


SOUTH KINGSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
1790 KINGSTOWN RD., WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

POLICY NUMBER	ORDER TYPE	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
410.03	STANDING ORDER	5/29/07	07/13/2020
CHAPTER		TITLE	
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS : USE OF FORCE		POLICE BATON	
REVIEW DATES		REVISION DATES	
10/28/15, 8/13/17, 6/3/19, 07/13/20		8/13/17, 7/22/19, 07/13/20	
DISTRIBUTION	REFERENCE		PAGES
SWORN PERSONNEL	RIPAC 2.12-2.14		2

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines in the use of the baton as a use of less-lethal force.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the South Kingstown Police Department to ensure that its members are successfully trained with the baton in the use of force options.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Authorized Baton and Issuance

1. The department issued ASP brand, twenty-one inch, Electroless expandable baton is the only baton authorized to be carried by members of the South Kingstown Police Department.
2. Department members are authorized to carry the baton after receiving instruction and successful completion of department training requirements.
3. Officers will be issued a baton upon entrance to the RI Municipal Police Academy or upon hire should he or she have already successfully attended the academy.
4. The baton will be reviewed, inspected and approved by a certified baton instructor prior to issuance.
5. The baton will be kept in its holder on the officer's duty belt, in their duty bag or in a secure, non-public location.
6. An officer who feels his or her baton is damaged or inoperable will request a replacement through his or her supervisor.

B. Baton Usage

1. The baton will be used in accordance with SKPD Standing Order 410.01 Lethal & Less Lethal Force.
2. Consideration must be given to minimize the injury to that person.
3. Target selection is based upon the amount of force an officer perceives as reasonably necessary to bring a non-compliant subject under control.
4. Areas of the body which should be avoided when using the baton:
 - Head
 - Neck
 - Spine
 - Sternum
 - Groin
5. Officers may have to rely on the baton to subdue a violently resisting subject. However, officers must realize that blows to the head with the baton could be fatal. Therefore, delivery of blows to the head is prohibited unless they are consistent with SKPD Standing Order 410.01 Lethal & Less Lethal Force.
6. Should techniques be applied to restrain individuals, an officer should avoid any technique that could result in choking the subject, unless loss of life by the officer or a third party is imminent.
7. The police baton should not be used to strike handcuffed individuals.
8. In all cases where use of force results in injury to another person, officers will render first aid and summon the appropriate medical assistance as needed.
9. All uses of force involving the police baton require a Use of Force form to be completed in accordance with SKPD Standing Order 410.01 Lethal & Less Lethal Force.

By Order of:



Joel J. Ewing-Chow
Interim Chief of Police