

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

MECHANICAL/IMPACT DEVICES
SUBJECT

DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020

NO: Q-1k

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **Baton, Use of**
Impact Devices, Use of
Mechanical Devices
Flashlights, Use of
SD1

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Stockton Police Department to allow sworn personnel to use impact weapons such as long batons, SD1s (Self Defense 1), RCB expandable batons, and flashlights in the performance of their duties. Officers shall give a verbal warning of the force that they intend to use, when feasible, before using any force.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Only impact weapons authorized by the Chief of Police shall be used by on-duty Department members.
- B. The long baton, RCB, and the SD1 may be used as an impact weapon when an officer is confronted with active resistance and an imminent threat to the safety of the officer or others. Additionally, the SD1 may be used to gain control of a non-combative, passive resistor.
- C. The RCB expandable baton is an authorized optional impact weapon that officers may purchase at their own expense. Any officer choosing to carry the RCB will adhere to the following requirements.

The RCB will be 26" or 29" in length. The retention end cap, as well as the glass break end cap, are authorized options for carrying the RCB.

Officers choosing to carry the RCB will be required to additionally purchase and use a baton holster that will allow for the baton to be secured while in the expanded position. Several options are available with this feature.

Officers desiring to carry the RCB will complete the required training course given by the Defensive Tactics Instructor group, once they have purchased the necessary equipment.

Officers deploying the RCB will not collapse the RCB or attempt to collapse the RCB while inside a house or other building, in order to avoid possible property damage. Officers will only collapse the RCB outside, and away from private property.

- D. Department members should not use the baton or RCB against non-combative persons. The decision to use a baton or RCB against a non-combative person must be justified by the circumstances. One example of such circumstances would be using it as a prod, when necessary, to move persons away from a skirmish line during a volatile crowd-control situation, after other means to arrest/remove the person have been unsuccessful or are not practical. Another example would be using the baton or RCB as a lever to pry a prone, passively-resisting suspect's arms from beneath his or her torso to facilitate handcuffing. In any case, the baton or RCB shall be used in a reasonable manner consistent with the officer's training.
- E. Officers shall avoid striking a person in vital areas (i.e., head, neck, throat, heart, kidney, groin, knees, and spine) unless the use of deadly force is justified.
- F. When the impact weapon causes injury which would reasonably require medical attention, the Department member using this level of force will ensure the injured individual received proper medical treatment.

- G. Department members should avoid striking a person with their flashlights unless confronted by a suddenly-arising threat that requires an immediate intermediate level of force response under circumstances where the use of a flashlight allows the member to make that response.
- H. If a Department member strikes a person with their flashlight, this information shall be included in the appropriate report.
- I. If a Department member uses a flashlight and causes injury which would reasonably require medical attention, the Department member using this level of force will ensure the injured person received proper medical treatment.
- J. Photographs will be taken of alleged or visible injuries.
- K. Department members who use an impact weapon against a person shall immediately, or as soon as possible, notify their supervisor of the incident.