



Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



Interim Policy – BolaWrap

Effective Date: 05/03/2023

This interim policy applies to officers who have volunteered to participate in the Seattle Police Department (SPD) BolaWrap Pilot Program.

1. The Education and Training Section (ETS) Manages the BolaWrap Program

ETS issues the BolaWrap equipment and maintains the operator's manual and inventory records.

2. ETS Coordinates BolaWrap Training

ETS will train officers involved in the pilot program.

3. Only Officers Trained by ETS May Use the BolaWrap

Officers may only use the BolaWrap in a manner consistent with SPD use-of-force policies and training provided by the department.

Officers will only deploy with BolaWrap devices issued by SPD.

4. Officers Trained and Issued a BolaWrap Will Deploy with It During Their Shift

Officers who no longer wish to carry an issued BolaWrap may withdraw from the pilot program by emailing their chain of command and the BolaWrap coordinator.

The department may remove volunteer officers from participation in the pilot program for failure to deploy with the BolaWrap after being trained and issued the device.

If an officer has any issues or malfunctions with the BolaWrap, the officer will notify their chain of command and the BolaWrap Coordinator.

5. Officers Will Issue Verbal Warnings Before Use, When Safe and Feasible

Officers will issue a verbal warning, if feasible, to the subject, other officers, and other subjects present before using the BolaWrap. The officer

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will allow a reasonable amount of time for the subject to comply with the warning.

Exception: A verbal warning is not required if giving the warning would compromise the safety of the sworn employee or others. In such circumstances, only the officer who used the BolaWrap will include in the use of force statement the reason for believing safety would have been compromised.

When employing a team tactics approach, verbal warnings may come from any officer involved in the incident.

6. Officers Will Consider Alternatives Before Deploying BolaWrap

Officers will consider alternatives prior to deploying the BolaWrap and will avoid using the BolaWrap during the following situations, unless the subject is an imminent threat to themselves or others:

- When the subject is running
- When the subject is in an elevated position where a fall is likely to cause substantial bodily harm or death; or
- When the subject is in a location where the subject could drown; or
- When the subject is operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle and the engine is running or is on a bicycle or scooter in-motion.

Officers will continually assess the situation by considering the totality of the circumstances and the most appropriate tactical plan.

7. Officers Will Deploy the BolaWrap Consistent with SPD Training and May Use the BolaWrap in the Following Circumstances:

- Where there is an imminent risk of harm to any person; or
- When public safety interests dictate that a subject needs to be taken into custody, and the level of resistance presented by the subject is:
 - Likely to cause injury to the officer or subject, and
 - If hands-on control tactics or other force options would likely cause greater injury to the subject than the use of the BolaWrap.

8. Officers Will Assess Before Deploying Subsequent BolaWraps on the Same Subject

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If the first application of the BolaWrap device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, officers will consider certain factors before additional applications of the device, including:

- Whether the Kevlar cord and/or anchor's hooks are making proper contact.
- Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
- Whether verbal commands, other options, or other tactics may be more effective.

9. Officers May Use Multiple BolaWrap Devices Simultaneously

Officers may use multiple BolaWrap devices simultaneously on a subject. In this instance, both BolaWraps will target the same location on the subject, the lower arms (High) or the legs (Low).

Officers will not target one high and one low against the same subject on a simultaneous deployment.

Exception: If the first BolaWrap attempt has failed, officers may reevaluate and target the opposite zone that was originally targeted, whether deploying alone or simultaneous with another officer.

10. The Preferred Target Areas for the BolaWrap are Between the Elbows and the Wrists and Between the Upper Thighs and the Ankles

If a BolaWrap embeds in a subject's head, neck, genitals, or if the cord wraps around a subject's head or neck, a FIT screening is required.

11. Officers Remove BolaWrap Cord and Hooks That Do Not Embed in the Skin

Officers may remove the BolaWrap cord and hooks if the hooks are not embedded in the skin.

Fire department personnel or healthcare professionals will remove BolaWrap hooks that are embedded in the skin, absent exigent circumstances.

12. Officers Report the Use of the BolaWrap as Force

Officers will report the use of the BolaWrap as Type I use of force per manual section [8.400 – Use of Force Reporting and Investigation](#), unless the deployment results in injury meeting the threshold for a Type II or a Type III use of force.

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Officers will submit the expended cartridge and Kevlar cord with anchors into evidence, if feasible. Anchor barbs that penetrated the skin are biohazard evidence.

13. Officers Notify Sergeants for Unintentional Discharge of a BolaWrap

Officers will notify their sergeant when there is an unintentional BolaWrap discharge. The sergeant will respond to the scene if the unintentional discharge contacts an individual.

PRO-1 BolaWrap Unintentional Discharge Notification and Reporting

Officer

1. **Notifies** their sergeant.

Sergeant

2. **Responds** to the scene/location of the unintentional discharge (if contact made with an individual). If no contact was made with an individual, the sergeant does not need to respond to the scene.
3. **Screens** the incident with the involved employee.
4. **Conducts** an initial investigation.
5. **Writes** an "Unintentional Discharge of Less Lethal" report in BlueTeam.
 - **Documents** the involved officer as a "BolaWrap Volunteer" and does not name the officer in the unintentional discharge reports.
6. **Routes** the report to the Bola Wrap Coordinator.

BolaWrap Coordinator

7. **Reviews** the incident with the Training Lieutenant.

Training Lieutenant

8. **Contacts** the involved employee's chain of command and **coordinates** if there are any training deficiencies.