



Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:
5-300

Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

Use of Force

5-310 Force Option- Batons

(08/23/25)

Revisions to prior policies: (08/17/07) (10/01/10) (09/08/20) (12/22/20) (04/04/21)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that members who carry weapons and force devices, and who use weapons and force devices, including batons, adhere to the force guiding principles described in P&P 5-301. The force guiding principles include, but are not limited to, the Sanctity of Life (as incorporated below), the Duty to De-escalate, and Objectively Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional Force.

MPD and its members shall uphold the sanctity of life (P&P 0-102 and P&P 5-301) by striving to protect and preserve human life in all situations and keep the community and MPD members safe from harm.

II. Policy

A. Impact Weapons as Intermediate Weapons

MPD approved batons are generally considered intermediate weapons, but can result in great bodily harm or death depending on how members use the baton.

B. Civil Disturbances and Assemblies

During civil disturbances and assemblies, batons shall only be used when authorized in accordance with P&P 7-805.

C. Conditions for Use

Batons may only be used on a subject in accordance with the requirements described below. In addition to the conditions in this policy, the use of batons must be objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional, and members shall use the lowest degree of force necessary (P&P 5-301). When using batons members must apply the critical decision-making model (CDM) (P&P 7-801) to continually assess the situation and modulate their use accordingly as the subject behavior changes.

1. Restrictions on baton strikes**a. Imminent harm**

- i. Batons shall only be used to strike a person to protect the member, the subject, or another person from objectively imminent physical harm.
- ii. Batons shall not be used to strike a person who is handcuffed or otherwise restrained unless deadly force is the only other option.
- iii. Members shall consider the ability of vulnerable people to cause physical harm or likelihood of injury and likelihood of injury to the vulnerable person (P&P 5-301).

b. Target areas

- i. The primary target areas for baton strikes are the arms and legs. Alternative target areas include the abdominal area to the waist.
- ii. Members shall not intentionally use a baton to strike a person's head, neck, throat, face, sternum, armpit, spine, kidneys, or groin unless deadly force would be authorized.

c. Separate uses of force

Each baton strike is a separate use of force that members must separately justify as objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional.

D. Treatment and Medical Aid

1. In addition to standard medical treatment after uses of force (in accordance with P&P 5-301 and P&P 7-350), treatment for a person that has been struck with a baton shall include visually inspecting the areas struck for signs of injury, when appropriate.
2. If a person has been struck with a baton, members shall keep the person under close observation until they are released to medical or other law enforcement personnel.

E. Training Required

Members shall only be issued, carry and use batons if they have successfully completed approved annual training on batons, including baton pushes, baton shoves, and baton strikes.

F. Specifications for Duty Batons

1. If a member has not been issued a CEW, they shall carry a duty baton while working in a Class 'C' uniform (P&P 3-114). Duty batons are optional for members carrying a CEW.

2. The duty baton shall comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Authorized Brands- ASP or Monadnock.
 - b. Overall extended length not to exceed 26 inches.
 - c. Black or Chrome finish.

G. Specifications for Riot Sticks

1. Every member working in a uniformed capacity shall keep a riot stick readily available (e.g. in the squad) for response to civil disturbances when needed (P&P 7-805).
2. Members shall only carry the riot stick issued to them by the MPD.
3. The Department-issued riot stick is the:
 - Monadnock Wood Straight 36 inch Baton.

III. Definitions

Baton: A handheld, rigid, stick-like intermediate weapon. Batons are typically made of materials such as wood and metal, and come in various lengths and styles. (See the specifications section in P&P 5-310 for authorized types)

Baton Pushes: A gentle or moderate force, applied with two hands on the baton, to a person who offers minimal or no resistance. A baton push is intended to create space, guide or move someone but is not as forceful as a shove or a strike.

Baton Shoves: A more forceful push applied with two hands on the baton, intended to suddenly displace someone or disrupt their balance. It is more aggressive than a push, but does not involve the deliberate blow of a strike.

Baton Strikes: A deliberate hit or blow intended to cause injury or pain. Baton strikes are more aggressive and are meant to achieve pain compliance or incapacitate the person.

Carry Weapons and Force Devices: Having a weapon or force device on one's person. This includes having it in a pocket, holster, or backpack or similar container, as well as having it slung or having it in hand.

Imminent Threat: A threat is imminent when it can be articulated with specificity, is reasonably likely to occur absent action by the law enforcement officer, and must be addressed through the use of objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force without unreasonable delay. An imminent threat is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear, and no matter how great the likelihood of harm.

Use Weapons and Force Devices: Activating or applying any of a weapon or force device's mechanical functions, pointing a weapon, or making contact with a subject with the weapon or force device. This includes discharging a weapon such as a firearm, chemical aerosol, or impact projectile launcher, deploying a CEW, performing a CEW warning alert, activating a CEW, laser painting a subject, applying handcuffs or restraints, and making bodily contact with a subject with a baton or other impact weapon.