

## **Inflatable Play Equipment –Safe Use Guidelines**

Inflatable play equipment is "designed to be used by members of the public for entertainment purposes either as a slide or for bouncing upon". They come in a wide range of sizes and shapes and can be designed for use by adults, children or both. They can also be hired by organisations or members of the public for parties etc.

Have a good look at the inflatable when it is blown up and before using you should check the following:

- The site/location is suitable
- Ancillary equipment is in position (e.g. impact-absorbing mats)
- There are no significant holes or rips in the fabric or seams
- The correct blower is being used
- The internal air pressure is sufficient to give a firm and reliable footing
- There are no exposed electrical parts and no wear on cables
- Plugs, sockets, switches, etc. are not damaged
- The connection tube and blower are firmly attached to each other
- The outer edges of the front step are in line with the centre of each of the front uprights. Under no circumstances should the width of the step be less than this
- The whole unit should look symmetrical and fully inflated. If it looks misshapen or deformed there may be internal problems which may make bouncing unpredictable

If you have concerns regarding any of the above please raise this matter immediately with a member of staff.

Making sure that the inflatable is run safely is equally important; the majority of injuries come from misuse.

There should be constant adult supervision when the inflatable is blown up and is in use. It is the responsibility of the hirer to provide this.

### **Operating instructions:**

1. Restrict the number of users on the inflatable at the same time to the maximum age and limit as follows:
  - Small Bouncy Castle: Juniors only (2-10 years), maximum of 4 at any one time.
  - Large Bouncy Castle: Juniors only (2-16 years), maximum of 10 at any one time.

Please keep bigger/older users separated from smaller/younger. Older children should not use the small bouncy castle at the same time as younger children.

2. Ensure users can get on and off safely and that there is safety matting at the entrance in case of falls or ejections.
3. Users should not wear shoes, should take their glasses off if they can and pockets should be emptied of all sharp or dangerous items.

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4. Loose jewellery should also be removed before use.
5. Users should not enter the area directly behind the bouncy castle, specifically the area that contains the blower.
6. The bouncy castle blower should not be moved or touched.
7. Users should not eat or drink whilst playing or bouncing and anyone obviously intoxicated should not be allowed on; they are a danger to themselves as much as to others.
8. Do not let things get too rough and don't let users climb or hang onto the walls. Don't let users try to somersault.
9. Users are not to engage in any violent or unsafe behaviour.
10. Adults are not permitted to use the inflatables/bouncy castles.

Any problems with any of the above should be immediately reported to a member of staff and Duty Manager.

*If you have any questions about any of this, further help can be found on the PIPA website or in Health & Safety British Standard BS EN 14960 - 'Inflatable play equipment – safety requirements and test methods' and 'Bouncy castles and other play inflatables: safety advice'.*