Wind & Adverse Weather Guidance

WIND | RAIN | STORMS | RECORDED MONITORING | 2026-27 REVIEW CYCLE

Document Ref	Version	Status	Issue Date	Next Review	Owner
RI-GD-002	2.1	APPROVED	01 Oct 2026	01 Oct 2027*	Rugby Inflatables

Purpose and scope

This guidance defines Rugby Inflatables controls for wind, rain, thunderstorms, flooding and other adverse weather affecting outdoor inflatable setup and operation. It applies to Rugby Inflatables outdoor hires only and must be used with the actual unit manual, RI-SOP-001/002, relevant risk assessment and the online handover/monitoring record.

Core weather rules

No inflatable is used above 24 mph (38 km/h) wind, including gusts, or above any lower manufacturer limit. 24 mph is a maximum - not a target.

An anemometer must be used outdoors and readings must be taken at regular intervals and recorded. Smartphone weather apps do not measure local wind at the inflatable and are not a substitute.

Regular internal-pressure measurements with a suitable manometer are also required during operation under current HSE inflatable guidance.

Use stops earlier for instability, strong/unpredictable gusting, deteriorating anchorage/ground, heavy rain, thunderstorm, flooding, unsafe heat or another condition that makes use unsafe.

Rugby Inflatables operating boundary

Outdoor hires are on suitable grass/soil only under Rugby Inflatables policy. Customers must not move the unit, alter anchorage, release stakes, disconnect the blower or attempt to hold down a moving inflatable. The RI operator retains authority to refuse setup, stop operation or collect early where conditions are unsafe.

Basis of the 2026-27 revision

Updated to reflect HSE Bouncy castles and other play inflatables: safety advice updated 10 June 2026, including the explicit requirement for recorded regular anemometer and manometer measurements, the 24 mph maximum/lower manufacturer limit, pre-use deflation testing and constant trained supervision.

24 mph is the ceiling

Do not use a forecast, average wind or one low reading to justify continued use where gusts or actual site behaviour indicate danger. Stop before the limit where safe control is being lost.

1. Planning and site acceptance

RESPONSIBLE: RI OWNER / SETUP LEAD

1.1 Before travelling

Review the forecast for delivery through collection, including gusts, rain, thunderstorm risk, temperature and any severe-weather warning.

Use forecast information to plan, but do not treat it as the site measurement.

Where conditions are likely to become unsafe, apply the business weather/cancellation policy rather than relying on last-minute improvised controls.

1.2 On arrival

Assess exposure, surrounding buildings/trees, funnels/gaps, open ground and other features that may alter local wind.

Check ground condition and holding capacity at every anchor point; do not set up on waterlogged, unsuitable or uncertain ground.

Confirm overhead/side hazards, public separation, electrical location and safe access/escape.

1.3 Anchorage and pre-use checks

Use every manufacturer-required outdoor anchorage point, with at least six. Rugby Inflatables uses suitable ground stakes on its approved grass/soil sites.

Check all ties, fixings and exposed stakes; do not use bungee cords or improvised restraints.

Inflate and complete the required pressure, restraint, shape and empty deflation-rate checks before users are admitted.

HOLD POINT - site/weather acceptance

If safe anchorage, required measurement equipment, ground condition or weather control cannot be achieved, do not release the inflatable for use.

2. Wind and pressure monitoring during use

RESPONSIBLE: NAMED TRAINED SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT CHECKER

2.1 Anemometer readings

Use the supplied/approved anemometer in a position that reasonably represents wind affecting the inflatable.

Take readings at the agreed regular intervals and whenever conditions noticeably change; record them in the Rugby Inflatables monitoring record.

Measure gusts and observe wind direction/site behaviour; a single average value can miss a dangerous gust.

Do not use a smartphone weather app as the local measurement.

2.2 Internal pressure readings

Use a suitable manometer and the unit/manufacturer method.

Record regular pressure measurements and the applicable operating limits.

Investigate readings outside the manufacturer range; touch/appearance is not a substitute for measurement.

2.3 Frequency and changing conditions
The handover sets a regular monitoring interval appropriate to the hire. Increase the frequency when wind, rain, temperature, ground condition or equipment behaviour changes. Recheck after any shutdown/interruption before readmission.

2.4 Supervision remains separate
Taking measurements does not replace active supervision. If a lone supervisor cannot safely supervise children while taking/recording readings, users are cleared or competent relief supervision is provided.

3. Stop triggers and adverse-weather actions

RESPONSIBLE: SUPERVISOR / RI OPERATOR

3.1 Wind stop trigger
Stop admission and clear users if wind reaches 24 mph / 38 km/h, including gusts, or a lower manufacturer limit.

Stop earlier for lifting/movement, loose restraint, worsening gusts, abnormal pressure or other instability.

Do not wait for the inflatable to visibly lift or deform before acting.

3.2 Unsafe wind shutdown
Keep people clear and contact Rugby Inflatables for controlled shutdown/collection as required.

Do not attempt to hold a lifting inflatable down.

Do not release anchors while the fabric can catch unsafe wind; trained RI staff follow the manufacturer/RI collection sequence.

3.3 Rain and wet surfaces
Stop use if the bed, entrance, steps, slide or mats become slippery/unsafe.

Protect electrical equipment and connections from unsuitable weather/standing water.

Persistent/heavy rain, waterlogging or loss of ground holding may require full shutdown/collection.

3.4 Thunderstorms and severe weather
Suspend use for thunderstorms or other severe weather creating danger.

Move people to suitable shelter under venue/event arrangements; never shelter in or beneath the inflatable.

Do not resume simply because rainfall or wind momentarily eases.

4. Resumption, records and responsibilities

RESPONSIBLE: RI OWNER / SUPERVISOR / EVENT STAFF

4.1 Restart after adverse weather
Confirm wind and gusts are safely below the applicable limit and conditions are stable.

Recheck ground, every anchorage point, ties, mats, cables, blower/tube and surrounding area.

Recheck internal pressure and complete any required pre-use deflation test where the unit has been shut down or a fault/abnormal collapse was suspected.

Contact Rugby Inflatables before resuming where instructed at handover or where movement, damage, repeated power loss or another fault occurred.

4.2 Weather records
Retain regular wind and pressure readings in the online hire/monitoring record.

Record significant stop/restart decisions, worsening conditions and any weather-related equipment movement/damage.

Report incidents/near misses and quarantine equipment if weather may have caused damage.

Role Responsibility
Rugby Inflatables operator Review forecast and actual conditions, accept/refuse the site, complete safe setup/handover, define measurement/stop controls and authorise restart after significant abnormal events.

Responsible hirer / nominated adult Maintain supervision, perform/record the agreed wind and pressure monitoring where trained, stop use at triggers and prevent interference with equipment/anchorage.

Rugby Inflatables event staff At staffed events, monitor conditions/measurements, stop activity where limits or unsafe conditions are reached and escalate to the RI operator/event lead.

Venue / event organiser Support wider severe-weather, shelter, evacuation and site access arrangements without overriding Rugby Inflatables equipment stop decisions.

Related controlled documents
RI-SOP-001 Inflatable Setup & Collection; RI-SOP-002 Supervision & Safe Operation; RI-EP-001 Emergency Procedures; RI-GD-001 Extreme Heat Guidance; RI-RA-001 Bouncy Castle Risk Assessment; RI-RA-002 Bounce & Slide Combo Risk Assessment.

Technical sources checked 01 October 2026 HSE Bouncy castles and other play inflatables: safety advice (updated 10 June 2026); BSI BS EN 14960-1:2019 (current, under review); actual manufacturer/operator manuals and Rugby Inflatables PIPA inspection information.

Revision history

Version	Date	Change	Status
2.0	Aug 2026	Previous approved Wind & Adverse Weather Guidance.	Superseded
2.1	01 Oct 2026	2026-27 revision: explicit HSE recorded wind/pressure monitoring, gust control, pre-use/restart checks, stronger shutdown boundaries and no smartphone app substitution.	Approved