



# WINDS OF NUMA SERA

— PLAYERS' HANDBOOK —



## INTRODUCTION

Vast, beautiful, and dangerous, the world of Ethera is full of unique cultures and kingdoms – all vying for control of the landscape. From the ordained bloodline of Numa Sera, to the valiant knights of Dena Vale, to the “Cat People” of Meran, and the Pillaging Hordes of Siaa De’e. Each force will stop at nothing to advance its power.

As the leader of your people, your goal is to amass resources and create the most powerful kingdom in all of Ethera, so that your name will be remembered long after you are gone. There are several ways to achieve this: by conquering strongholds, slaying your opponents’ heroes, mastering skills, or earning new class titles. You can rule benevolently, cruelly, or anything in between. The choice is yours.

Whichever path you take, you will need to acquire assets to advance your heroes and grow your kingdom. Through exploration of Ethera’s many distinct environments, you will uncover rare items and enlist new allies to assist in your campaign. But exploration also has its risks: Ethera is a dangerous place, full of ancient secrets and hidden obstacles. So be ever vigilant...

The Winds of Numa Sera are blowing.

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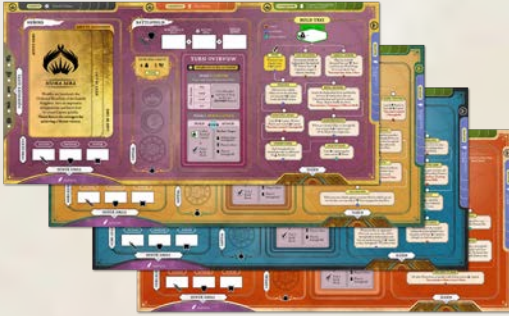


Video Tutorial

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# COMPONENTS

◆ 4 Kingdom Mats



◆ 1 Map Board



◆ 1 Custom Battle Die



◆ 70 Capital Coins



◆ 4 Dry Erase Markers



◆ 10 Stronghold Cards



◆ 12 Hero Cards



◆ 20 Class Cards



◆ 80 Exploration Cards



◆ 35 Skill Cards



◆ 25 World Forge Item Cards



# SETUP

## OVERVIEW

1. Choose Win Setting
2. Assemble the Play Area
3. Choose your Kingdom and set your Line of Succession
4. Distribute your Starting Assets & Write in your Stats
5. Determine who goes first

## 1. CHOOSE WIN SETTING

✦ Players must decide at the start of the game what the **Win Setting** will be:

◆ **THRONE (Short Game)** - First to achieve any 1 of the 4 **Victory Conditions**. This is the **standard Win Setting** and lasts about 60 minutes.

~OR~

◆ **EMPIRE (Long Game)** - First to achieve any 2 of the 4 **Victory Conditions**. This option makes for a ~90 minute game, and allows Players to really upgrade their Kingdoms and Heroes.



## VICTORY CONDITIONS

There are four unique ways to **win the game** referred to as **Victory Conditions**:

🏰 **CONQUEROR** - Control 4 Strongholds at the same time.

✦ **LEGEND** - Unlock all 5 different Classes.

👤 **MASTER** - Reach Level 4 in one Skill Type.

👤 **CHAMPION** - Slay 3 enemy Heroes. This does not need to be all Heroes from one Player.

## 2. ASSEMBLE THE PLAY AREA

### THE GAME CARDS

There are six types of Game Cards identified by their different back colors:

✦ Separate the cards by their backside colors.



SCAN  
THE QR CODE  
FOR DEMO  
VIDEO.





## THE COMMUNAL PLAY AREA



## THE MAP BOARD

The **Map Board** is the communal play area of the game, and serves as:

- ◆ Where you place the Exploration Deck, World Forge Items Deck, Independent Strongholds, and Discard Pile.
- ◆ An actual map of Ethera and the continent of Numa Sera, to show you where cities and locations are in relation to one another.
- ◆ Where you will lay out the World Forge Items (purchasable Items) and Skill Training Colleges (purchasable Skills), so all Players can see them.





## SKILL TRAINING COLLEGES

- ☀ Separate all **Skill Cards** (blue back) by **Skill Type** (Weapon, Defense, Forge, Agriculture, Lore). Each Skill deck will need cards equal to 3 plus the number of Players (for example in a 3-player game you will need 6 of each Skill Card). Return all unused Skill Cards to the Game Box.
- ☀ Place these five decks face up in the **Skill Training Colleges** on the North side of the Map Board so that they are visible to all Players. They may also be kept face down to reduce visual complexity, but are meant to be read by Players before purchasing during gameplay.

## INDEPENDENT STRONGHOLDS

- ☀ To create the **Independent Strongholds Deck**, randomly select a number of **Stronghold Cards** (green back) based on player count. Select 6/8/10 cards for 2/3/4 player games. Any unused cards are returned to the box.
- ☀ Shuffle all Stronghold Cards and place the face down Independent Strongholds Deck on the Map Board as indicated.
- ☀ Draw the top four cards of the Independent Strongholds Deck and place them face up on the Map Board as shown.

## THE WORLD FORGE

- ☀ Separate the **Item Cards** (hazel back) and place them face down on the Map Board as shown. This will be known as the **World Forge Deck**.
- ☀ Draw the top four Item Cards from the World Forge Deck and place them face up in the designated area to the West Side of the Map Board as shown.

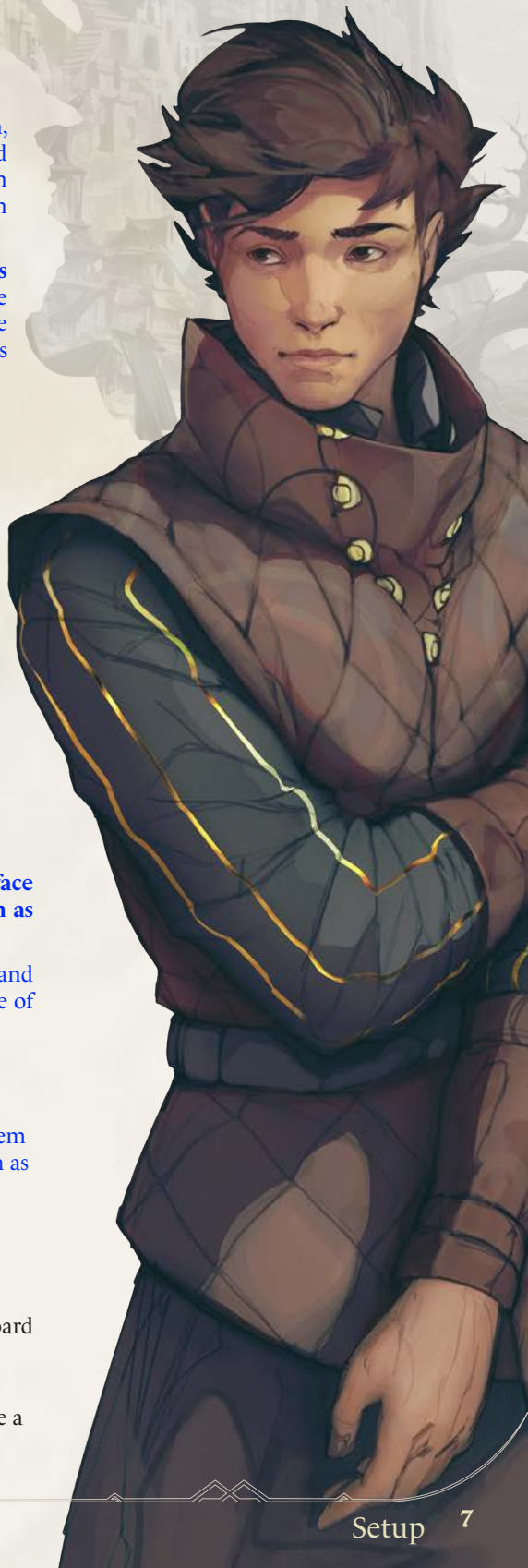
## THE EXPLORATION DECK

- ☀ Separate the Exploration Cards (brown back) and place them face down on the Map board as shown. This will be known as the **Exploration Deck**.

## THE DISCARD PILE

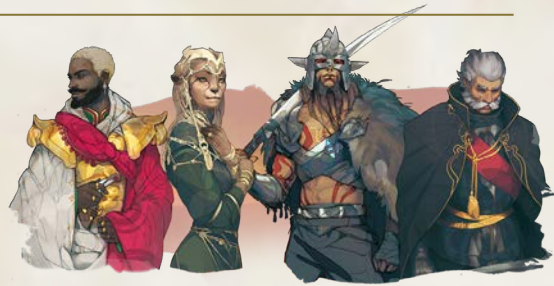
The **Discard Pile** is where you place all discarded Cards. The Discard Pile should be face up and kept on the main Map Board as shown. When you start the game, this area will be empty.

- ◆ If you manage to go through the entire Exploration Deck during your game, then reshuffle the Discard Pile to create a new Exploration Deck.

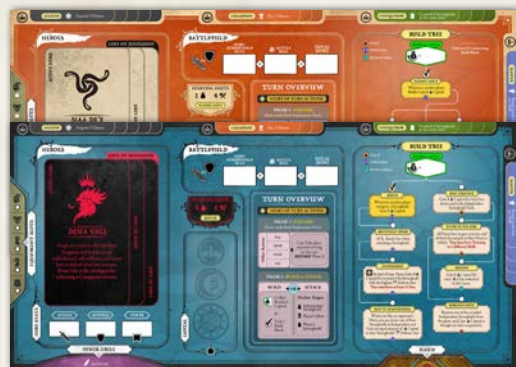
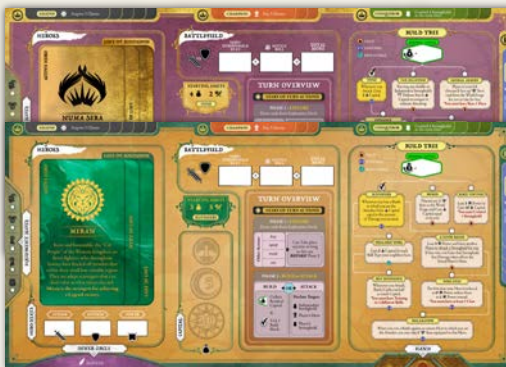



# 3. CHOOSE YOUR KINGDOM & SET YOUR LINE OF SUCCESSION


There are four kingdoms that you can choose to play as, each represented by a **Kingdom Mat** that comes with its own distinct Build Tree, Starting Assets, and a unique triad of Heroes. While all of the Kingdoms have their unique strengths, some are better suited for certain playing styles (Victory Conditions) than others, so choose yours wisely. For example, while one Kingdom might have Heroes with stronger Attack Stats, another might have a more advanced Build Tree.





Choose a Kingdom and take the matching Kingdom Mat.



 **Numa Sera:** Wealthy and insulated, the Ordained Bloodline of the Eastern Kingdom have an impressive infrastructure and know how to amass Capital quickly. **Numa Sera is the strongest for achieving a Master victory.**

 **Meran:** Keen and honorable, the Majestic Guardians of the Western Kingdom are fierce fighters, who throughout history have fended off invaders that seek to conquer their small but valuable region. They are adept scavengers that can find value in what others discard. **Meran is the strongest for achieving a Legend victory.**

 **Siaa De'e:** Strong and aggressive, the Pillaging Hordes of the Southern Kingdom take what they want, when they want it. They are ferocious attackers with battle in their blood, but are poor at defending what little they have of their own. **Siaa De'e is the strongest for achieving a Champion victory.**

 **Dena Vale:** Tough and resilient, the Valiant Knights of the Northern Kingdom are well-trained, self-sufficient, and know how to defend what they conquer. **Dena Vale is the strongest for achieving a Conqueror victory.**

## PLAYER AREA



The Kingdom Mat is divided into multiple sections. Each section serves a specific purpose. As you acquire cards, some will be placed around your Kingdom Mat in specific areas, as seen in the Player Area layout.

The white areas of the Kingdom Mats are meant to be written on, **but ONLY with a DRY ERASE Marker.**

## LINE OF SUCCESSION

There are three total Heroes per Kingdom. However, only one Hero can be active at a time. This means that choosing the order of your Heroes, referred to as your **Line of Succession**, is paramount, as you will only play as the other two Heroes if your **Active Hero** is **Slain**. A **Slain Hero** is a Hero whose **Power** (Health) is reduced to 0. We will explain this further in the Slain Heroes section on [page 38](#).

- Find all Heroes (Orange back) from the Hero Deck with matching Kingdom colors and sigils, and add them to your Kingdom.



## HOW TO READ A HERO CARD

Each Hero has three Base Stats, as well as a Special Ability that gives them a unique set of strengths and weaknesses

❖ On the UPPER LEFT **A** of every Hero Card are two numbers, one marked with a sword and the other with a shield. The first number (sword icon) is the **Hero's Base Attack Stat**. The second number directly below it (shield icon) is the **Hero's Base Defense Stat**. In every Battle there is always an attacker and a defender.

❖ On the BOTTOM RIGHT **B** of every Hero Card is the Hero's Maximum Power Stat. Power is the equivalent to Health or Life in this game.

❖ Written on the CENTER SCROLL of each Hero Card is that Hero's **Special Ability**. Their specific Special Ability is only available to you so long as that Hero is your Active Hero. If your Hero is Slain during the game (if their Power reaches 0), that Hero has perished and thus your next Hero in your Line of Succession becomes your Active Hero.

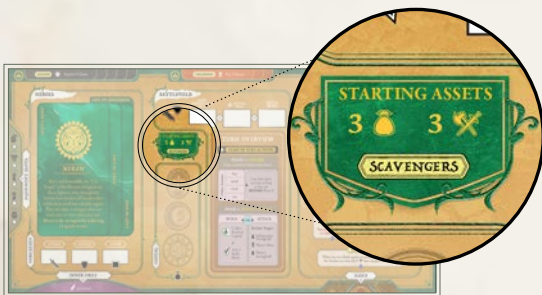
✦ Choose your **Line of Succession**: Organize your Hero Cards in the order you wish to play them, with your starting **Active Hero** on top. Place all of your Hero Cards in a **"Spread Stack"** on your Kingdom Mat, face up, in the "Heroes" area as shown.



✦ Write in your Active Hero's Stats (with a **DRY ERASE marker**) into the corresponding **Hero Stats Boxes** below your Active Hero. **C**

Any unused Kingdom Mats and Hero Cards (orange back) should be stored in the Game Box, as they will not be used in this game.

## 4. DISTRIBUTE STARTING ASSETS



Each Kingdom begins the game with a certain amount of **Capital** and **Battle Cards** indicated on the middle panel of your respective Kingdom Mats, just below your Battlefield. You'll need to set yourself up with both. Each Kingdom also comes with a **Pre-Ticked Build Block**; the equivalent of an Ongoing Special Ability.

## CAPITAL



Capital is your currency, and takes a numeric value. The game comes with **Capital Coins** of different amounts.

## CAPITAL COINS



**Copper** (worth 1 Capital), **Silver** (worth 5 Capital), and **Gold** (worth 20 Capital).

- ✦ Distribute the respective amount of **Capital Coins** to each Player as indicated on the Kingdom Mats' Starting Assets plaque.
- ✦ Players place their Capital Coins on their Kingdom Mats.



- ✦ All remaining Capital Coins should be placed on the table in the Communal Play Area (or inside the game box) where all Players can reach them. This will be known as the **World Bank** - where you pay Capital to, and where you Gain Capital from.

## STARTING BATTLE CARDS



- ✦ Find any 15 random Battle Cards (red frontside) from the Exploration Deck and remove them.
- ✦ Shuffle the removed Battle Cards.
- ✦ Distribute the corresponding number of Battle Cards face down to the Players as indicated on their Kingdom Mats.
- ✦ Battle Cards stay in your **Hand** until you are ready to play them. Other players should not see the cards in your Hand.
- ✦ Return the remaining Battle Cards to the Exploration Deck (brown back). Reshuffle the deck and place the **Exploration Deck** face down on the communal Map Board as indicated.



## DISTRIBUTE CLASS CARDS



- ✦ Distribute all five Class cards to each player, so that they have one of each Class type. These cards can be stored in Players' Hands or below their Kingdom Mats face down, until they have been unlocked.

# 5. DETERMINING WHO GOES FIRST

Whichever Player was the last person to be in a Castle goes first, and play continues clockwise from there. If no one has ever been to a Castle, then they definitely should plan to visit one! But for now, age before beauty - the eldest player goes first, and play continues clockwise from there.

Now you're ready to begin the game!

## SEQUENCE OF PLAY

### TURN OVERVIEW

There are two primary **Phases** to each Turn. Phase 1: **Explore**, and Phase 2: **Build or Attack**. These two Phases occur in every Player's Turn, and must occur in that order. There are several Other Actions that you can take throughout your Turn, but the Build/Attack actions must always be taken last, and you CANNOT do both in the same Turn, unless specifically instructed otherwise by a card.

**TURN OVERVIEW**

**START OF TURN ACTIONS**

**PHASE 1 : EXPLORE**  
Draw cards from Exploration Deck.

Other Actions	buy	Can Take place anytime so long as they are <b>BEFORE</b> Phase 2
	equip	
	trade	
	use	

**PHASE 2 : BUILD or ATTACK**

<b>BUILD</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>ATTACK</b>
Collect Residual Capital. & Tick 1 Build Block.		<b>Declare Target:</b> Independent Stronghold Player's Hero Player's Stronghold

◆ You must Declare all actions before taking them, so other Players know what you are doing.



“**Start of Turn**” Actions: Certain Cards (like some Heroes and Controlled Strongholds) have Special Abilities or benefits that specifically instruct you to take an action at the start of your Turn. Be sure to pay attention to these, if applicable, at the start of your Turn.

**PHASE 1 - EXPLORE:** The first Phase of your Turn begins with discovery. Draw an Exploration Card from the Exploration Deck to see what you find. Most of the encounters during exploration will be useful to you; however, there are some things out there that can hurt you. You can only Explore once per Turn, unless a card specifically states otherwise.

**OTHER ACTIONS:** Any of the below actions can take place at any point during your Turn, so long as they occur BEFORE your phase 2 actions (Build or Attack). You may take these **Other Actions** multiple times during your Turn.

- ◆ **BUY** ~ You can spend Capital to learn Skills from the Skill Training Colleges, and purchase Items from the World Forge.
- ◆ **EQUIP** ~ To make use of an Item you must Equip it to your Hero. You only gain the Item's benefits and/or can use their special abilities, when the Item is equipped to your Hero.
- ◆ **TRADE** ~ You can propose trades with other players, which can include paying other players to attack others, or not attacking you for a Turn.
- ◆ **USE** ~ During the game, you'll acquire certain Cards that you can activate (Use) during your Turn. Special Abilities can come in the form of Ongoing, Once Per Turn, and One Time Use.



**PHASE 2 - BUILD or ATTACK:** For the final phase of your Turn, you must **choose** whether to keep your forces at home to help **Build** up your Kingdom and expand your unique Build Tree, or send your forces out to war and **Attack** another Hero or Stronghold.

◆ **BUILD:** In Eterra, you will need Capital in order to use Battle Cards, learn Skills, and Trade. There are several ways to gain Capital, but the most common way is through Building. However, choosing to Build prohibits you from Attacking in the same Turn, and you can only Build once per Turn, unless a card specifically says otherwise.

~OR~

◆ **ATTACK:** In order to Slay Heroes and Conquer Strongholds, you will need to enter into Battle with them. Choose a Player's Hero, Controlled Stronghold, or an Independent Stronghold to do Battle with. While both sides can receive damage in Battle, Ties always go to the attacker, so there are advantages to striking first. If you took the Build action you cannot Attack this Turn, unless a card specifically says otherwise, and a Player can only Attack once per Turn.



## START OF TURN ACTIONS

Start of Turn Actions are engine-builders that generate capital which generally can only be spent on specific cards or used during specific instances. When the game begins, the only possible Start of Turn actions will be from your Active Hero (and not all Heroes have one). As the game progresses, you can acquire more Start of Turn actions.

☀ You always begin your Turn by checking for Start of Turn actions, and resolving them.



☀ Turn: Place 2 Capital coins on the World Bank on Simi. Once you do, you may withdraw all Capital from the World Bank on Simi. Once you do, you may no longer use this ability.

☀ Take the specified Capital coins from the World Bank and place it on the card as instructed. You will do this at the start of each of your turns so long as you possess the respective card and it is in play.



◆ Any time a Start of Turn action tells you to place Capital on a card, you always take the Capital from the World Bank, unless specifically instructed to use your own Capital.



# **P** HASE 1 EXPLORING

As your Heroes journey across the lands of Ethera, their encounters will be represented by the cards you draw from the Exploration Deck. In this deck you will find powerful Items, influential Mavens, useful Battle techniques, and incredible Boons to help your Hero...as well as terrible dangers.

Exploring is the first Phase of your Turn and must always come before the Build/Attack phase. However, you can take any of the *Other Actions* before Exploring if you like.

☀ Take the Explore action by drawing a card from the top of the Exploration Deck.



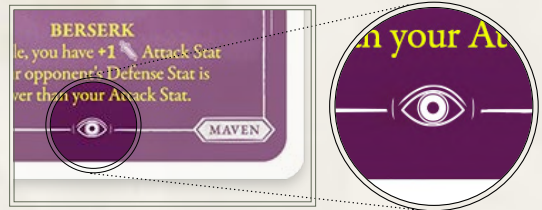


## TYPES OF EXPLORATION CARDS

There are six different types of Exploration Cards. Each type of Exploration Card has a unique color scheme and icon which can be found on the upper left corner of the card. The name of the Card's type is also displayed in text on the bottom right.

## REVEAL VS. HAND

There are certain Exploration Cards that must be Revealed and Resolved as soon as you draw them. These “**Reveal**” cards are identified by the **open eye icon** at the bottom center of the card.



The **Effects** of the card are written in gold text, and usually come with a choice that must be made in order to **Resolve** the Effect.

- ◆ A card is Resolved when a Player has taken all of the required actions as instructed on the card in order to “resolve” it.

Exploration Cards without the open eye icon go into your Hand to be played or activated later, and should be kept hidden from other Players. However, you can play a Hand card as soon as you draw one. For example, if you wanted to Equip an Item you can do so immediately after drawing it.

- ✦ If you draw a **Reveal** card, show it to the other Players and read its **Effects** out loud. **Resolve the Effect** as indicated. You cannot take other actions until the card is completely Resolved.
- ✦ If you draw a **Hand** card, hold onto it and don't show anyone until you are ready to use it.



# HOW TO READ A CARD

While each of the six Exploration Card Types vary, there is a system to reading each card in the game:



**A** Card type icon

**B** Card name

**C** Card Cost to play or acquire:

For Battle Cards, this number is the Capital or Power cost to play the Card in Battle.

For Skill Cards, this is the Capital it costs to purchase and use the card. It's multiplied by the number of whichever Level you are acquiring. Further explained in the Skill Cards section.

For World Forge Item Cards, this is the Capital it costs to purchase that card from the World Forge.

**D** Italicized text = Flavor

**E** Body text light blue = Choice/Condition that must occur in order to acquire

**F** Equipment Slot icon

**G** Body text gold = Effect/Special Ability

**H** If eye icon = Reveal card to all players and Resolve

**I** Card Type name

If you are eager to begin playing, you can skip over the section below for now, and simply look up the respective card types as you draw them.

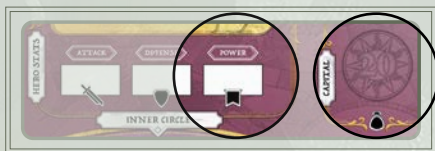
## BOON CARDS



**Boon Cards, as the name implies, are always good. They generally provide rewards in the form of additional Capital or allow you to Heal (recover lost Power).**

◆ Boon Cards are Revealed, Resolved, and then Discarded.

✦ When you draw a Boon Card, reveal it to all players. If the Boon offers you a choice of benefits, you must Declare your selection, then adjust your Kingdom Mats (ex. Power Stat and Capital Coins) accordingly to resolve the card.



✦ After doing so, place the Boon Card face up on the Discard Pile.

## HAZARD CARDS



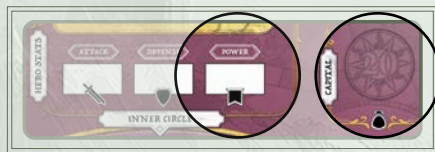
**Hazard Cards are the exact opposite of Boon Cards. They generally have some sort of negative effect or risk.**

◆ Hazard Cards are Revealed, Resolved, and then Discarded.

◆ If a Hazard Card offers a choice, you may choose either option. Some options cannot be chosen if you do not have the required resource.

◆ If a Hazard Cards effect reduces a Hero to 0 Power, the Slain Hero does not count towards a Champion victory.

✦ If you draw a Hazard Card, reveal it to all players. If the Hazard offers you a choice, Declare your selection and then adjust your Kingdom Mat (ex. Power Stat and Capital Coins) accordingly to resolve the card.



✦ After doing so, place the Hazard Card face up on the Discard Pile.

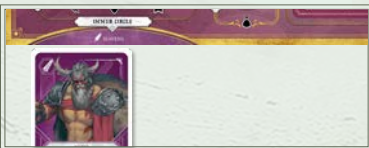
## MAVEN CARDS



Maven Cards are valuable experts and advisors that can provide your Hero with Special Abilities.

◆ Each Maven is a Reveal card that offers you a choice. You can accept the Maven, and bring them on as a trusted advisor, to serve in your Inner Circle. OR you can reject the Maven by discarding them in order to Gain Capital or Heal Power (as stated on the card).

- ✦ If you draw a Maven Card, Declare your choice:
- ✦ If you **Reject the Maven**, then place their card in the Discard Pile, and receive the designated benefit (Capital/Power). Note that you can only Heal up to your Hero's Max Power Stat.
- ✦ If you **Accept the Maven**, then place their card below your Kingdom Mat near the Heroes Box, as indicated, to show that they are now part of your Inner Circle. The Maven's Special Ability can be used immediately or saved for later.



There are three different types of Maven's **Special Abilities**:

- ◆ **Ongoing** - an ongoing buff or ability that is always active or usable. If the Effect does not specifically state otherwise, it is an ongoing effect.
- ◆ **Once Per Turn** - a repeatable action that can only be taken once per turn and usually comes with a dice roll to trigger activation.
- ◆ **One Time Use** - an action that requires the Maven to be Discarded upon successfully triggering the action. Some One Time Use Abilities require the card to be Discarded, whether successful or not.

✦ If you wish to Use a Maven's Special Ability, Declare it, and then take the action as indicated.



## BATTLE CARDS



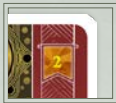
Battle Cards can greatly sway the outcome of a Battle, as they provide temporary bonuses or deductions to your stats and rolls. Battle Cards can only be played during Battle and each Player may only play 1 Battle Card per Battle unless specifically instructed by a card.

☀ If you draw a Battle Card, place it in your Hand to be played later during Battle.

◆ Battle Cards either cost Capital or Power in order to play them. The Cost is displayed in the upper right corner of the card. The icon behind the number determines whether the Cost is in Capital or Power.



Capital



Power

◆ All Battle Cards are discarded after they are played.

We will explain the Battle Cards in further detail in the Attacking / Battling section.



## ITEM CARDS



Item Cards can provide Stat Bonuses or unique abilities to your Hero once equipped.

There are two types of Item Cards in the game:

**World Forge Items (hazel back)** are Items that can be purchased at the World Forge and have the ability to be Upgraded using Forge Training Skill Cards (which we'll explain in further detail in the BUY Section).

**Mythic Items (brown back)** are rare artifacts that are only found in the Exploration Deck. Mythic Items are generally more powerful than World Forge Items, and therefore they are not Upgradable. They also come with a **Prerequisite** Skill Training in order to equip.

- ◆ Every Item has a designated Equipment Slot, and the Item must be Equipped to your Hero in order to gain its benefits.
- ◆ You can only Equip Items to your Active Hero.

## EQUIP

As soon as you acquire an Item, you can Equip it. If you take an Item from another Player's Hero during Battle, you must wait until your next Turn to Equip it.

◆ There are five **Equipment Slots** in total:

- 👤 Head
- 👤 Chest
- 👤 Right Hand
- 👤 Left Hand
- 👤 Pack

◆ You may Equip up to five items at once. Two-handed weapons count as two slots.

◆ You can only take the Equip action during your Turn, and the action must occur before Phase 2 (Build/Attack). For example, if you steal an Item from another Player's Hero during Battle, you must wait until your next Turn to Equip it.

✦ Whether you purchase an Item from the World Forge or find a Mythic Item while Exploring, you can choose to Equip it immediately, offer to Trade it, or place it in your Hand for later.

✦ If you choose to Equip the Item, place the card to the left of your Kingdom Mat as indicated, and adjust your Hero's Stat Boxes accordingly using a DRY ERASE marker.

✦ If you wish to Equip an Item in a slot your Hero already has filled, swap out the Item Card that is currently equipped to your Hero and replace it with the new Item you wish to Equip. The unequipped Item is returned to your Hand. Be sure to adjust your Stat Boxes accordingly.

## POOL OF ESSENCE CARDS



**Pool of Essence Cards** refer to the legendary bodies of concentrated life energy known as Essence. Created by the First Ones and left to the world before they retreated into their eternal slumber, the Pools are imbued with immense power and are protected by a special creature called an Essential. Sworn to an ancient oath, the Essential's sole purpose is to determine which of the Pool's few finders are worthy to gain its Special Ability.

In order to be found worthy, and be granted permission to drink from the Pool, the Essential offers you, its finder, a Test. Should you complete the Test, you will be able to gain the Special Ability of the Pool.

**Each Pool of Essence has a unique Test and Special Ability.**

- ✦ Upon drawing a Pool of Essence card from the Exploration Deck, add it to your Hand. On your Turn, you may reveal this card to complete its Test.
- ✦ When you complete the Test, take the card and place it face up on your Battlefield over the Turn Overview to indicate that you have been **Blessed** and gained its Special Ability. If your Blessed Hero is Slain, return the Pool card to your Hand. You can repeat the Test to bestow the Special Ability on your newly active Hero.





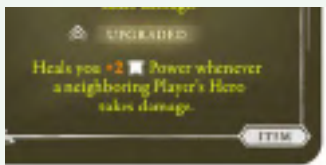
# SKILL CARDS

## BUY

You can spend your Capital to learn Skills from the Skill Training Colleges and purchase Items at the World Forge. Whenever you Buy something, Declare the action, then pay the required Capital to the World Bank and take the Card. Add the purchased card to your Kingdom Mat.



The cost of a World Forge Item is indicated on the upper right if the card. Each World Forge Item has a base effect and then an upgraded effect that can only be unlocked by acquiring Forge Training Skill cards.



**Skill Cards** help advance your Hero and Kingdom. They are also a part of the **MASTER Victory Condition**, in which a Player wins the game by reaching Level 4 in one Skill Type. At the **Skill Training Colleges**, you'll find "Experts" whom you can pay to teach you new Skills or sharpen ones you already have. The cost to purchase and learn the Skill is indicated on the upper right of the card (10 Capital x Level).

### The five Types of Skills:

-  Weapon Training
-  Defense Training
-  Forge Training
-  Agriculture Training
-  Lore Training

◆ Players can be trained in the same Skill Type up to 4 times. The first Skill Card you buy is Level 1 in that Skill Type. The second Card of the same Type is Level 2, and so on. You cannot skip Levels.

◆ **10 Capital x Level:** It costs 10 Capital to become Level 1 of any Skill Type. In order to advance to Level 2, you must already have one card of that Skill Type. It costs 20 Capital to buy your second card of the same Skill Type and advance you to Level 2, 30 Capital to advance you to Level 3 (must already have Level 2), and 40 Capital to advance you to Level 4 (must already have Level 3).

◆ For clarity, if one Player buys the first Weapon Training Skill Card, another Player would still only have to pay 10 Capital to Buy their first Weapon Training Skill Card because it is only making them a Level 1 as well. There are a limited number of Skill Cards in each deck. When a Skill deck runs out, no one can Buy more Skill Cards of that type.

◆ **Remember, each Skill deck has a limited number of cards. (3 + the number of Players)**

◆ As you advance Levels, you unlock additional bonuses. Not every Level offers you an additional bonus, as you will see indicated on certain Skill Cards. For example, in some cases there is no additional bonus when rising from Level 2 to 3.

◆ Skills are NOT stackable. You only benefit from the specific bonuses of your current Skill Level. For example, if you have a Level 2, you do not get the bonuses of Level 1 and Level 2, only that of Level 2.

◆ The Skill Training Colleges can be placed face up or down. If placed face down, Players should look at the front sides of Skill cards before purchasing. The back sides of the Skill Cards visually convey what they affect/improve.



☹ If you acquire 4 Skill Cards of the same Type, you become a **MASTER** and have fulfilled **1 of the 4 Victory Conditions**.

Positioning your Skill Cards: If you Buy a Skill, pay the required Capital to the World Bank, then take the Skill Card and place it on the side of your Kingdom Mat as shown. As you acquire additional Skill Cards of the same Skill Type, place them behind the matching Skill Card in a **Spread Stack** so that other Players can see how many you have.



◆ When Purchasing a Forge Training Skill Card, you must then designate which Equipment Slot you are Upgrading. You do this by “Ticking” the selected slot on the left side of your Kingdom Mat, using the DRY ERASE Marker. You may now use the “Upgraded” ability shown on the Item instead of the baseline ability. Note that a two-handed weapon requires two slots in order to Upgrade.





## OTHER ACTIONS

There are four **Other Actions** you can take during your Turn: **Buy** (p24), **Trade** (below), **Equip** (p21), and **Use** (p28). These actions can take place anytime during your Turn so long as they are *before* your Attack/Build Phase. You may take these other actions multiple times during your Turn. For clarity, this means you can take **Other Actions** before the Explore Phase if you like.

### TRADE

On your Turn you may offer to Trade Cards, Power, Capital, and actions with another Player. You set the terms of the Trade. The trade only happens if both Players agree to the terms.

All Card types can be traded except for Heroes and Classes.



## CLASS CARDS



Over the course of the game, you can earn Class Cards by achieving specific goals. Classes are distinctions of status and prestige that result from your action, and become part of your legacy. Each Class provides you with a specific ongoing benefit until the game has ended. Acquiring 5 Class Cards is also another way to win the game.

◆ The back sides of the Class Cards visually convey what you need to achieve in order to unlock that Class.

✦ When you complete the Task on a Class Card, take that Class Card from your Hand and place it face up above your Kingdom Mat as indicated to show other players you have unlocked it.



- ◆ The five Classes are: Heir, Paladin, Rogue, Sage and Tyrant.
- ◆ You can acquire multiple Classes, and can gain the benefits of each of them simultaneously.

✦ As you unlock new Classes, add them above your Kingdom Mat.



Ⓢ If you have unlocked all 5 different Class Types, you become a **LEGEND** and have fulfilled 1 of the 4 Victory Conditions.





## USE

Some Cards and Build Blocks have special abilities you can activate on your Turn. You can decide when to Use them.

- ✦ To Use a Special Ability, Declare the action, and execute the Special Ability as indicated on the card.
- ✦ If the Card is a “One Time Use”, then discard it after the action is taken by placing it face up on the Discard Pile.





# PHASE 2 BUILD OR ATTACK

For the final Phase of your Turn, you must choose to either **Build** or **Attack**.

## PHASE 2: BUILDING

In the world of Ethernia, empires rise and fall on their access to wealth. To win, your Kingdom and Heroes will need to amass Capital in order to Buy Items, Learn Skills, and Use Battle Cards that will help you to secure victory. The most reliable way to gain Capital is by taking the **Build** action.

- ◆ Whenever you take the Build Action, you gain your **Residual Capital** and then choose a **Build Block** to unlock a unique benefit. You always gain the Residual Capital before choosing the Build Block.



## RESIDUAL CAPITAL



**Residual Capital** is the total amount of Capital you collect whenever you take the Build action. Every Kingdom starts the game with a unique amount of **Base Residual Capital**, shown at the top of your **Build Tree** printed inside the **Residual Capital Box (outlined in green)**. This is the same number as your Kingdom's Starting Capital.



- ◆ Throughout the game you can raise your Residual Capital number by expanding your Build Tree, conquering new Strongholds or learning new Skills.

- ◆ Whenever you unlock additional Residual Capital, be sure to write in the new amount of Residual Capital in the corresponding Kingdom Box (outlined in Green at the top of your Build Tree) using the provided DRY ERASE marker. Note that **your Base Residual Capital amount is already printed in this Box**, so be sure to not count it twice.

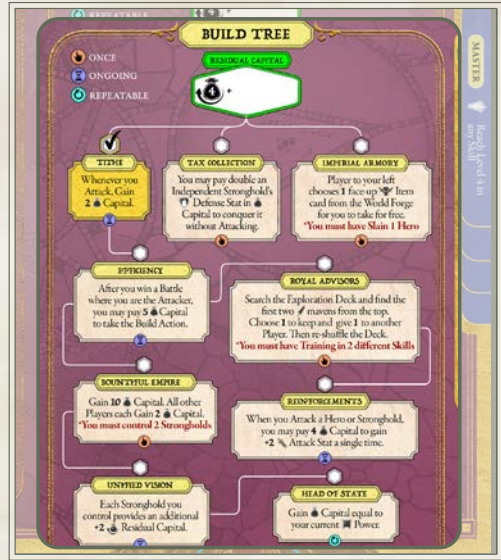


- ◆ When Building, you collect the Residual Capital before choosing the Build Block to unlock.

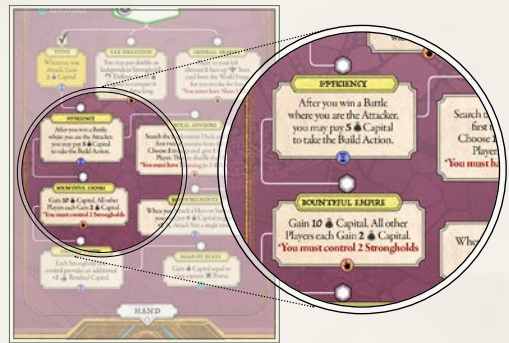
# THE BUILD TREE

Each Kingdom has a unique **Build Tree** full of **Build Blocks** that you can “Tick” to unlock new sources of Capital and other advantages. You can stack benefits by choosing to Build often and acquiring more Blocks.

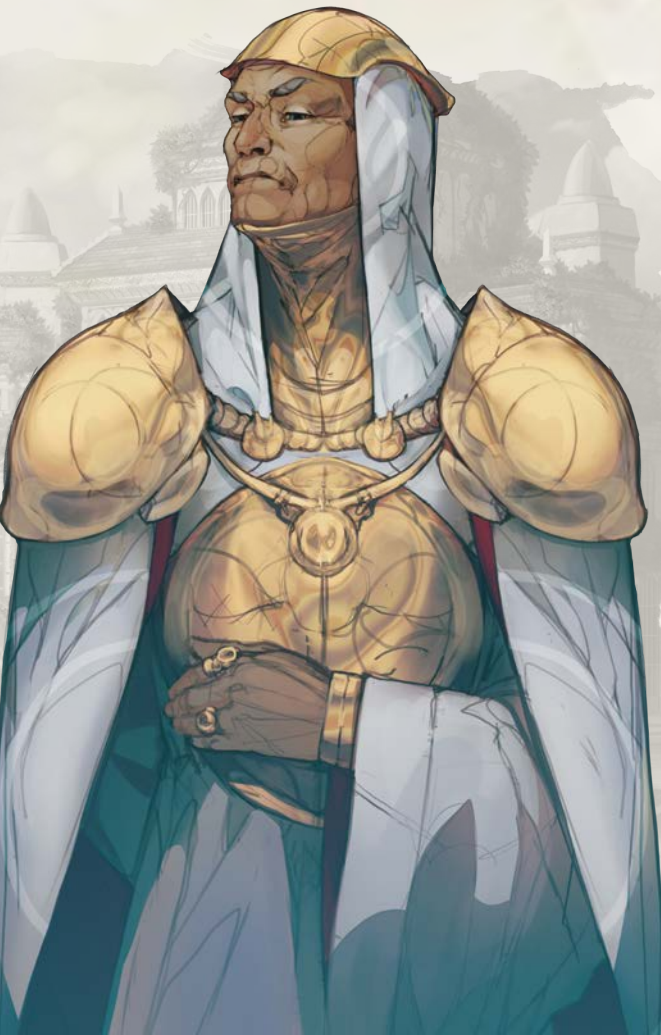
- ◆ You Tick a Build Block by writing a check mark in the white hexagon directly above the selected Build Block you wish to acquire, using the provided Dry Erase marker.
- ◆ You can only add (“Tick”) one Build Block action per Turn, as part of your Build Phase.
- ◆ You must have the previous Build Block, linked by the white line, in order to Tick the next Block in the branch.



In the example shown, you can't Tick Bountiful Empire, because you don't already have Efficiency Ticked. But you can Tick Efficiency because you already have the prerequisite Build Block, Tithe, Ticked.






- ◆ Certain Build Blocks have additional **Prerequisites**, identified by the **red text**. You must have achieved the Prerequisite in order to unlock that Block.
- ◆ If a Build Block is connected by dotted lines, that means you only need to have one of the connecting Build Blocks in order to Tick that next Build Block.





## THE THREE BUILD BLOCK TYPES

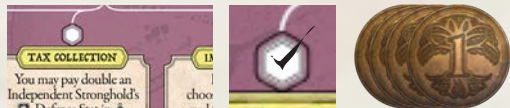
There are **three different types of Build Blocks**, each identified by a unique icon and color:

-  **Once** - when you Tick this Block, you receive the benefits only this one time.
-  **Ongoing** - when you Tick this Block, you activate the benefit in perpetuity. Note that you will receive some of these benefits on other Player's Turns.
-  **Repeatable** - When you Build, you can choose this Block again to Gain its benefits multiple times. You only physically Tick this Bubble once even though you can choose it multiple times.

## TAKING THE BUILD ACTION

✦ If you decide to Build, Declare to the other Players that you are Building, then collect your Residual Capital coins from the World Bank. Then Tick (draw a small check in) the Build Block that you wish to unlock. Use the DRY ERASE marker. Take the action as indicated in the Ticked Block, and adjust your Capital and Stat Boxes accordingly.

◆ Remember, If you choose to Build, you are NOT allowed to Attack in the same Turn.





## PHASE 2 ATTACKING

Attacking is the only way to conquer Strongholds and the most effective way to Slay other Player's Heroes. When you Attack, you can choose to target 1 of 3 things: **an Independent Stronghold**, **another Player's Stronghold**, or **another Player's Active Hero**.

We will go through Battling in further detail in the following sections as we walk you through each type of Battling scenario.



## STRONGHOLD CARDS



**Stronghold Cards** represent a castle or garrison of a given territory. New Strongholds are drawn from the Stronghold Deck and are Independent until conquered and Controlled by a Player. If you are able to conquer a Stronghold in a single Battle, you Gain the Stronghold Card and the benefits that come with it. The benefits vary by Stronghold, but all of them get you one card closer to the CONQUEROR Victory Condition.





☞ If you Control 4 Strongholds at the same time, you become a CONQUEROR and have fulfilled 1 of the 4 Victory Conditions.

## HOW TO READ A STRONGHOLD CARD:



 = Stronghold's Defense Stat

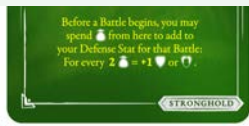
 = Initial Capital amount gained immediately from the World Bank on Independent Conquer.

 = The amount of Residual Capital you can add to your Build Tree upon conquering.




Every Stronghold has a **Start of Turn** action which is only activated once conquered. Most of these serve as Engine-Builders, earning you additional Capital which can only be used for certain spending.

The light blue text tells you how many Capital Coins to place on the card from the World Bank at the start of each of your Turns (so long as it is under your control).



The gold text tells you the effects of the card, or how exactly you can spend the Capital that accrues on it.

## BATTLING: PLAYER VS INDEPENDENT STRONGHOLD

 If you are attacking an Independent Stronghold, you start the Battle by declaring which one you are attacking.

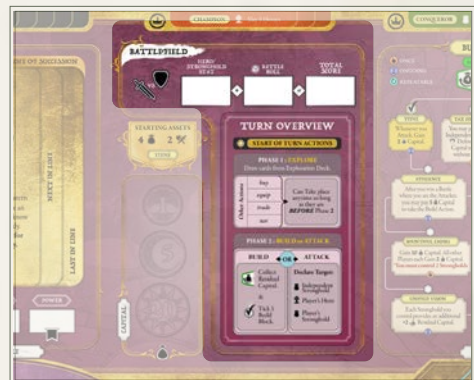


In order to win the Battle and **conquer the INDEPENDENT Stronghold**, your **Attack Total Score (ATS)** must be equal to or greater than the **Stronghold's Defense Stat**.



## THE BATTLEFIELD

In the middle area of your Kingdom Mat are your **Battlefield Tally Boxes**. Here is where Players will tally and determine their Total Scores.





## BATTLING MECHANICS

When you enter a Battle, there is always an **Attacker** and a **Defender**. Strongholds are always the Defender, as Strongholds cannot Attack Players.

$$\text{ATS} - \text{DTS} = \text{OUTCOME}$$

◆ Attacker's **Total Score** minus Defender's **Total Score** equals **Outcome** (and **Damage** dealt) and determines the winner of the Battle.

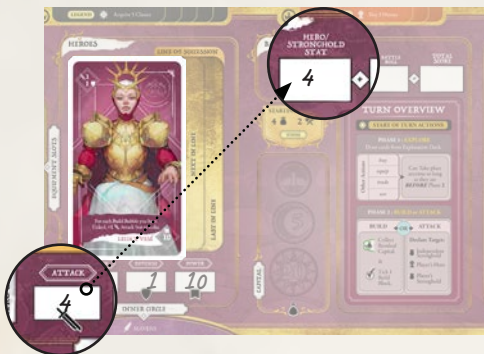
◆ (Attacking Player's  **Hero Attack Stat**) + (Attacker's  **Battle Roll**) = **Attacker's Total Score (ATS)**.

◆ (Defending Player's  **Hero/Stronghold Defense Stat**) + (Defender's  **Battle Roll**) = **Defender's Total Score (DTS)**.

### STEP 1 : BATTLEFIELD

✦ Since you are the Attacker, carry over your Active Hero's Attack Stat into the Battlefield Stat Box, making sure to account for all Stat increases that you have acquired. Use only a **DRY ERASE** marker.

#### ATTACKER



### STEP 2 : BATTLE CARDS

◆ If you are going to use a Battle Card, you do so after declaring Battle but before rolling dice. For this example, we are **NOT** going to play a Battle Card. See the following Battling: Player vs Player section for a walkthrough that shows utilization of Battle Cards.

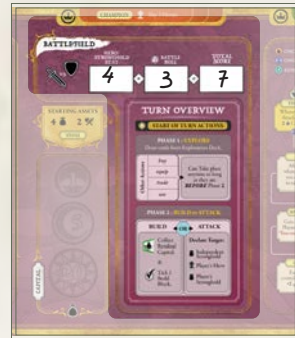
### STEP 3 : BATTLE ROLL



The **Battle Die** is a modified six-sided die with numbers -3, -2, -1, +1, +2, +3.

✦ Roll the Battle Die to determine your **Battle Roll**. Write the result into your **Battle Roll Box** on your Battlefield.

✦ If the number is negative, subtract it from your Attack Stat. If it's positive, then add it. This now determines your **Attack Total Score (ATS)**. Write that number into your **Total Score Box** on your Battlefield.



### STEP 4 : OUTCOME

◆ Since you are attacking an Independent Stronghold in this Battle, and not another Player, the **Defender's Total Score (DTS)** is already predetermined as Independent Strongholds do not get a Battle Roll. Therefore the Stronghold's DTS is the same as its Defense Stat: 4.

◆ If your **Attack Total Score (ATS)** is equal to or greater than the Stronghold's Defense Stat, then you win the Battle. In this example, your ATS was 5, and the Stronghold's Defense Stat (as shown on the upper left of the card) was 3. Therefore you won the Battle and can Gain the Stronghold Card.

## IF YOU WIN THE BATTLE

- ☀ If you manage to conquer the Stronghold in a single Battle and claim it as your own, then you are awarded that Stronghold's benefits. Place the now conquered Stronghold Card above your Kingdom Mat as shown to indicate it is under your Control.



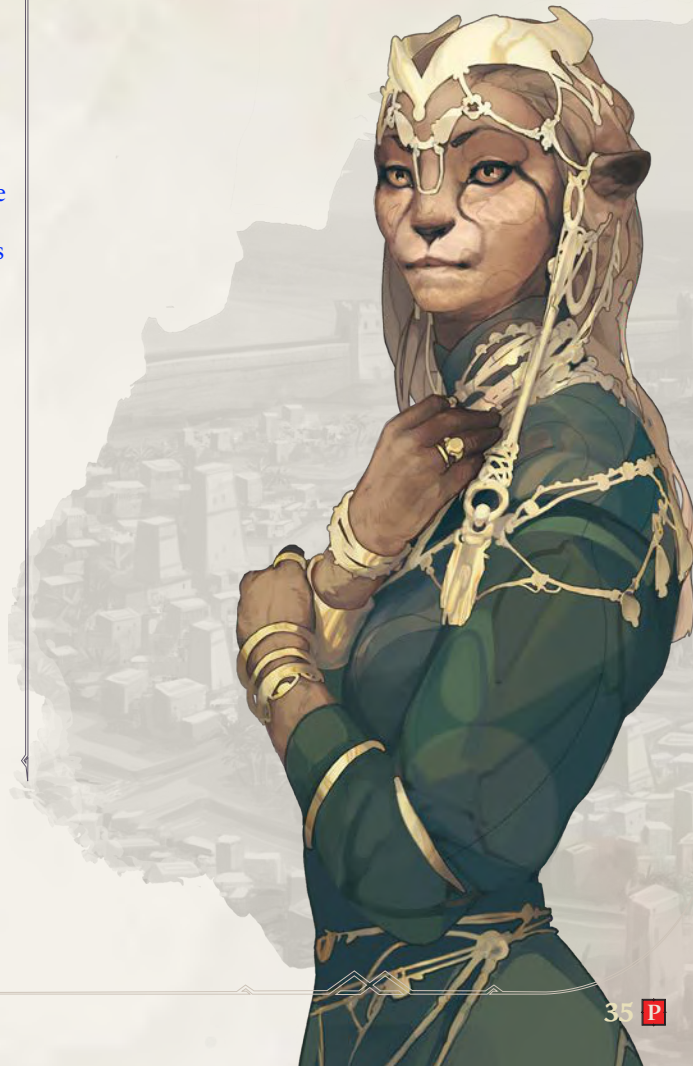
- ☀ Draw a new Independent Stronghold Card from the top of the Stronghold Deck and place it face up where the previous Stronghold was. This is now one of the four visible Strongholds that Players can choose to Attack.

## IF YOU TIE THE BATTLE

- ☀ The Tie always goes to the Attacker. If  $ATS = DTS$  and both sides arrive at the same Score, the Attacker wins the Battle, and takes the Stronghold. Battle Cards that read "If you win the Battle" take effect if you played them.
- ◆ Once you control a Stronghold, be mindful of the benefits as they all vary. All award you a one time Capital Gain upon conquering, unlock additional Residual Capital (to be added to your Build Tree), and come with Start of Turn actions.

## IF YOU LOSE THE BATTLE

- ☀ If your Attack Total Score (ATS) is less than the Independent Stronghold's Defense Stat, then you lose the Battle and incur **Damage**. Subtract your ATS from the Stronghold's Defense Stat, and your Hero receives that much Damage to their Power Stat. For example, if your Attack Total Score was 3 and the Stronghold's Defense Stat is 6; your Hero takes 3 points of Damage. This is subtracted from the Hero's current total Power Stat. Use only a DRY ERASE Marker to adjust this number.



## BATTLING: PLAYER VS PLAYER'S HERO

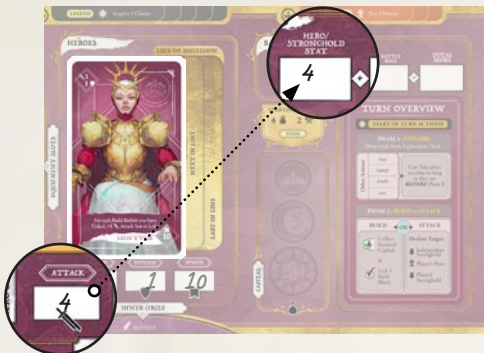
If you are attacking a Player's Hero, you start the Battle by declaring their Active Hero as your target.

In the walkthrough below, the Attacking Player has chosen to Attack the Defending Player's **Hero**.

### STEP 1 : BATTLEFIELD

- Players carry over their Hero Stats to their respective Battlefields, using a DRY ERASE marker. The Attacking Player always uses their Hero Attack Stat when attacking. The Defending Player, in this example, uses their Hero Defense Stat because their Hero is being attacked.

#### ATTACKER



#### DEFENDER



### STEP 2 : BATTLE CARDS

- If Players wish to play Battle Cards, they place their selected card face down on their Battlefields in the designated areas.

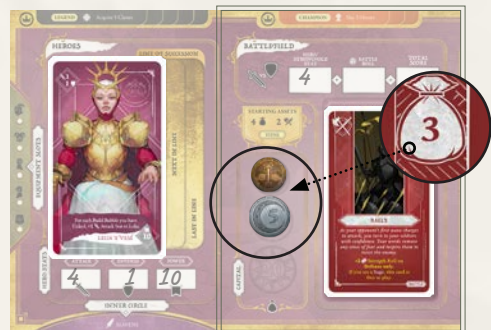
#### ATTACKER



#### DEFENDER

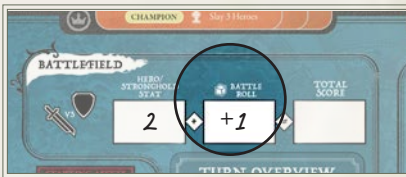


- Both players then reveal their Battle Cards simultaneously, and adjust their respective Capital Coins or Power Stat boxes according to the cost; seen on the upper righthand corner of their Battle Cards. Any change in Power brought about by the Battle Card will be reflected in a Player's Hero Power Stat Box on the lower left hand side of their Kingdom Mat.



### STEP 3 : BATTLE ROLL

Both Players take their Battle Roll by rolling the Battle Die. Attacker goes first. Be sure to account for Battle Cards and other acquired benefits in case these affect Roll numbers. The Attacker writes the result into their corresponding Strength Roll Box with a DRY ERASE marker.



Determine your **Total Scores**:

**Attacker's Attack Stat + their Battle Roll = Attacker's Total Score (ATS).**



**Defender's Hero Defense Stat + their Battle Roll = Defender's Total Score (DTS).**



### STEP 4 : OUTCOME

Determine **Outcome**:



If the number is positive (The Attacker has the greater score), then the Attacker won the Battle. The difference in scores becomes the amount of Damage dealt to the Defender's Hero, which is subtracted from that Hero's Power Stat box.



If the number is negative (The Defender has the greater score), then the Defender won the Battle. The difference in scores becomes the amount of damage dealt to the Attacker's Hero, which is subtracted from that Hero's Power Stat box.

If the Battling Players have the same score, then the Tie goes to the Attacker.

Adjust your Power Stat Boxes on your Kingdom Mats to reflect the Outcome of the Battle. If you have any post-Battle bonuses, remember to take them into account. Place used Battle Cards face up on the Discard Pile.

Note that any fractions should always be **rounded up**.

### TIE BREAKERS

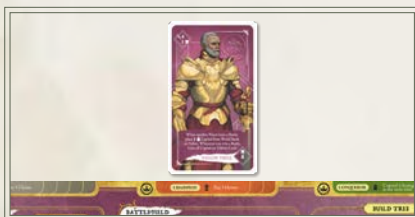
Ties always go to the Attacker. So if  $ATS = DTS$ , the Attacker wins the Battle. If you are attacking the Defender's Hero, no damage is dealt because the outcome is 0. However, cards that read "If you win the Battle" take effect if you played them.



## SLAIN HEROES

If a Hero's Power Stat reaches 0, that Hero is **Slain**.

- ◆ If your Hero is Slain by another Player, the Slaying Player takes your Slain Hero Card and places it above their Kingdom Mat face up as shown.
- ◆ If there was Capital on the Hero Card when that Hero was Slain, the Slaying Player collects that Capital, and adds it to their Kingdom Mat.



- ☹ If you have **Slain 3 Heroes** belonging to other Players, you become a **CHAMPION** and have fulfilled **1 of the 4 Victory Conditions**.

This does not need to be three Heroes from one Player.

- ◆ If your Hero is Slain while Exploring or during Battle with an Independent Stronghold NOT controlled by another Player, place the (now Slain) Hero Card face down and tuck it behind the last Hero in your Line of Succession, so that the orange back side is still partially visible to all Players.

## ELIMINATION

Players are eliminated from the game if all 3 of their Heroes are Slain.



## BATTLING: PLAYER VS. PLAYER'S STRONGHOLD

So far, we've covered Attacking an Independent Stronghold and Attacking another Player's Hero. Now we'll show you how to Attack a Stronghold controlled by another Player. Attacking another Player's Stronghold can swing the momentum of a game if you are victorious: not only are you gaining the benefits of that Stronghold, but you are also taking them away from that Player.

- ◆ When a Stronghold controlled by a Player is attacked, the Defending Player does NOT use their Hero's Defense Stat. Instead, they use the Stronghold's Defense Stat. Be sure to account for Stat bonuses that apply to Strongholds.
- ◆ The Attacking Player uses their Hero's Attack Stat and calculates their Attack Total Score (ATS) normally.
- ◆ If the Defending Player loses the Battle, their Hero does not incur any loss of Power. They only lose their Stronghold.
- ◆ All other Battle Steps remain the same.

### STEP 1 : BATTLEFIELD

**Carry over** Stats (Hero Attack Stat vs **Stronghold Defense Stat**). Be sure to account for all Stat bonuses you have acquired, and note that Equipped Items only affect Heroes.

### STEP 2 : BATTLE CARDS

**Declare Battle** Cards. Adjust Power Stats and Capital Coins for the cost of using Battle Cards.

### STEP 3 : BATTLE ROLL

**Players roll** the Battle Die. Determine Total Scores. Account for Battle Cards.

### STEP 4 : OUTCOME

**Determine Outcome**, adjust Power Stats and Capital Coins - account for post-Battle bonuses. Discard the used Battle Cards.

Attacker's **Hero Attack Stat** + Attacker's **Battle Roll** = Attacker's **Total Score (ATS)**.

Defender's **Stronghold Defense Stat** + Defender's **Battle Roll** = Defender's **Total Score (DTS)**.

$$\text{ATS} - \text{DTS} = \text{OUTCOME}$$

### IF ATTACKER WINS

- ☀ If the Outcome number is positive (the Attacker has the greater Score), then the Attacking Player has won the Battle and Gains the Stronghold Card by adding it above their Kingdom Mat. Attacker also gains all Capital on that card and adds it to their Kingdom Mat. Both Players adjust any Residual Capital that comes with the Stronghold. The Defender's Hero does NOT lose any Power. The Defender simply loses their Stronghold, its benefits, and all capital on the card.
- ☀ If you have any post-Battle bonuses, remember to take them into account, and then Discard used Battle Cards.

### IF DEFENDER WINS

- ☀ If the Outcome number is negative (the Defender has the greater Score), then the Defending Player has won the Battle and keeps their Stronghold. The Attacking Hero takes the difference in Scores as an amount of Damage to their Hero's Power Stat. The Attacker adjusts their Power Stat accordingly using the DRY ERASE marker.
- ☀ If you have any post-Battle bonuses, remember to take them into account, and then Discard used Battle Cards.

### TIES GO TO THE ATTACKER

- ☀ In the event of a Tie (ATS = DTS), then the Attacker wins the Battle and takes the Stronghold.

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"YOU KNOW, HOW I LOVE YOUR LACK OF AND YOUR LACK OF NOBILITY ACTUALLY QUITE CHARMING. TAKES ME FROM THE US, PLEASE, AND HAVE YOU MET WITH ME?"



"IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, WE'RE FRIENDS."



"NOT ANVARS, LAD AN EMPRESS HAS NO FRIENDS."



"DID YOU WANT TO HAVE BEEN TO THE CAPITAL TO GET THE..."



"NOT IN THE SAME MANNER."

"DO NOT BE WORRIED, WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU."

"IT IS NOT THE BEST OF TIMES, BUT WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU."



"DON'T BE WORRIED, IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT YOU."

"AND THIS YEAR IS IMPORTANT, AS IT IS THE FIRST YEAR SINCE THE GREAT WAR THAT WE MUST SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE."

# I N D E X

## A

Actions: 12  
Active Hero: 9  
Agriculture Training: 24  
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Discard Pile: 7

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Exploration Cards: 16

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## G

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Phase 2: 29  
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Reveal: 16

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Skill Cards: 24

Skill Training Colleges: 7

Skill Types: 24

Slay/Slain: 38

Slots (Equipment): 21

Special Abilities: 10, 19, 28

Spread Stack: 10

Starting Assets: 10

Start Of Turn Actions: 12

Stats: 10

Stronghold Cards: 32

## T

Tally Boxes (Battlefield): 33

Throne (Win Setting): 3

Tie-Breakers: 37

Tick: 30

Total Attack Score (ATS): 34

Total Defense Score (DTS): 34

Turns: 12

Tyrant: 27

## U

Unlock: 27

Use: 28

## V

Victory Conditions: 3

## W

Weapon Training: 24

Win the Game: 3

Win Setting: 3

World Bank: 11

World Forge Items: 21



SCAN  
THE QR CODE  
FOR FAQ

# ICON KEY



Attack Stat



Hero Defense Stat



Power Stat



Stronghold Defense Stat



Head



Chest



One-Handed



Item



Battle



Stronghold



Skill



Two-Handed



Pack



Slain Heroes



Class



Boon



Hazard



Maven



Capital



Residual Capital



Battle Roll



Once



Ongoing



Repeatable



Reveal



Pool Of Essence



Explore



Victory Condition



← REIGN. OR HAIL. →

