

Reining Arena Sand Spec

Engineered for controlled slide, dependable spin grip, and low dust.

Sand Specification

Specification	Recommended Range
Sand Type	Washed silica, sub-rounded to sub-angular
Particle Size (D50)	0.20 – 0.40 mm (fine to medium)
Gradation	Well-graded, narrow distribution; avoid coarse >1.0 mm
Fines Content (<0.075 mm)	3% – 8% by weight
Particle Shape	Slightly rounded for controlled slide; not fully spherical
Hardness (Mohs)	≥ 6.5 (silica preferred over limestone or coral sand)
Footing Depth	3.0 – 4.0 inches over a compacted, laser-graded base
Base	Compacted decomposed granite or stabilized aggregate, 4–6 in
Moisture Target	8% – 12% — LOCK or sub-surface watering
Recommended Additives	Lower FIBR loading + moderate LOCK; minimal FLEX. Arena Green™ reining blend on request.

Why This Spec Works

- Sub-rounded grains release cleanly under sliding hind foot while interlocking enough to grip on the pivot.
- Controlled fines preserve cohesion for predictable slide distance run after run.
- Shallower profile keeps concussion in hocks, stifles, and back within safe limits.

Outdoor-Specific Considerations

- Crown base 1% – 1.5% for surface drainage; avoid pooling at the rail.
- Wind-break or perimeter berm where winds exceed 15 mph to limit fines loss.
- Annual sand top-up of 5% – 10% to replace fines lost to wind and grooming.

Common Failure Modes to Avoid

- **Too coarse:** sand >1 mm prevents slide and increases concussion.
- **Too rounded (river sand):** will not grip on pivot.
- **Crushed limestone:** breaks down into hard-packing dust.

Need a tuned ArenaSpec™ for your facility?

Every arena is different. Climate, base condition, traffic, and discipline intensity all change the ideal blend. Request a custom ArenaSpec™ Report Card at performancefooting.com or call 877-835-0878.

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