

Inflatable Play Equipment –Safe Use Guidelines

Inflatable play equipment is "designed to be used by members of the public for entertainment purposes either as a slide or for bouncing upon". They come in a wide range of sizes and shapes and can be designed for use by adults, children or both. They can also be hired by organisations or members of the public for parties etc.

Have a good look at the inflatable when it is blown up and before using you should check the following:

- the site/location is suitable
- ancillary equipment is in position (e.g. impact-absorbing mats)
- there are no significant holes or rips in the fabric or seams
- the correct blower is being used
- the internal air pressure is sufficient to give a firm and reliable footing
- there are no exposed electrical parts and no wear on cables
- plugs, sockets, switches, etc. are not damaged
- the connection tube and blower are firmly attached to each other
- the outer edges of the front step are in line with the centre of each of the front uprights. Under no circumstances should the width of the step be less than this
- the whole unit should look symmetrical and fully inflated. If it looks misshapen or deformed there may be internal problems which may make bouncing unpredictable

If you have concerns regarding any of the above please raise this matter immediately with a member of staff.

Making sure that the inflatable is run safely is equally important; the majority of injuries come from misuse.

There should be constant adult supervision when the inflatable is blown up and is in use. It is the responsibility of the hirer to provide this.

Operating instructions:

1. Restrict the number of users on the inflatable at the same time to the maximum age and limit as follows:
 - Small Bouncy Castle: Juniors only (2-10 years), maximum of 5 at any one time
 - Large Bouncy Castle: Juniors (2-16 years) and adults (16+ years), maximum of 10 at any one time

Please keep bigger/older users separated from smaller/younger; i.e., adult and junior users should use separately. Older children should not use the small bouncy castle at the same time as younger children. Adults should take specific care when sharing/using the large bouncy castle at the same time as junior users.

Mile End Park Leisure Centre & Stadium

190 Burdett Road, Mile End, London. E3 4HL

Tel: 02087094420

Email: mileendparkleisurecentre@gll.org

Web: www.better.org.uk/mile-end

2. Ensure users can get on and off safely and that there is safety matting at the entrance in case of falls or ejections
3. Users should not wear shoes, should take their glasses off if they can and pockets should be emptied of all sharp or dangerous items
4. Loose jewellery should also be removed before use
5. Users should not eat or drink whilst playing or bouncing and anyone obviously intoxicated should not be allowed on; they are a danger to themselves as much as to others
6. Do not let things get too rough and don't let users climb or hang onto the walls. Don't let users try to somersault

Any problems with any of the above should be immediately reported to a member of staff and Duty Manager.

If you have any questions about any of this, further help can be found on the PIPA website or in British Standard BS EN 14960 - 'Inflatable play equipment – safety requirements and test methods'