

ADR-10

Separate Buyer/Seller Roles with Role-Based Authorization

Date: 16-04-2025

Status

Rejected

Author

Backend Team

Context

In the early design phase of the system, we considered implementing **separate user accounts** for customers and providers. This approach would allow users to register and log in as either:

- A **Customer** (to book sports facilities), or
- A **Provider** (to list and manage facilities)

Each role would have distinct access privileges, enforced via **role-based authorization** throughout the application.

Decision

The design decision to implement separate buyer/seller accounts with role-based access control was **rejected**.

Instead, we adopted a **Unified Account Model**, where one account supports both booking and listing functionalities, depending on user actions.

Alternatives

Alternative	Pros	Cons
Separate Buyer/Seller Accounts + Roles (Rejected)	Simplifies access control logic, easy to isolate permissions	Causes friction for multi-role users, leads to fragmented experience

Unified Account Model (Chosen)	Seamless UX, supports dynamic roles, avoids duplicate accounts	Requires clearer UI flow and flexible permission handling in backend
---	--	--

Rationale

- Many users in the sports ecosystem wear multiple hats (e.g., a coach may book fields and also list their private facilities).
- A single account streamlines onboarding and lowers friction for user engagement.
- Industry benchmarks like Airbnb, Etsy, and Upwork use similar unified models for flexibility and simplicity.
- Easier to implement a consistent user experience with one login and shared user profile.

Consequences :

- We must ensure UI clarity around "booking" vs "listing" actions to avoid user confusion.
- Role-based access to certain features will be toggled through onboarding or user actions (e.g., a "List Your Facility" setup flow).
- Permissions and backend logic will need to account for dual capabilities within one user context.