

Use of Bouncy Castles – need for a risk assessment

Hirers' Liability cover is included under our insurance policy, which extends our Public Liability insurance to provide cover for non-commercial users of our premises at an indemnity limit of £5 million. This would extend to the use of bouncy castles by hirers of the Village Centre, providing that you, the hirer, adheres to insurer's advice and guidelines as outlined below.

If you, the hirer of the Village Centre, uses any bouncy castle and/or any other land-based inflatable, you must ensure that:

- access and use is controlled by an authorised adult employee/volunteer at all times (this means a responsible person over the age of 18, paying close attention **at all times** to the children playing on the equipment)
- when used outside a building, it is securely anchored to the ground at each anchor point
- each anchor point is signed, or otherwise marked to be made easily visible, and wrapped to prevent injury
- 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.

Using bouncy castles can increase the risk of injury, particularly to children and others who may not be aware of the dangers. Insurers offer the following **risk management** advice for overseeing bouncy castles:

Where you provide, or are responsible for, bouncy castles, we expect you to take extra care to prevent injuries by making sure measures are put in place that help reduce this risk and the guidelines are:

- to follow the manufacturer's or supplier's safety recommendations
- requiring children to remove sharp articles like shoes, buckles or jewellery. People should not wear glasses and should empty pockets of sharp and dangerous items such as pens.
- not allowing overcrowding, particularly by children (to help prevent knocking into each other) The number of children using the bouncy castle must be limited to the number recommended in the Hire Company's safety instructions.
- 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 eating while bouncing or performing acrobatics
- not allowing any access to the very youngest children, e.g. under 2 years old
- not allowing anyone obviously intoxicated to use the equipment
- not allowing users to climb or hang on the walls
- regularly checking that anchor points are still secure