

INFLATABLE ATTRACTIONS – ZORB BALLS

Zorb Balls / Bubble Soccer / Water Balls

Documents required

- A Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance (COC) must be obtained from the hire company prior to any planning or payment.
- A Risk Management Plan is to be completed and submitted for this event in conjunction with the normal student event request form well prior to the event.

Location

- The location of the inflatable game should allow enough room for both set up and the activity itself, including spectator and participant traffic and be grassed. The areas on campus that are more viable than others are the Ornamental Lawns, South Tower Lawns, and the Sports Fields due to the wide spans of grassed area (for land-based ball games). For water-based games, the only potential location is the Bond Pools. Lake Orr is not viable for any event.

Control Measures

Where these balls are used, suitable control measures should be in place to prevent injuries, including the risk of asphyxiation and heat stress. Such measures should include:

- only using balls that have been manufactured from heavy duty material that is durable and resistant to degradation from ultraviolet light and visually check the balls before each use to ensure they are not damaged
- obtaining information from the manufacturer or supplier on the safe use of the balls
- Only using the balls in shallow pools (e.g. no more than 400 mm deep) and checking the pool and its vicinity to ensure there are no sharp objects that could possibly damage the ball and cause sudden deflation or cause injury to the patron inside
- positioning attendant(s) to provide rapid assistance to a patron should a ball deflate suddenly and adequately training the operators and providing them with safe operating instructions
- providing a system of emergency escape for a patron. The system should not rely solely on one attendant (i.e. in case the attendant is unable to provide immediate assistance)
- providing patrons with adequate information and instructions (such as the restriction of the patron's age and physical size; dress code; activity or behaviour controls and health requirements)
- only allowing the balls to be used in suitable weather conditions and strictly limiting the duration of use and releasing patrons quickly, to protect them from heat and reduced oxygen effects

- maintaining the balls in a clean and hygienic condition ensuring any cleaning agents used do not damage the balls or are hazardous to workers or patrons.

Routine maintenance

A competent person should be engaged to carry out periodical inspections of water balls at least annually, or as prescribed by the manufacturer, to ensure there is no significant degradation of the material, especially at the seams.

A record of service and maintenance checks should be kept in a logbook.

Supervision

Organisers must also ensure that the attraction is under continual supervision whilst operational. This should be done on a roster system. All students who will undertake supervision of the attraction must sign an agreement and return prior to the event. See wording example below.

INFLATABLE ATTRACTION – STUDENT AGREEMENT TO OVERSEE

- *I agree to oversee the "name of attraction" attraction which will be operational during the "name of event" event on "date".*
- *I shall ensure that all participants read and sign the "Invitees Waiver of Liability and Indemnity" form prior to participating in this attraction.*
- *I shall ensure that all who sign the waiver understand that they participate in the attraction at their own risk.*
- *I shall ensure that nobody who, in my judgement, appears to be intoxicated is permitted to participate.*
- *I shall ensure that appropriate behaviour is exhibited both around and on the attraction.*
- *I shall ensure that this attraction is under my constant supervision whilst operational.*

This text may be distributed via email to the students concerned. Students can then respond adding "I agree".

Risk Management Plan

An RMP must be provided for assessment. Following are some of the identified risks to patrons associated with the use of inflatable or water balls.

- Suffocation or drowning in deep water if the ball bursts or deflates suddenly without adequate supervision
- Heat-related stress illnesses when using the ball in warm weather conditions for an extended period
- Loss of oxygen if remaining in the ball for an extended period
- Sustaining of body injuries as a result of collision with other patrons or obstacles
- Electrocution from electrical equipment coming into contact with water (water balls only)

Further information: Student Events Office (Ph 5595 1211)

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/alerts/whsq/2010/inflatable-water-balls>

<https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/questions-over-zorb-ball-safety>