When deciding on a suitable surface for netball, it's important to consider the different qualities that surfaces have that are important to playing the game.

These qualities are explained below:

1. **Slip resistance**
   In the game of netball, players leap to catch the ball, land on one or both feet and must stop or release the ball within one pace.

   Once in possession of the ball, players aren’t allowed to run with it. If you slide a landing foot, this breaks the ‘footwork’ rule and possession passes to the opposite team.

   Players also need to change direction quickly without their feet sliding, be capable of tracking a player closely in defence and sprint start / stop to get away from a player in attack.

   If surfaces are slippery, players are at increased risk of getting injured.

   On outdoor courts, surfaces must be tested in both wet and dry conditions as players will want fixtures to be played all weather conditions.

2. **Rotational Resistance**
   When a player is in possession of the ball, they can ‘pivot’ on their landing foot. This involves players rotating on the balls of their feet. The surface must allow players to do this without putting undue stress on the knees and ankles.

3. **Ball bounce**
   In netball, a bounce pass is one of the ways that the ball can be moved between players. The surface needs to therefore be capable of allowing the ball to rebound without losing inertia.

4. **Shock absorption**
   Powerful leaps combined with dynamic landing and stopping quickly are unique features of netball. The pressure on joints is therefore intense and shock absorbing surfaces are considered desirable for mass participation and essential for performance athletes. There are however thresholds of shock absorption that are important to consider as if a surface is too bouncy, this can have a negative effect on the speed of the game and players’ recovery.

5. **Vertical deformation**
   This quality is closely linked to shock absorption in that it measures the how deep the floor lowers when a weight presses down on it. The higher the vertical deformation, the deeper the surface lowers and it will require more effort from players to sprint start. If a surface is higher than the recommended thresholds, it may still be considered suitable for younger players and those who are happy to play at a slower pace. It is unlikely however to be acceptable for adults playing competitive netball in County leagues or higher.

6. **Surface regularity and gradients**
   This quality measures how flat the surface is throughout the court and provides tolerances for acceptability. If a surface is outside the tolerance levels, the players are likely to find the surface too uneven or steep.

7. **Line marking**
   Accurate line markings for all sports are essential for competitive play. Both players and officials need to be confident and capable of determining when the ball or players are out of play. All lines therefore need to have clear edging, be of the correct width, be joined together, and match the correct tolerance levels for both accuracy and slip resistance. Please see below for examples of unacceptable and acceptable line markings.
8. Water permeability
This is particularly important surface feature for outdoor netball courts as the peak netball season is played between September – April. Due to the amount of rain that falls during this period, it is important for it to drain away quickly and play to continue. Please see examples below of an acrylic court surface (with unacceptable water permeability) and a porous macadam surface (with acceptable water permeability) taken on the same day at the same time in February 2016.

Example of wobbly, thick, unclear line markings (in white)

Example of correct netball line markings

Acrylic surface example

Porous macadam example