

Worth Village Hall
Bouncy Castle / Inflatable Structure Policy
October 2024
Conditions of use of an inflatable structure inside Worth
Village Hall

The management committee should firstly be aware that the insurance policy currently in place covering WPH does not cover the use of bouncy castles.

The WPHMC (Worth Parish Hall Management Committee) will ensure that the operator has a current insurance policy covering the bouncy castles in place.

The Hirer acknowledges that current insurance policies relating to the use of Worth Village Hall (WVH) do not cover the risks associated with the installation and use of bouncy castles/inflatable structures on the hall premises.

The Hirer will therefore ensure that:

A suitable and up-to-date risk assessment has been completed covering the proposed use in WVH. A copy must be provided with the hall booking form; and

The Hirer and/or Operator have suitable and adequate insurance.

A photocopy of their insurance and a valid safety certificate covering the event date must be supplied with the hall booking form.

Hires should note that the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) gives clear guidance on safety measures to be conducted when hiring bouncy castles for both indoor and outdoor use. (BS EN14960).

The HSE supports two industry inspection schemes run by PIPA (Inflatable Play Inspection Scheme) and ADIPS (Amusement Device Inspection Scheme).

A PIPA tested castle will have a tag attached and a ADIPS tested castle will have a "Document of compliance. Both can be checked easily online.

This should include the following.

As a minimum WPHMC will require that the following is complied with:

- access and use are always controlled by a minimum of two authorised adult employee or volunteers.

- any anchor points are signed, or otherwise marked to be made easily visible, and wrapped to prevent trips.
- soft matting is used to cover hard surfaces adjacent to the front or any open sides where there is a risk of injury from falling from the inflatable.
- the operator's manual must be referred to this will provide instruction on what anchorage is necessary to maintain the shape of the device and prevent overturn.
- where an inflatable is used on either hard standing or any ground that would cause injury should the user fall from the device, suitable impact attenuating material should be provided, but is not required if the device is securely and permanently covered to contain the user.
- all other associated equipment must be safe, including the blower.

In addition, extra care should be taken by the Hirer and Operator to prevent injuries by making sure those in charge of setting up and supervising use of the equipment ensure the following measures are in place that help reduce this risk by:-

- following the manufacturers or supplier's safety recommendations
- requiring children to remove sharp articles like shoes, buckles or jewellery.
- not allowing overcrowding to help prevent knocking into each other
- not allowing a mix of large and small children at the same time – to avoid larger children crushing the smaller ones.
- not allowing use by adults and children at the same time
- not allowing any access to the very youngest children, e.g. under 2 years old.

Safety Checks

To be carried out by the hirer and Bouncy Castle operator prior to use.

Have a good look at the inflatable when it is blown up and before use. You should check:

- the correct blower is being used (the blower specification, including output, will be given in the operating manual)
- there are no obvious signs of over-tension or sagging of the structure. Also check if the anchor points have been pulled out during inflation
- the connection tube and blower are firmly attached to each other
- impact-absorbing mats are in position
- there are no holes or rips in the fabric or seams
- it looks symmetrical – if it looks misshapen or deformed there could be internal problems that make bouncing unpredictable, and it should therefore not be used.

- to ensure the safety of an inflatable in the event of a sudden loss of power, the deflation rate of the inflatable should be tested before each use by switching the blowers off and observing the inflatable deflate.
- the inflatable should deflate at a rate that allows sufficient time for users to be safely evacuated, whilst retaining its shape and rigidity so that users do not fall from the inflatable.
- if the inflatable deflates at a such a rate, that it becomes misshapen or deformed and prevents either safe escape or cannot prevent users from falling, the inflatable should not be operated.

Safe use, supervision and monitoring

The hirer and operator will ensure that there is, at all times, constant supervision by at least one suitably trained person.

Operating instructions must be supplied and should include the following:

- Restrict the number of users on the inflatable at the same time to the limit in the operator manual or on the unit label. Don't exceed the user height limit and keep bigger users separated from smaller ones.
- Make sure users can get on and off safely, with safety matting at the entrance that is no more than 2 inches deep.
- People should not wear shoes or glasses and should empty their pockets of all sharp or dangerous items.
- Anyone obviously intoxicated should not be allowed on.
- Don't allow users to climb or hang on the walls.
- Regularly check that anchor points are still secure.

Statement of compliance by Hirer.

I (insert name) agree to comply with all the above safety requirements and confirm that there is a valid safety and insurance certificate covering the Bouncy Castle / Inflatable structure on the date it is to be used. I also acknowledge that the WVHMCs current insurance policy does not cover the use of bouncy castles / inflatable structures.

Signed Date.....

Name block capitals.....