Uniform Regulations

1024.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The uniform policy of the Olympia Police Department is established to ensure that uniformed members will be readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of Department uniforms. Members should also refer to the following associated policies:

- Department-Owned and Personal Property
- Body Armor
- Personal Appearance/Grooming Standards

The Uniform Reference Catalog is maintained and periodically updated by the Chief of Police or their designee. That catalog should be consulted regarding uniform specifications.

The Olympia Police Department will provide uniforms for all members required to wear them in the manner, quantity, and frequency agreed upon in the respective collective bargaining agreements.

1024.2 WEARING AND CONDITION OF UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Police members wear the uniform to be identified as the law enforcement authority in society. The uniform also serves an equally important purpose to identify the wearer as a source of assistance in an emergency, crisis, or other times of need.

(a) Uniform and equipment shall be maintained in a serviceable condition and shall always be ready for immediate use. Uniforms shall be neat, clean, and appropriately maintained for the working environment.

(b) All uniformed members shall possess and always maintain a serviceable uniform and the necessary equipment to perform uniformed duty.

(c) Members shall wear only the uniform specified for their rank and assignment.

(d) The uniform is to be worn in compliance with the specifications set forth in the Department's Uniform Reference Catalog that is maintained separately from this policy.

(e) All supervisors will perform periodic inspections to ensure conformance to these regulations.

(f) Non-commissioned attire shall not be worn in combination with any distinguishable part of the uniform unless it is appropriate for the assignment and approved by a supervisor.

(g) Uniforms are only to be worn while on-duty, while in transit to or from work, for court, or at other official Department functions or events unless otherwise authorized by a supervisor.

(h) If the uniform is worn while in transit in a non-Department vehicle, attempts should be made to conceal the uniform shirt so as not to bring attention to the member while they are off duty.

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(i) Members are not to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages while wearing any part of the Department uniform with identifiable markings unless otherwise approved by the Chief of Police or their designee.

(j) Visible jewelry should follow the criteria outlined in the Department's Personal Appearance and Grooming Standards Policy.

1024.2.1 DEPARTMENT ISSUED IDENTIFICATION

The Department issues each commissioned and limited commission member an official identification card bearing the member's name, identifying information, and photo likeness. All commissioned and limited commission members shall be in possession of their Department-issued identification card at all times while on-duty or when carrying a concealed weapon, if the member does not have a concealed pistol license.

(a) Whenever on duty or acting in an official capacity representing the Department, commissioned and limited commission members shall display their Department-issued identification in a courteous manner to any person upon request and as soon as practical.

(b) Members working specialized assignments may be excused from the possession and display requirements when authorized by the Chief of Police or their designee.

1024.2.2 FACIAL COVERINGS

Facial coverings shall not be worn by officers when performing their duties except under the following circumstances (Laws of 2026, Chapter 115, § 1):

(a) An officer is serving as an undercover operative during an active undercover operation.

(b) Protective gear is necessary to protect an officer's face from harm while performing special weapons and tactics team responsibilities.

(c) The use of personal protective equipment by an officer is required or authorized under state or federal law.

1024.3 UNIFORM CLASSES

1024.3.1 CLASS A UNIFORM

The Class A uniform will be worn on special occasions such as funerals, graduations, ceremonies, and courts as directed. It is required for all commissioned and limited commissioned members and is outlined in the Uniform Reference Catalog.

1024.3.2 CLASS B UNIFORM

All commissioned and limited commissioned members may possess and maintain a serviceable Class B uniform. The Class B uniform is outlined in the Uniform Reference Catalog.

1024.3.3 CLASS C UNIFORM

All commissioned and limited commissioned members shall possess and maintain a serviceable Class C uniform. The Class C uniform is outlined in the Uniform Reference Catalog.

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1024.3.4 SPECIALIZED UNIT UNIFORMS

The Chief of Police or their designee may authorize special uniforms for commissioned and limited commissioned members to wear in specialized assignments.

1024.3.5 FOUL WEATHER GEAR

The Uniform Reference Catalog lists the authorized uniform jacket and rain gear.

1024.4 INSIGNIA AND PATCHES

The Uniform Reference Catalog outlines the use of insignia and patches. All commissioned Olympia Police Department members shall have their name or badge number visible at all times while wearing Class A, B, and C uniforms.

In special circumstances, the Chief of Police or their designee may authorize alternate methods of identifying members to ensure that all members are reasonably identifiable.

1024.4.1 MOURNING BADGE

Uniformed members should wear a black mourning band across the uniform badge whenever a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. The following mourning periods will be observed:

(a) An officer of this Department - from the time of death until midnight on the 14th day after the death.

(b) An officer from the State of Washington - from the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral.

(c) Funeral attendee - while attending the funeral of an out-of-region fallen officer.

(d) National Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15th) - From 0001 hours to2359 hours.

(e) As directed by the Chief of Police or their designee.

1024.5 NON-COMMISSIONED AND NON-UNIFORMED ATTIRE

Requirements for non-uniformed attire are outlined in the Department's Personal Appearance/ Grooming Standards Policy.

1024.6 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or their designee, Olympia Police Department members may not wear any part of the uniform, be photographed wearing any part of the uniform, utilize a Department badge, patch, or other official insignia, or cause to be posted, published, or displayed, the image of another member, or identify themselves as a member of the Olympia Police Department, to do any of the following:

(a) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any political campaign or initiative.

(b) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any social issue, cause, or religion.

(c) Endorse, support, or oppose, any product, service, company, or other commercial entity.

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(d) Appear in any commercial, social, or non-profit publication, motion picture, film, video, public broadcast or website.

1024.7 OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT - MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT

Any of the items listed in the Uniform Reference Catalog as optional shall be purchased at the member's expense unless otherwise noted in a bargaining agreement.

1024.8 TRAINING ATTIRE

Members attending outside training will adhere to the Department's Professional Appearance/ Grooming Standards policy, or wear clothing specifically required for the type of training being attended.

Members attending in-service training will wear clothing recommended by department instructors for specific types of training. Absent specific clothing needed for in-service training, members may wear long pants, t-shirts or collared shirts, a department uniform (excluding shorts), or utility type of clothing. Non-uniformed members should refer to the requirements for non-uniformed attire as outlined in the Department's Professional Appearance/Grooming Standards policy.

Shorts, sandals, or any garment with offensive words, numerals, letters, symbols, initials, or pictures are not permitted for in-service training (unless specifically authorized by the instructor).

1024.9 UNAUTHORIZED UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

Olympia Police Department members may not wear any uniform item, accessory, or attachment unless specifically authorized by the Chief of Police or their designee.

Olympia Police Department members may not use or carry any safety item, tool, or other piece of equipment unless specifically authorized in the Uniform Reference Catalog or by the Chief of Police or their designee.

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