Skatepark Design & Standards

(AS EN 14974:2021)

August 2022

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Note: This presentation has been prepared for Play Australia discussion only, and should not be used in lieu of the relevant standards. Skatepark design should always be undertaken by experienced, competent designers with knowledge of the standards and skatepark use.

Introduction to Playce

- We are an 8 person design practice.

- We have a motto of being *“serious about fun...”*

- Have worked collectively on over 800 skatepark projects over 20+ years (10 as Playce).

- Essentially we design fun spaces and places in the public realm for young people including social hubs, skateparks, scooter loops, pump tracks, parkour spaces, playgrounds and fitness spaces.

- 3 of our staff are regular skaters.

- We have an office in central Melbourne but work across Australia.

- We love working with young people to create spaces for young people.

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Introduction to Playce

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Plaza: Highpoint Plaza

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Street: Bailey Reserve Skatepark

Mini-Ramp: Stockton Skatepark

Flow Bowl: Albury Skatepark

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Vert Bowl: Albury Skatepark

Snake Run: Box Hill Skatepark

Vert Ramp

Pump Track: Wellington Square

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Skatepark Users

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Coping

- Standards provide parameters for setting coping (Section 6.2.7).

- Correct & consistent coping projection can be vital for the safety and usability of a feature.

- Features can require various coping profiles & projections.

- Ensure experienced skateboarders & designers with skate experience are involved to maximise the usability of features.

6.2.7 Copings

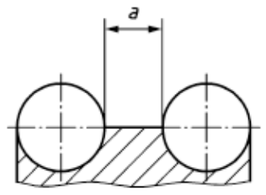
The diameter of the copings shall be ≥ 40 mm and the ends shall be sealed.

Copings shall be fixed and form-locking with the skate element.

Where a coping is constructed of more than one piece, the joints shall not create different levels or gaps.

When a pool coping is constructed of more than one piece the joints shall not create different levels and have a maximum width of 5 mm.

Where the distance (a) between two copings arranged parallel to one another is greater than 8 mm, the space shall be designed so that it is completely closed from the axis of the tubes (see Figure 6).



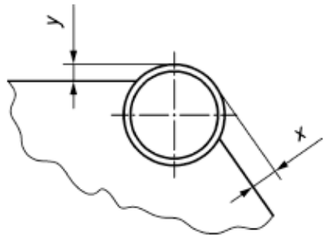
Key

a distance between two copings

NOTE Figure 6 is for illustrative purposes only as other designs are possible.

Figure 6 — Copings arranged in parallel

The coping shall present a minimum projection of 5 mm forwards and upwards, a maximum projection of 20 mm forwards and upwards (see Figure 7). The projection dimensions for pool copings may deviate from this.



Key

5 mm ≤ x ≤ 20 mm

5 mm ≤ *y* ≤ 20 mm

NOTE Figure 7 is for illustrative purposes only as other designs are possible.

Figure 7 — Projection of the coping

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Transitions

- Standards provide parameters for transition dimensions in mini ramps / vert ramps (Section 6.3.6).

- Different transition radii can provide different riding experiences, and cater for different styles of riders.

- For example, pool bowls may have smaller transition radii to recreate the feeling of skating a backyard pool, whereas larger bmx bowls may have larger transition radii.

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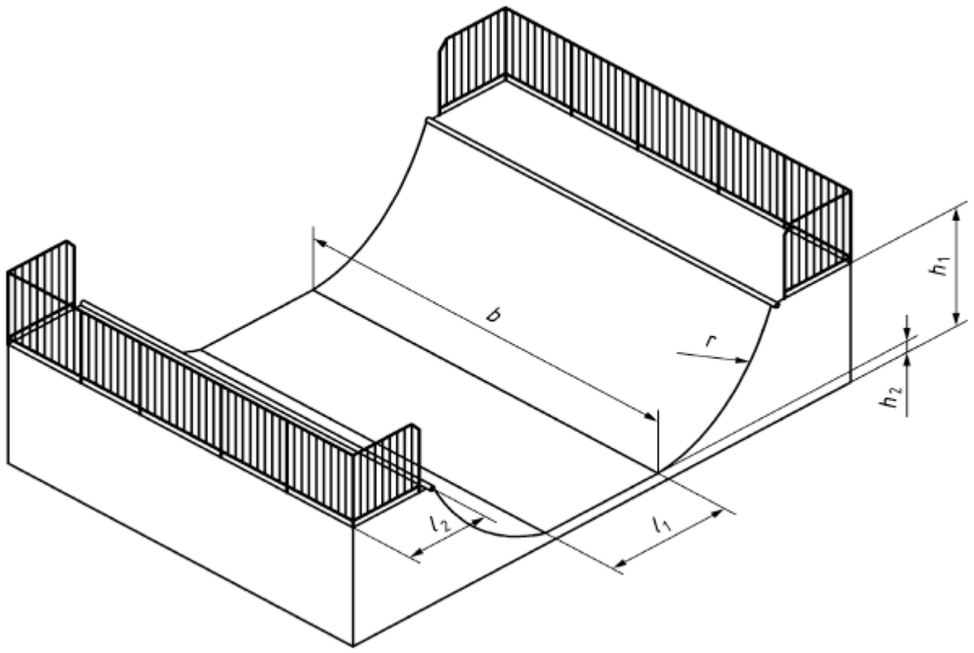

a) Mini ramp

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Table 4 — Dimensions of a mini ramp/vert ramp (half-pipe)

Description	h_1 mm	b mm	r mm	h_3 mm	h_2 mm	l_1 mm	l_2 mm
Mini ramp	≤ 1 250	≥ 2 400	≥ h_1	no vert allowed [a]	≤ 600	≥ r/2	≥ 1200
	> 1 250 to 1 500	≥ 3 600					
	> 1 500 to 2 000	≥ 4 800					
	≥ 2 000 to 2 500	≥ 6 000					
Vert ramp (half-pipe)	≥ 1 500 to 2 500	≥ 4 800	≥ 1 400 to 2 400	≤ 300			
	≥ 2 500 to 4 200	≥ 6 000	≥ 2 400 to 3 600	≤ 600			
	> 4 200 to 5 000	≥ 7 200	≤ 4 500	≤1 000			

[a] Vert is allowed for extensions.

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Safety Zones

- Standards provide guidelines for safety zones around features (Section 6.4).

- Having sufficient run-up & run-out for features is important to ensure features can be used as intended.

- Arranging obstacles to provide the correct speed & spacing to set-up for tricks is also vital.

- Skatepark features are often combined to make new features & ways to ride.

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6.4 Safety zone

Each skate element shall have a safety zone of at least 2 000 mm around its circumference with the exception of rails, curbs/ledges according to 6.1.14. The safety zones may intersect one another. Safety zones shall be free from any obstacles and are not intended as a viewing area for spectators. The surface of the safety zones shall be made of a bound uniform material. Loose material, e.g. sand, shall not be used.

NOTE Bound uniform material is e.g. concrete/stone, bituminous surfacing, topsoil and turf.

Plants (e.g. hedges, trees, bushes) within the safety zone are permitted if they are arranged in a way that does not pose a risk to users during their sports activities.

There is no need for a safety zone in the adjacent area behind a skate element provided with a platform or behind a wall ride.

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Balustrades

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- The specified dimensions differ from other standards, and some proprietary systems.

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Balustrades

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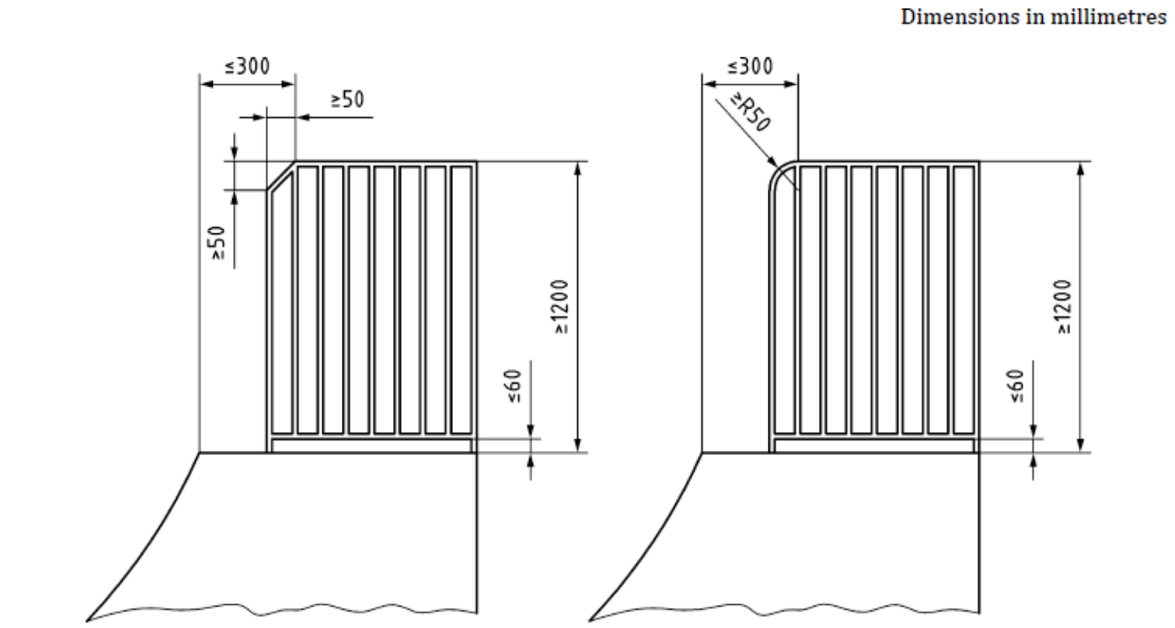

NOTE Figure 4 is for illustrative purposes only as other designs are possible.

Figure 4 — Barrier

Balustrades

- Standards provide guidelines for balustrades / barriers (Section 6..2.6).

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Safety Assessments

- Many safety inspectors are not offering assessments of skatepark designs to these standards yet.

- Skate experience and knowledge of how features can be used is important to approach skatepark assessment.

- We currently undertake reviews with Baseplate, experienced skate design peers, to provide assessments of designs.

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