

Risk Assessment Activity – Inflatables (Indoors)

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/Reviewed:	Next Review Date
		11/01/2023 07/01/2025 12/12/2025	12/12/2026
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop		
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page, Steph McMenemy, Kieren Plant & Ronan Halpenny Lead Instructors: Rebecca Arms		Dec 2025
<p>Overview: The inflatable obstacle course offers two people the opportunity to compete over a 20-metre course. This instructed activity takes place in the Sports Hall on site at Pioneer Centre. The session also offers inflatable 'Dodgeball' and 'Beat the Goalie' (football) elements. Staff that run the sessions are in house trained. Staff to Client ratios is 2 or more staff depending upon the group size. Maximum number of participants is 60. An annual inspection will be carried out by an external inspector who will come in and check the suitability of all the inflatables and any actions will be followed up in an appropriate manner by the senior activities team. All instructors are first aid trained and emergency procedures are in place in case of a major accident.</p>			
Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability Severity Risk Category	Control Measures – Reduces the severity and lowers the probability to acceptable levels
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	A brief is given on the safety rules to ensure proper use of courses and spotters and crash mats are positioned at key points around the courses. No food or drink, incl. chewing gum is allowed in the sports hall. Participants only go on courses when inflated and instructors are present to run and supervise the sessions. Staff to do a demo for how to get off the Fort or the Goalie inflatables. This is to slow down and step off carefully.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Bumping into one another	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Safety talk warns about this, and instructors remove participants acting boisterously. Instructors run and supervise the sessions and ensure the group is following safety rules and instructions.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Awkward landings	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Instructors brief about "no flips on the elements" and give guidance for movement where needed. On the Assault course staff will do a demo through the course to show how to ascend and descend and make clear that if someone struggles to ascend, they can reverse the course and when they descend down the slide, they are to be on their bum with feet first.
		Major	
		High	

Hair caught on Velcro	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors brief about hair tied back and appropriate clothing.
		Minor	
		Low	
Equipment Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Inflatables made by registered suppliers and maintained to a good standard. Bimonthly safety checks are carried out on all equipment and an annual inspection is carried out by an external company to ensure equipment and elements are still in good working order. Staff are in-house trained in setting up procedures to ensure equipment functions as it should and visual inspections are carried out on the day of delivery and any issues raised with senior staff.
		Major	
		Medium	
Collision into walls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Hanging crash mats are in place where collisions are possible, and staff supervise and control groups to avoid collision.
		Major	
		Medium	
Injury due to incorrect lifting techniques	Instructors & Staff	Likely	Instructors are put through a training and sign off recorded to ensure correct lifting techniques are known and used. This is done via a manual handling training video. Always a minimum of two instructors involved in transfer and unpacking/repacking elements.
		Major	
		Medium	
Unauthorized or inappropriate use	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors always present for use of inflatables and equipment deflated whenever not being supervised. And monitoring and group managed by staff and session stopped if participants unable to follow instructions. The Sports hall locked shut when not in use.
		Major	
		Medium	
Friction Burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Guests are advised to wear long sleeves and trousers over short sleeved t-shirts and shorts to help avoid friction burns on knees and elbows.
		Minor	
		Low	
Fire	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Fire alarms and procedures are in place and staff trained to carry out procedures.
		Major	
		Medium	