

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Policy Statement

Title: Weapons and Fireworks on Campus

Number: P7.20

Approved by:
Presidential Action

Approved Date: 03/2008
Implementation Date: 03/2008
Last Review Date: 05/2022
Last Revision Date: 12/2023

Persons/Departments Affected:

All employees, students, and visitors to campus

Responsible Department:

Penn College Police and Student Affairs Office

Definitions:

Weapon: Any instrument or implement that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Any rifle, shotgun, handgun, machine gun, or other firearm, or antique firearms suitable for use; any air gun, spring gun, B-B gun, or implement that propels a projectile of any kind with a force that can reasonably be expected to cause bodily harm; any starter pistol, flare gun, tranquilizer gun, zip gun, spear gun, dart gun, “spud/potato guns”, sling shot; and ammunition of any type for weapons governed by these regulations
- Any mock/toy firearms that may be perceived as actual firearms and genuine firearms that are no longer in working order
- Any knife, dagger, razor, or other cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring, or other such mechanism
- Striking instruments such as clubs, truncheons, blackjacks, sandbags, metal knuckles, and sap gloves
- Martial arts weapons such as nunchakus, tonfas, staffs, and throwing stars
- Bows and arrows
- Any device that discharges chemical irritant or tear gas, including smoke grenades
- Electronic incapacitation devices and stun guns
- Any incendiary device, such as flammable liquids enclosed in readily breakable containers, that can be equipped with an igniter of any type
- Explosive devices such as hand grenades, bombs, black powder, smokeless powder, percussion caps, friction primers, and pyrotechnic fuses

Firework: Any composition, substance (or combination of substances), or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Blank cartridges or toy cannons in which explosives are used
- Balloons that require fire underneath to propel them
- Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, aerials, smoke bombs, or other explosive/flammable items of like construction
- Tablets or other devices containing an explosive substance

Paintball guns and paintball markers: Devices designed and manufactured to propel, by gas or air, an encapsulated gelatin paintball.

Policy:

I. REGULATIONS

- a. The possession, carrying, storage, manufacturing, or use of any weapon or weapon part, ammunition, or explosive by any person is prohibited on all College property (including residence halls and vehicles) except by authorized law enforcement officers, other persons specifically authorized by the College, and those addressed in the EXCEPTIONS section below.
- b. No person shall possess, carry, manufacture, or use any fireworks on College property, except for those persons authorized by the College and local governments to discharge such fireworks as part of a public display. See associated [Procedure 7.20](#) for steps to acquire such authorization.
- c. The possession and storage of paintball guns or paintball markers is prohibited on College property including in the residence hall complexes.
- d. Any student or employee who violates these prohibitions shall be subject to discipline in accordance with regular procedures, which may include suspension/expulsion or termination from the College. Visitors to the College will be subject to appropriate trespass actions for failure to comply with these regulations.
- e. If possession or use of a weapon, fireworks, or paintball device is in violation of the law, it will be referred to Penn College Police or other proper law enforcement authorities.

II. EXCEPTIONS

- a. Occupational use and possession of weapons by employees of the College is permitted only as authorized by administration through the Weapons Authorization Process.

- b. Because weapons are not permitted in the workplace, employees who transport weapons for personal purposes (e.g., hunting before/after work) are strongly encouraged to take those weapons to the Penn College Police headquarters, where the equipment will be logged and stored in a locked cabinet for the day. If an employee must leave a weapon in a vehicle parked on campus, it is the employee's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle is secured and that the weapons are not loaded and are stowed out of sight.
- c. Club sport teams, athletic teams, student organizations, faculty members, and other individuals/groups who wish to display, possess, maintain, or use prohibited weapons for educational, instructional, occupational, or recreational purposes must obtain written authorization as set forth in [Procedure 7.20](#) - Weapons and Fireworks on campus. The safe use and security of weapons for authorized purposes shall be the responsibility of the department/organization involved, subject to any conditions as stipulated in the Weapons Authorization Request Form (available through the College Police and on the Police department myPCT portal).
- d. Persons who have been authorized to use weapons for educational, instructional, occupational, or recreational purposes may carry or transport such weapons to and from the authorized activity. Firearms are to be unloaded during such transport and while in storage.
- e. Possession of commercially available aerosol dispensers of nonlethal chemical irritants for the purpose of self-protection are permitted. Use of such devices must be justifiable in accordance with the laws governing the use of force.
- f. Paintball guns and paintball markers may only be used on the property of the College in connection with authorized activities and only at approved locations.
- g. No person may carry a paintball gun or a paintball marker in a vehicle on a highway including any campus roadways unless one of the following apply:
 - i. The paintball gun or paintball marker is disassembled so that the propellant canister is separate from the rest of the device and the device is empty of encapsulated gelatin paintballs.
 - ii. The propellant canister of the paintball gun or paintball marker has been emptied of its gas or air propellant and the device is empty of encapsulated gelatin paintballs.

Revision History:

Date: 05/2022 Added parts of weapons to definitions. Added “manufacturing of”
to regulation sections.

Date: 02/2013 Updated to new format.

Date: 12/2023 Added "spud/potato guns" and stun guns to list of prohibited weapons

Cross References:

[Procedure 7.20](#) - Weapons and Fireworks on Campus