

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: Bola Wrap

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I. Purpose

To provide guidelines for the issue, training and use of the Bola Wrap by police personnel.

II. Statement of Policy

It shall be the policy of the Covington Police Department to allow officers, who have successfully completed a certified course in the use of the Bola Wrap to use such device while in the course of their official duties

III. Bola Wrap

A. Authorized Users: The Bola Wrap will be used only by sworn department personnel who have successfully completed a certification course approved by this Department.

IV. Weapon Readiness

A. The device may be carried in an approved holster on the support side of the body or supervisor approved location. Officers may also choose to carry the device in the patrol vehicle instead of on their person.

B. The device shall be carried fully loaded with the safety on in preparation for immediate use when authorized.

C. Officers authorized to use the device shall be issued a minimum of one cartridge that will remain loaded into the device. Officers will have the option of being issued a spare cartridge as a backup, in case of cartridge failure, the need for redeployment. If a spare cartridge is issued, it shall be stored and carried in a manner consistent with training.

D. Officers who assigned the Bola Wrap are responsible for a pre-shift safety and function check.

V. Deployment

- A. The Bola Wrap device is classified as a firearm and all safety rules apply.
- B. Because the Bola Wrap uses a .380 cartridge to deploy the string full discussion among officers will occur prior to deployment. Additionally, a loud and clear verbal warning of "Wrap Wrap Wrap" will be given prior to deployment.
- C. The device should not be used at a range closer than 10 feet. A range less than 10 feet does not allow the Wrap to fully deploy and doing so can cause the pellet to detach or strike the target directly possibly causing serious injury or death!
- D. The primary target area is the legs and mid waist area (to secure the arms).
- E. The device should not be aimed above the chest. Officers will use all necessary precautions to avoid striking the neck, head, or face.
- F. The Bola Wrap should not be used if there is danger of a fall, ie; if there is a possibility of subject fall from an above ground level object, ie; a cliff or roof top.
- G. The Bola Wrap should not be used in crowded situations, ie; if there is possibility of the pellet hitting bystanders.
- H. The Bola Wrap should not be aimed above an individual's biceps. Hitting the face or neck can cause severe injury or death.
- I. Always make sure the Bola Wrap is level when you fire. Holding the device in a vertical configuration can cause the pellets to strike the subject, causing possible injury or death.
- J. The officers of this department have an affirmative duty to intervene if they witness a use of force that is clearly unreasonable. The officer, if he/she observes another officer exceeding the use of force, permitted by law, shall intervene to prevent the use of unreasonable force and if necessary, separate the person being arrested from the arresting officer. The Intervening officer shall promptly report these observation(s) and his/her actions to the supervisor.

VI. Aftercare: Following the use of the Bola Wrap, the following procedures will apply:

- A. The Bola Wrap probes shall be removed from the subject, after being restrained, following the procedures outlined in training. The following areas of the body are considered sensitive: groin, face, neck, female breasts, or the male nipple. Any probes imbedded in these areas will be removed by hospital personnel.
- B. Officers have an affirmative duty to care for persons in their custody. Officers and supervisors are responsible for providing or obtaining appropriate medical attention to any person in their custody who is injured or complains of injury. This pertains whether injuries preceded custody, occurred during apprehension, or were sustained during custody, even if the arrested persons are believed to be feigning an injury, officers should still take the complaint serious and ensure medical attention is given.
- C. Additionally, officers have an affirmative duty to provide or obtain medical attention for members of the public who are injured because of police involved actions.

- VII **Evidence Collection:** When the device has been used operationally, the officer will collect the cartridge, string, and probes as evidence, which will be maintained for a period of 2 ½ years.
- VIII **Reporting:** The deploying officer shall notify his/her supervisor as soon as practical after using the device and complete the appropriate Response to Aggression/Resistance Report.
- IX Any weapon that is not operational or unsafe and cannot be immediately repaired will be removed from service.

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton
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Chief of Police