

# IDAHO STATE POLICE PROCEDURE

## 06.02 BODY ARMOR

### I. GENERAL

- A. It is the intent of the Idaho State Police (ISP) to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures. All body armor must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards of the [National Institute of Justice](#).

### II. ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

- A. All officers are issued agency-approved body armor.
- B. Worn or damaged body armor is replaced by ISP.
- C. Body armor replaced due to misuse by the officer will be paid for by the officer.

### III. USE OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Officers wear only agency-approved body armor.
- B. Body armor must be worn by recruit officers during both classroom and field training.
- C. Officers are required to wear body armor while engaged in duty assignments/and or tasks that directly or potentially place the officer(s) in situations requiring enforcement activity, unless exempt as follows:
  - 1. when in an administrative or support capacity;
  - 2. when an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that precludes wearing body armor;
  - 3. when a supervisor determines that undercover or plain clothes work could be compromised by wearing body armor; or
  - 4. when the Director or his designee determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.
- D. All ballistic plates must be worn in conjunction with issued soft body armor as per manufacture's testing and rating:
  - 1. ISP issued plates/plate carriers can be worn over soft body armor;
  - 2. ISP issued carriers, that accept both soft armor and ballistic plates, are acceptable; and
  - 3. all ISP issued carriers must have readily identifiable "State Police" identification patches front and back.

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- E. Ballistic plates and/or plate carriers, will not be worn “Stand-Alone”, or without soft body armor, while engaged in activities described in paragraph C 3.

### IV. INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Supervisors will ensure that body armor is worn and maintained, as required by this procedure, through routine observation.

### V. CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT OF BODY ARMOR

- A. Officers will provide proper storage, maintenance, and care of body armor in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions:
  - 1. routinely inspect personal body armor for signs of damage, and for general cleanliness;
  - 2. clean personal body armor to prevent erosion of ballistic panels caused by dirt and perspiration;
  - 3. report damage or excessive wear of the ballistic panels and cover to their supervisor.
- B. Body armor is replaced in accordance with guidelines and protocols established by the [National Institute of Justice](#).
- C. ISP Training will monitor technological advances in the body armor industry that may necessitate a change in body armor:
  - 1. assess weapons and ammunition currently in use, and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats;
  - 2. provide training programs that demonstrate body armor’s stopping power.