

To support facility usage and user demand Active Living is making changes to the west side courts of the Racquet Centre to better serve the growing needs of our community at UCalgary.

What is changing?

- The west side courts (6,400 sq ft) will be repurposed to expand fitness offerings.

What is not changing?

- The east side courts (8,400 sq ft) will remain dedicated to racquet sports.
- Following these changes, the Racquet Centre facility will continue to offer 7 squash courts and 3 racquetball/pickleball courts, ensuring racquet sports remain a strong and supported part of our offerings.

Why this change?

All of Active Living facilities were originally designed for a smaller user base, but participation has grown significantly. The repurposing of the west side courts will support thousands more students, staff, faculty, and public users. This change is not about taking away, but about unlocking more value from existing space.

The Fitness Centre operates within roughly 14,000 sq ft of space and experiences significant capacity pressures. Annual usage data shows: the Fitness Centre records nearly 400,000 member scans each year, compared to 17,000 wristband scans in the Racquet Centre, which occupies a similar footprint of roughly 15,000 sq ft.

This substantial disparity in both space utilization and annual traffic has prompted us to explore opportunities to optimize our facilities so we can better meet the needs of our broader and growing community.

Active Living strategic priorities

As stewards of all Active Living facilities, we must balance diverse needs. While racquet sport communities remain important, the Fitness Centre is our most utilized space, serving the majority of users daily. Supporting this demand is essential to ensure equitable access and a positive experience for the largest segments of our community.

This decision has been carefully considered over the past five years, guided by data and aligned with industry standards. Across North America, many universities have repurposed racquet courts to meet shifting recreation demands. At UCalgary, we remain ahead of peer institutions by maintaining a large offering of racquet courts while being able to expand other recreational opportunities.

Moving forward & timeline

Active Living recognizes that change can feel disruptive, especially for our racquet sport communities. We remain committed to supporting both individual users and group programming to ensure squash, racquetball, and other racquet sports continue to thrive at UCalgary.

The repurposing of the west side courts will tentatively begin in Spring 2026*. We will work to keep the courts open and available, without pre-emptive closures.

**Please note that timelines remain subject to change.*

We appreciate your patience during this time. Further updates will be shared in the coming months!

Thank you for being part of the Active Living community.