

## METHOD STATEMENT FOR INFLATABLES



**ACTIVITY: To erect and operate an inflatable**

1	A responsible person should supervise the equipment and the participants at all times.
2	Inspect the area the inflatable will cover and remove any large stones or sharp objects.
3	Check height above the area for any restrictions. i.e. cables, trees, lights.
4	Ensure operators working on site have been instructed in manual handling procedures.
5	Lay ground sheet where necessary.
6	Lay out inflatable and connect the electric/petrol blower to the longest tube. Ensure the tube is not obstructed, bent or twisted. Where possible keep electrical cable away from potential pathways.
7	Secure one anchorage point to secure the inflatable to the ground. NB When used indoors no anchorage is required however sandbags made be used if deemed necessary
8	Inflate the unit. When using a petrol fan or generator follow the special instructions for Petrol equipment given at (20).
9	The inflatable must never be used until the inflatable is fully inflated.
10	If outdoors, secure the remaining anchor points down using metal stakes or sandbags.
11	Do not move or try to reposition the inflatable under any circumstances and ensure that the anchors are in place at all times.
12	When erecting on hard surface outdoors, weights or sand bags must be used. Wherever possible ropes must be used to tie to any fixed object i.e. Fence posts.
13	Where necessary barrier fencing, rope or tape can be used to cordon areas off safely . Always ensure that the area around the inflatable is not overcrowded. No smoking or barbecues to be near the inflatable at any time.
14	Check the inflatable for tears and holes.
15	Prepare Participant: Ensure that no one with a history of back or neck problems or who suffers from a heart complaint uses the Inflatable or anyone who is feeling unwell or suffering the effects of alcohol or drugs. Pregnant women may not use the inflatable at any time. No user weighing over 90Kg or 14 stones is permitted to use the equipment at any time. Operator to instruct user in safe method of use & potential hazards. No food, drinks or chewing gum to be allowed on or near the inflatable. All glasses, jewellery, badges must be removed before using the inflatable.
16	Only upto the Maximum number of users as stated on the inflatable must be allowed on the inflatable at any time.
17	Climbing, hanging and sitting on the inflated wall is DANGEROUS and must not be allowed at any time.
18	In the event that someone is seriously injured, DO NOT move the individual, leave the inflatable switched on and administer first aid as appropriate dialling 999 where necessary.
19	When the inflatable is packed away, do not allow anyone to be on the inflatable during deflation.
20	When using petrol blowers/ generators: Barrier fence the complete area off from access to the general public. Refills to be carried out in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations No smoking, naked flames or sparks to be near area. Not to be operated by any untrained person. Make sure the fuel cap is secured firmly on the fuel tank. Any reserve fuel to be stored in a safe secure well-ventilated area Petrol blower/ generators are for outdoor use only in well-ventilated areas. A suitable fire extinguisher to be left on site in an easily accessible position.

### Ongoing inspections and checks

Anchors, ropes, stakes and all tie down points should be checked at regular intervals.  
Fans should also be inspected for any restrictions of air flow.

See additional RPII course instructions

### SAFE HANDLING

Inflatables can be very heavy and require some care in their handling if injuries are not to be caused. onto a truck or trailer. Do not try to lift a complete inflatable.  
When loading a petrol blower after an event, be careful not to burn yourself on the exhaust.

### SETTING UP OUTDOORS ON GRASS/EARTH

Choose your site. Che

The site must be big enough to accommodate the equipment, bearing in mind the open space needed at front and sides and the length of the blow-tube.

The site must be level or have a slope of not more than 5 degrees in any direction.

The inflatable must be sited well away from possible hazards such as overhead power lines or other obstacles with hazardous projections (e.g. fences and/or trees).

The site must be cleared of debris and sharp objects on, or embedded in, the surface.

#### **CHECK THE WIND**

The wind-speed must be no more than Force 5 on the Beaufort scale (maximum 24 mph/38 km/h) which is when small trees in leaf begin to sway.

Position and roll out the inflatable

Make sure that it faces the right way and all 'siting rules' have been observed.

Anchor it down temporarily.

If ropes form part of the anchorage system, attach them to the anchor-points.

#### **MAKE SURE YOUR BLOWER IS SAFE**

If you are using an electric blower, route the cable(s) out of the way of users and onlookers. Use an RCD circuit breaker somewhere in the line.

#### **USE MATS**

Do you need mats at the entrance?

If the grass or earth is soft and not abrasive, it may not be necessary to use landing mats all around the entrance/exit.

However its is good practice and necessary on firm grass and hard surfaces.

#### **ROUTINE INSPECTION**

- 1) The site is level enough? No overhead wires/trees? Plenty of clear space around the inflatable?
- 2) All of the anchorages are in place and secure?
- 3) Landing mats, if needed, are in position?
- 4) No significant rips or holes in the fabric and seams?
- 5) Internal pressure sufficient?
- 6) Correct blower?
- 7) Firmly connected to the blow-tube?
- 8) Blow-tube at its furthest extent?
- 9) No exposed electrical parts or wires?
- 10) No damage to switches, plugs, sockets?
- 11) Cables routed out of harm's way?
- 12) Mesh guards intact on the blower?
- 13) Petrol cap on?
- 14) Petrol can in its bund store and hidden from view?
- 15) All electrical equipment is suitable

#### **OPERATING**

Operators and attendants need to be identifiable. This is usually achieved by wearing a uniform or part of a uniform which both users and onlookers can recognize.

Operators can use a whistle to inform users of times or play breaches.

Check-list for operators and attendants

- 1) Exercise constant supervision
- 2) Admit users in a controlled and safe manner
- 3) Restrict the maximum height of user
- 4) Restrict the maximum number of users
- 5) Separate users into groups of approximately the same height
- 6) Get users to remove shoes, necklaces, gum, bags, purses and anything hard or sharp
- 7) Ask spectacle wearers if they can manage without - if not, warn the other users
- 8) Keep the surrounding area clear
- 9) Stop users from playing on the step
- 10) Stop users from playing too roughly
- 11) Stop users from trying to somersault
- 12) Stop users from climbing or hanging on containing walls
- 13) Close down the operation when re-fuelling

**At all times remember the golden rule – Do not leave a working inflatable unattended.**