

October 31, 2023

New Zealand, Federal President Victoria Markula: "The first padel court has been inaugurated and this is just the beginning!"

A new frontier for padel and an exciting sporting chapter for New Zealand. **Padel New Zealand**, the New Zealand federation dedicated to our sport, has announced the opening of the **first court** ever built in the country: the event took place on **Saturday 28 October** at **Riverside Sports Club** in **Auckland**, with more than a hundred people celebrating the event. The actress **Lucy Lawless**, unforgettable star of the series "Xena - Warrior Princess", played the very first match on the brand new court during the official inauguration, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. An appointment that crowned three years of work and marked the first step of an **ambitious project** for New Zealand players and from all over the world.

Padel New Zealand's plan includes the construction of other playing courts in the country. Among the most immediate goals is the opening of the **second facility** at the **Remuera Racket Club**, also in Auckland, planned by November, and the inauguration of the third court at the **Albany Tennis Centre**, in early 2024, while new courts, at least five, will be built within existing sports facilities within a year. The hope is to follow in the footsteps of Australia, taken as a model in this journey. Here padel arrived in 2016 and is now in strong expansion: the currently operating courts are 40, but the aussie Federation expects to have 100 by the end of 2025 and 200 in 2026.

Once the base is ready, Padel New Zealand will organize **national competitions** and will support the **International Padel Federation** in the organization of **international tournaments**.

*"We are excited to have the first padel court here in New Zealand, followed by many others in the coming months", said **Victoria Markula**, president of Padel New Zealand. "This is a real achievement, a milestone but we will continue to commit ourselves to the growth and promotion of this sport throughout the country and we want all New Zealanders to be able to enjoy and practice this extraordinary sport".*

*"I met padel 4 years ago in Spain and I started practicing it at Riverside", added **Neville Pegg**, Director of Tennis and Club Development at Riverside Sports. "Now we are the first club in New Zealand to promote it and we are excited to embark on this new journey".*

About the International Padel Federation (FIP)

About the International Padel Federation (FIP) The International Padel Federation (FIP) is the world governing body of padel, whose goal is to promote all forms of padel worldwide with: 90 Countries, 64 National Federations, + 25 million active players and 500,000 Federated Players. The sport was created in Acapulco, Mexico, by Enrique Corcuera in 1969. It was 32 years later that the FIP was established in Madrid by the legal representatives of the Argentine Padel Association, the Spanish Padel Association and the Uruguayan Padel Association, by means of Public deeds signed before the Notary Mr. Javier Gaspar Alfaro, with the protocol number 2486. We want to bring the worldwide Padel family together into one community, and make Padel a sport that is recognised and played in all the countries of the World. www.padelfip.com

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