

2014 BALL Inflation and Maintenance Guide



Inflation

The 2014 BALL requires some care in assembly and inflation. Each BALL consists of two parts: a bladder and a cover. The cover is shipped inside-out, but don't hurry to correct this just yet.

1. Unfold both parts and lay them on a flat surface – a table or the ground. The fill-spout of the bladder contains a small plastic stopper. Using a fingernail or dull prying tool, remove the stopper, and put it aside safely. **DO NOT LOSE IT!** The stopper is shown here, partly removed from a bladder.



2. Unfold the cover, and locate the zipper. Pull the cover through the zipper until it is completely right-side-out, as shown.



3. Insert the bladder into cover, through the zipper hole. Be careful to keep the fill-spout located so that it will be accessible through the zipper. It may take some fussing to properly insert the bladder into the cover, but be careful not to tear the bladder, zipper or any portion of the cover by exerting excessive force on them.



4. You can now shift the bladder and cover as necessary to center the fill-spout in the zipper opening – shown to the right. It may be helpful to pick up the cover and bladder, and shake downward to encourage the bladder to spread out inside the cover.



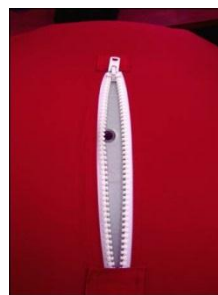
5. Insert the nozzle of your inflator/compressor, and begin to inflate the BALL. As the BALL enlarges, stop occasionally to ensure that the fill-spout continues to be well centered in the zipper opening.



6. Inflate the BALL so that the zipper appears as in the “Properly Inflated” figure below. The BALL on the left is under-inflated, while the BALL on the right is over-inflated. When properly inflated, the zipper will be able to be pulled and closed, not too hard, not too easy.



Under-Inflated



Properly Inflated



Over-Inflated

7. Another good way to ensure the BALL is properly inflated is to examine the seams on the outside of the ball. If they appear wrinkled and loose, the BALL is under-inflated. If they appear taut, but not overstressed, it is properly inflated. If the seams look stretched and overstressed, and if the BALL feels quite hard to the touch, it is over-inflated.



Under-Inflated



Properly Inflated



Over-Inflated

8. Once the BALL is properly inflated, insert the stopper all the way, and pull the zipper slider closed. If the zipper seems really hard to pull, let some of the air out.
9. It is important to insert the “tongue” of the slider as shown, to allow it to be opened more easily in the future.



Maintenance

The first time you inflate the BALL, the nylon cover begins to slowly stretch out to its non-wrinkled condition. The BALL may slightly increase in size as the nylon fabric relaxes with time, but the apparent hardness of the BALL will decrease.

If this happens, unzip the cover, pull out the stopper, and add some air. Ensure that you have not over or under inflated the BALL, using the steps described above. Then insert the stopper, and close the zipper.

The temperature of the surroundings can also affect the BALL. For example, if you inflate in a cold area, and then put the BALL in a heated room, it will get harder as the air expands. The inverse is also true. In short, keep an eye on the BALL, and be prepared to adjust the inflation level as required.