INFLATABLE AMUSEMENTS (BOUNCEY HOUSES)

Districts and booster clubs often ask if there are any problems with including inflatables in an event.

Inflatables are considered Class B Amusement Rides and as such are subject to strict regulation by the State of Texas. To be legal a vendor must: 1) be fully insured with required liability limits of at least $1,000,000 bodily injury and $500,000 property damage, 2) have an annual inspection for the TDI Texas Amusement Ride Compliance sticker by the owner's/vendor's insurance company. The sticker indicates that the ride has met the standards required by the manufacturer, insurer, and/or the American Society for Testing and Materials. Stickers should be displayed on the inflatable.

Five tips when renting an inflatable such as a bounce house, slide, or moonwalk (State Bar of Texas):

***Vendors*:** Check the TDI website and rent your inflatable *only* from a reputable vendor who can provide you with a current Amusement Ride Compliance Sticker showing insurance and annual inspection and make sure that the sticker is current, and the vend/serial number matches the inflatable vend/serial number that you are renting;

***Equipment*:** Rent inflatables that are suitable for the age group participants;

***Supervision*:** Don't use the inflatable as a babysitter. Constant and reliable supervision is paramount in maintaining a safe event;

***Weather*:** Have a plan B for inclement weather. Check the warning label on the inflatables for information on high winds and what is or is not sustainable for use of the inflatable you are renting. Using the inflatable in thunderstorms and rain, regardless of size, is generally unacceptable; and

***Safety Rules*:** Ask the vendor from whom you are renting the inflatable what specific safety rules apply to the particular inflatable you are leasing and review any warning label or manufacturer instructions.

<u>To Due List</u>

- ❑ Obtain Certificate of Liability Insurance as required of any vendor or contractor
  - o Include General Liability, Automobile Liability and Worker's Compensation
  - o Policy Effective and Expiration dates to include date of event
  - o Limits of at least $1,500,000 ($1,000,000 Bodily Injury & $500,000 Property Damage)
  - o Description of Operations – "All Operations including Inflatables"
  - o District named as Certificate Holder
  - o Delivered to District directly from insurance agent or insurance company
- ❑ Do not sign any waivers
- ❑ Verify Criminal History Background checks
- ❑ Confirm that inspection sticker is affixed to inflatable (see Vendors above)
- ❑ Are there any Covid concerns?

Based on injury statistics, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends the following for equipment setup and use: *Reprinted from the TASB RMF February 23, 2023, article entitled "Before you Bounce"*.

- Inspect equipment prior to use, and make sure a trained operators manages equipment
- Ensure a clear perimeter of eight feet on all sides, and avoid power lines and other overhead hazards

- Inspect generators to ensure proper inflation—suffocation is a risk with deflation

- Separate students by age and/or height—injuries are worse for children of different sizes

- Ban stunts like flips or somersaults, as these activities more commonly result in spinal trauma injuries

- Provide adult supervision at all times