

## TASK / ACTIVITY:

INFLATABLES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

## TASK DESCRIPTION:

Bouncy castles (including other inflatable/non inflatable units; referred to as unit(s) hereon in): safe erection, use and inspection. Pods Inflatables has purpose designed inflatable bouncy castles as play equipment, erected by staff for entertainment purposes. The bouncy castles are air-filled structures designed to allow users to bounce on them. They are made from flexible fabric, kept inflated by air blowers to retain air pressure to maintain their shape. Other non-inflatables include the Sumo Suits, games and generators.

Recognised hazards include;

- Blowing away in windy conditions
- Instability of units
- Situations causing a loss of pressure to the unit could be as a result of
  - failure of the fabric, zips or seams
  - loss of power to the blower or failure of the blower
  - litter blocking the air intake or vents
- Users falling from the units
- Users or others tripping over anchorage points or trailing cables etc
- Boisterous or bad behaviour of users causing injury to other users
- Overcrowding of unit causing injury to other users
- Injury to other users from sharp objects, shoes, clothes etc
- Injury from dangerous parts of machinery (eg. blower unit)
- Electrical hazards causing shock or burns
- Insufficient means of escape in case of accident, fire or other emergency
- Manual handling injuries from moving unit or its ancillary equipment
- Suffocation should the device deflate on users before they can escape
- Injury due to incorrect use; not using head guards provided, not keeping clear of bungee cords & jumping between podiums, not sitting on the landing area of the Gladiator duel, not climbing on walls
- Generator; burns and shock

## SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS:

Crushing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct electrical contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hot ambient temperature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cutting / shearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indirect electrical contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cold ambient temperature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entanglement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Short circuit / overload	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adverse weather conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire / explosion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asphyxiation / drowning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ionising radiation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant noise	<input type="checkbox"/>
High pressure injection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repetitive actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abrasion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stressful postures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous substance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Slips / trips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifting / handling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised hot surface(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Falls from height	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue / stress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localised cold surface(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violence / assault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify: Other

## PERSONS EXPOSED:

Employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable Groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cleaners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify	

Employees exposed to these risks are generally those handling, storing or erecting the units. Risks to customers, particularly children exist from the equipment or the way it is used. Once installed correctly the risks are controlled although some risk will remain from children falling from the unit; exiting the unit should be done in the centre of the entrance/exit point on to soft matting.

## CURRENT CONTROL MEASURES:

- Only trained, competent and authorised persons may erect and supervise these units, taking extra care with manual handling and using hammers.
- The location of the units are carefully chosen to reduce the risk of injury and to be away from possible hazards; water hazards, hard ground, gravel and overhead cables or obstructions.
- Adequate anchorage points are used on each unit, checked after inclement weather. Anchorage points are connected in such a way as to minimise the danger of tripping, abrasion or causing other injuries.
- Unit walls are high and strong enough, attached to the base to prevent users falling out, bouncing over or slipping through gaps in normal use or foreseeable misuse.
- Adequate emergency procedures are in place for the unit. Mobile phone carried by staff to call for help in emergency. Deflation time is sufficient to allow the structure to be safely evacuations in the event of a power cut.
- The open side of the devices will have mats or other soft landing materials to cover any hard landing surface. Mats will be required all around the step if there is hard ground, including gravel, concrete and hard grass after a dry period of weather.
- Trained persons will supervise the units during periods of high use, within sight of trained persons during periods of low activity with additional parental supervision requested.
- Users are admitted in a controlled and safe manner.
- Safety helmets are worn were provided and always for Sumo Suits and the Gladiator duel.
- Eating, Drinking and Smoking is prohibited on or near the units.
- Misbehaviour of users would invoke immediate action to remove them from the unit.
- A full inspection of each unit is carried out prior to use.
- Operations manual are kept readily available for each unit.
- All units are made from flame retardant materials IAW BS EN 14960 and tested annually.
- Blowers and extension leads are PAT tested annually.
- The units are checked daily before use to ensure safe conditions are maintained and any defects are detected. Defects would be put right before the equipment can be used and customer access prohibited by way of signs and barriers as appropriate. All units are properly maintained as defined in the operator's manual.
- The units are taken out of use in windy conditions exceeding 24mph (38kmp) or otherwise inclement weather which could increase the risk of accident.
- An annual inspection by a competent contractor.
- All accidents / incidents are reported to the office.

## ARE THE RISKS ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED?

YES  NO

## ADDITIONAL CONTROLS:

DATE COMPLETED

- This specific risk assessment and safe working procedure should be discussed with, and clearly communicated to staff and relevant third parties. Verification should be sought that all persons understand the information contained therein, and the additional controls that should be followed. A record of delivery should be completed to act as proof that this communication has taken place.

Before each hire

**NOTES:** \*This form has been electronically signed, if you require a hand signed copy then please email your request to [info@podsinflatables.co.uk](mailto:info@podsinflatables.co.uk)

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999  
The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998  
Safe use and operation of play inflatables, including bouncy castles (Entertainment sheet No. 7) plus its revisions.

**ASSESSOR'S NAME:** Rex Ellis **DATE:** 15 May 2023  
**SIGNATURE\*:** *Rex Ellis* **REVIEW DATE:** 14 May 2024  
**JOB TITLE:** Owner

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Bouncy castles (including other inflatable/non inflatable units; referred to as unit(s) hereon in): safe erection, use and inspection. Pods Inflatables has purpose designed inflatable bouncy castles as play equipment, erected by staff for entertainment purposes. The bouncy castles are air-filled structures designed to allow users to bounce on them. They are made from flexible fabric, kept inflated by air blowers to retain air pressure to maintain their shape. Other non-inflatables include the Sumo Suits, games and generators.

**MAIN HAZARDS:**

Recognised hazards include;

- Blowing away in windy conditions.
- Instability of unit.
- Situations causing a loss of pressure to the unit could be as a result of
  - failure of the fabric, zips or seams
  - loss of power to the blower or failure of the blower
  - litter blocking the air intake or vents.
- Users falling from the unit.
- Users or others tripping over anchorage points or trailing cables etc.
- Boisterous or bad behaviour of users causing injury to other users.
- Overcrowding of unit causing injury to other users, including stepping on feet, hands and heads.
- Injury to other users from sharp or dangerous objects, shoes, clothes etc.
- Injury from dangerous parts of machinery (eg. blower unit and power source).
- Electrical hazards causing shock or burns.
- Insufficient means of escape in case of accident, fire or other emergency.
- Manual handling injuries from moving the unit or its ancillary equipment.
- Suffocation should the unit deflate on users before they can escape.
- Injury due to incorrect use; not using head guards provided, not keeping clear of bungee cords, jumping between podiums and not keeping clear of a landing area.
- Generator; burns and shock.

**CONTROL MEASURES:****THE FOLLOWING SAFE WORKING PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED;**

1. Units may only be erected by trained staff. Only competent persons may supervise units (aged 18+).
2. A risk assessment must be undertaken before erecting a unit (see back of order form).
3. A daily risk assessment check must be carried out before use and this should be recorded. The following **MUST** be checked;
  - Check the surrounding area for possible hazards; above and below.
  - Ensure crowd control measures (barriers etc.) are in place where necessary.
  - Check anchorages are intact and that ropes are not worn or chafed.
  - Check the anchor system secures the unit to the ground.
  - Check there are no visible holes or rips in the fabric or seams.
  - Check the safety matting is sufficient and in the correct place.
  - Check the blower is positioned away from user contact and it is working correctly and the guards are in place.
  - Check the air pressure is sufficient to give a reliable and firm footing. If in doubt check with a member of management.
  - Check for wear on the electric cables, there are no exposed electrics that could be contacted by users. **ALWAYS** check the cables are not causing a tripping hazard and not placed near water.
  - Before being put into service, check the weather conditions. The devices should not be used in windy or gusty conditions over 24mph (38km/h).

- Members of the public MAY NOT use the units if any defects are found. Inform a member of management immediately and take the unit out of use. Use signs and barriers to prevent access.
4. Before and during permitting users to the units;
- Ensure users are of the right age / height to use the unit; shoulders must not exceed the wall height.
  - Ensure footwear and any other hard, sharp or dangerous object (belts, pens, badges etc.) have been removed. Socks are permitted. Advise parents that glasses should ideally be removed.
  - Ensure the no food, drink or chewing gum rules are strictly followed. Anybody intoxicated is not to be allowed to use the units.
  - Do not allow users to obstruct the entrance/exit. Ensure the front is kept clear and protected with safety matting, correctly positioned.
  - Bad or boisterous behaviour should be stopped at the first sign. Talk to the parent or guardian and summon assistance from a member of management if necessary. Rough play, somersaults and backflips etc must be discouraged. Do not allow larger/older children at the same time as very young/small children as this will create a risk of injury. There should be sufficient space for users to play and bounce safely.
  - Never allow more users than is permitted.
  - Never allow anyone on the unit during inflation or deflation.
  - Report any spills/accidents/incidents to Pods Inflatables and Event organisers immediately. If a first aider is required, call the nearest first aider to attend while you supervise other users, if not then close the unit and call 999 – Ambulance service.
  - In the event of a power failure / breakdown etc ensure all users are off the unit. Call a member of management immediately. NEVER allow the unit to be used by the public until the equipment is safe.
  - Ensure safety helmets are worn where required, if they come off then stop play and replace.
  - Ensure there is no jumping/stepping from one podium to the other on the Gladiator duel, when knocked off the podium users are to step down and not throw themselves violently off.
  - Ensure bungee cords are put on and taken off when they are not under any tension.
  - Bungee belts must be worn tight around the waist with the buckles at the back and outside of the belt. There are small and large belts. Children can have one bungee cord, adults must have two bungee cords, big strong men must use three bungee cords.
  - Never permit users to go past the end of the bungee run; this will break the bungee cords.
  - Never allow anyone to pull users of the bungee run; they must use their own strength.
  - Users of the bungee run must try and stay in their own lane.
  - Never allow spectators to be at the side or on the bungee run or sumo when in use.
  - Never allow spectators to be on the gladiator duel bed or sumo mat whilst in use, this is a landing area.
  - Ensure the generator is away from the playing area in open space, only refuelled when turned off, don't touch hot parts. Ensure the fuel cap is replaced. Ensure nobody is hanging around the generator. Leave the fire extinguisher near the generator.
  - Ensure the manual handling safe working procedure is followed at all times when moving the equipment.
  - Do not leave hammers or un-used pegs unattended, children like to play with shiny things.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### HSE Guidance Notes

The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

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**REVISION:** 5      **DATE:** 15 May 2023      **REVIEW DATE:** 14 May 2024