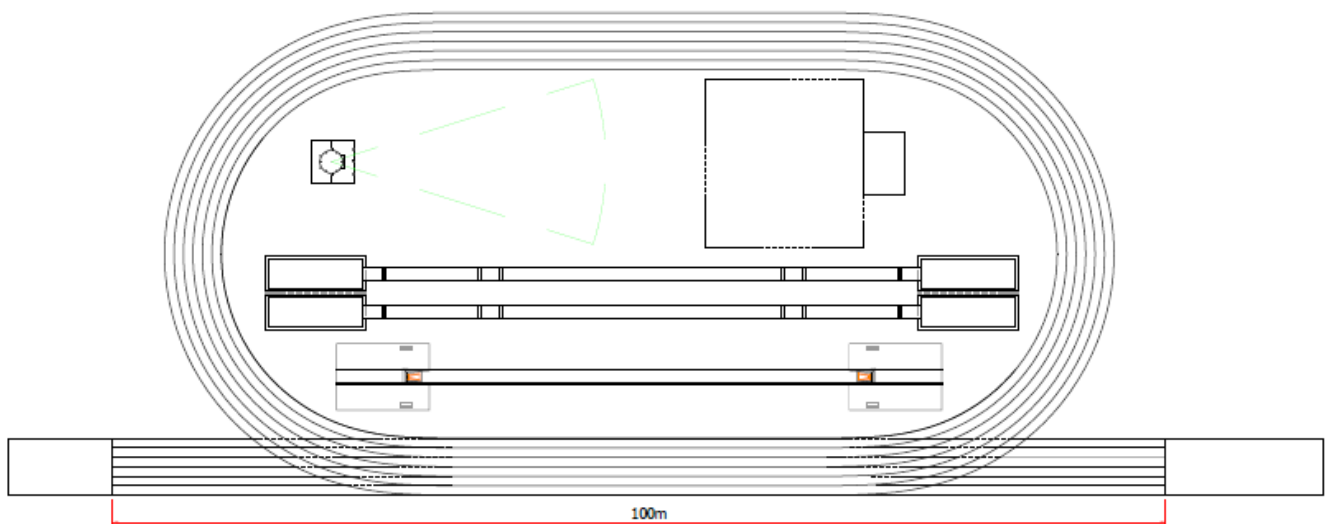
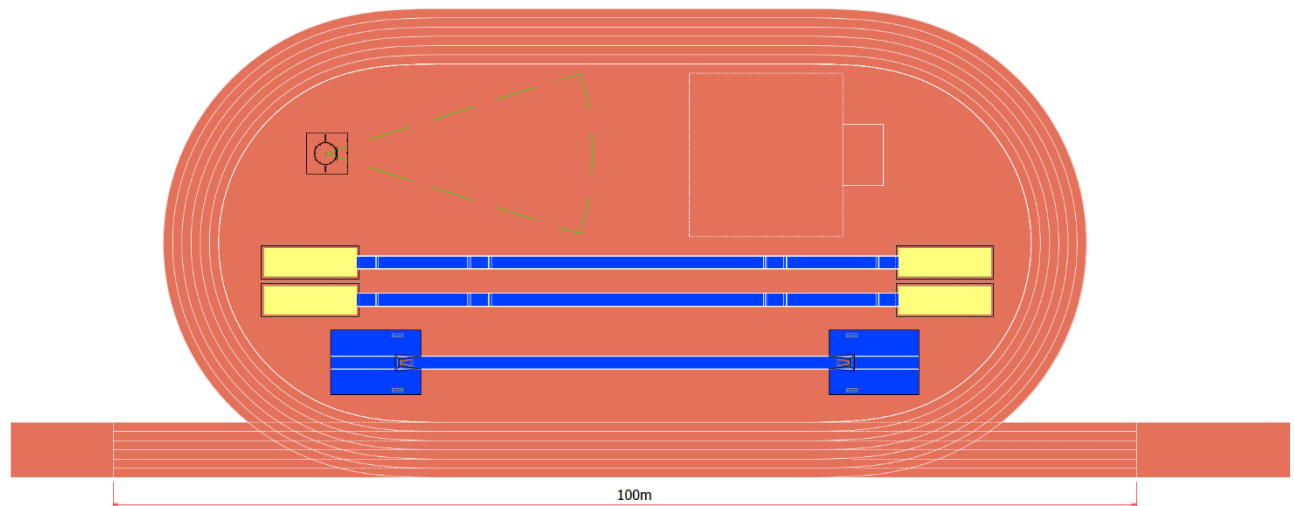
Example 3

Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 1 high jump, 2 long jump/triple jump, and 1 pole vault runway.



Example 4

Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 1 high jump, 4 long jump/triple jump, and 2 pole vault runways and pits.





Marquee Indoor Facility

Australian Athletics and its state and territory Member Associations would enthusiastically support the construction of a dedicated marquee indoor competition athletics facility in Australia that could be used for National and International level events, as well as regular use by state / territory Member Associations, schools, community groups and the general public. Such a facility would provide a unique athletics competition and participation environment that does not yet exist in Australia. It would deliver a missing competition venue in Australian Athletics and provide for participation in athletics, potentially alongside community fitness opportunities, in a controlled environment on a year-round basis.

Given the international indoor season is conducted during the height of the Australian summer and with athletics competition in Australia increasingly exposed to rising climate-induced temperate and flood event impacts, such a facility would be an important addition to athletics facilities in Australia to support ongoing competition and participation in the sport.



Image source and acknowledgement: Mondo www.mondoworldwide.com

Technical Specifications

As at January 2026, World Athletics is currently updating its book of rules relating to short track facilities. Once complete, these regulations and specifications can be found on the World Athletics website at <https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>



National and State/Territory Facility Plans

Australian Athletics, in partnership with our state and territory Member Associations, has invested heavily in the development of evidence-based state and National facilities plans in recent years. These plans should be used as a reference point in the development of athletics facilities.

The following plans have been produced or are under development:

Plan	Developed By	Status
Capital Athletics Facilities Strategy	Inside Edge	Under development. To be completed by 30 June 2026.
NSW Athletics Facility Strategy	Inside Edge	Complete.
Athletics West State Facilities Plan	Kinetica	Complete.
Victorian State Facilities Plan	Inside Edge	Nearing completion.
Tasmania Statewide Facilities Plan	Inspiring Place	Under development. To be completed by 30 June 2026.
Northern Territory Facilities Plan	Tredwell	Under development. To be completed by 30 June 2026.
Queensland State Facilities Plan	ROSS Planning	Under development. To be completed by 30 June 2026.
SA Track and Field State Facilities Plan	City-Collective	Complete.
National Athletics Facilities Plan	TBC	Slated for development in the second half of 2026 following the completion of all state and territory facility plans.

Australian Athletics Contacts

For more information regarding short track facilities, please contact Australian Athletics.

1. For general enquiries and queries relating to evidence-based facility planning documents and community level facilities:

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