

GRIMDARK FUTURE

FIREFIGHT



ONE
PAGE
RULES

BEGINNER'S GUIDE
SCI-FI SKIRMISH GAME

GRIMDARK FUTURE

Lost in a galaxy far from our own, humanity struggles to survive amongst the stars.

Earth is but a distant memory for those beneath the grim tapestry of war-torn worlds that form the new constellations of this sector. Looming over them, massive fleets of spaceborne vessels creep over the horizon, blocking out the stars as they slowly approach a Jumpgate.

Beyond this gate, lies the violence and beauty of the wider Sirius Sector. A myriad of systems, none left untouched by the ravages of war. Here, countless battles are constantly fought.

Bullets hiss across once lush worlds stripped bare by the greed of interstellar industry. Serrated claws, honed through genetic engineering, clash against energized plasma blades, as old foes fight bitterly to the death through the wilds of uncharted planets.

Matter is bent and shaped according to the will of powerful minds, whilst forces beyond mortal understanding pour forth from wormholes to wreak havoc and destruction on poor unsuspecting souls.

Vital trade routes are contested along the edge of remote systems by massive battle fleets, while the sector's fate is meted out in dark smoky rooms by political envoys. On the streets of mega cities, zealous preachers and visionaries call out to the masses, hoping to foster their own grim ambitions.

As all this unfolds, dispassionate eyes watch on from a distance, carefully considering the outcome of each clash, as promising commanders and leaders rise and fall throughout the battlefields of the Sirius Sector.

How will you forge your path through this Grimdark Future?

GRIMDARK FUTURE: FIREFIGHT v3.5.1

INTRODUCTION

Grimdark Future: Firefight is a miniature wargame set in a war-torn sci-fi future, which is played using 32mm miniatures. The game mechanics are designed to be easy to learn but hard to master, bringing engaging sci-fi battles for players of all skill levels.

This rulebook is divided into 3 sections:

- **Basic Rules** - Everything you need to play the game, with plenty of diagrams and examples.
- **Advanced Rules** - Extra rules that you can use on top of the basic rules to spice up the game.
- **Total Conversions** - Rules that radically modify the base rules and provide a new experience.
- **Additional Content** - Extra content that is available on our website, added here for your convenience.

We recommend that you start off by playing with just a few advanced rules first, and then gradually add more as you get more comfortable with them.

Once you feel like you've gained a good understanding of the game, you can then try out the total conversions, which provide a radically different experience from the base rules.

ABOUT OPR

OPR (www.onepagerules.com) is the home of many free games which are designed to be fast to learn and easy to play.

This project was made by gamers for gamers and it can only exist thanks to the support of our awesome community.

If you want to help us in making more awesome content, you can support us on Patreon: www.patreon.com/onepagerules

Thank you for playing!

CREDITS

Created By: Gaetano Ferrara

Game Design: Gaetano Ferrara

Illustrations: Martim Cordovil, Ricardo Costa, Fran Fernandez, Brandon Gillam

OPR Games, Unipessoal LDA

Avenida 5 de Outubro 104 r/c, 1050-060 Lisbon, Portugal

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CONTENTS

Welcome to Grimdark Future	2
Introduction & Contents.....	3
Basic Rules	4
General Principles.....	4
Preparation	6
Game Structure & Movement	7
Shooting.....	8
Melee	9
Wound Effects & Morale.....	10
Terrain	11
Special Rules	13
Pre-Made Rule Packs.....	15
Advanced Rules	16
Advanced Terrain.....	16
Advanced Deployment Styles.....	20
Advanced Missions.....	23
Advanced Actions	28
Advanced Casting	30
Battlefield Effects.....	34
Random Events	36
Total Conversions.....	38
Fog of War	38
Unit Psychology	39
Critical Hits.....	40
Tactical Phase	41
Command Points	42
Twists & Gambits	44
City Fighting	46
Boarding Actions.....	47
Multiplayer Games	48
Kitchen Table Games	49
Additional Content	50
Tournament Guidelines.....	50
Solo & Co-Op Rules	54
Campaign Rules	56
Mission Cards	63

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE

When playing a complex game there are going to be occasions where a situation is not covered by the rules, or a rule does not seem quite right. When that is the case use common sense and personal preference to resolve the situation.

If you and your opponent cannot agree on how to solve a situation, use the following method in the interest of time.

Roll one die. On a result of 1-3 player A decides, and on a result of 4-6 player B decides. This decision then applies for the rest of the match, and once the game is over you can continue to discuss the finer details of the rules.

Note that whenever possible, players should agree on any rules and unusual situations (such as weirdly shaped models) before the game begins, to avoid issues later.

SCALE CONVENTIONS

This game was written to be played with 32mm scale models in mind, which are mounted on round bases. These bases come in various sizes, and we recommend that you always mount miniatures on the bases they come with.

Here are some rough guidelines for model and base sizes:

- **Infantry:** 32mm tall on 20mm/32mm round bases
- **Large Infantry:** 50mm tall on 40mm/50mm round bases
- **Bikes:** 40mm tall on 60mm oval bases

Note that the base size that you use doesn't matter, as long as you keep base sizes consistent across all models.

MODELS & UNITS

In the rules, individual miniatures are referred to as models, whilst groups of one or more models are referred to as units.

This means that when a rule applies to a unit it applies to all miniatures within that unit, whilst if a rule applies to a model it only applies to one individual miniature.

UNIT STATS

Units come with a variety of statistics that define who they are and what they can do.

- **Name [Size]:** The unit name and number of models.
- **Quality:** The score needed for attacks and morale.
- **Defense:** The score needed for defense.
- **Equipment:** Any weapons and gear the unit has.
- **Special Rules:** Any special rules the unit has.
- **Cost:** How many points it costs to take this unit.

DICE

To play the game you are going to need some six-sided dice, which we will refer to as D6. Depending on how many models you are playing with, we recommend having at least 10 to 20 dice to keep things fast.

Additionally, we recommend having dice of multiple colors so that you can combine them for faster rolling. Whenever a unit is using multiple weapons, you can use different colors for each weapon, and then roll them all at once.

Sometimes the rules will refer to different types of dice, for example D3, 2D6 and D6+1. There are many types of dice, but the notation remains the same, so just apply the following explanations to all types of weird dice you come across.

- **D3:** To use these dice, simply roll a D6 and halve the result, rounding up.
- **2D6:** To use these dice, simply roll two D6 and sum the results of both dice.
- **D6+1:** To use these dice, simply roll a D6 and add 1 to the result.

RE-ROLLS

Whenever a rule tells you to re-roll a dice result, simply pick up the number of dice you have to re-roll, and roll them again. The result of the second roll is the final result, even if it's worse than the first. A die roll may only be re-rolled once, regardless of how many rules apply to it.

ROLL-OFFS

Whenever a rule tells you to roll-off, all players involved in the roll-off must roll one die, and then compare their results. The player with the highest result wins the roll-off, and in the event of a tie the players must re-roll until there is a winner.

QUALITY TESTS

During the game you will be required to take Quality tests in order to see if a model succeeds at doing various things such as hitting its targets or passing morale tests.

Whenever a rule states that a unit must take a Quality test, roll one die. If you score the model's Quality value or higher, then it counts as a success, else it counts as a fail.

Example: A model with Quality 4+ must take three Quality tests. The player rolls three dice and scores a 3, a 4 and a 5. This means that the model gets two successes (the 4 and 5), and one fail (the 3).

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

MODIFIERS

Throughout the game there are going to be rules that apply modifiers to your die rolls. These will usually raise or lower the value of a unit's roll results by either +1 or -1, but the exact number may vary.

When a modifier applies to one of your rolls, simply add or subtract the value from the roll and the new value counts as the final result, however a roll of 6 always counts as a success and a roll of 1 always counts as a fail, regardless of how much it is being modified by.

Example: A model with Quality 4+ must take three Quality tests with a -1 modifier. The player rolls three dice and scores a 3, 4 and 5, but because of the modifier the final result is a 2, a 3 and a 4.

WEAPONS

All weapons in the game are separated into two categories: ranged weapons and melee weapons. Ranged weapons have a range value and can be used for shooting, whilst melee weapons don't have a range value and can be used in melee.

Weapons profiles are represented like this:

- Name (Range, Attacks, Special Rules)

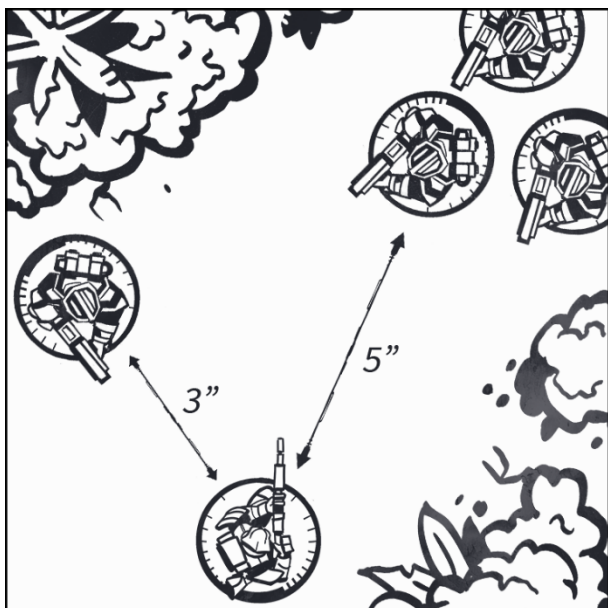
Example: Heavy Rifle (24", A1, AP(1))

MEASURING DISTANCES

To play the game you are going to need a ruler marked in inches, which you may use to measure distances at any time:

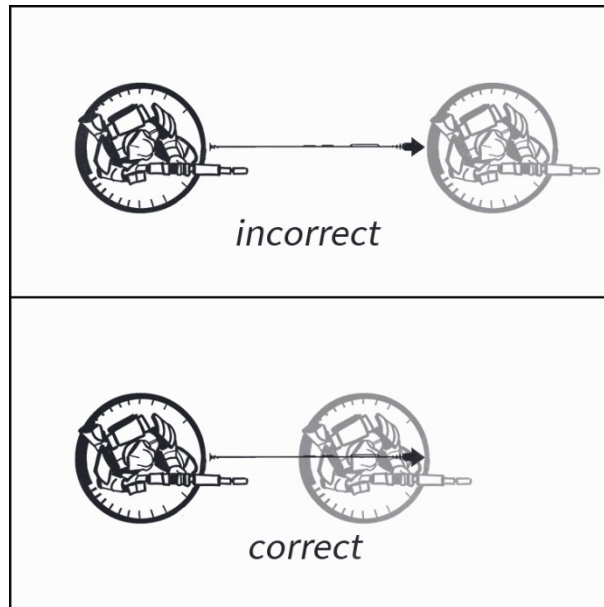
- When measuring the distance between two models you always measure from/to the closest point of their bases.
- When measuring the distance between two units you always measure from/to the closest model in each unit.

Distances are usually measured from a model's base, however if a model has no base, then players must agree from where distances are to be measured (such as its hull/torso), and which unusual features may be ignored (like decorative banners or flame effects).



MEASURING MOVEMENT

When measuring how far a model moves always measure so that no part of its base moves further than the total distance.



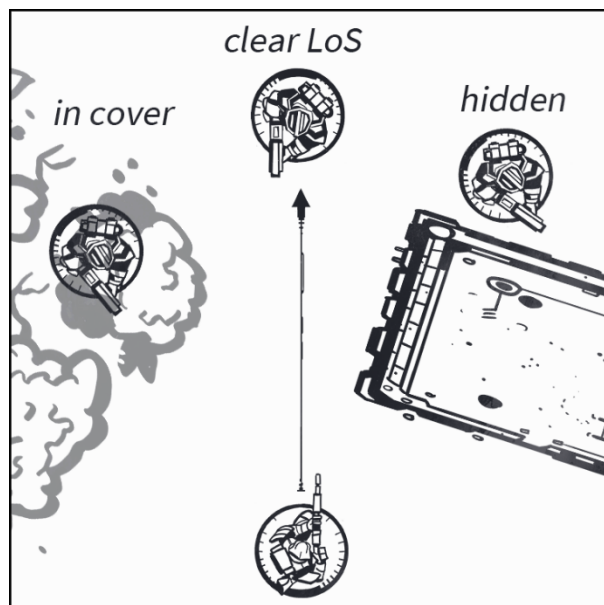
Note that these movement restrictions apply in the same way to models on bases of any shape or models without a base.

LINE OF SIGHT

When playing the game, line of sight is used to determine if a model can see another model for any purpose. Simply get down to the eye level of the miniature, and check if it can see the target. If the target is visible, then it has line of sight.

Models can always see in all directions, regardless of where the miniature is actually facing, always have line of sight to themselves, and may always target themselves (unless stated otherwise). Models can't see through solid obstacles, including the perimeter of other units (friendly or enemy), but they can always see through friendly models from their own unit.

Note that players may agree to ignore unusual features (like decorative banners or flame effects) for line of sight.



PREPARATION

PREPARING THE BATTLEFIELD

You are going to need a flat 4'x4' area to play on, which is usually referred to as "the battlefield" or "the table". Note that the game can be also played on smaller areas, as long as armies deploy at least 24" apart.

Whilst we recommend playing on a table, you can of course play on the floor, on a bed, or wherever else you have space.

Once you have found a space to play, you are going to have to place at least 20 pieces of terrain on it, though we recommend using 25 or more to keep things interesting. Whilst it's always nice to play with great looking pieces of terrain, you can simply use household items such as books or cups as terrain.

There are no specific rules on how you should place terrain, but we have provided some general guidelines in the terrain section of this book to help you get started.

PLACING OBJECTIVES

After the table has been prepared, you and your opponent must set up D3+2 objective markers on the battlefield.

The players roll-off and the winner picks who places the first objective marker. Then the players alternate in placing one marker each outside of the deployment zones, and over 9" away from other markers (note that markers can't be placed in unreachable positions, like impassable terrain or spots too tight to get to).

THE MISSION

At the end of each round, if a unit is within 3" of a marker whilst no enemies are, then it counts as being seized.

Markers stay under the player's control even if the unit moves away, but if units from both sides contest a marker at the end of a round, then it becomes neutral again.

After 4 rounds have been played, the game ends, and the player that controls most markers wins.

Note that unless stated otherwise, players don't ever win the game by fully destroying their opponent's army.

PREPARING YOUR ARMY

Before the game begins, you and your opponent are going to have to agree on what size of game you want to play.

For a start we recommend playing with armies worth 200pts each, and once you have gotten familiar with the game, you can start playing full matches with 300pts armies each.

To put your army list together, simply select units and upgrades from one or more armies of your choice, and sum together their total point cost. There are no limitations as to how many units you can take, as long as their point cost doesn't go over the agreed total game size.

FORCE ORGANISATION (OPTIONAL)

Optionally you and your opponent may agree to use the force organisation rules, which help make army composition more consistent and balanced.

The armies must follow these limitations:

- Only 1 hero per 150pts
- Only 1+X copies of the same unit, where X is 1 per 150pts (combined units count as one)
- No single unit worth over 35% of total points
- Only 1 unit per 30pts
- Only 1 model per 20pts

Example: When playing a 300pts game, players may bring max. 2 heroes, max. 3 copies of each unit, no unit worth over 105pts, max. 10 units in total, and max. 15 models in total.

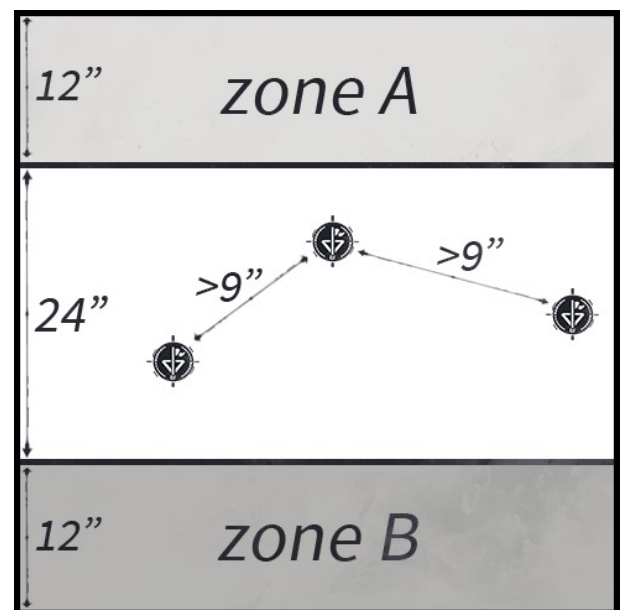
DEPLOYING ARMIES

Once the mission has been set, up the players roll-off and the winner must start deploying their army first.

The winning player first chooses one table edge to deploy on and then places one unit fully within 12" of their table edge.

Once they are done, then the opposing player places one unit fully within 12" of the opposite table edge.

Then the players continue alternating in placing one unit each, until all units have been deployed.



GAME STRUCTURE & MOVEMENT

GAME STRUCTURE

The game is structured into game rounds, player turns and unit activations. Here is the breakdown of what these mean:

- **Rounds:** Each round is made up of multiple turns.
- **Turns:** Each turn is made up of a single activation.
- **Activations:** Each activation is made up of an action.

PLAYING THE GAME

After both players have deployed their armies, the game starts with the first round and the player that won the deployment roll-off takes the first turn.

During their turn, the player picks a unit that has not been activated yet, and activates it. During the activation, the player picks one action for the unit to take, and completes it.

Once the action has been taken, their turn ends and the opposing player's turn starts. This continues until all units have activated, at which point the round ends and a new one begins. On each new round the player that finished activating first on the last round gets to activate first.

After 4 rounds have been played the game ends, and players determine who won by checking their mission objectives.

ACTIVATING UNITS

Players must activate one unit that has not been activated yet and take one of the available actions:

- **Hold** - Doesn't move, can shoot.
- **Advance** - Moves 6" and can shoot after moving.
- **Rush** - Moves 12" but can't shoot.
- **Charge** - Moves 12" into melee.

Note that Advance, Rush, and Charge actions may sometimes be referred to as "Move Actions".

GENERAL MOVEMENT

Models may move and turn in any direction regardless of their facing, as long as no part of their bases move further than the total movement distance. Models may never be within 1" of models from other units, unless they are taking a Charge action, and may never move through other models or units (friendly or enemy), even if they are taking a Charge action.

Note that models may also never move outside of the battlefield (no part of them, at any point), or be placed in physically impossible locations.

HOLDING

When taking a Hold action, the models in the unit may not move, but may freely turn to face any direction.

ADVANCING

When taking an Advance action, all models in the unit may move by up to 6".

RUSHING

When taking a Rush action, all models in the unit may move by up to 12".

CHARGING

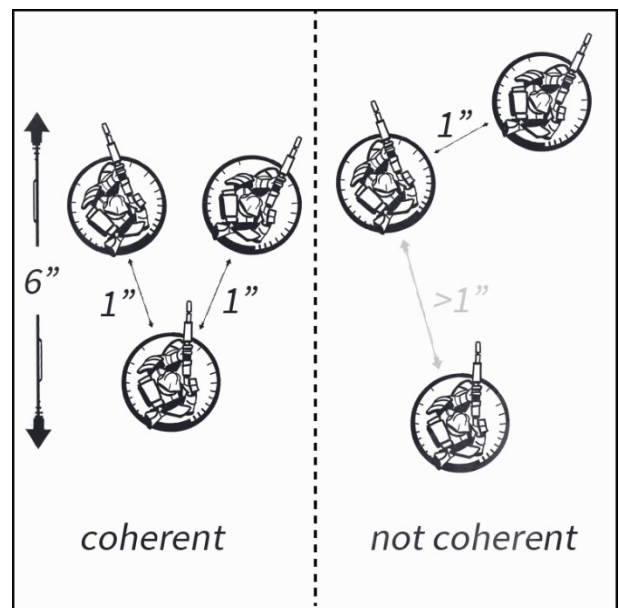
When taking a Charge action, all models in the unit may move by up to 12", trying to reach base contact with one enemy unit, and may ignore the 1" distance restriction. Units may only take a Charge action if at least one model is within charge distance of the target unit (including any additional movement from special rules).

Note that Charge moves don't have to be in a straight line, and if being within charge distance becomes impossible (due to killed models, special rules, etc.), then the unit may complete its move in any direction and ends its activation.

UNIT COHERENCY

All models in a unit must always stay within 1" of at least one other model, and must stay within 6" of all other models (or as close as possible), forming an uninterrupted chain of models in 1" coherency with each other.

If a model is not in coherency with its unit at the beginning of its activation, then you must take an action so that the model gets back into coherency.



SHOOTING

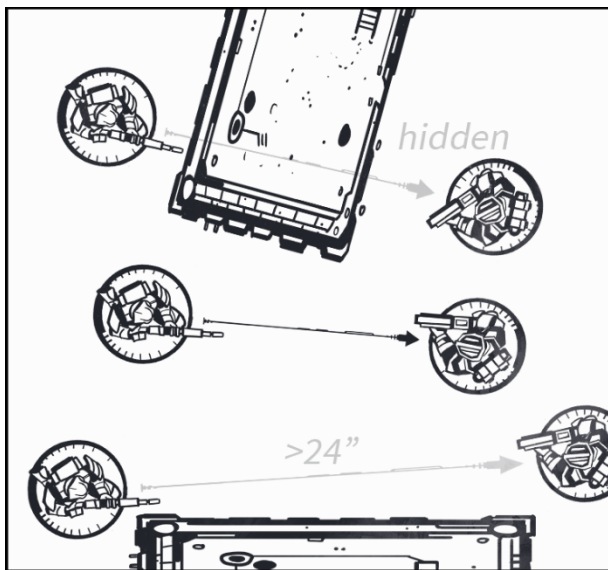
PICKING TARGETS

When shooting, a unit must pick one valid target and all models in the unit may shoot at it.

If at least one model in the unit has line of sight to an enemy model, and has a weapon that is within range of that model, then that enemy is a valid target.

WHO CAN SHOOT

All models in a unit with line of sight to the target, and that have a weapon that is within range of it, may fire. Note that models may always ignore friendly models from their own unit when determining line of sight.



Example: Only the Dynasty Warrior in the middle can shoot at the Dwarves. The model at the top is in range but has no line of sight, whilst the model at the bottom has line of sight but is out of range.

MULTIPLE WEAPON TYPES

If a unit is firing multiple weapon types, then you may separate each weapon type into its own weapon group.

Each group may be fired at a different target, however you may fire only at up to two different targets, and all weapons from the same group must fire at the same target.

Note that the target for each weapon group must be declared before rolling, and all weapons are fired simultaneously.

Example: A unit of Dynasty Warriors is armed with Rifles and a Plasma Rifle. Since they have two weapon types, the Dynasty Warriors can fire all the Rifles at a nearby Dwarf squad, and the Plasma Rifle at a distant Powersuit Guard.

THE SHOOTING SEQUENCE

Shooting is done in a simple sequence which has to be followed separately for each weapon group:

1. Determine Attacks
2. Roll to Hit
3. Roll to Block
4. Check Wound Effects

1. DETERMINE ATTACKS

Sum the Attack value from the weapons of all models that can shoot at the target to determine how many attacks the unit has in total for this shooting.

Example: A Dynasty Warrior is shooting at a Dwarf. He is armed with a Rifle (Attack 1) and is within range and line of sight of the Dwarf, which means that he has a total of 1 attack for this shooting.

2. ROLL TO HIT

After having determined how many attacks the unit has in total, take as many Quality tests as attacks. Each successful roll counts as a hit, and all failed rolls are discarded with no effect.

Example: The Dynasty Warrior (Quality 4+) is shooting at the Dwarf. He takes one Quality test and rolls a 5. This means that he scored a total of 1 hit.

3. ROLL TO BLOCK

For every hit that the unit has taken, the defending player must roll one die, trying to score the target's Defense value. Each success counts as a blocked hit, and for each failed roll place one wound marker on the model.

Example: The Dwarf (Defense 4+) has taken 1 hit. He rolls one die and gets a 3. This means that the Dwarf has taken 1 wound and must check to see its effects.

4. CHECK WOUND EFFECTS

After attacks from all weapons have been resolved, see wound effects page on how to resolve wounds.

MELEE

PICKING TARGETS

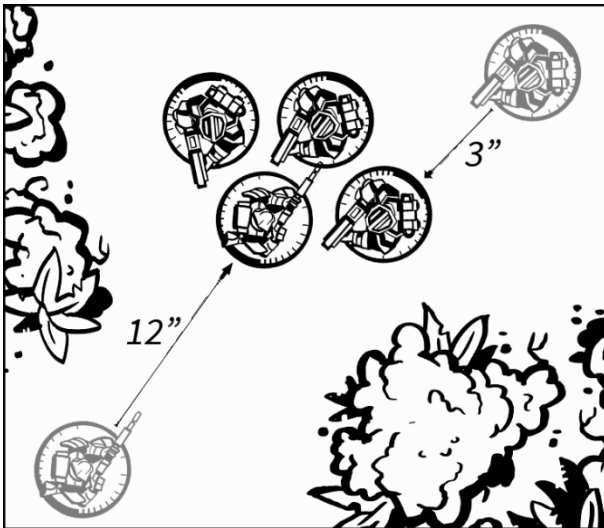
When charging, a unit must pick one valid target and all models in the unit must charge it.

If at least one model in the unit is within charge distance of one model from the target unit, and has a clear path to reach it, then that enemy is a valid target (no line of sight is needed).

CHARGE MOVES

Charging models must move by up to 12" to get into base contact with an enemy model from the target unit, or as close as possible, whilst still maintaining unit coherency (charge moves don't have to be in a straight line).

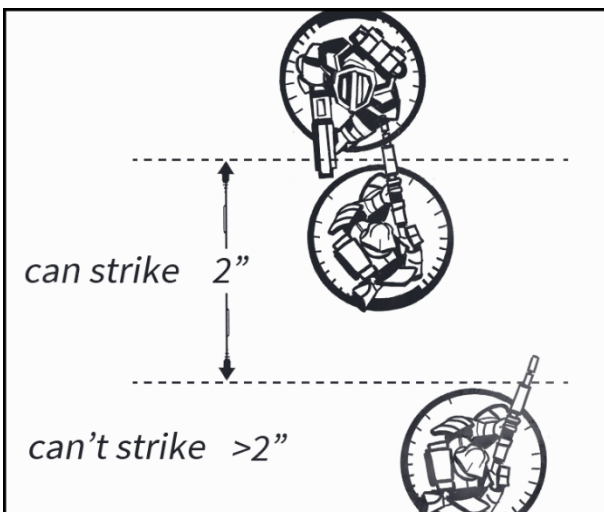
Once all charging models have moved, all models from the target unit that are not in base contact with a charging model must move by up to 3" to get into base contact with a charging model, or as close as possible, maintaining unit coherency.



WHO CAN STRIKE

All models that are within 2" horizontally and 4" vertically of an enemy model from the target unit, may attack it.

Models must strike with all of their melee weapons, and may only strike at models from the target unit.



THE MELEE SEQUENCE

Melee is done in a simple sequence which has to be followed separately for the charging unit and the target unit:

1. Determine Attacks
2. Roll to Hit
3. Roll to Block
4. Check Wound Effects

1. DETERMINE ATTACKS

Sum the Attack value from the weapons of all models that can strike at the target to determine how many attacks the unit has in total for this melee.

Example: A Dynasty Warrior is charging a Dwarf. He is armed with a CCW (Attack 1) and is in range of the Dwarf, which means that he has a total of 1 attack for this melee.

2. ROLL TO HIT

After having determined how many attacks the unit has in total, take as many Quality tests as attacks. Each successful roll counts as a hit, and all failed rolls are discarded with no effect.

Example: The Dynasty Warrior (Quality 4+) is striking at the Dwarf. He takes one Quality test and rolls a 5. This means that he scored a total of 1 hit.

3. ROLL TO BLOCK

For every hit that the unit has taken, the defending player must roll one die, trying to score the target's Defense value. Each success counts as a blocked hit, and for each failed roll place one wound marker on the model.

Example: The Dwarf (Defense 4+) has taken 1 hit. He rolls one die and gets a 3. This means that the Dwarf has taken 1 wound and must check to see its effects.

4. CHECK WOUND EFFECTS

After attacks from all weapons have been resolved, see wound effects page on how to resolve wounds.

RETURN STRIKES

Once all charging models have attacked, the defending unit may choose to strike back (following the melee sequence again), but doesn't have to. Note that striking back does not count as its activation, and activated units may strike back.

FATIGUE

After attacking in melee for the first time during a round, either by charging or by striking back, units only hit on unmodified rolls of 6 in melee until the end of that round.

WOUND EFFECTS & MORALE

CHECKING WOUND EFFECTS

Whenever a model has taken at least one wound, the defender must roll one die and add the number of wound markers on it, and then check to see what happens to it:

Result	Effect
1-5	Shaken - Gets +1 to wound effect rolls, must stay idle, but may strike back counting as fatigued, always fails morale tests, and can't contest or seize objectives. When activated, must spend its activation being idle (can't take any actions, or use any active special rules, such as casting spells, using buffs/debuffs, re-positioning, etc.), which stops it from being Shaken at the end of the activation.
6+	Knocked Out - The model is removed from play.

Note that units must also check for wound effects when taking wounds from other sources (special rules, terrain, etc.).

Example: A Dwarf has just taken one wound and must now check its effect. He rolls one die and gets a 5, and adds +1 because it had one wound. The final result is 6 and so the model is Knocked Out.

GROUPS & WOUNDS

When a unit with multiple models takes wounds, each wound immediately kills one model, until only one last model remains. Only the last model then accumulates wound markers and rolls to see if it's Shaken or Knocked Out.

Example: A unit of three Dwarves has taken three wounds, so it first removes two models as casualties, and then puts one wound on the last model and rolls to check the wound's effect.

CONSOLIDATION MOVES

In melee, if one of the two units was destroyed (removed all models as casualties), then the other may move by up to 3".

If neither of the units was destroyed, then the charging unit must move back by 1" (if possible), to keep the separation between units clear, and show they are not locked in melee.

MORALE TESTS

At the end of each round, if an army is down to half or less of its starting units, then all of its units must take a morale test.

Note that starting size is counted at the beginning of the game.

Example: An Eternal Dynasty army started the game with 5 units, and is down to 2 units at the end of a round, so all of its units must take a morale test at the end of all rounds.

TAKING MORALE TESTS

To take a morale test, the affected unit must simply take one regular Quality test, and see what happens:

- If the test is passed, nothing happens.
- If the test is failed, the unit is Shaken.
- If the test is failed, and the unit was already Shaken, then the unit Routs.

ROUTED UNITS

Routed units have lost all hope and are taken captive, flee the battle, or are otherwise rendered ineffective.

Simply remove the entire unit from the game as a casualty.

Example: An Eternal Dynasty army with 5 units has lost 3 units and the remaining 2 units must take a morale test. They each take a morale test and pass, so they both get to continue fighting.

TERRAIN

TERRAIN RULES

When setting up terrain, players must agree on what terrain type rules each piece of terrain follows. This will make sure that you do not have any arguments during your game, and that things can proceed smoothly.

Each piece of terrain may count as having multiple terrain types, and you may also add other conditions to further customize your terrain rules.

Example: A piece of Forest terrain could count both as Cover as well as Difficult Terrain. Additionally, you could allow units to shoot into and out of it freely, but not through it.

OPEN TERRAIN

Examples: Grass Fields, Dirt Roads, Streets, etc.

Any surface that is not specifically defined as a type of terrain (like forests, buildings, rivers, etc.) counts as open terrain.

Open terrain does not have any special rules, and any rules that affect terrain do not apply to open terrain.

IMPASSABLE TERRAIN

Examples: Mountains, Canyons, Deep Water, etc.

Any surface that would stop models from moving through it, as well as gaps over 1" wide, count as impassable terrain.

Units may not move through impassable terrain, unless they have any rules that allow them to ignore it. Note that units may move across gaps up to 1" wide as if they were flat ground, but may not end their move partially overhanging gaps or terrain.

BLOCKING TERRAIN

Examples: Walls, Buildings, Rocks, etc.

Any piece of terrain that models can't see or shoot through counts as blocking terrain.

Units may not draw line of sight through blocking terrain, unless they have any rules that allow them to ignore it.

COVER TERRAIN

Examples: Forests, Ruins, Sandbags, etc.

Terrain features that models can hide in or behind, or that could stop projectiles, count as cover terrain.

If the majority of models in a unit are fully inside a piece of cover terrain or behind a sight blocker (for multi-model units), or that are mostly inside cover terrain or behind sight blockers (for single-model units), they get +1 to Defense rolls when blocking hits from shooting attacks.

Note that since models can't see through the perimeter of other units (friendly or enemy), they are sight blockers that can provide other units with cover.

DIFFICULT TERRAIN

Examples: Woods, Mud, Rivers, etc.

Terrain features that hinder a model's movement, or force them to slow down, count as difficult terrain.

If any model in a unit moves in or through difficult terrain at any point of its move, then all models in the unit may not move more than 6" for that movement.

DANGEROUS TERRAIN

Examples: Quicksand, Razor Wire, Mine Fields, etc.

Terrain features that could harm models, or outright kill them, count as dangerous terrain.

If a model moves in or through dangerous terrain, or is activated in it, then it must take a dangerous terrain test.

To take a dangerous terrain test, roll one die (or as many dice as the model's Tough value), and if the result is 1, then the unit takes one automatic wound.

ELEVATED TERRAIN

Examples: Hills, Rooftops, Cliffs, etc.

Terrain features that are over 3" tall count as elevated terrain, and are impassable, but any terrain piece that is up to 3" tall may be climbed as part of a unit's move (units may not end their move mid-climb). If not all models in a unit can fit on elevation, then a coherency of 3" is allowed to models at different elevation.

Note that short terrain up to 1" tall may be ignored for the purposes of movement (instead of having to climb up 1" and down 1" to cross it).

TERRAIN

TERRAIN SETUP GUIDELINES

Whilst there are no specific rules as to how terrain should be placed, here are some guidelines on how to handle terrain to have a balanced match.

Here are all the things you should consider:

- Size of your terrain
- Rules for each terrain
- Number of pieces
- How to place it

TERRAIN OVERVIEW

Whilst there is no limit to the size of terrain that you can use for your games, we have a few recommendations for you:

- Small pieces of scatter terrain, like barrels, boxes, barricades, etc. should be somewhere between 1"x1" and 3"x3" in size.
- Large terrain features, like buildings, forests, lakes, etc. should be somewhere between 4"x4" and 8"x8" in size, but can be as large as 12"x12".

For each terrain feature you'll also have to define some basic rules for how it works in the game. Most terrain features will probably have a single type, but you can combine multiple types together, and even add extra conditions to them.

Here are some guidelines for common terrain types:

- **Barricades** - Cover
- **Buildings** - Impassable + Blocking
- **Fields** - Difficult + Cover
- **Forests** - Difficult + Cover + Units can see into and out of forests, but not through them
- **Hills** - Cover + Difficult when moving up + Units on top may ignore one unit/terrain for line of sight
- **Lakes** - Difficult (if shallow) or Impassable (if deep)
- **Lava** - Dangerous
- **Mountains** - Impassable + Blocking
- **Rivers** - Dangerous when using rush/charge
- **Rubble** - Difficult
- **Ruins** - Cover + Dangerous when using rush/charge
- **Swamps** - Difficult

Note that whilst all of the terrain we mentioned so far is what you'll need for gameplay purposes, it's also always good to have elements of decorative terrain that have no effect on the game, but that help make your table look better.

These could be elements such as patches of grass, shallow water puddles, scattered gravel, chain-link fences, street signs, and other things that make sense for your table.

TERRAIN PLACEMENT

When setting up terrain, you should use at least 20-25 pieces of terrain, although using more can be more interesting.

A simple way to make sure that you're using enough terrain is to take as many pieces of terrain as you need to fully cover at least 50% of the table, and then spread them out.

It's also good to keep a balance of different terrain types, so that units with different weapons and special rules can use them effectively in various situations.

Here are some basic terrain type recommendations:

- At least 50% should block line of sight
- At least 33% should provide cover
- At least 33% should be difficult terrain
- Each player should pick 1 piece to be dangerous

Example: If you're playing with 18 pieces of terrain, at least 9 should block line of sight, 6 should provide cover, 6 should be difficult terrain, and 2 should be dangerous terrain.

Once you have chosen which terrain pieces you are going to use, you can either have one player set up all of the terrain, or have both players set up terrain together.

To make sure neither player has an advantage, you can roll-off, and then then alternate in placing one terrain piece each, starting with the player that won the roll-off.

There are no specific rules on how you should place terrain, so we recommend trying to set up the table in such a way that it will provide a balanced playing field for everyone involved.

Ideally you want to place enough blocking terrain that you can't draw clear line of sight from edge to edge across the table, as well as make sure that there are no gaps bigger than 6" between different terrain pieces. If you are playing with large units, we also recommend making sure that there are gaps of at least 3" between terrain, so they can fit through.

SPECIAL RULES

RULES PRIORITY & STACKING EFFECTS

Most units have one or more special rules that affect the way they behave, and that sometimes go against the standard rules. When you come across one of these situations, the special rule always takes precedence over the standard rules.

If multiple special rules happen at the same time, and it's not clear which should be done first, if all the rules affect only one player, then that player may decide the order. If the rules affect multiple players, then the players roll-off and the winner picks the order.

Effects from multiple instances of the same special rule or spell don't stack, unless it is a rule with (X) in its name, or unless it is specified otherwise.

SPECIAL RULES REFERENCE

Ambush

May be set aside before deployment. At the start of any round after the first, may be deployed anywhere over 9" away from enemy units. Players alternate in placing Ambushers, starting with the player that activates next. Units that deploy via Ambush can't seize or contest objectives on the round they deploy.

AP(X)

Targets get -X to Defense rolls when blocking hits from weapons with this special rule.

Bane

Ignores Regeneration, and when attacking the target must re-roll unmodified Defense results of 6.

Note that a die roll may only be re-rolled once, so if another 6 is rolled after re-rolling Defense, then the hit is blocked.

Blast(X)

Ignores cover, and after resolving other special rules, each hit is multiplied by X, where X is up to as many hits as enemy models in the target unit and within 3" of it. Hits must be split evenly between all enemy units within 3" of any model from the target (defender picks how).

Example: A weapon with 2 Attacks and Blast(3) scores two hits against a unit with 2 models. Each hit is multiplied by 2, so the target takes a total of 4 hits.

Example: A weapon with 1 Attack and Blast(6) scores a hit against a unit with 3 models that is within 3" of two other enemy units with 1 model each. The hit is multiplied by 5, and the defender picks which two units take 2 hits, and which unit takes 1 hit.

Caster(X)

Gets X spell tokens at the start of each round, but can't hold more than 6 tokens at once. At any point before attacking, spend as many tokens as the spell's value to try casting one or more spells (only one try per spell). Roll one die, on 4+ resolve the effect on a target in line of sight. Models within 18" in line of sight of the caster's unit may spend any number of spell tokens at the same time before rolling, to give the caster +1/-1 to the roll per token.

Note that Casters get spell tokens each round even if they are not on the table (waiting to Ambush for example), and that the Caster's spells must be picked from their own faction.

Counter

Strikes first with this weapon when charged, and the charging unit gets -1 total Impact rolls per model with Counter.

Example: A model with Impact(3) charges a unit with 1 model that has Counter, so it only makes 2 Impact rolls.

Deadly(X)

Assign each wound to one model, and multiply it by X. Hits from Deadly must be resolved first, and these wounds don't carry over to other models if the original target is killed.

Fast

Models with this special rule move +2" when using Advance and +4" when using Rush/Charge.

Fear(X)

This model counts as having dealt +X wounds when checking wound effects in melee (must deal at least one wound).

Example: A unit with Fear(1) has dealt 1 wound to an enemy in melee, and the enemy rolled a 4, to which we add 1 from the wound and 1 from fear for a total of 6, so the enemy is Knocked Out.

Fearless

When a unit where all models have this rule fails a morale test, roll one die. On a 4+ it counts as passed instead.

Flying

May move through units and terrain, and ignores terrain effects whilst moving, and automatically passes jumping rolls.

Furious

When charging, unmodified results of 6 to hit in melee deal 1 extra hit (only the original hit counts as a 6 for special rules).

Example: A Furious model with a weapon with 1 Attack and Rending scores one hit on a roll of 6, so it deals two hits, of which only the first counts as having AP(+4) because of Rending.

Hero

Friendly units within 12" may take morale tests using the hero's Quality, as long as the hero isn't Shaken.

SPECIAL RULES

Immobile

Models with this special rule may only use Hold actions.

Impact(X)

Roll X dice when attacking after charging, unless fatigued. For each 2+ the target takes one hit.

Indirect

Gets -1 to hit rolls when shooting after moving. May target enemies that are not in line of sight as if in line of sight, and ignores cover from sight obstructions.

Limited

Weapons with this rule may only be used once per game.

Regeneration

When a unit where all models have this rule takes wounds, roll one die for each. On a 5+ it is ignored.

Relentless

When this model shoots at enemies over 9" away, unmodified results of 6 to hit deal 1 extra hit (only the original hit counts as a 6 for special rules).

Note: See examples from the Furious special rule for clarifications.

Reliable

Models attacks at Quality 2+ with this weapon.

Note that Reliable only changes the Quality value, so the roll can still be modified, Fatigue still applies, etc.

Rending

Ignores Regeneration, and on unmodified results of 6 to hit, those hits get AP(+4).

Scout

May be set aside before deployment. After all other units are deployed, may be deployed anywhere fully within 12" of their deployment zone. Players alternate in placing Scout units, starting with the player that activates next.

Slow

Models with this special rule move -2" when using Advance, and -4" when using Rush/Charge.

Stealth

When units where all models have this rule are shot from over 9" away, enemy units get -1 to hit rolls.

Strider

May ignore the effects of difficult terrain when moving, and only needs 2+ to pass jumping rolls.

Surge

On unmodified results of 6 to hit, this weapon deals 1 extra hit (only the original hit counts as a 6 for special rules).

Thrust

When charging, gets +1 to hit rolls and AP(+1) in melee.

Tough(X)

This model only rolls to check wound effects once it has taken at least X wounds, and is only Knocked Out on rolls of 5+X or more.

Example: A model with Tough(3) only rolls for wound effects once it has taken 3 wounds or more, and is Knocked Out on rolls of 8+.

Unstoppable

Ignores Regeneration, and ignores all negative modifiers to this weapon.

SPECIAL MOVEMENT

Pushing

Whenever a model rolls a Shaken result, the attacker may try to push it. Roll one die, and on a 4+ the attacker may move the model by up to 2" in any direction.

Jumping

Models may cross 1" gaps or drop off 3" of elevation as regular movement, but they must jump to cross gaps or drop off elevation of up to 6". Roll X+1 dice, trying to score 3+, where X is one die for every full 3" the model wants to move. If all rolls are successes, then the model may cross the distance, without counting it towards its move. If any roll is failed, then the model falls instead.

Example: A unit of two models wants to jump down 4" of elevation, so each model must roll 2 dice, trying to score 3+.

Falling

If a model falls or is pushed off an elevated position at least 2" tall, it takes 1 hit with AP(X), where X is AP(1) for every full 3" it fell. Then place the model within 2" of the bottom, and its activation ends immediately. For units with multiple models, falling kills the model instead, until only one last model remains, which falls normally.

Example: A unit of two models has fallen down 4" of elevation, so one model is killed, and the other takes 1 hit with AP(1).

WHAT NEXT?

MORE GRIMDARK FUTURE: FIREFIGHT

There is much more to Grimdark Future: Firefight than just the content of this beginner's guide, and what you've seen here so far is only the tip of a very large iceberg!

THE EXPANDED RULEBOOK

Whilst this beginner's guide provides you with all you need in order to play exciting games of Grimdark Future: Firefight, there is even more content in the full rulebook, giving you access to a large set of advanced rules which you can use to customize the game to play the way you like. Make sure to check out our website to buy it!

The full rulebook contains all of the following:

- Terrain Placement Rules
- Terrain Generators
- Army Terrain Rules
- Rules for Solid Buildings
- Advanced Deployment Styles
- Extra Missions
- Side-Missions
- Extra Actions
- Action Boosting
- Advanced Casting
- Living Spells
- Relic Wargear
- Special Conditions
- Terrain & Objective Effects
- Random Events
- Fog of War Rules
- Unit Psychology
- Brutal Damage Rules
- Command Points
- Twists & Gambits
- City Fighting Rules
- Boarding Actions Rules
- Rules for Multiplayer Games
- Rules for Kitchen Table Games

NEW WAYS TO PLAY

There are lots more ways for you to play the games, many of which you can get for free on our website.

There are Mission Cards which give you varied and dynamic objectives to fight over, as well as Campaign Rules that link together a series of games, with armies growing and evolving throughout the campaign. We also have Solo & Co-Op Rules for those that are looking to play by themselves or together with friends against AI controlled enemies.

Aside from those, you can also buy expansions that provide you with lots of ways to customize your games further, or that provide completely new ways to play the game, as well as narrative campaigns that see you play as mighty heroes that go on grand adventures with epic storylines.

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

There is a whole universe to explore with Grimdark Future, featuring dozens of factions, heroes, conflicts, and more.

Make sure to check out our website to find free lore for all of the factions and the universe, as well as short stories, comics, and more background stories.

Additionally, you can also learn more about our universes by buying narrative campaigns, faction guides, books, and story collections, which provide a deeper insight into our lore.

COLLECTING THE MINIATURES

There are hundreds of incredible Grimdark Future miniatures for you to collect, paint, and play with, made by our amazing team of artists at OPR.

We release new miniatures, terrain, game aids, and much more every month, giving you everything you need in order to play exciting games of Grimdark Future: Firefight.

Our miniatures are available as physical prints shipped right to your door, as digital STL files for 3D printing at home, as well as cheap and convenient paper miniatures. Make sure to check out our website to get them in the format you prefer!

SUPPORTING ON PATREON

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By supporting you will get access to a ton of extra content, exclusive updates, early access, rulebooks, point calculators, miniatures and much more.

This project was made by gamers for gamers, and it can only exist thanks to the support of our awesome community.

WELCOME TO THE HOBBY

We hope that you enjoyed this beginner's guide, and that you are as excited as we are to be part of this amazing hobby.

Happy Wargaming!

- The OPR Team