



November 15, 2019

TO: SISC District Members

FROM: Robert J. Kretzmer  
Director, Property & Liability

SUBJECT: Bounce Houses (inflatable attractions)

Inflatable attractions, commonly referred to as bounce houses, raise concerns for your site administrators as these attractions can contribute to an injury if not used with caution.

The SISC Liability Memorandum of Coverage does not exclude their use. We frequently receive inquiries whether or not SISC allows for the use of inflatable attractions at back-to-school nights, spring carnivals or other fundraisers.

We do recommend that the following measures be taken before the use of an inflatable attraction at one of your school sites.

- Only use outside commercial vendors who are experienced with the use and proper installation of these attractions.
- At a minimum, the commercial vendor should provide proof of insurance naming your district as the Certificate Holder on the Certificate of Insurance (COI.) It is preferable that the vendor actually name your agency as an additional insured on the COI. The minimum limits on the COI should indicate liability coverage in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million aggregate. An endorsement attached to the COI is essential as this provides the necessary documentation that the actual insurance company is aware that your district is being named as an additional insured.
- The agreement entered into with the vendor should have hold harmless and indemnification language clearly indicating that the vendor will defend and indemnify your district for all claims or suits brought against it related to the use of the inflatable attraction.
- There must be a clear understanding between the vendor and the school site as to who is responsible for supervision of participants while the attraction is in use.
- The attraction should be set-up in a clear and flat space, away from sharp objects or structures that could contribute to an injury.
- Avoid the use of inflatable attractions during windy conditions.
- Children of the same age group should participate together as opposed to an eight year old and a fifteen year old being in the attraction at the same time.
- Avoid using inflatable attractions that encourage competition such as jostling racing.
- A maximum slide height of 10 feet, measured from the height of the platform to access the attraction to the surface below. The highest designated play surface should not exceed 10 feet according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's *Public Playground Safety Handbook*. The overall height of the structure itself can exceed 10 feet as long as the highest platform does not exceed 10 feet.

If used properly with appropriate supervision, these attractions can add in a positive way to the experience your agency is trying to create at your back-to-school night, carnival or fundraiser. Taking the steps noted above will help with these efforts.

SISC is available to review the use of these attractions as well as any agreements that are being contemplated between your agency and a vendor. Should you wish to speak with your assigned Safety & Loss Control Specialist prior to the use of an inflatable attraction, contact Safety and Loss Control at 661-636-4604.

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