POLICY 914  
Bola Wrap Remote Restraint

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines and procedures governing the Wichita Police Department’s use of the Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device including training, qualification, safety, deployment and reporting standards. This device will be referred to as the “Bola Remote Restraint”.

II. POLICY

The Wichita Police Department recognizes the sanctity of human life and there are situations in which less-lethal devices are an alternative to lethal force, being mindful of the following points:

1. Use only the amount of force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives;

2. Utilize less-lethal weapons, when appropriate, as a means of overcoming resistance to reduce the risk of injury to both officers and subjects;

3. Use lethal force as a last resort when other reasonable means are exhausted or unavailable, due to intense, uncertain or rapidly evolving circumstances, to prevent death or great bodily harm to officers or other persons.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Equipment

Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device by Wrap Technologies

1. The Bola Wrap 100 remote restraint device is a handheld device that discharges an eight foot bola style Kevlar tether at 513 feet per second at the device, 270 feet per second at 10 feet and 143 feet per second at 25 feet.

2. The hand-held device is yellow in color, with a battery powered green laser light sight mounted on the top of the unit.

3. The cartridge is black in color, made of recyclable aluminum, which carries the 8-foot, 380 lb. test, Kevlar tether and weighted anchors, with 4 barbed hooks at the end of the anchors. The cartridge is powered by a .380 partially charged blank. Officers in the area of a Bola Wrap deployment should be aware of the audible similarity to a firearm.
B. **Guidelines For Use of the Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device**

Personnel who use Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device shall be cognizant of the fact improper usage of the device can cause serious physical injury and any application of this force option shall be made with due regard of the Use of Force Policy.

1. When circumstances exist meeting the guidelines for deployment of the Bola Wrap, officers shall request via Dispatch, a Bola Wrap equipped officer to respond to the scene.

2. Dispatch shall make a bureau-wide broadcast for the closest available trained and equipped personnel to respond to the scene.

3. A supervisor shall respond if a deployment occurs.

4. Wichita Police Department personnel are authorized to use Bola Wrap when it is reasonably believed such force is necessary:
   a. To protect themselves or another;
   b. To prevent an arrest from being defeated by resistance;
   c. To prevent an attempt to evade an arrest by flight;
   d. A suicidal person presents an imminent risk of serious physical harm to themselves or others;
   e. A person threatening an officer or other(s) with a sharp-edged instrument, blunt object, any other instrument or substance with the potential to cause serious harm;
   f. Verbal commands have failed to achieve compliance;
   g. Hand techniques and other use of force options such as the ASP baton, Taser, or aerosol weapons are not prudent or have not been effective;
   h. The person is within the safe effective range of the Bola Wrap for accuracy and effectiveness

5. Members shall not subject themselves or others to undue risk while waiting for the arrival of personnel equipped with Bola Wrap. The situation must be continually assessed and other appropriate action must be taken if the risk to self or others demands immediate attention.

6. To protect others from the harm of a misdirected Bola Wrap deployment, personnel shall use the equivalent standard precautions as used with a firearm.

7. A second officer shall be present to provide lethal cover or less lethal cover, as necessary, for the event when deploying Bola Wrap.

8. Personnel may fire Bola Wrap cartridges as necessary. However, after each cartridge deployment, an assessment will be made. In the event the Bola Wrap proves to be ineffective, personnel shall exercise other force options.
9. Personnel deploying a Bola Wrap Cartridge at an individual or suspect shall target areas of the body which reduce the risk of injury and increase the effectiveness of the Bola Wrap. Areas to target include:

   a. The lower arms from the elbow to the wrists and around the abdomen of the subject being targeted.
   b. The legs, from the ankles to the upper thighs, to reduce mobility, staying away from the groin area.

10. The optimal effective range for the deployment of the Bola Wrap is 10-20 feet, with a minimum of 3-4 feet around the suspect, and no obstruction that would defeat the Bola Wrap from being effective.

11. Prior to deploying, the officer shall alert other law enforcement by stating in a loud, audible voice, “less-lethal, less-lethal”. This statement will prepare the officers for the Bola Wrap deployment and help prevent sympathetic weapon discharges.

**C. Prohibited Use**

1. Against a female who the officer knows, or reasonably believes to be pregnant, due to the potential for falling or injury, unless lower injury risk force options have failed or the officer, based on the totality of the circumstances, reasonably believes they will fail and lethal force is not justified.

2. Persons who have a physical condition the officer reasonably perceives would prevent them from physically withstanding a Bola Wrap Deployment;

3. Persons who are on an elevated position (rooftops, stairwells, etc.), in water or other circumstances where a fall may cause drowning, substantial injury or death;

4. Against a person who the officer knows, or reasonably believes, to be under the age of twelve (12) or over the age of seventy (70), due to the potential for falling or injury, unless lower injury risk force options have failed or the officer, based on the totality of the circumstances, reasonably believes they will fail and lethal force is not justified.

5. Targeting above the elbows, which may result in the anchors striking the face or eyes.

6. Deploying Bola Wrap to the head or neck area can cause severe injury and is prohibited unless lethal force is justified. Avoid aiming above the elbows unless the risk of injury to the subject would justify deadly force.

7. Against an operator in physical control of a vehicle in motion, including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, bicycles, and scooters, unless exigent circumstances exist

8. For horseplay or clowning around, or in an unprofessional manner.
9. To experiment on a person or allow a person to experience the Bola Wrap, even if the person requests it, when the devices use would not otherwise be allowed under this policy. This experience does not apply to voluntary training exposures or demonstrations as authorized by the department.

D. **Deployment of Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device**

1. The Training Bureau shall maintain an adequate supply of all Bola Wrap Cartridges utilized by Field Services personnel and provide for its inventory control and issuance.

2. The Training Bureau Commander or their designee shall be responsible for the distribution of Bola Wrap Remote Restraint and cartridges to each of the bureaus.

3. At the start of each tour of duty, each member assigned a Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device shall unload and inspect the device condition, test the device, reload the device and maintain it in a secured approved holster/carrier.

E. **Defective Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device**

1. The Training Bureau shall be responsible for inspecting and inventory of all Bola Wrap Devices issued to departmental members.

2. During inspection, any Bola Wrap Device found to be defective, or not in compliance with the manufacturers specifications, will be removed from inventory and replaced.

3. The Training Bureau is responsible for replacing all Bola Wrap Devices.

F. **Training for Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device**

1. Commissioned personnel authorized to deploy with Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Device shall be required to maintain departmental proficiency standards.

2. Bola Wrap Device proficiency testing shall be held annually.

3. Every member will be allowed two (2) initial attempts to meet departmental proficiency standards.

4. Any member failing to meet departmental Bola Wrap standards shall be scheduled to attend remedial Bola Wrap Device training session, during which time the member will get two additional attempts to meet the departmental Bola Wrap proficiency standard.

5. The required qualification course and proficiency standards shall be developed by the Training Lieutenant or their designee.
G. Use of Force Reporting

1. Members of the Department shall include in their reports an explanation of any use of force. In situations where the officer was defending themselves or another, the report should include the suspect’s ability and opportunity to pose a threat and the jeopardy that was present. In addition, the report should document any injury to the suspect or department member. If an individual is injured during an arrest, a field supervisor shall immediately be notified. Anytime physical contact is made during a use of force incident a photograph of the suspect and the impact area shall be taken.

2. An Electronic use of Force/Restraint Evaluation Form shall be completed utilizing Blue Team for each person force is used upon, and by each member who uses force.

H. Medical Treatment

1. Bola Wrap Remote Restraint Devices are considered a low level of force, but could cause minor injuries to persons with skin exposed, such as puncture wounds from the barbs or bruising from being struck with an anchor.

2. Any member who deploys the Bola Wrap on an individual and they complain of an injury or an injury is apparent, the officer shall have EMS respond.

I. Evidence Procedures

1. Bola Wrap projectiles that have blood and/or body-fluid on them should be treated as if they are contaminated with an infectious disease, as described in Policy 209.

2. Body impact areas except for sensitive areas associated with a Bola Wrap deployment will be photographed along with an overall photograph of the subject.

3. The evidentiary value of a Bola Wrap will be determined by the facts of each individual case. This would include the nature of the crime(s) involved, and the severity of injuries, etc.

J. Removal of the Bola Wrap

1. Removal should not be attempted until the subject is secured and under control.

2. Kevlar tether will be cut free, using departmentally approved medical shears or seatbelt cutter, with a protected cover over the blade. **No knives will be used unless exigent circumstances exist for immediate removal.**

3. Once the Kevlar cord is cut and tension is released, the barbs can be removed from the subject’s skin or clothing. Latex gloves should be worn in case the items are contaminated with human body fluids of any kind.