Thunder Bay Police Service Board

POLICY TITLE: **Legislation & Regulations: Use of Force**	POLICY NUMBER: **LEG-002**
DATE APPROVED: **19/12/2023**	
DATE(s) REVIEWED: **2026**	DATE TO BE REVIEWED: **2028**
DATE(s) AMENDED: **17/11/2026**	
LEGISLATION: Ontario Regulation 87/24, *Community Safety and Policing Act* (2019) Ontario Regulation 90/24, *Community Safety and Policing Act* (2019) Ontario Regulation 391/23, *Community Safety and Policing Act* (2019) s. 19 Ontario Regulation 392/23, *Community Safety and Policing Act* (2019) *Criminal Code* (1985) Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid Framework Document Ontario Use of Force Model	
RELATED PROCEDURES/POLICY: BPCR-001: Board and Chief Information Sharing	

POLICY STATEMENT

The Thunder Bay Police Service Board (Board) places the highest value on the protection of life and the safety of its members and the public. The authority regarding the use of force must be administered with the highest levels of accountability, transparency, and respect in order to maintain trust and confidence of the public.

The use of force must therefore be necessary, proportional, and reasonable in the specific circumstances, recognizing the complex and dynamic situations that police officers must manage. The Board embraces and asserts the highest standards of performance, training, accountability and transparency as it relates to the use of force by members of the Thunder Bay Police Service (Service).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements and reporting for the Chief of Police of the Service (Chief) pertaining to the use of force by members of the Service in accordance with the *Criminal Code*, *Community Safety and Policy Act*, 2019, and other applicable legislation and case law. The Board recognizes that the use of force is an important part of policing, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that circumstances involving the use of force be dealt with in a proper and professional manner in accordance with the procedures established by the Chief.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Chief and all members of the Service.

POLICY

a) Use of Force Procedures

The Chief shall:

- Establish procedures addressing the requirements under Ontario Regulation 391/23 and Ontario Regulation 87/24 pertaining to the use of force.
- Establish procedures and a reporting structure consistent with the requirements under Ontario Regulation 391/23, s. 7 of Ontario Regulation 90/24, and this policy.
- Conduct ongoing reviews and evaluations of use of force procedures, training, and reporting.

b) Training and Standards

The Chief shall:

- Ensure that use of force options used by members of the Service meet all requirements and standards established by Ontario Regulation 391/23, Ontario Regulation 87/24, the Ontario Use of Force Model, and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.
- Ensure that every member of the Service:
  - Who may be required to use force on another person is in compliance with the training requirements prescribed by the Minister on the use of force;
  - Who is authorized to carry or use a firearm is in compliance with the training requirements prescribed by the Minister on the use of firearms; and
  - Who is authorized to carry or use a weapon that is not a firearm is in compliance with the training requirements prescribed by the Minister on the use of the weapon.
- Ensure that at minimum, police officers are trained in officer safety, communication, handcuffing, and physical control techniques, based on the application of the Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid Framework Document.
- Ensure that members do not:
  - Use force on another person unless the member is in compliance with the training requirements prescribed on the use of force.
  - Carry a firearm unless, they have successfully completed the prescribed training on the use of the firearm and are competent in the use of the firearms.

- Carry or use a weapon that is not a firearm unless the member is in compliance with the training requirements prescribed by the Minister on the use of that weapon.

- Ensure that a written record is maintained of the training courses taken by the members of Service on the use of force and the use of firearms and weapons.

c) Weapons

The Chief shall:

- Ensure that members do not use a weapon other than a firearm on another person unless:
  - That type of weapon is identified in Table 2 of Ontario Regulation 391/23;
  - The weapon conforms to any additional requirements regarding the weapon set out in Table 2 of Ontario Regulation 391/23; and
  - The weapon is used in accordance with any restrictions set out in Table 2 of Ontario Regulation 391/23.
- Ensure that for members authorized to carry handguns or other weapons, that the handguns or other weapons meet the technical specifications set out in Ontario Regulation 391/23.
- Permit the use of reasonable weapons of opportunity by a member of the Service, when none of the approved options are available or appropriate to defend themselves or members of the public.

d) Investigations

The Chief will immediately cause an investigation to be made into the circumstances where:

- A member unintentionally or intentionally discharges their firearm, except on a target range or in the course of ordinary weapon maintenance.
- A member, by the discharge of a firearm in the performance of their duty, kills or injures another person and submit the report of investigation to the Board upon the conclusion of the investigation.

e) Reporting

i) Reporting to the Chief

Members of the Service shall submit a report to the Chief in accordance with all applicable legislation and regulations.

ii) Reporting to the Board

The Chief will provide a copy of the Service's annual Use of Force report to the Board in accordance with BPCR-001: Board and Chief Information Sharing, analyzing the data from the reports submitted under section 13(1) of Ontario

Regulation 391/23 regarding use of force by members of the Service and identifying any trends.

The Board shall publish the annual Use of Force report on the Internet.

f) Notification to the Board

i) Specific Incidents

The Chief will immediately notify the Board when a use of force incident results in:

- A mandatory report to the Special Investigations Unit;
- A notification to the Inspector General of Policing;
- A serious injury or death as defined under the CSPA; or
- Any external oversight investigation arising from the use of force by a member of the Service.

The Chief will provide the Board with timely updates on the status and outcome of any such investigation, subject to legal and privacy requirements.

ii) Chief Firearm

Where the Chief discharges a firearm in the performance of their duties, the Chief will promptly report the matter to this Board. The Board will, upon being notified by the Chief that a firearm has been discharged in the performance of their duty:

- Cause an investigation to be made into the circumstances; and
- File a report of the investigation with the Ministry.

The Board will upon receiving a report on the investigation into an injury or death caused by the discharge of a member's firearm:

- Review the report and make further inquiries as necessary; and
- File a copy with the Ministry, including any additional inquiries of the Board.

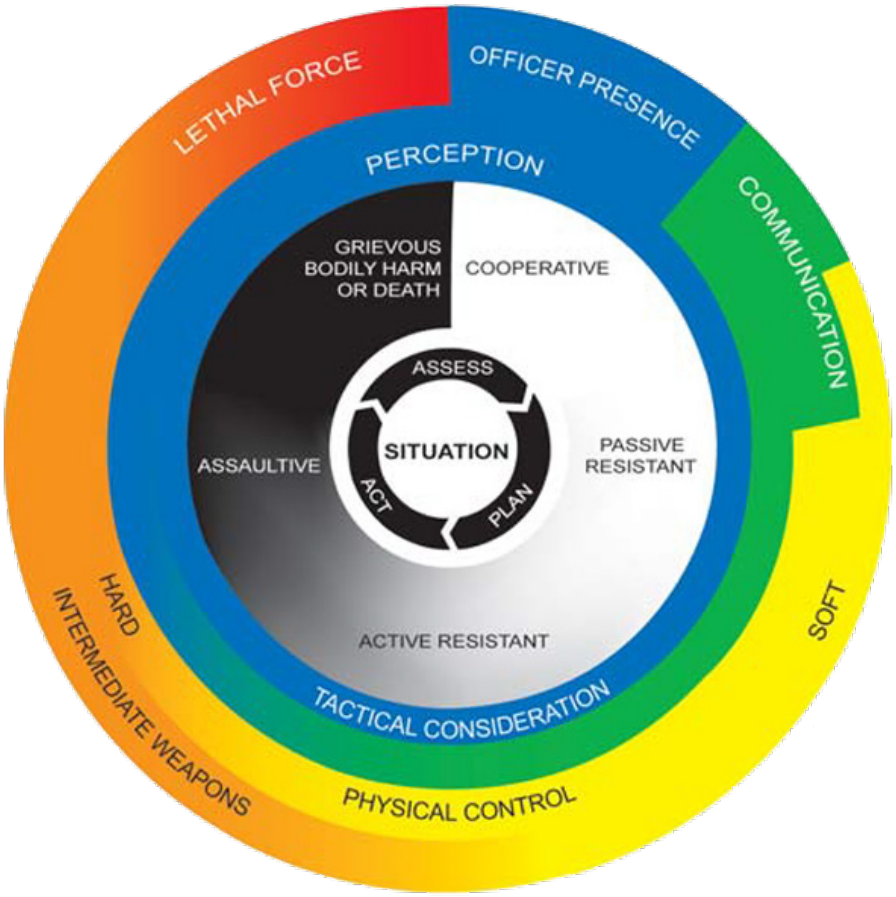
Appendices:

Appendix A – Ontario Use of Force Model

ONTARIO USE OF FORCE MODEL

The Ontario Use of Force model is a graphical representation of the various elements involved in the process by which a police officer assesses a situation and acts in a reasonable manner to ensure officer and public safety.

The model assists officers and the public in understanding why and in what manner an officer may respond with force.



Use of Force Options Available



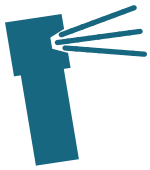
DE-ESCALATION

Example
- Officer Presence
- Communication



PHYSICAL CONTROL

Example
- Soft (joint)
- Hard (punches/kicks)



WEAPON

Example
- Pepper Spray (OC)
- Baton
- CEW Use



LETHAL FORCE

Example
- Pistol
- Carbine

Officers continuously assess the situation and select the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.