

Jumping Castles and other inflatable play equipment carry certain hazards/risks, and certain measures need to be considered for their maintenance and safety when used. The following hazards/risks are common in the use of jumping castles and other inflatable play equipment.

Hazards/Risks

- Lack of Supervision
- Number of children on jumping castle at one time (*overcrowding*)
- Physical injury to children – sprains/strains, bruises, damage to teeth, broken bones etc
- Injury to users caused by fighting/inappropriate and boisterous behaviour
- Not restricting users to specific age groups (*e.g. ages 1 – 3, 4 – 6, 7 – 10*)
- Injury to users caused by wearing inappropriate clothes and shoes (*buckles, jewellery etc*)
- Falls from the structure
- Suffocation & entrapment
- Inadequate matting outside the equipment
- Inefficient clearance around jumping castle
- Location of equipment
- Eating, drinking or chewing gum
- Tripping (*particularly over anchorages &/or leads*)
- Poorly anchored equipment
- Instability and blowing away in windy conditions
- Unsafe equipment due to poor maintenance
- Windows tearing or detaching
- Failure or loss of power to the fan/blower
- Disconnection of the blower
- Litter blocking the air intake and/or vents
- Situations caused by loss of pressure as a result of failure of the fabric zips and seams
- Access to dangerous machinery (*e.g. inadequately protected, or unguarded, blower units*)
- Electrical hazards (*e.g. shock or burns*), if powered in this manner
- Inadequate means of escape in case of fire.

Maintaining a safe environment

It is the requirement of the owner/operator of the Jumping Castle or inflatable to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of supervision and other preventive measures to ensure a safe environment for children
2. Have a procedure to identify, assess and manage any hazards associated with ensuring a safe environment for children; and
3. Maintain a hazard identification and management checklist and complete this daily.

Daily checks

Checks should be carried out before the first use each day using advice provided by the manufacturer in the operations manual. Items on the checklist should include checking that:

- The site remains suitable, with crowd control measures in place if appropriate
- Anchorages are intact, and ropes not worn or chafed
- Anchor system secures the inflatable equipment to the ground
- There are no significant holes or rips in the fabric or seams
- The correct blower specified for the equipment is being used and the air pressure is sufficient to give a reliable and firm footing
- There are no exposed electrical contacts, there is no wear on electric cables, and plugs, sockets and switches are not damaged
- If an internal combustion engine is used, that the fuel cap is placed firmly on the fuel tank and any reserve fuel tank remains in a safe position



Sample Risk Assessment for the use of Jumping Castles at SU NSW ministries and events

This is a SAMPLE risk assessment: we recommend that you use it to carry out your own risk assessment, which will include any other risks that are specific to your event, the location where you are holding it, or your users.

Likelihood	Description	Consequence	Description	Likelihood					Risk Matrix	Rating	
				A	B	C	D	E			
A-Common	Can be expected to occur with some frequency; a repeating event; not a surprise when it happens	1-Severe	Fatality; multiple fatalities; massive; organisational implications								
B-Possible	Known to happen or has happened; might occur a handful of times in your experience	2-Major	Important consequences; major injury or disability								
C-Unlikely	Could happen; heard of it happening; occurs somewhere from time to time	3-Moderate	Some impacts of significance; medical assistance required								
D-Rare	Highly unexpected; not likely; have heard of happening somewhere once	4-Minor	Small scale effects easily remedied; first aid required								
E-Very Rare	Theoretically possible but incredibly unlikely	5-Negligible	Barely perceptible impacts; very minor or no injury								
				Consequence							
				1	1	2	4	7	11	High	1-8
				2	3	5	8	12	16	Med	9-15
				3	6	9	13	17	20	Low	16-20
				4	10	14	18	21	23	Very	21-25
				5	15	19	22	24	25	Low	

Putting up and taking down the Jumping Castle

Identified Safety risk	Likelihood	Risk Level	Action plan	Emergency Strategy
	Consequence			
Injury from lifting/moving jumping castle	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If hired, allow provider to set up and pack up jumping castle and leave in place for duration of activity. At least two people to collect, lift, move or pack up Jumping Castle and use trolley wherever possible Advice to be given on correct lifting procedures to prevent injury (using guidance from www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au or other sources) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Power Cable is Trip Hazard	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure power cable to the ground as soon as it is laid down, or suspend above by at least 2.74 meters. If possible, cover leads with mats, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Electric shock from damaged cable	D-Rare	12-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unroll cable, and check the full length of the cable, plus any plugs or sockets Never tolerate exposed wires. Remove & repair or destroy Ensure cable is plugged into power supply that has a trip switch OR use the power breaker supplied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	2-Major			



Identified Safety risk	Likelihood	Risk Level	Action plan What we will do to reduce this risk to an acceptable level	Emergency Strategy What we'll do if this risk becomes reality
	Consequence			
Injury from securing Jumping Castle using heavy duty pegs	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves must be worn while using hammers/sledgehammers, and while tensioning rope. Hold stakes halfway down when banging them in Knock stakes sideways with mallet before trying to remove Make sure the area is clear of other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			

Using the Jumping Castle *(at least 2 adults to supervise at all times)*

Collisions	A-Common	10-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strict limits on numbers based on size and manufacturers recommendations Group participants by age/size to avoid larger kids clashing with smaller kids Give clear instructions about behaviour to all participants Supervisors to monitor behaviour and give warning if behaviour becomes too rough or dangerous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Slips, Trips, Falls on entry and exit.	A-Common	10-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crash mat placed in front of entry/exit if provided One supervisor at entry/exit at all times Give instructions on how to enter and exit safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Injury/Damage from sharp objects	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants instructed to remove shoes and any sharp objects before entering Check inflatable for punctures/damage before and after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop activity immediately if inflatable is punctured or damaged Apply First Aid if injury occurs Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Accidental deflation whilst in use	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark off blower and hose with cones or safety tape to avoid accidental disconnection. Ensure electrical cord is secured to the ground or suspend above by at least 2.74 meters. If possible, cover lead with mats, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove participants immediately if signs of deflation
	4-Minor			
High Winds	C-Unlikely	8-High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumping Castle to be tethered securely to anchor points Anchor points to be checked periodically to ensure stability Do not use/deflate if wind exceeds Force 5 on Beaufort Scale <i>(i.e. small trees sway not just their branches)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove participants immediately and deflate if winds exceed Force 5
	2-Major			



Identified Safety risk	Likelihood	Risk Level	Action plan What we will do to reduce this risk to an acceptable level	Emergency Strategy What we'll do if this risk becomes reality
	Consequence			
Slips due to wet surface	B-Possible	14-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't use if raining Dry thoroughly before use No food or drink on equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
Injury due to pre-existing condition	C-Unlikely	13-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask participants if they have a history of back or neck injuries, a heart condition or are pregnant Participants with these conditions should not use jumping castle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	3-Moderate			
Poor or Risky Behaviour	A-Common	10-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are not allowed to sit on the walls or roofs of the jumping castle. NO Somersaults Supervisors to monitor behaviour and give warning if behaviour becomes too rough or dangerous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warn participants and remove offenders Apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	4-Minor			
People entering equipment when not in use/supervised	C-Unlikely	13-Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deflate & disconnect blower when not in use. Pack up as soon as possible after the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove people and secure equipment If injury occurs apply First Aid Seek medical assistance if necessary Track Patients Recovery
	3-Moderate			

I have read and understand this document and the risks and safety management involved.

Director 1 _____ Director 2 _____ Safety/Risk Officer _____