

Towson University Department of Theatre Arts

Weapons Policy

University Weapons Policy takes precedence except where noted in this document:

Towson University weapons policy:

06-01.11 - 1

University Policies and Procedures

06-01.11 – WEAPONS PROHIBITED

I. Policy Statement: Towson University prohibits the possession or control of any weapon while on university property.

II. Reason for Policy: To promote a safe and secure campus, Towson University limits weapons on campus.

III. Definitions:

The term weapon includes any potentially dangerous object or substance including, but not limited to, any firearm (including any weapon or instrument from which a shot, projectile, or other object may be discharged by force, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded); any BB gun, pellet gun, air rifle, paint gun, or any replica firearm, sword (including decorative), or other martial arts weapon; any bomb (or other explosive material), knife (other than an ordinary pocketknife carried in a closed position, with a blade of three inches or less), switchblade, Billy club, nunchaku, blackjack, bludgeon, metal knuckles, slingshot, razor, or ice pick; illegal or potentially dangerous chemicals, fireworks, or any instrument, which by its nature or circumstances present may be reasonably construed as a weapon.

A. Nunchaku. A pair of hardwood sticks joined by a chain or cord and used as a weapon.

B. Replica Firearm. Any firearm made to look like or resemble a real gun.

C. Billy club. A short wooden club

D. Paint Gun/Air soft Gun. Devices known as paint ball gun or any air powered weapon.

E. University property. Property owned, leased or under the control of Towson University.

IV. Responsible Executive and Office:

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Administration and Finance
and Chief Fiscal Officer

06-01.11 - 2

Responsible Office: University Police Department

V. Entities Affected by this Policy: All divisions, colleges, departments and operating units. Students, faculty, staff, contractors and visitors.

VI. Procedures:

A. To Obtain an Exception

1. Weapons used by these groups are granted an exception to this policy:

- a. Sworn peace officers of Towson University.
- b. Sworn peace officers employed by other public agencies that are authorized to wear, carry or transport the weapon as part of their official equipment.*
- c. People carrying OC (oleoresin capsicum) spray for self-defense purposes.
- d. Any university sponsored classes (e. g. fencing) whereby any of the above weapons would be used for instructional purposes.

2. These groups may request an exception by contacting the University Police Department:

- a. Members of the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) using weapons in accordance with national ROTC standards, and/or training.
- b. Groups using weapons as theatrical props.
- c. Security officers hired through security contracts, including off-duty police and/or others permitted by law to carry a firearm.
- d. Campus Recreation Services sanctioned/sponsored programs, events, and Sport Clubs such as Martial Arts club, where such items are maintained, stored, and monitored by the department staff, and are used in a controlled, monitored environment.

B. To Report a Violation

Contact the University Police Department.

* The university reserves the right to prohibit the possession of any firearm at any event on university property.

06-01.11 - 3

C. Failure to Comply

Any member of the university community who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the university and may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

Related Policies:

Approval Date: 12/13/2006

Effective Date: 12/15/2006

Approved by: President's Council 10/16/2006

Department of Theatre Arts Policy regarding section VI.2.b. Groups using weapons as theatrical props.

Weapons are prohibited from use in classroom activities unless specific to policy noted above.

Weapons for Production

All weapons used in production must be pre-approved by Chair and or Department Technical Director prior to introduction to production work.

Replica or firing firearms must also have prior approval of Towson University police in conjunction with departmental Technical Director

Transportation of any weapons should be done in an appropriate manner.

Firing weapons or replicas should be transported in a secure, lockable case.

Weapons defined in university policy above other than firearms should be transported in a concealed method so as not to raise alarm, including but not limited to transporting to and from rooms, across campus or to offsite locations. It is recommended that these items are also secured in the same manner as firearms

Storage

Weapons should always be stored in locked cabinets when not in use. Firearms should be in locked cases in the secure cabinet. This includes when being used for production or being kept in permanent storage.

Supervision/Use

When used for production or rehearsal purposes a weapons coordinator must be present

The firearm or weapon should only be available immediately before it is used in rehearsal or production.

All users and handlers should be trained based on the Centre Firearms Company *Guide to The Use of Theatrical Firearms*.

No one other than the trained weapons coordinator and the user should handle the firearm or weapon