



USE OF LESS LETHAL IMPACT WEAPONS (BATON)		
new: ✓ rescinds: 20.6 & 20.6(3) ✓ amends:		cross-reference: accreditation standards: NYSLEAP Standard(s): 14.1, 20.1, 20.6, 21.2 & 32.4
effective date: November 1, 2017	amend date: July, 2024	

This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

I. PURPOSE

To establish parameters for the type of less lethal impact weapons to be used by members of this office and to insure that members of this office are properly trained in the use thereof. In addition, this order defines the policies governing the issuance, storage, use, and the usage of less lethal impact weapons.

II. DEFINITIONS

Expandable Baton: An extendable, lockable, telescopic baton comprised of various metal alloys.

Improvised Impact Weapon: Is a device or object that is not an office approved weapon, but is nonetheless used as an impact weapon (i.e. flashlight, radio, or stick, etc.). Such weapons may be unpredictable, ineffective, or exert unexpectedly high levels of damage. Consequently, members shall use improvised impact weapons only in rare, emergency conditions where members lack an authorized baton or other approved less-lethal alternatives.

See G.O. 900 Use of Force – General

III. POLICY

The main responsibility of Sheriff's Office members is to protect the life and property of civilians. In compliance with applicable law, officers shall use only the amount of force necessary and reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and to control a situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm. When force is necessary, the degree of force employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance exerted, or the immediate threat to the officers or other.

IV. **PROCEDURES**

Less Lethal Impact Weapons

- A. The only authorized less lethal impact weapon is the Monadnock expandable baton ranging from 21” to 26” inches.
- B. Unauthorized modifications or alterations of the office-issued expandable baton are prohibited.
- C. Members shall only be issued an expandable baton to complete the necessary training course in the basic police academy.
- D. Members shall only be permitted to carry or use the issued expandable baton during the designated training course portion of the basic police academy.
- E. Upon the completion of the training course, members shall immediately turn in the issued expandable baton to the Administrative Sergeant to be stored in the logistics closet.
- F. The Office does not authorize the use of an expandable baton while on duty. No member shall possess or use any expandable baton while on duty.

V. **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. After each use, officers shall examine the expandable baton for damage. If the baton is damaged, it shall be turned in to the Administrative Sergeant for replacement.
- B. If the expandable baton becomes wet or dirty, it needs to be wiped down to clean it and remove moisture. Officers shall not disassemble or apply oil to the expandable baton.
- C. The Administrative Sergeant shall maintain a record of the issue of each expandable baton.

By Order Of



Derek Osborne
Sheriff