

bookings vs dateAvailability for courts

Even without enforcing overlaps, these two concepts serve *different layers* of the scheduling model:

dateAvailability = capacity rule / constraint

Think of **dateAvailability** as a **declarative override to the court's "normal hours"** for a specific date (or date range), usually used for:

- special opening/closing days (holiday hours)
- planned maintenance windows (court resurfacing, net replacement)
- administrative closures (venue event, staffing limitations)
- practice blocks that are *policy-driven* (e.g., "courts reserved for team practice 4–6pm")

In other words: **dateAvailability** answers "*is the court allowed to be scheduled then?*" and typically belongs to the *availability engine*.

bookings = consumption of available capacity

bookings are concrete allocations of time to a purpose or owner:

- a specific maintenance booking (work order)
- a reserved practice slot
- a blocked hold for an event (tournament desk hold, private rental)
- (potentially) match allocations (though tournaments often model match scheduling separately)

So: bookings answer "*someone is actually using/holding this time*" and belong to the *reservation ledger*.

How they relate (the most robust model)

A clean, deterministic precedence model is:

1. **Start with the court's normal daily window:** [`court.startTime`, `court.endTime`) for that date.
2. **Apply **dateAvailability**** to modify that window:
 - "unavailable" blocks subtract from the window
 - "available" blocks can either:

- *extend* the daily window (if you allow “open earlier / stay later”), or
 - be treated as “allowed segments” (if you support whitelist-style availability)
3. **Subtract bookings** (since they consume time within the allowed window).
 4. Remaining segments = **schedulable**.

This keeps `dateAvailability` as *policy* and `bookings` as *actual usage*. It also prevents a common anti-pattern where “availability” is encoded only as bookings, which makes operating hours, holidays, and global closures harder to reason about.

`dateAvailability` relative to `court.startTime` / `court.endTime`

Given the understanding (court has a daily availability window, within which `dateAvailability` and bookings exist), the most consistent interpretation is:

- `startTime` / `endTime` define the **default daily open interval** for that court.
- `dateAvailability` entries are **exceptions/overrides for specific dates** which are evaluated *inside* (or against) that daily interval.

The schema is intended to support:

`dateAvailability` = delta / override

- Default = [`startTime`, `endTime`)
 - `dateAvailability` adds/removes segments for that date.
 - This is the most natural fit for “normal hours + exceptions.”
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Recommendation: expand Venue attributes (facility defaults + global closures)

Why this matters (sports facility reality)

Facilities are frequently closed or constrained independent of any particular court: staffing, building access, weather closures (for outdoor), events, seasonal hours, etc. A venue-level default prevents:

- duplicating hours across courts
- accidentally scheduling courts when the facility is closed
- inconsistent court configurations inside a single facility

Venue attribute set I recommend

Core defaults

- **openTime** (Daily opening time for the venue (HH:mm))
- **closeTime** (Daily closing time for the venue (HH:mm))
- **defaultStartTime**, **defaultEndTime** (daily open window for the facility)
- **timezone** (strongly recommended for correctness)
- **defaultBookingPolicies** (optional: min/max duration, buffer, lead time)
- **dateAvailability** (facility-level overrides: holidays, event closures, partial open days)
- **venueBookings** (optional: venue-wide holds that effectively block all courts, e.g., “power outage 9–12”)

Precedence

- Effective court availability = **venue defaults** \cap **court hours** with both modified by their dateAvailability, then subtract bookings.

Design document: Venue-level defaults and constraints

1. Problem statement

The current model places daily operating hours and exception logic on **courts** but not on **venues**. This makes it possible for a court to be “available” even if the facility is closed, and forces duplication of hours and closures across courts.

2. Goals

- Represent facility operating hours and closures at the venue level.
- Allow courts to inherit defaults while still supporting court-specific overrides.
- Define deterministic interaction between:

- venue defaults
 - court defaults
 - date-specific overrides
 - bookings
- Maintain backward compatibility (existing data should validate and behave as before).

3. Non-goals

- Redesign tournament match scheduling.
- Introduce multi-resource booking dependencies (e.g., staff + court + equipment), though schema should not prevent later extension.

4. Proposed data model

4.1 Venue default hours

Add `defaultStartTime` / `defaultEndTime` to Venue. Courts may omit `startTime` / `endTime` and inherit.

4.2 Venue date overrides

Add `dateAvailability` to Venue to represent:

- full-day closure
- partial closure (e.g., open 10:00–14:00 on a holiday)
- planned venue maintenance windows

4.3 Optional venue-wide bookings

Add `venueBookings` to Venue for “whole-facility” holds that should block all courts.

4.4 Timezone correctness

Add `timezone` to Venue (or Tournament). Venue is best because multiple venues can exist.

5. Scheduling semantics

For a given `venueId`, `courtId`, and `date`:

1. Determine base venue open window:
 - Use `venue.defaultStartTime/defaultEndTime` (if present)

2. Determine base court open window:
 - Use `court.startTime/endTime` if present, else inherit venue defaults
3. Establish base window:
 - `base = intersection(venueBase, courtBase)` (if one missing, treat as the other)
4. Apply dateAvailability:
 - Apply venue `dateAvailability` to `base` producing `base'`
 - Apply court `dateAvailability` to `base'` producing `allowed`
5. Subtract bookings:
 - Subtract venue bookings (for that date/resource scope) from `allowed`
 - Subtract court bookings from remaining
6. Result is the set of schedulable segments

Adjacency allowed: `end==start` is valid; overlap predicate uses half-open intervals `[start,end)`.

6. Backward compatibility

- Existing tournaments without venue defaults continue to behave as today.
- Courts with explicit `startTime/endTime` remain authoritative.
- Venue `dateAvailability` is additive; if absent, no change.

7. Validation and invariants

- `defaultEndTime` must be `>= defaultStartTime` (or strictly greater if you disallow zero hours).
- `dateAvailability` and `bookings/venueBookings` should not overlap *within the same object* if the no-overlap invariant is required (optional but recommended).
- When both venue and court hours exist, courts must not be “open” outside venue hours unless explicitly allowed via a policy flag (default should be “no”).