

Hole in the Wall Safety Guide

When planning for the safe running of this game, you may want to consider the following as part of your Risk Assessment:

Minimum Safety Rules:

- Site Check done before the game to remove hazards/debris. Ensure that the play area is free of any obstacles/equipment/poles/chairs that can cause injury if a player were to fall into it.
- Youth Leaders will be supervising the game players and audience.
- New players have rules explained to them before play.
- Ensure players are aware of what they need to do to safely navigate the area. Eg: ensure players wear PPE such as helmets/padding, point out to players that only the wall is made of cardboard but the frame is made of timber, ensure shoes are worn, ensure adequate lighting and ventilation.
- Ensure that where the players land – both if they successfully jump through the wall AND/OR if they are unsuccessful and are pushed over by the wall – is an adequately cushioned safe landing space. Ensure the matting/cushioning is adequate to prevent head injury and injury to other parts of the body. Ensure the matting is held securely together so that players don't fall through gaps. If using matting which is elevated, such as high jump mats, be aware that players may fall off the mats onto a lower level – the lower level may need landing mats too.
- First Aid is available.

Remember, the best way to document your plans for safety is to prepare a Risk Assessment. Investigate how best to write these by searching the web for guides applicable to your State or region. A useful web search is “workplace health and safety risk assessments [name of your State or region]”.

As a starting point, you can use the above to help you in preparing your Risk Assessment but this is a starting point only. You must also consider the legislation/policy of your State and organisation. And don't forget you also need to assess the hazards in your variation of the game, the venue you will be using, other environmental factors, and your knowledge of the numbers and abilities of young people participating in your game...and watching it enthusiastically!!

If you're looking for a simple online tool to document and store your Risk Assessments, then check out www.riskezi.com. This cloud based tool is fully customisable to your Church or Group.