



# Mascot Risk Assessment

## Public Events

Activity: Mascot appearances at public events for businesses and the public.

Location: Varies depending on event (parks, streets, shopping centres, private venues, etc.).

Date: Ongoing

Assessment Conducted By: Matt Morton

### 1. Hazard: Heat Stress / Overheating

- Risk: Prolonged wearing of mascot costume in warm or poorly ventilated environments can lead to heat stress or dehydration.
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers.
- Control Measures:
  - Ensure mascot performers take regular breaks (minimum every 30 minutes, depending on temperature).
  - Provide a shaded or cool rest area near the performance location.
  - Ensure plenty of water and hydration is available for mascot performers.
  - Rotate mascot performers if the event lasts longer than 2 hours.
  - Monitor performers for signs of overheating or dehydration (e.g. excessive sweating, dizziness).
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)

### 2. Hazard: Visibility and Restricted Movement

- Risk: Limited vision and restricted movement in the costume could lead to trips, falls, or collisions with members of the public.
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers and the public.
- Control Measures:
  - Mascot to be accompanied by an assistant or handler at all times.
  - Performers to familiarise themselves with the environment prior to starting.
  - Clear walkways or paths in the performance area to minimise hazards.
  - Brief mascots on the layout of the event space and potential trip hazards.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)



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### 3. Hazard: Interaction with the Public (Children and Adults)

- Risk: Physical contact with the public could lead to unintended injuries (e.g., stepping on toes, accidental bumps), or behavioural incidents (e.g., rowdy behaviour from event attendees).
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers, the public (especially children).
- Control Measures:
  - Mascots should maintain a safe distance and avoid excessive physical interaction.
  - Ensure that mascots are accompanied by a handler who can manage crowd interactions.
  - Clear signage advising against pulling/tugging on the mascot costumes.
  - Set clear boundaries (e.g., designated interaction areas) to prevent crowding.
  - Pre-event briefings for mascots on managing potential incidents.
- Residual Risk Rating: Medium (with controls)

### 4. Hazard: Slips, Trips, and Falls

- Risk: Uneven surfaces, cables, or wet floors can pose a risk of slips or trips for mascot performers with limited visibility.
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers and the public.
- Control Measures:
  - Event organiser to provide a clear and hazard-free area for performances.
  - Performers to wear appropriate non-slip footwear inside the mascot costume.
  - Walkways and performance areas to be inspected prior to the mascot appearance.
  - Wet floor signs and cable covers to be used where necessary.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)

### 5. Hazard: Manual Handling (Costume and Equipment)

- Risk: Lifting and carrying heavy or awkward mascot costumes and equipment could lead to musculoskeletal injuries.
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers and assistants.
- Control Measures:
  - Provide training on manual handling techniques.
  - Mascot costumes to be transported in sections where possible to reduce weight and complexity.
  - Use trolleys or carts for moving large/heavy items.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)



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### 6. Hazard: Exposure to Unfavourable Weather Conditions

- Risk: Mascots attending outdoor events may face adverse weather (e.g., rain, strong winds), leading to discomfort or performance challenges.
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers.
- Control Measures:
  - Plan for weather conditions and have indoor backup options where possible.
  - Use waterproof coverings or provide ponchos for mascots in case of rain.
  - Avoid performances in high wind conditions where stability of performers is affected.
  - Performers to wear thermal layers under costumes in cold conditions.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)

### 7. Hazard: Travel to and from the Event

- Risk: Mascot performers and equipment could face risks during transport (e.g., road accidents, vehicle breakdown).
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers and event assistants.
- Control Measures:
  - Ensure vehicles used for travel are roadworthy and comply with legal requirements.
  - Provide performers with safe transportation to and from the event.
  - Have breakdown cover in place for long journeys.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)

### 8. Hazard: Behavioural Issues or Aggression from Public Attendees

- Risk: Public attendees may display inappropriate behaviour towards mascots (e.g., pulling on costumes, aggression, etc.).
- Who is at Risk: Mascot performers.
- Control Measures:
  - Ensure mascot is accompanied by an assistant who can intervene if behaviour becomes inappropriate.
  - Brief mascots and staff on how to deal with difficult situations and de-escalation tactics.
  - Report incidents to event security if needed.
- Residual Risk Rating: Medium (with controls)



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### 9. Hazard: Staff Without Enhanced DBS Checks

- Risk: Use of staff without enhanced DBS checks at public events could present safeguarding risks, especially when interacting with children or vulnerable individuals.
- Who is at Risk: Event attendees, particularly children and vulnerable adults.
- Control Measures:
  - The majority of staff at Blue Duo Events hold enhanced DBS checks.
  - Any staff member without an enhanced DBS check will always be accompanied by a staff member who holds one.
  - Non-DBS-checked staff will never be left alone or unsupervised during the event.
  - Only trusted individuals personally known to the business will be used in such roles.
  - Full compliance with safeguarding protocols will be ensured by staff during events.
- Residual Risk Rating: Low (with controls)



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