1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding Department-approved impact weapons in accordance with Operations Order 1.5.00 - Use of Force and Operations Order 1.5.01 - Force Response Options.

2. **DEPARTMENT-APPROVED IMPACT WEAPON**

A. Expandable Baton

(1) Expandable batons must be between 16-21 inches in length and weigh between 7-12 ounces.

NOTE: Side-handle, straight batons, "saps" are prohibited for use or carry by officers

NOTE: Flashlights are not designed as impact weapons; however, a flashlight may be used as an impact weapon if a baton is not readily available.

3. **AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL**

A. Officers may carry an impact weapon at their discretion unless specifically required otherwise.

B. The impact weapon will meet the specifications listed in Operations Order 3.15.03, Uniform Policy-Body Armor and Gun Belts.

C. Officers who elect to carry an impact weapon must satisfactorily complete the appropriate course taught by a Department impact weapons instructor.

D. Officers carrying an impact weapon will successfully demonstrate proficiency in its use annually.

E. Officers' department training records will reflect they have elected to carry an impact weapon, and the date basic and proficiency training was completed.

4. **TARGET AREAS**

A. Employees will attempt to strike large muscle groups associated with primary nerve groupings where there is minimal risk of serious physical injury. These include areas associated with the common peroneal, femoral, radial, median, and tibial nerves (Limbs).

B. Secondary target areas – the joints above and below the large muscle groups and the lower abdomen may be considered when the primary target areas are ineffective.

NOTE: Secondary target areas may get struck, based on the nature and dynamics of a violent confrontation, as the officer was attempting to strike the primary striking points or large muscle groups.

C. Employees will not purposely strike or jab suspects with an impact weapon or fixed object on the head, neck (front or back), sternum, collarbone, spine, kidneys, groin, or tailbone as these points are highly likely of serious physical injury and/or death. These points should only be considered if faced with a deadly force situation.

NOTE: Use of a firearm or less-lethal launcher as an Improvised Impact Weapon is prohibited unless Deadly Force is justified or used as an appropriate technique for the purposes of system retention.

EXCEPTION: TSB personnel's use of approved techniques as outlined in the TSB Manual.

5. **REPORTING PROCEDURES**

(1) For reporting requirements see Operations Order 1.5.02 - UOF Reporting & Administrative Review.

Last Organizational Review: