



## Risk Assessment - Assault Courses / Maize

- 50ft Blue Assault Course (2part)
- Multi-coloured 50ft assault Course (2part)
- Disco Assault course (2part)
- Jungle Swamp Assault course (2part)
- Carnival Activity Maize (3 part)
- Pirate assault course (1 part)

Inflatable assault course come either in 1 part, 2 parts or 3 parts.

If the inflatable does come in parts, the individual parts will attach together using hook and loop and rope. These must be secured tightly and effectively.

The inflatable also has air vents connecting between each individual part. These must remain clear and air must be able to travel freely between the parts. Each of the parts will also have its own vent to supply air from the blower.

Each assault course will have several anchor points on the inflatable, outdoors, each and every one must be secured to the ground using anchor steaks. Assault courses may also have anchor points higher on the inflatable, particularly at the top next to any slide parts. All anchors must be secured as per HSE guidance which can also be found here <https://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/fairgrounds/inflatables.htm>.

Assault courses can be powered by electricity from a standard plug or powered by generator power. Please see separate risk assessment in relation to generator power.

<b>What are the hazards?</b>	<b>Who might be harmed and how?</b>	<b>Likelihood</b> 1 = not likely 2 = likely 3 = very likely	<b>Level of injury</b> 1 = minor 2 = moderate 3 = serious	<b>Existing control methods</b>	<b>What further action should be taken on the day of hire and by who</b>
Linked inflatable units becoming detached	A gap could be created in the unit and children could fall down the gap or the inflatable could deflate causing entrapment.	1	1	Regular inspection of the quality of the hook and loop and the rope ensuring it still effectively connects the units together. Ensure the inflatable has a valid annual safety certificate which will indicate the inflatable should deflate without causing injury.	Company operator who sets the equipment up must ensure that the units are tightly connected. Visual checks to be done by the supervising adult throughout the duration of the hire. Any unlikely sign of inflatables separating, they must remove children from the inflatable and notify a company staff member.
Assault course becoming overcrowded	Users could get trampled in the middle of the inflatable or pushed by other participants if the unit is overcrowded.	2	1	Provide the hirer with risk assessment and safety certificate prior to hire. Ensure adult supervision will be applied at all times. For larger events consider organizing 2 responsible adults for supervising the inflatable.	Regular visual inspections of the inside (middle) of the assault course to ensure the children flow across the inflatable rather than gathering in the middle and ensure all users are happy and no user is lingering in the middle. Supervising adult to ensure that the inflatable does not exceed the maximum number of users at any one time,
Vents becoming blocked	Assault course could deflate if air cannot circulate withing the unit/s, Risk of entrapment	1	1	Regular inspection of the quality of the vents ensuring there are no tears or defects	If inflatable is seen to deflate, remove children from the unit and inspect.

# Risk Assessment for all inflatables.



Splash Inflatables Ltd T/AS Splash Inflatables, Jump4fun Inflatables, Event Ninja & Fun4all Leisure

This risk assessment outlines many hazards involved with inflatable hire and how to reduce the risks.

We have outlined known hazards, how they can cause damage or harm, the likelihood of these to happen and the potential level of harm which could be caused. We have listed the existing control measures that are in place to reduce these risks and extra actions which can be carried out on the day of the event to further reduce risks. This risk assessment will be updated and reviewed accordingly if and when there is any change in risk or management. In support of this document, there are further supporting documents such as supervision rules and guidance, a wind and rain management plan, generator hire risk assessments.

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Assault course deflating - specific	Assault course can deflate causing entrapment	1	1	Ensure the inflatable has a valid annual safety certificate which will indicate the inflatable should deflate without causing injury.	In the event of deflation, all users must be removed from the equipment and all equipment checked for tears or rips, check that all blowers are secured correctly to the unit and that all vents, hook and loop and rope are all intact. If there are no visible signs of damage try to inflate the unit again. If the problem persists, do not use the equipment and notify a company staff member.
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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Likelihood 1 = not likely 2 = likely 3 = very likely	Level of injury 1 = minor 2 = moderate 3 = serious	Existing Control Measures	What further action should be taken on the day of hire and by who
Inflatable is very heavy to lift and manoeuvre	Those who are transporting the Inflatable, putting it up, or taking it down could injure their back. Inflatable could fall onto any person nearby.	1	2	<p>The sack trolley will be used wherever possible to move heavy equipment.</p> <p>Advice will be given to staff on correct lifting procedures to prevent injury (using guidance from <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a> or other sources).</p> <p>For rolling up the inflatable, following training instructions, and secure it with the strap provided.</p>	Customer to ensure that the erection site and entry to the erection site is free from the public and ensure there is a safe entry and exit points to buildings free from passers-by.
Unsuitable entry, uneven paths, stairs or tight entry	Company staff could be injured while attempting to move equipment in unsuitable spaces or up or down stairs.	2	2	As much access details as possible established before the hire. Ask customers several times about potential access issues. Ask for photos from customers where necessary or if unsure.	Company operator to have last say on the safety of the entry space. Company staff not to put themselves at risk of injury and to call manager if unsure what to do.
Site entry, risk to injury by vehicle or damage to property	Public, users of roads or pathways. Vehicles having to mount pathways or kerbs or school playgrounds	1	3	Ensure that the customer/organiser has pathways cleared before the company arrive. Customer to use signage where possible and ensure there are no pedestrians walking around when the vehicle is in manoeuvre.	Company staff to ensure they thoroughly check for pedestrians and ensure, where possible, the entry is clear from persons or property that could be damaged.

Long electric power cables or spare equipment causing trip hazards	Those who are setting up other stalls at the event could trip on the cable. Users or passers by could trip and fall causing injury	1	2	Ensure spare equipment is stored away safely away from the public or passers-by.	Where possible, secure the power cable to the ground as soon as it is laid down, and try to keep cables running along the side of buildings instead of cutting across floor space. Ensure that all cables are fitted in the best way possible to avoid trips or falls. Run cables along the side of inflatables where possible. Use bunting or cones to alert passers-by to any potential trip hazards.
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Danger of damaged electrical equipment	Anybody who touches the damaged cable could be electrocuted.	1	3	Unroll the electric cable, and check the full length of the cable, and also any plugs or sockets for damage.  Where possible ensure that the power cable is plugged into power supply that has a trip switch OR use power breaker. Ensure that there all electrical equipment has an annual PAT test.	All responsible supervisors to report damage to electrical equipment.

Heavy duty stakes to be driven in using mallet, and removed at the end of the hire	Those banging in the stakes could injure their hands.  Other persons in the area could be hit with the mallet	1	1	Ensure equipment is regularly inspected for damage and fixed or replaced where necessary.	Company operators are to hold the stakes halfway down when banging them in  Knock the stakes sideways using the mallet before trying to pull them out  Make sure the area is clear of other people
The inflatable is wet when it's put away	Those rolling the Inflatable up could be injured as it will be slippery and heavier if wet.	1	1	If possible, the Inflatable will be dried out before it is put away	Extra care to be taken when rolling and manoeuvring, dry surfaces used for pushing and pulling, gloves to be worn.
Uneven Ground /sloping ground	If there is a slope in the garden / venue. The inflatable could tip over and cause injury.	1	2	Talk to the hirer of the added risk and re-enforce that no users are allowed to jump against the side walls of the inflatable and re-enforce supervision at all times. Only set up inflatables on minor slopes.	The operators setting up the inflatable must decide based on their visual inspection to the severity of the slope and if the ground is suitable.
Unsuitable or soggy ground.	If there is unsuitable ground where the means of anchorage is unsuitable,	1	3	The ground must be inspected and checked to ensure it can be safely anchored. If the pegs or anchors are	Extra anchorage could be used for example tie the inflatable to suitable hardstanding items such as fence posts.

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			moderate 3 = serious		
	the anchor may not work and the inflatable might blow away or move causing injury.			insecure, the operator must not complete the hire and report to management.	
Wet Weather	Users may be harmed by slipping on the inflatables. The ground may become soggy and loosen the pegs.	1	3	The hirer must be made aware of the risks by the operator setting the equipment up. Rain covers used when possible. The hirer must be advised that if the rain exceeds a shower, the equipment must be turned off and dried again before use. The equipment is not to be erected in the event of a weather warning for rain.	Ongoing communication with the designated supervisor.
Inflatable becomes wet by spillage	Users might slip and injure themselves	1	1	Food and drink will not be allowed on or near the Inflatable	Designated supervisor to ensure the rules are followed. Any spillages must be cleaned right away.
Using a petrol generator (the Inflatable is supplied with an electric cable, but it can be used with a petrol generator)	<p>If other appliances are run from the petrol generator there could be a reduction in power to the Inflatable which could cause it to deflate</p> <p>The generator could catch fire, injuring those near it. Loss of power could cause entrapment</p>	1	3	<p>No other appliances will be plugged into the generator</p> <p>An appropriate fire extinguisher will be kept near the petrol generator. Ensure that you know how many children on the unit at any one time to avoid entrapment on deflation as you can head count that all users are off the inflatable</p>	Ensure that no spillages are made when filling the generator with fuel. No smoking near the generator. Only company staff are permitted to operate the generators.

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Heat coming from generator	Persons touching the generator could burn themselves when it is hot	1	2	Ensure company operator has gloves at hand to wear while handling the generator.	Ensure there is a warning sign or barrier in place to avoid any persons accidentally touching the generator. Strictly only company staff to touch the generators.
Windy Weather	Users may be harmed by a moving inflatable. Users may become trapped inside a moving inflatable and then thrown from a height.	1	3	Ensure that equipment is safety tested. The equipment is not to be erected in the event of a weather warning or forecast weather warning. Operator must use anemometer to check for wind speeds the time of erection.	The designated supervisor must be advised that if the wind exceeds a 24mph, the equipment must be turned off and not used again until the wind subsides. An anemometer must be left with the designated supervisor in order for them to measure wind speeds.
Overhead Cables	The inflatables or users may collide with cables and cause them to break and injure or electrocute users	1	3	Inflatables are not to be set up within 3ft distance of overhead cables.	
Vehicle hazard	Injury/crushing caused by an accidental vehicle collision	1	3	Ensure that all drivers are able to safely drive the size and specification of vehicle given to them to do their work. Ensure that the customers give us enough access information prior to the hire so that the company is aware of any potential hazards ahead of the hire.	Company drivers/operators to communicate to ensure that all drivers feel safe and comfortable to drive.



## Using the inflatable:

**At least one allocated responsible adult is required to supervise the inflatable at all times. This can be a company operator or this can sometimes be done by the customer.**

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What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Likelihood 1 = not likely 2 = likely 3 = very likely	Level of harm 1 = minor injury 2 = moderate injury 3 = serious injury	Action that will be taken to prevent this hazard	Responsible person who will make sure that action is taken
Users jumping over the inflatable	Adults and taller users could jump over the sides of the inflatable.  Adults and older users throwing themselves heavily against the walls, making the inflatable move or tear.  The seams of the inflatable could split causing it to deflate very quickly or injure all of those who are on it	1	2	Ensure that the users' numbers and height restrictions are accessible on the company website. Information will also be held on the individual PIPA Certification. Ensure that these restrictions are adhered to by the supervisor whether this is the company or the customer.	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.
Larger users colliding with smaller users	Smaller users could be injured by larger users	1	2	Users will be grouped by similar age and size, and also limited to a particular number of users at any one time based on user height – this user height restriction information will be on the	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.

				PIPA Certificate.	
Users jumping off or falling off the front of the Inflatable	Users could be injured by falling forwards or jumping off the inflatable unit or front step.	1	3	Crash mats will be put down in front of the inflatable.  At least one adult supervisor should be at the front of the inflatable at all times, and will ask users to move back if they come too close to the front step. Terms and conditions and guidance to be given to customer prior to hire.	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.

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Sharp objects that could puncture the inflatable or injure users	users on the inflatable could be injured by sharp objects or if the inflatable was punctured and deflated	1	3	The inflatable will be checked thoroughly before it is used for any loose object or rips or tears on the equipment  Users will be asked to remove their shoes and any other sharp objects before they go on the inflatable	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.
Anchor points becoming untethered	The inflatable could move or tip, causing injury to the users on it, or anyone standing near it	1	1	The inflatable will not be erected up if the wind exceeds 24mph  The inflatable will be tethered securely to the anchor points or bolted to the ground using thunder bolts.	Company operators to ensure visual inspections are done on anchor points throughout the duration of the event.

Inflatable blower on ground near the Inflatable	People could trip over the blower and injure themselves, or cut off the power and cause the Inflatable to deflate	1	2	Those setting up the Inflatable will site the blower in a location away from walkways and will advise the customer of the risks stating users must be kept away from the blower.	Responsible adults to ensure children do not play near the equipment at the rear or side of the inflatable
Alcohol being consumed at the venue.	Users may be harmed by under supervised equipment. Adults may go onto children's inflatables and collide with other users or cause a tear in the fabric.	1	3	Talk to the hirer about the risks of alcohol being consumed and the importance of supervising the inflatable at all times and adults are not allowed on children's inflatables.	The responsible supervisor, should be at the inflatable at all times and must be of sound mind and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
Fences / Walls /objects close to the Inflatable	Users may fall over the side walls into a fence, wall or object causing injury or death.	1	3	Inflatables which users can not fall over side walls are highly recommended to reduce the risk of falling. Operator setting up equipment must advise the hirer not to allow anyone to travel down	The responsible supervisor, should be at the inflatable at all times and ensure rules are followed.

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				the sides or around the back of inflatables in between the inflatable and the fence/wall/object and to use a barrier. Any removable objects must be removed, if the above is unable to be actioned, operator must not to set up the hire for use. Talk to the hirer of the added risk and re-enforce that no users are allowed to jump against the side walls of the inflatable and re-enforce safety rules at all times.	
Choking Hazard	Users could choke on food while on the inflatable and this could cause injury or death	1	3	Users could choke on any objects in their mouth and should not bring food, drink, lollipops or put any other items into their mouth while on inflatables. Supervisors and operators to enforce compliance to the safety rules	Designated supervisors and operators to enforce compliance to the safety rules

## General guidance for responsible supervisors:

Splash Inflatables is insured for Public Liability risks in the event of damage caused to Hirers, their guests, or their property, whilst using the equipment, if the operation and safety Instructions given to the hirer are adhered to at all times. This is general guidance which is relevant to most inflatables, there will be more specific guidance in relation to each specific item of equipment found on the relevant risk assessment.

1. The equipment has a user height limit and user number limit, please ensure you know this before supervising. It can be found on the PIPA safety certificate and also on the inflatable itself (in the form of a sticker on the inflatable)
2. You must supervise the equipment at all times

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3. Ensure that an area of at least 6 feet (2 metres) around the equipment is completely safe and clear at all times.
4. No food, drinks or chewing gum may be allowed on or near the equipment to avoid choking and mess.

5. Ensure children are clothed appropriately. All shoes, spectacles (if possible), jewellery, badges etc. must be removed before using the equipment. Make sure there is nothing dangerous that could fall out of a child's pocket.
6. No face paints, party poppers or silly string to be used on or near the equipment.
7. No smoking or barbeques near the equipment.
8. Climbing, hanging, summer saults or sitting on walls is DANGEROUS and must not be allowed.
9. Always ensure that the equipment is not overcrowded. It is best to avoid large and small children from using it at the same time. Ensure children don't behave in a manner likely to injure themselves or cause distress to others.
10. No pets, toys or sharp instruments on or near the equipment. If the equipment is not being used for any part of the hire, please switch the equipment off at the mains. Do not leave on and unattended.
11. Do not allow anyone to bounce on the front safety step as a user could easily bounce off the inflatable and get hurt. The step is there to assist users in getting on and off.
12. Do not allow anyone to be on the equipment during inflation or deflation as this is DANGEROUS.
13. Do not move or re-site the inflatable after being set up by Splash Inflatables.
14. In the event of heavy rain, the equipment must not be used and should be switched off at the mains. After, any wetness can be dried off with a towel.
15. In the event that the blower stops working:
  - please ensure all users get off the inflatable immediately
  - Check that the blower tube or deflation tube has not come undone or something is obstructing the blower.
16. In the event that the equipment overheats, or loses power:
  - Switch the blower off at the mains then switch it back on again 1 or 2 minutes later and it should restart.
  - If it does not restart inform us straight away.

17. No persons who are visibly intoxicated may be permitted to use the equipment.

18. In the event of high winds (over 22mph) remove any children from the inflatable and switch off until winds reduce. Wind can be extremely dangerous and can lift inflatables. Use the Anemometer provided to measure wind speeds.
19. You must continuously monitor the condition of the inflatable, checking for rips or tears, spillages or anchor points becoming loose. 20. Ensure users are not dangerously close to side walls or running near the blower or generators at the rear of the inflatable.

Robert Weir

Last updated: 21/04/2023

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'R Weir', is positioned below the printed name and date.

Review Date. This is a working document and changes and updates can be made at any stage.