


Activity Risk Assessment

Activity	Inflatable Activities				
Address of premises	Hesley Wood Activity Centre, White Lane, Chapelton, S35 2YH				
Author of this risk assessment	Megan Hughes				
Issue Date	09/05/2024				
Review	This document is reviewed annually. We can review it sooner if needed.				
Reviewed by	Helen Jones / Megan Hughes	Date	22/11/2024	Changes?	Yes, See review page
Reviewed by	Luke Joseph	Date	04/02/26	Changes?	No
Checked by Operations Director	 Andy Moore	Date	04/02/2026		

Explanation of Risk Rating: Risk Rating = Probability x Severity			Probability			Rating	Actions resulting from Risk Rating
			Unlikely 1	Likely 2	Certain 3		
Severity	1	Minor injury or damage	1	2	3	1-3	Low Risk: Carry on, ensuring controls are in place. No further controls required.
	2	Major injury or damage	2	4	6	4-6	Medium Risk: Implement extra controls if practical to reduce risk to low. Monitor risk level to ensure no increase.
	3	Severe injury or damage, Serious illness or death.	3	6	9	7-9	High Risk: Stop activity immediately. Implement further controls to reduce risk if possible. Find alternative method.

The Hesley Management Team will monitor and review the controls to reduce risk in accordance with South Yorkshire Scouts Health & Safety Policy.

The information contained within this Risk Assessment should be taken as the minimum requirement and is not to be considered exhaustive.

What is the hazard? How might people be harmed?	Risk Level (with existing control measures)			Who is at risk?	What are the control measures?
	Probability	Severity	Rating		
Injury's occurring from lifting and moving.	3	2	6	Staff/volunteers	<p>Inflatables require a minimum of two people to lift and move inflatables.</p> <p>Where possible, mechanical aides to be used such as sack trolley and trailer.</p> <p>All people putting up inflatables to have completed RPII Attendant of Children's Inflatable Play Equipment course.</p>
Slips, trips and falls involving electrical cable/blower.	2	2	4	All involved	<p>Power cable must run away from access routes and marked so that it can be easily identified.</p> <p>Any excess cable must be stored either by the inflatable or by the power source.</p> <p>Blower must be visible and set close to the inflatable.</p>
Electrocution through damage to power cable.	2	2	4	All	<p>Visual checks of cable must be carried out before cable are plugged in each day.</p> <p>All electrical parts must undergo annual safety Portable Appliance Test (PAT).</p> <p>Any damaged equipment must be removed immediately and staff to follow the inspection and replacement policy.</p>
Injury's occurring from staking out inflatables.	3	2	6	Staff/volunteers	<p>Persons staking out inflatables should be competent with swinging tools.</p> <p>Tools used for staking out should be of a suitable size and nature for both the job and user.</p>

Injuries occurring from putting away wet.	2	2	4	Staff/Volunteers	Be aware that when wet, the inflatable will be significantly heavier and more difficult to grip and handle. Where possible, allow the inflatable to dry before storage.
Unauthorised access to inflatables.	2	1	2	Customers and Trespassers	Blower must be removed when not in use.
While the inflatable is in use					
Injuries occurring from unruly behaviour.	2	2	4	Participants	Supervision by a competent adult is required at all times when participants are using inflatable. Session must be stopped if necessary to regain a safe environment.
Overcrowding.	2	1	2	Participants	No more than the recommended number of participants to be allowed on the inflatable at any time. Participants should be roughly the same age and size.
Injuries/damage occurring from sharp objects.	2	1	2	Participants and inflatable	Inflatable to be set up away from anything sharp. Participants asked to remove everything from their pockets. Participants asked to remove shoes.
Injuries occurring from anchor points becoming untethered.	1	2	2	All involved	Anchor points will be regularly checked by supervisor. Inflatable will be properly maintained by Hesley Wood staff. In the event of winds over force 6 (see Beaufort Scale) sessions to be stopped.

Injuries occurring from dangerous use.	2	2	4	Participants	Supervisor is to ensure that no “trampoline style” acrobatics are performed on the inflatable. (e.g. Flips)
Danger of injury due to hard surfaces.	2	3	6	All involved	Inflatable should never be jumped on during inflating or deflating. Inflatable needs to be fully inflated before participants get on.
Injury through incorrect positioning of the inflatable.	1	2	2	Participants and other site users	Do not move or try to reposition the inflatable or interfere with the anchor pegs or sandbags.
Choking.	1	2	2	Participants	No eating, drinking or chewing gum while using inflatables.
Danger of unnecessary injury.	2	2	4	Participants	The person in charge must ensure that no one uses the inflatables if they have a history of back or neck problems or suffer from heart problems. The person in charge of inflatables must ensure no one is under the influence of drugs or alcohol when using the equipment.
Injury by collision between users.	2	2	4	Participants	All participants should be of a similar size/weight. Participants that are too boisterous and refuse to behave responsibly should be removed from the inflatable.
Injury through incorrect anchoring.	1	2	2	All involved	Anchor points used as per manufacturer’s instructions. Pegs must go in at a 45-degree angle, all the way in as to properly anchor the inflatable and prevent a tripping hazard.
Injuries occurring from bouncing off/jumping off the inflatable.	2	2	4	Participants	Supervision required at all times. Supervisor must ask participants to keep away from the front edge of the inflatable. Crash mat must be placed along the front edge of the inflatable.

Tripping over anchorage points/spare equipment/electrical equipment.	2	2	4	All involved	<p>All anchor points used as per manufacturer's instructions and spare equipment leads etc. either stowed away or erected safely.</p> <p>During large scale events, fencing should be erected if possible.</p> <p>Make sure additional safety electrical cables don't cross any public pathways.</p> <p>If unavoidable, cable should be erected overhead or covered.</p>
Friction burns to skin.	2	1	2	Participants	<p>Ensure all slides and ladders have no sharp or rough surfaces.</p> <p>Ensure all users are aware they can get friction burn from any Velcro on the inflatable.</p> <p>Socks should be worn if possible.</p>
Overloading/tipping.	1	2	2	All involved and site users	<p>The maximum number of participants as specified by the manufacturer must be adhered to, as well as the appropriate age and height limits.</p>
Entrapment.	1	2	2	Participants	<p>Hesley Wood Staff to regularly inspect the inflatable for rips, tears or holes that could create entrapment hazards.</p>
Adverse weather conditions.	2	2	4	All involved	<p>Monitor weather forecast closely and be prepared to deflate the inflatable if needed.</p> <p>Ensure that all anchor points are properly secured.</p> <p>If winds reach force 6 (see Beaufort scale) participants on the inflatable need to be told to get off and the inflatable will be deflated.</p> <p>In extremely hot weather, material of inflatable can become very hot, which creates a risk of burns on skin.</p>

			4		If Hesley Wood Staff feel that risk of burns occurring on inflatables is likely, session will stop, and inflatable will be deflated.
Injuries occurring due to improper erection of the inflatable.	2	2	4	All involved	At least one person putting up an inflatable to have completed the RPII Attendant of Children's Inflatable Play Equipment course. Inflatable Routine Inspection form to be filled in for each inflatable in use before sessions start.

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Bungee Run					
Whiplash.	2	2	4	Participants	All participants to be watched by a competent adult to ensure they aren't pulling each other and flinging back. In the events of whiplash, first aid to be performed and the session will be stopped. Recommended minimum age of participants is 10 years old to reduce the risk of whiplash.
Injuries due to incorrect fitting of harnesses.	2	2	4	Participants	Competent adult to be shown how to correctly fit the harnesses before the session.
Obstacle course, Circus obstacle course and slide					
Slide being used incorrectly.	2	2	4	Participants	Adult supervision at all times. Users should go down flat on their back or sat upright, feet first.

Collisions at bottom of slide with users/public.	2	2	4	Participants and public	<p>Ensure there is a safe run off area.</p> <p>Adult supervision required at all times.</p> <p>Matting will be provided which covers the slide run off area.</p> <p>If possible, fencing to be put around the edge of the runoff area to avoid public walking too close.</p>
Basketball and football					
Ball impact injuries from erratic throwing/kicking.	2	2	4	All involved	<p>Ensure there is supervision at all times.</p> <p>Ask any participants that are behaving boisterously to leave the activity.</p> <p>If possible, mark boundaries with fencing to avoid public walking too close.</p>

Related Risk Documents

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Bouncy Castles and Bungee Run, Inflatable routine inspection form and Inspection and Replacement policy

Review Log

Reviewed by	Date of review	Reason for review	Changes made	Actions required	If actions have been completed insert date completed
Helen Jones and Megan Hughes	22/11/2024	Standardise and quality control	<p>Page numbers added to improve document navigation.</p> <p>Common risks that apply across inflatables are now highlighted under green heading.</p> <p>Session-specific risks are placed under blue heading.</p> <p>Language throughout document simplified for accessibility.</p>	None	

See Review Log – Inflatables for previous reviews and changes

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