

**Worcester Canoe Club - Reviewed April 2025 – Next Review April 2026**  
**Paddlers with visual impairment (VI).**

Paddlers with visual impairment (VI).		Assessors: D Pedlar	Risk Assessment		
Hazard & Likely Outcome	Persons Affected (member, public, contractor)	Description of Control Measures (note: ERICPD!)	P	S	Risk Rating
Capsize – risk of drowning	Members	<p>Start of in a k2 boat with an experienced paddler or coach, ideally a sit-on-top at first, before progressing into a k2 kayak.</p> <p>Discuss what happens if they fall in – will they panic, or are they used to it?</p> <p>Gradually increase the distance paddled from the club to get to know the river and ensure it is fairly easy to get out in the event of a capsize.</p> <p>If they fall in with a coach, i.e in a k2, <u>both</u> need to communicate to say they are okay and then agree on which way to swim to the side.</p> <p>Practice capsize drills in warm controlled conditions</p>	2	3	MED
Around the Club – risk of tripping/falling/walking into things	Members	<p>Initially meet outside the club for new members, so they can be guided around.</p> <p>Ask the VI person if they need help walking inside the club.</p> <p>Always ask before you touch anyone – this applies to both the seeing and the VI person.</p> <p>Seeing person to say if there are steps, hold their arm out and listen to instructions from the VI person</p>	2	2	LOW

		The only time you would physically grab the VI person is if they are in danger – ideally tell them first – i.e. ‘duck’ / ‘Watch out!’			
Guide Dog.	Members	Dog left unattended and tied in a corner of the Alice Lounge.  All members - Don’t pet the dog. Email members so they know this.	1	1	LOW
Reduced visibility in low or very bright light levels.	Members	Seeing people be aware that this may affect the sight of VI people and they may struggle to see things they could previously.	2	2	LOW
K1 paddling – risk of collision/capsize	Members	This part of the risk assessment will be updated with consultation of the coach and paddler when this stage is reached.	-	-	-
Wheelchair, trip hazard	Members	Leave wheelchairs in the gym area so it’s not in the way of people carrying boats in and out of the boat house.	2	2	LOW
Fire in club house	Members	Make sure they know where the fire exits are and how to unlock any doors	2	3	MED

**Notes on Use:**

1. Identify all significant or potentially significant hazards associated with an item or activity
2. Apply hierarchy of control ERICPD (Eliminate, Replace, Isolate, Control, PPE, Discipline)
3. Assign probability (P) of harm occurring (1 to 4)
4. Assign likely severity (S) of harm (1 to 4)
5. Identify risk rating from the matrix
6. Identify any **significant** information that needs to be passed on and recorded.

P \ S	Negligible 1	Minor 2	Major / Severe 3	Extreme 4
<b>1. Improbable</b>			LOW	MEDIUM
<b>2. Remote</b>			LOW	MEDIUM
<b>3. Possible</b>		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
<b>4. Probable</b>		MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH

