WEST NORRITON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: Weapons Qualifications		Policy # 1.3.9
Accreditation 1.3.9		
Effective Date: February 8, 2008	Revised Date:	
By Authority Of: Chief A. Dale Mabry	Signature: ADMabry	

1.3.9 Weapons Qualifications

A. Proficiency in use of agency issued weapon

1. All officers are required to pass a qualification course, at least annually, for any lethal weapon before they can carry the weapon. Less lethal weapons qualifications shall be conducted according to the manufacturer's specifications or at least every 2 years. This includes weapons that are carried on duty and off duty.

2. The weapons that fall under this section include any firearm that is to be carried by the officer, a shotgun, an ASP baton, or OC Chemical Sprays.

3. Officers must obtain yearly re-qualification on any weapon that requires such re-qualification either by law or by Departmental Policy.

4. The West Norriton Township Police Dept. Firearms Instructor shall be trained by a qualified organization in this field and shall maintain a high proficiency in this area.

B. Weapons training and qualifications

1. The qualification course for firearms to be used under subsection A of this section shall be one that is recommended by the Firearms Instructor and approved by the Chief of Police. Officers must obtain a qualifying score of at least 75% to pass the course. The Firearms Instructor shall inspect all firearms used prior to the qualifications course to insure that the firearms are in good working order and safe. At the time of re-certification the instructor shall inspect the less lethal weapons to insure that they are safe, not corroded or leaking and in good working order. No less lethal weapon shall be carried that does not pass this inspection. A weapons inventory list shall be maintained for all weapons owned and authorized by the Department. This list shall contain the make, model, type, caliber, serial number and where the weapon is located. When new weapons are purchased they shall be added to the list and when weapons are taken out of service they shall be expunged from the list.

2. The West Norriton Township Police Dept. Firearms Instructor shall be trained and certified as a Range Officer through a recognized course of instruction and taught by certified instructors as determined and approved by the Chief of Police.

3. The Firearms Instructor shall keep a record of all training and of each officer's scores. Copies of the scores shall be given to the Chief of Police. The Firearms Instructor shall also keep a file on all weapons noting any maintenance issues and repairs and who the weapon is assigned to. All repairs to the firearms shall be made by a certified Armorer.

4. Officers who fail to pass the qualification course shall be required to undergo a remedial course of instruction. Officers shall have 10 days to pass the course or their authority to carry a firearm or less lethal weapon will be revoked. If an officer's authority to carry a firearm is revoked they shall be re-assigned to a non-uniform administrative duty and given another 10 days to pass the course. If the officer again fails to pass the course in thistime period he/she shall be suspended without pay and given another 10 days to successfully pass the course. If the officer fails to pass the qualifications course within the final 10 day period the officer shall be terminated for failing to maintain minimum standards. Any officer who is injured or has other mitigating circumstances which prohibit the officer from qualifying may request permission from the Chief of Police to delay qualifying for that year.

   In the event of an "Accidental Discharge" of a firearm, a written report shall be prepared as per section XII subsection D. The officer involved in the accidental discharge shall be required to undergo immediate re-qualification with his/her weapon prior to returning to full duty. Should the officer fail to meet the qualification standards the Firearms Officer shall immediately notify the Chief of Police in writing. The Chief of Police shall then revoke the officers authority to carry a firearm and the officer must then follow the procedures as set down in subsection F of this section to re-qualify.