



Risk Assessment: Inflatables

Risk Assessment: Inflatables

Last Reviewed: 29 September 2026 | Next Review Date: 29 September 2027

2026 Review/Update completed by: N Marren Date: 29-09-26

Description	Who Could Be Harmed	Action Taken / Control Measures	Action (By Who)	When
Heavy/bulky inflatable and manual handling during transport, setup or pack-down.	ASM staff involved in handling.	Use the manufacturer's handling instructions and a task-specific manual-handling assessment. Use enough trained staff and suitable handling aids/trolleys where practicable. Do not attempt a lift that exceeds the capability of the people or equipment available. Plan the route, surface and storage location before moving the unit.	ASM Sports	Ongoing
Pre-use condition of the inflatable, seams, stitching, fabric, valves, anchor points, steps/ramps and safety features.	Children, staff and other users.	Complete and record a competent pre-use inspection before each session and after any significant move, weather event or suspected damage. Check the inflatable, anchor points, blower, cables and accessories. Do not use defective equipment; isolate and report it for repair by a competent person/manufacturer as appropriate.	ASM Sports	Before each use
Inflatable not suitable for the location or surface.	Users and staff.	Select a suitable, level location in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Keep clear of sharp objects, stones, glass, vehicle routes, overhead hazards and other obstructions. Establish a controlled operating area and suitable access/egress routes.	ASM Sports	Before setup
Long electrical power cable creating a trip hazard.	Children, staff and visitors.	Route cables away from pedestrian routes wherever possible. Secure and protect cables using suitable cable covers/ramps or equivalent controls where necessary. Do not create trip hazards with loose loops or trailing leads. Keep cables and connections away from water.	ASM Sports	During setup/use
Damaged electrical cable, plug, socket or blower connection.	Children, staff and anyone accessing the equipment.	Inspect the full cable, plugs, sockets and blower connection before use. Do not use damaged electrical equipment. Use an appropriate protected electrical supply/RCD in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and site arrangements. Electrical equipment must be maintained and checked by competent persons as required.	ASM Sports	Before each use
Pegs/anchors being installed or removed using a mallet.	Staff and people nearby.	Only trained staff to install/remove anchors. Keep others clear of the work area. Use the manufacturer's specified anchoring system, anchor type and installation method. Check anchors are secure and correctly positioned before use and re-check during operation where required.	ASM Sports	Setup/pack-down
Inflatable becoming wet or slippery.	Users and staff.	Do not operate when wet or in rain unless the specific equipment is designed for it and the manufacturer's instructions expressly permit use. Stop use if conditions become unsafe. Dry fully before storage/use where required. Food and drink must be kept away from the inflatable.	ASM Sports	Ongoing
Wind, gusts or adverse weather causing movement, instability or collapse.	Users, staff and people nearby.	Operate only within the manufacturer's maximum wind speed. As a minimum, do not operate above 24 mph (38 km/h) unless the manufacturer's documented limit is lower; the lower limit applies. Monitor conditions throughout use. Deflate and secure/take down if wind approaches the permitted limit or conditions deteriorate. Do not use during thunderstorms/lightning or other conditions identified by the manufacturer/site assessment as unsafe.	ASM Sports	Before/during use
Users jumping/falling from the front or sides of the inflatable.	Children and other users.	Position the inflatable with adequate clearance from hazards. Maintain active adult supervision at access/exit and other identified high-risk points. Establish clear rules: no climbing on walls, no deliberate jumping from the unit, and follow the equipment's capacity and operating instructions.	ASM Sports	During use
Users colliding, overcrowding or becoming overly boisterous.	Children and other users.	Follow the manufacturer's user capacity, age/size/height restrictions and operating rules. Control numbers and groupings so the activity remains manageable. Separate users where the equipment/activity requires it. Supervisors must intervene early where behaviour	ASM Sports	During use

Next Review Date: 29 September 2027



Risk Assessment: Inflatables

		increases risk and stop the activity if safe control cannot be maintained.		
Sharp objects, footwear, jewellery or personal items puncturing or damaging the inflatable.	Users.	Inspect the operating area and equipment. Users must remove shoes and items that could damage the inflatable, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Secure long hair and manage clothing appropriately. Follow ASM Sports' personal-effects/jewellery controls.	ASM Sports	Before entry
Anchor points, blower, fencing, cones or other external equipment creating trip/impact hazards.	Children, staff and visitors.	Mark and control the external operating area. Keep the blower and anchor points protected from unauthorised access while maintaining required ventilation/airflow and safe access for staff. Keep emergency access routes clear.	ASM Sports	During setup/use
Loss of inflation or blower failure while users are inside.	Children and other users.	Supervisors must know the emergency deflation/evacuation procedure and have immediate access to blower controls/power isolation. Stop entry if inflation is not maintained. Evacuate calmly if inflation reduces unexpectedly or the equipment becomes unstable. Do not re-enter until the equipment has been checked and declared safe.	ASM Sports	During use
People accessing the inflatable after the activity has finished or when unsupervised.	Children, visitors and other users.	The inflatable must not be accessible when unsupervised. Deflate and secure/take down as soon as reasonably practicable after use. Where it remains inflated temporarily, maintain supervision and prevent unauthorised access.	ASM Sports	End of activity
Child becomes unwell, injured, distressed or has an additional need that affects safe participation.	Children.	Check relevant medical, SEND, behavioural and participation information available to ASM Sports before activity. Make reasonable adjustments where practicable and safe. Do not exclude a child solely because they have an additional need; assess the individual risk and agree appropriate controls. Follow first-aid, emergency and safeguarding procedures.	ASM Sports	Before/during use
Safeguarding concern, inappropriate behaviour, bullying or child-on-child abuse during the activity.	Children and young people.	Maintain appropriate supervision and professional boundaries. Staff must follow ASM Sports safeguarding procedures and the host setting's arrangements where applicable. Report concerns promptly to the DSL/appropriate safeguarding lead and record actions in line with procedure. Safeguarding takes priority over continuing the activity.	ASM Sports	Ongoing
Incident, near miss or equipment failure not being recorded or acted upon.	Children, staff and future users.	Record accidents, injuries, safeguarding concerns, significant near misses and equipment defects using ASM Sports procedures. Review the risk assessment following an incident, near miss, equipment/location change, change in participant needs, or relevant legal/guidance change. Escalate reportable incidents where required.	ASM Sports	Ongoing

Implementation note: This assessment must be read alongside the equipment manufacturer's operating instructions, ASM Sports safeguarding/child protection, first aid, accident/incident reporting and emergency procedures, and any site-specific/dynamic risk assessment. Relevant reference frameworks include current HSE workplace safety guidance, PUWER and Manual Handling requirements where applicable, afPE Safe Practice in PESSPA, BS EN 14960 where applicable to the equipment, KCSIE 2026 where applicable to education settings, and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

Review trigger: review earlier than the stated date following an incident/near miss, equipment modification or defect, change of venue/layout, change in operating instructions, significant change in participant needs, or relevant legal or guidance change.