

# Risk Assessment - Bouncy Castle

RI-RA-001 | Version 2.0 | APPROVED

| Document Ref | Version | Status   | Issue Date  | Review                   | Owner             |
|--------------|---------|----------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| RI-RA-001    | 2.0     | APPROVED | August 2026 | Annual / material change | Rugby Inflatables |

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| <b>Purpose</b><br><br>To identify foreseeable hazards associated with the delivery, setup, use and collection of standard bouncy castles and record the controls used to reduce risk. | <b>Scope</b><br><br>Applies to Rugby Inflatables standard bouncy castle hires. Site-specific conditions must still be assessed at every booking. |
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## Risk scoring

This assessment retains the scoring approach used in Rugby Inflatables' current assessment: Likelihood x Severity = Risk Score. A score of 25 is treated as unacceptable and the unit must not be erected or operated.

|         |            |          |
|---------|------------|----------|
| LOW - 1 | MEDIUM - 3 | HIGH - 5 |
|---------|------------|----------|

**Dynamic risks:** Weather and site conditions can change. Controls must be reviewed during the hire and use stopped if conditions become unsafe.

# Assessment table

| Hazard                                               | Potential harm                                                                  | At risk        | Controls in place                                                                                                                                                                                                             | L | S | Score | Further controls / requirements                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Over-enthusiastic participants / overcrowding</b> | Collisions, falls, unsafe behaviour, equipment damage and injury.               | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum user numbers displayed on the inflatable must be followed.</li> <li>Do not overcrowd the inflatable.</li> <li>Rules of use must be followed.</li> </ul>                        | 1 | 1 | 1     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate users into smaller groups where needed.</li> <li>Responsible adult supervision (18+) at all times.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Mixed age / size users</b>                        | Larger users may collide with or fall onto smaller users.                       | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users should be grouped by similar size and age where practicable.</li> <li>Capacity information displayed on the inflatable must be followed.</li> </ul>                              | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor to stagger groups where size differences create additional risk.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Rough play, flips or somersaults</b>              | Falls, collisions, head/neck injury or impact with other users.                 | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No rough play, flips or somersaults.</li> <li>No climbing, hanging or sitting on inflatable walls or netting.</li> </ul>                                                               | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor to intervene immediately and stop unsafe behaviour.</li> </ul>                                              |
| <b>Jumping from the front / entrance step</b>        | Falls onto surrounding surface or collision with another user.                  | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use designated entry/exit only.</li> <li>No bouncing on the entrance step.</li> <li>Safety mats positioned at entry/exit.</li> </ul>                                                   | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep mats correctly positioned and entry area clear.</li> </ul>                                                        |
| <b>Lack of supervision</b>                           | Unsafe play, overcrowding or delayed response to an incident.                   | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A responsible adult aged 18+ must supervise the inflatable.</li> <li>If supervision cannot be maintained, use must stop.</li> </ul>                                                    | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision guidance supplied/explained to the responsible adult.</li> </ul>                                           |
| <b>Hard or unsuitable outdoor surface</b>            | Inadequate anchorage, instability or injury following a fall.                   | Users / Staff  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor setup only on a suitable surface in line with Rugby Inflatables policy.</li> <li>Hard-surface setup is limited to suitable indoor venues with appropriate controls.</li> </ul> | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site assessed before setup; do not proceed if the surface is unsuitable.</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Underground services when staking</b>             | Damage to buried services, electric shock, gas/water release or serious injury. | Staff / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site suitability considered before driving stakes.</li> <li>Customer/site representative should identify known underground services or restrictions.</li> </ul>                        | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not stake where underground-service risk cannot be adequately controlled; reposition or decline setup.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Anchoring stakes / anchor points</b>              | Trips, contact injury or interference with anchorage.                           | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All required anchor points used in accordance with manufacturer instructions.</li> <li>Anchorage positioned outside the normal play area where practicable.</li> </ul>                 | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep public away from anchorage zones; explain relevant hazards to the supervisor.</li> </ul>                          |
| <b>Electrical cables / trip hazards</b>              | Trips, falls, cable damage or disconnection of power.                           | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route cables away from public walkways where possible.</li> <li>Use suitable cable covers where a route must be crossed.</li> <li>Spare leads/equipment stored safely.</li> </ul>      | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use barriers/fencing at larger events where appropriate.</li> </ul>                                                    |

| Hazard                                              | Potential harm                                                                 | At risk                | Controls in place                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | L | S | Score   | Further controls / requirements                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Blower or inflation-tube interference</b>        | Loss of inflation, equipment damage or injury.                                 | Users / Public         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blower and inflation tube positioned away from normal user access.</li> <li>• Connections checked during setup.</li> <li>• Users must not interfere with blower or inflation tube.</li> </ul>                                       | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict access to blower area; use barriers at public events where appropriate.</li> </ul>           |
| <b>Blower failure / interruption to air supply</b>  | Loss of pressure or sudden deflation while occupied.                           | Users                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blower, cable and inflation tube visually checked before use.</li> <li>• Responsible adult instructed to stop use if inflation changes or power is lost.</li> </ul>                                                                 | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuate users calmly and follow Emergency Procedures before any restart.</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>Incorrect operating pressure</b>                 | Inflatable may not perform or contain users as intended.                       | Users                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating pressure checked during setup using a manometer by an operator-trained member of staff.</li> <li>• Unit must not be handed over if correct operating condition cannot be achieved.</li> </ul>                             | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recheck if inflation condition changes; stop use if pressure appears abnormal.</li> </ul>             |
| <b>Adverse wind / severe weather</b>                | Inflatable movement, instability, serious injury or property/equipment damage. | Users / Public / Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather assessed before setup.</li> <li>• Outdoor customers receive wind monitoring guidance/anemometer.</li> <li>• Stop use and deflate where wind exceeds the permitted limit or conditions become unsafe.</li> </ul>             | — | — | Dynamic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rugby Inflatables will not erect or continue operation where weather is considered unsafe.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Heavy rain / wet inflatable surface</b>          | Slips, falls and reduced safe use of entrance/bouncing surfaces.               | Users                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop use if the bouncing surface, entrance or exit becomes wet/unsafe.</li> <li>• Heavy rain requires use to stop and equipment to be made safe.</li> </ul>                                                                         | 1 | 3 | 3       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry relevant surfaces and reassess conditions before use resumes.</li> </ul>                          |
| <b>Extreme heat / hot inflatable surface</b>        | Burns/discomfort, dehydration, heat exhaustion or heat-related illness.        | Users                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface temperature should be checked during hot weather.</li> <li>• Encourage water/rest breaks and shaded rest areas.</li> <li>• Stop or pause use if the surface becomes too hot or users show heat-related symptoms.</li> </ul> | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow Rugby Inflatables Extreme Heat Guidelines; reduce exposure during hottest periods.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Incorrect positioning / inadequate clearance</b> | Collision with structures, restricted access, equipment damage or injury.      | Users / Public         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site assessed before setup for space, obstructions and surrounding hazards.</li> <li>• Customers must not move or reposition the inflatable or anchorage after setup.</li> </ul>                                                    | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not proceed where sufficient safe operating space cannot be maintained.</li> </ul>                 |
| <b>Access behind / underneath inflatable</b>        | Contact with blower, inflation tube, anchorage or moving/deflating fabric.     | Users / Public         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users are not permitted behind, beneath or around restricted parts of the inflatable.</li> <li>• Lost items must not be retrieved by crawling beneath the unit.</li> </ul>                                                          | 1 | 5 | 5       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor to keep children/public within the intended access area.</li> </ul>                        |

| Hazard                                            | Potential harm                                                       | At risk        | Controls in place                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | L | S | Score | Further controls / requirements                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Choking</b>                                    | Food, drink or gum may obstruct the airway.                          | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No eating, drinking or chewing gum while using the inflatable.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                 | 3 | 5 | 15    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible adult supervision at all times.</li> </ul>                                         |
| <b>Use by unsuitable person</b>                   | Existing condition or intoxication may increase risk of injury.      | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not allow use by anyone with relevant back/neck or heart problems, or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.</li> </ul>                                                                                       | 3 | 5 | 15    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible adult to prevent unsuitable use.</li> </ul>                                        |
| <b>Equipment defect / structural failure</b>      | Injury, sudden loss of safe operating condition or equipment damage. | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment visually/functionally checked at setup and collection.</li> <li>Visible defects reported and defective equipment removed from service where required.</li> </ul>                                                | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain inspection/maintenance records; stop use immediately if a defect develops.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Power failure / sudden deflation</b>           | Users may fall, become distressed or be caught by collapsing fabric. | Users          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible adult receives emergency guidance.</li> <li>On loss of power, stop activity and assist users off calmly.</li> <li>Do not restart until the cause is understood and safe operation can be restored.</li> </ul> | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Rugby Inflatables where required and follow Emergency Procedures Guide.</li> </ul>     |
| <b>Slips and trips around operating area</b>      | Minor to serious injury to users/public.                             | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep walkways and entry/exit areas clear.</li> <li>Keep safety mats correctly positioned.</li> <li>Manage cables and other equipment to reduce trip hazards.</li> </ul>                                                   | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassess the area if crowding or other activities introduce new hazards.</li> </ul>            |
| <b>Third-party objects / prohibited items</b>     | Cuts, impact injury, choking or damage to inflatable.                | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empty pockets; remove shoes, jewellery and sharp/loose items.</li> <li>No food, drink, gum, glass, party sprays or other prohibited items on the inflatable.</li> </ul>                                                   | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor to check and enforce rules throughout use.</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>Animals / pets in operating area</b>           | Collision, bites/scratches, contamination or damage to equipment.    | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animals are not permitted on the inflatable.</li> <li>Keep pets/animals away from the immediate operating area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                | 1 | 3 | 3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervisor/site organiser to control animals near the setup.</li> </ul>                        |
| <b>Ignition sources / unsafe equipment nearby</b> | Fire, burns or damage to inflatable/electrical equipment.            | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No smoking or open flames near the inflatable.</li> <li>No barbecues within 10 metres.</li> <li>Keep unrelated equipment out of the immediate operating area where it introduces risk.</li> </ul>                         | 1 | 5 | 5     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain a clear operating area and appropriate event controls.</li> </ul>                     |
| <b>Emergency / injury during use</b>              | Delay in treatment, further injury or uncontrolled evacuation.       | Users / Public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency guidance and contact information provided.</li> <li>Serious injuries require emergency services as appropriate.</li> <li>Stop use and manage the area to prevent further harm.</li> </ul>                       | 3 | 5 | 15    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record incidents and follow Rugby Inflatables Emergency Procedures.</li> </ul>                 |

| Hazard                             | Potential harm                                             | At risk | Controls in place                                                                                                                                                                                            | L | S | Score | Further controls / requirements                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transportation and manual handling | Musculoskeletal injury, crush injury or dropped equipment. | Staff   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manual handling training provided.</li><li>Use trolleys/straps for heavy equipment where appropriate.</li><li>Use adequate assistance for setup/dismantling.</li></ul> | 3 | 5 | 15    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Do not attempt an unsafe lift; request assistance when required.</li></ul> |

Assessment note

This is a generic equipment risk assessment and does not replace the site-specific assessment undertaken at each setup. The hirer/event organiser should also consider risks arising from their venue, event, participants and activities.

Related documents

Method of Work Statement • Method of Safety for the Supervision of Inflatables • Emergency Procedures Guide • Bouncy Castle Hire Handbook • Extreme Heat Guidelines

| Prepared by       | Approved by          | Approval date  | Next review |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Rugby Inflatables | Macauly Peel - Owner | 08 August 2026 | August 2027 |

Revision history

| Version | Date        | Change                                                                                                                                                                              | Status   |
|---------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 2.0     | August 2026 | Expanded 2026 assessment: additional blower/power, pressure, heat, wet-surface, mixed-user, access, animal, anchorage and underground-service hazards; wording/design standardised. | Approved |