



East Texas Police Academy Body Armor

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that proper safety precautions regarding the use of body armor at the East Texas Police Academy firing range are established and followed. While there is no substitute for the strict following of established range safety procedures, the use of body armor will help minimize the risk of serious injury to both students and range staff. Additionally, the wearing of police-type body armor during training provides for a more realistic and relevant training environment for students pursuing or working in law enforcement.

For purposes of this policy, “soft body armor” is considered to be any type of pliable, concealable body armor consistent with the type and make worn by law enforcement officers in the course of their daily activities. “Plate carriers” are considered to be any body armor or external carrier containing any reinforced ballistic protection (to include ceramic, steel, or other “hard” plating); or any non-pliable body armor that cannot be worn underneath any standard police-style uniform. “Plate carriers” do not include soft body armor worn in a typical police external vest / uniform carrier.

Policy:

I. Basic Peace Office Course Students:

a. Body armor is mandatory for all BPOC students during any live-fire training. This requirement applies to all students undergoing firearms training, regardless of if they are actively participating in the course of fire or merely observing.

b. Students are encouraged to bring their own soft body armor to all firearms training. In the event that a student’s sponsoring or employing agency does not provide body armor, the East Texas Police Academy will furnish the student with body armor to be worn during training.

c. Unless specifically authorized by the Rangemaster, plate carriers or any other body armor containing hard plates are prohibited for use by BPOC students at all times.

II. ETPA Sponsored In-Service Training Students:

a. Unless specifically authorized, body armor is mandatory during any live fire training. This requirement applies to all students undergoing firearms training, regardless of if they are actively participating in the course of fire or merely observing.

b. Students are encouraged to bring their own body armor. In the event that a student does not furnish their own body armor, the East Texas Police Academy will furnish the student with body armor to be worn during training.

c. The body armor requirement may be modified as needed to accommodate legitimate police training needs with the approval of the Rangemaster, ETPA Director, or ETPA Deputy Director.

III. Range Safety Officers:

a. Unless specifically authorized by the Rangemaster, ETPA Director, or ETPA Deputy Director, all Range Safety Officers, shooting coaches, and any other observers or personnel working in close proximity to live-fire exercises will wear appropriate body armor.

IV. Implementation:

a. It is the responsibility of the on-duty firearms instructor(s) to ensure compliance with this policy.

b. It is the responsibility of the on-duty firearms instructor(s) to ensure that body armor worn by the student is worn properly and does not interfere with range operations to the point of creating any elevated risk of negligent discharges or injury.

c. During firearms training taking place in hot weather conditions, the on-duty firearms instructor(s) will ensure that students are given adequate rest; and that they are instructed to stay properly hydrated in order to minimize the risk of any heat related injuries.

d. Failure to comply with this policy may result in: immediate removal from the firing range; immediate dismissal from the training course; immediate dismissal from the Basic Peace Officer Course; loss of access to the range for future training.

V. Non-applicability

Nothing contained in this policy will prohibit or limit law enforcement, or any other related agencies or organizations from utilizing the East Texas Police Academy firing range in accordance with their own directives, policies, or training mandates.