



KidzQuest Extreme Weather Policy (Including Outdoor Equipment Use)

1. Policy Overview

KidzQuest Activity Camps are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children, staff, and visitors during all weather conditions. This policy outlines the procedures KidzQuest will follow to manage activities during extreme weather and includes specific guidelines for the safe use of outdoor equipment, such as bouncy castles, climbing frames, and other inflatable play structures.

2. Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Protect the health and safety of all individuals at KidzQuest during extreme weather conditions.
- Provide clear guidelines for the safe use of outdoor equipment, including inflatables and play structures.
- Minimise disruptions to camp activities while prioritising safety.
- Communicate effectively with staff, children, and parents/guardians about any changes to activities due to weather.

3. Types of Extreme Weather Covered

This policy applies to the following extreme weather conditions:

- **Heatwaves and High Temperatures**
- **Cold Weather and Freezing Conditions**
- **Thunderstorms and Lightning**
- **Heavy Rain, Flooding, and Strong Winds**
- **Snow and Ice**

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Camp Directors (Steven French and Laura French)

- Monitor weather forecasts and alerts from reliable sources (e.g., the Met Office).
- Make decisions about adjustments, cancellations, or closures of outdoor activities and equipment use.
- Communicate any changes to staff and parents/guardians promptly.

4.2. Instructors and Coaches

- Follow guidance provided by the Camp Directors regarding the use of outdoor equipment and adjustments to activities.
- Inspect outdoor equipment before use and monitor weather conditions throughout the day.
- Ensure children are supervised while using equipment and remove them if weather conditions become unsafe.



4.3. Parents/Guardians

- Ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather and provide necessary items (e.g., sun hats, sunscreen, waterproof jackets, warm clothing).
- Keep emergency contact information up to date in case of weather-related changes or emergencies.

5. Procedures for Extreme Weather and Outdoor Equipment Use

5.1. Heatwaves and High Temperatures

- During periods of high temperatures, outdoor equipment such as bouncy castles and inflatables will be inspected regularly to ensure they are not overheating.
- Inflatable structures will be placed in shaded areas to reduce heat exposure. If shade is unavailable, equipment use may be suspended during peak heat hours (11 AM to 3 PM).
- Children will be encouraged to take regular breaks, stay hydrated, and play in shaded areas. Staff will monitor for signs of heat exhaustion or dehydration.

5.2. Cold Weather and Freezing Conditions

- In freezing conditions, all outdoor equipment, including climbing frames and inflatables, will be inspected for ice or frost, which could create slip hazards.
- If equipment surfaces are deemed unsafe, they will be closed off until conditions improve.
- Parents/guardians will be advised to provide warm clothing, and children will be encouraged to take breaks indoors to warm up.

5.3. Thunderstorms and Lightning

- All outdoor equipment, including bouncy castles, will be deflated and removed if thunderstorms or lightning are forecast.
- Children and staff will be moved indoors immediately to a safe, enclosed area until the storm has passed.
- Activities will resume only when the threat of lightning has subsided, as advised by the Camp Directors.

5.4. Heavy Rain, Flooding, and Strong Winds

- During heavy rain or strong winds, outdoor inflatables and other play structures will not be used due to the increased risk of accidents, including slips, trips, and equipment instability.
- All inflatable equipment will be deflated and secured to prevent damage or accidents caused by strong winds.
- Staff will inspect playground areas and play equipment for hazards, such as slippery surfaces or fallen debris, before allowing children to play outside.

5.5. Snow and Ice

- In the event of snow or ice, outdoor equipment will be inspected for safety. Any icy surfaces on climbing frames or inflatables will be treated, or the equipment will be closed off.
- If snow or ice makes the camp location unsafe, the Camp Directors may decide to delay the start of camp, cancel outdoor activities, or close the camp for the day.



- Parents/guardians will be notified of any changes to the camp schedule as early as possible.

6. Safe Use of Outdoor Equipment

- All outdoor equipment, including bouncy castles and climbing frames, must be set up by trained staff following manufacturer guidelines.
- Equipment will be inspected daily before use to check for any damage, wear, or weather-related issues.
- Inflatables will be securely anchored, and their use will be closely supervised by staff at all times. A clear set of safety rules (e.g., no shoes, no flips, no rough play) will be communicated to children before they use the equipment.
- The maximum capacity of each inflatable will be adhered to, and children will be grouped by age or size if necessary to ensure safe play.

7. First Aid and Medical Precautions

- Qualified First Aiders will be present at all times during camp operations to respond to any weather-related or equipment-related injuries.
- Staff will be trained to recognise symptoms of heat exhaustion, hypothermia, and other weather-related conditions, as well as common injuries from play equipment (e.g., sprains, falls).
- Any incidents will be recorded in the Incident and Accident Log, and parents/guardians will be informed of any medical issues involving their child.

8. Communication with Parents/Guardians

- KidzQuest will notify parents/guardians of any significant changes to the schedule or activities due to extreme weather or equipment safety concerns.
- Notifications will be sent via email, phone, and KidzQuest's official social media channels.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to provide feedback on weather-related issues or concerns to help improve safety measures.

9. Risk Assessments

- Risk assessments will be conducted for all outdoor activities, including the use of inflatables and play equipment, taking into account current weather conditions.
- The Camp Directors will review and update risk assessments regularly, particularly during periods of extreme weather.

10. Policy Review



This Extreme Weather Policy, including the guidelines for outdoor equipment use, will be reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect changes in weather patterns, camp operations, or best practices. Feedback from staff and parents/guardians will be considered during the review process to ensure the policy remains effective and comprehensive.