

RISK ASSESSMENT: Zorbing

Completed by: Activities Management Team

Date: 18/12/2025

Review Date: 18/12/2026

| What is the Hazard? | Who may be harmed? | How might people be harmed? | Risk Rating | | | Control Measures in Place | Remaining Risk | | |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------|----------|------|--|----------------|----------|------|
| | | | Probability | Severity | Risk | | Probability | Severity | Risk |
| Ground Conditions | All | Injury due to Zorb being damaged/ punctured. | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground area must be checked as per the opening checks prior to use. Any sharp objects to be removed. Activity must be set up in an area that is free from ground hazards (i.e. tree stumps, sticks, steep ground etc) | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Trips, Slips and Falls | All | Cuts, bruises and grazes | 2 | 2 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are not to run inside the activity area. Participants advised to take care when entering and exiting the Zorbs and have assistance when entering and exiting the Zorbs. Spectators or participants waiting to partake are told not to approach the Zorbs and to stay outside of the area. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Exposure/ Hypothermia and Sunburn | All | Sunburn, high temperature and dehydration. | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must make sure they have suitable clothing prior to the activity. Staff and participants to drink plenty of water. Sun cream to be applied when needed. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Group Behaviour | All | Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/ not listening. | 3 | 2 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor has the right to stop the session if they deem the participants' behaviour to be dangerous. Instructor to check with group leader at the start of the session for any neurodiverse participant's and make sure control measures are in place to appropriately manage their needs | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Collisions | All | Cuts, bruises, musculoskeletal injuries and concussion. | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-way system must be operated and group briefed on this during the introduction. Instructor to monitor participants whilst zorbing to prevent collisions from occurring. No other people in the track area at any point. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Injury whilst inside Zorb | Participants | Musculoskeletal injuries and bruises | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to check Zorbs prior to use. Participants must ensure their pockets are empty before entering the Zorb. Jewellery to be removed and no shoes to be worn inside the Zorb. Instructor to brief participants to be aware of the opening and to monitor its position during use. Instructor to ensure the Zorbs stay fully inflated throughout the session. | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| What is the Hazard? | Who may be harmed? | How might people be harmed? | Risk Rating | | | Control Measures in Place | Remaining Risk | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|----------|------|--|----------------|----------|------|
| | | | Probability | Severity | Risk | | Probability | Severity | Risk |
| Equipment Failure | Participants | Entrapment and panic attacks | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment is checked prior to use. Any Zorbs that deflate throughout the session/day to be blown up and monitored for any punctures. Any faulty equipment found is to be removed from use immediately, logged and reported. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Unauthorised Use/Access | All | Incorrect supervision/ use of equipment resulting in injury. | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zorbing activity should not be left unattended. If it needs to be left unattended then it must be turned off and the Zorb balls to be secure Zorb ball to only be used in the track area. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Manual Handling | All | Manual handling related injuries | 4 | 4 | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to manoeuvre the equipment with correct manual handling techniques. A minimum of two staff members to set up the activity due to heavy lifting. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Adverse Weather | All | See 'Exposure' | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the first sign of thunder and lightning continue until the flash to bang is no less than 30 secs, at which point the activity stops immediately. The activity may continue 30 minutes after thunder is last heard. If there are high winds, then the activity will stop and evacuate the Zorb balls. This decision will be made by the Activities Co-Ordinator, or the combination of both the Duty Manager and Lead Instructor/s. During heavy wet weather the Activities Co-Ordinator or a combination of the Lead Instructors and Duty Manager to decide whether the activity can go ahead. Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Zorb Cleanliness | Participants | Participants unable to see, dirt could damage equipment/cover up problems | 3 | 2 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zorbs regularly cleaned when required. Zorbs checked prior to use to ensure cleanliness. | 1 | 2 | 2 |

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| Level | Likelihood Factor | Severity Description |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Very Unlikely | Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required. |
| 2 | Unlikely | Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising. |
| 3 | Fairly Likely | Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work. |
| 4 | Likely | Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc. |
| 5 | Very Likely | Catastrophic – Amputations or Death. |

| Remaining Risk Level | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| 1-5 | Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate |
| 5-10 | Low, control measures satisfactory |
| 10-15 | Medium, control measures adequate |
| 15-20 | High, control measures need further consideration |
| 20-25 | Very high, intolerable, stop Job |