



*middle earth*  
COLLECTIBLE CARD GAME

**UNIVERSAL RULES DOCUMENT**

*Version 4.2*







***“Remember, NetRep rulings are official. This does not necessarily mean they are correct.”***



***“You probably aren’t playing  
Fallen Wizards correctly.”***

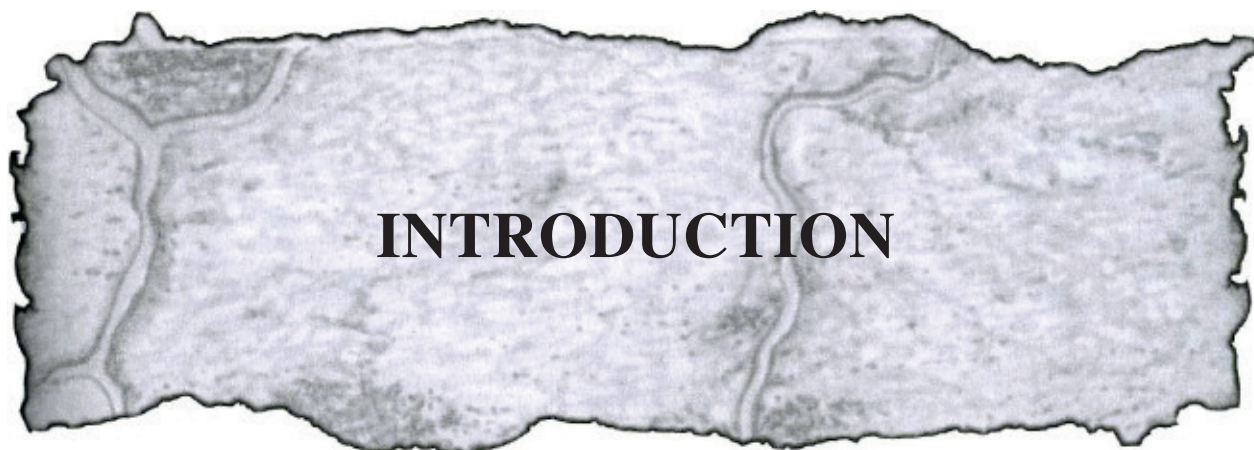


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<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	6	<b>Playing item cards</b> .....	38
How to use this document .....	6	Playing item cards .....	38
About the Editor .....	6	Using item cards .....	39
<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b> .....	7	<b>Playing resource permanent-events</b> .....	39
<b>PLAYER TURN SUMMARY</b> .....	23	<b>Playing resource long-events</b> .....	40
<b>Building a deck</b> .....	23	<b>Playing resource short-events</b> .....	40
Location deck .....	23	<b>Playing hazard creatures</b> .....	41
Play deck .....	23	<b>Playing hazard events</b> .....	42
Sideboard .....	25	<b>Playing agent hazards</b> .....	42
<b>Starting cards</b> .....	25	Agent actions .....	43
<b>Player's turn phases</b> .....	26	Reveal an agent .....	43
Untap Phase .....	26	Attacking with an agent .....	44
Organization Phase .....	26	Influencing with an agent .....	44
Long-event Phase .....	27	<b>COMBAT</b> .....	45
Movement/Hazard Phase .....	27	Combat as the result of creatures .....	45
Site Phase .....	27	Combat as the result of automatic attacks ..	45
End-of-turn Phase .....	28	Combat as the result of agent attacks .....	46
<b>Victory conditions</b> .....	28	Combat as the result of an	
Eliminating your opponent's avatar .....	28	opposing company (CvCC) .....	46
Win by means of The One Ring .....	28	<b>Prisoners</b> .....	47
Winning by means of Marshalling Points ...	29	<b>CORRUPTION</b> .....	49
The end of a game to Marshalling Points ...	29	<b>MOVEMENT</b> .....	51
<b>GAME MECHANICS</b> .....	31	Starter movement .....	52
<b>Timing &amp; actions</b> .....	31	Region movement .....	52
<b>Active conditions of actions</b> .....	33	Under-deeps movement .....	53
<b>Actions as a result of passive conditions</b> .....	34	Special movement .....	53
<b>Tapping and untapping</b> .....	34	Entering a site and on-guard cards .....	53
<b>Healing</b> .....	34	<b>CARD-SPECIFIC ERRATA &amp; RULINGS</b> .....	55
<b>Playing character cards</b> .....	35	<b>Cards without effect on Minion players</b> .....	55
Playing avatars .....	35	<b>Cards-specific errata and rulings</b> .....	55
Playing characters .....	35		
Playing Ringwraith followers .....	35		
Organizing characters and companies .....	36		
Playing characters as the result			
of a successful influence attempt			
against your opponent .....	37		
Discarding characters .....	37		
<b>Playing ally cards</b> .....	38		
<b>Playing faction cards</b> .....	38		



# INTRODUCTION

—Yes, I, Gandalf the Grey —said the wizard solemnly. —There are many powers in the world, for good or for evil. Some are greater than I am. Against some I have not yet been measured. But my time is coming. The Morgul-lord and his Black Riders have come forth. War is preparing!  
—*LotR I*

Also, I will occasionally make a commentary on a commonly discussed or misunderstood rule or card, or give advice to those running/judging tournaments. The format for such will be a text box:

**Editor's Note:** I commonly lose because I play Fallen Saruman.

## HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This rules document is meant to be a single source to look to for rules questions in the *ME:TW CCG*. It will be collection of the rules documents included in each set/expansion, the Collected Rulings File of the ICE era, and the Rulings Digests published by the Council of Elrond-appointed NetRep.

This rules document is not organized as the standard ICE rulebooks. In most cases, I will not be directly quoting the rules in question. Instead, I will be editing them for clarity and brevity and to avoid redundancy. References to the original source of the rules will be found in parenthesis following a given rule using the following abbreviations:

- **ME:TW, ##** - *Middle Earth: The Wizards* unlimited edition rulebook, page ##.
- **ME:TD** - *Middle Earth: The Dragons* rules insert.
- **ME:DM** - *Middle Earth: Dark Minions* rules insert.
- **ME:LE, ##** - *Middle Earth: The Lidless Eye* rulebook, page ##.
- **ME:AS** - *Middle Earth: Against The Shadow* rules insert.
- **ME:WH** - *Middle Earth: The White Hand* rules insert.
- **ME:BA** - *Middle Earth: The Balrog* rules insert.
- **CRF** - *The ICE-Era Collected Rulings File*.
- **CoE ###** - *Council of Elrond NetRep Rulings Digest ###*.
- **Van ###** - Van Norton's rulings.

For example, a given rule may look like this:

- *It is not permitted to punch your opponent in the face during Worlds [CoE, 666].*

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

Benjamin A. Sorensen has been playing Middle Earth since the very beginning of the game. He bought a Limited Edition Starter and some boosters, and was hooked ever since he saw Angelo Montannini's art for Éowyn. He has since spent his time favoring theme over efficiency and playing *MECCG* over the internet due to a paucity of players in his current area. He was a rater for the *Middle Earth: Card of the Day* back when Trevor Stone was doing it, and has since observed many players come and go. He is happily married, unaccountably stubborn, and slightly grumpy.





# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Action:** An activity in the game that declares and is resolved in a chain of effects. ICE at times used the words “action” and “effect” interchangeably. See the section *Timing and Actions*. Some actions declare and resolve immediately.

**Agent:** A special type of hazard that represents a force that acts secretly rather than in the open. Most agents have an alternate use as characters.

- Agents are not creatures.
- Agents, when played as hazards (*i.e.* not as characters), are hazards and effects caused by them are hazard effects [CRF, CoE].
- Only face-up agents are considered for uniqueness [CRF].
- While in play agents played as hazards may not become minion characters, and agents played as minion characters may not become hazards [CRF].
- Fallen Wizards use minion rules for agents, except where specified [CRF].
- Agents in play as characters are not affected by cards that target agents [CRF].

**Ahunt:** A type of Dragon manifestation. If an attack from this manifestation is defeated, the Dragon’s Lair loses its automatic-attack.

- If one Ahunt is out and you move through two or more of the regions listed on it, then you face the attack once [CRF].
- Although an Ahunt card creates an attack that is considered a hazard creature attack, the Ahunt card itself is not a hazard creature card [CoE 27a].
- Deal with card appropriately even if the card is discarded during the actual attack (*i.e.* put it in your marshalling point pile if you would gain MPs for defeating the attack, etc.) [CoE 29].
- Ahunts create a passive condition in which an attack is declared after the chain of effects in movement which triggers it. It is possible to discard the long-event before the attack’s declaration resolves [CoE 54].

**Alignment:** Generally divided into Hero, Fallen Wi-

zard, or Minion, depending on your avatar.

- Hero players can benefit from minion Long-Events and vice versa [CoE 10].

**Ally:** An ally is a type of Marshalling Point source usually representing a non-character entity. Allies are only considered characters for the following two purposes:

- » Combat. Note that allies are not considered characters during combat, but only for combat purposes.
- » Skill Use. An ally with a skill may use that skill as though they are a character.
- Allies may tap to cancel attacks from Slayers and Assassins [CRF].
- Allies cannot be targeted to be taken prisoner, and otherwise cannot be taken prisoner [CRF].
- If an ally may not be attacked by certain attacks, he may still tap to give +1 prowess to characters facing such attacks [CRF].
- Playing an ally is not an influence attempt [CRF].
- If an ally’s controller leaves play for any reason, that ally is discarded [CRF].
- Allies can be healed as if they were characters. Otherwise, allies are only considered characters for the purposes of combat and playing skill cards [CRF].
- Allies count as characters for the purposes of combat, including performing actions in combat that characters do (getting assigned strikes, tapping for +1 to prowess) and for the play of cards that directly affect the attack [CRF].
- If the text on the ally says, “Discard if he/she moves to”, like most of the allies with restricted movement, then the ally is discarded at the beginning of the Movement/Hazard Phase. If the text on the ally says, “Discard if he/she is at”, then the ally is discarded at the beginning of the Site Phase [CRF, CoE].
- Skill specific cards can affect allies as long as they are not permanent-events that are “playable on a character” because allies are only considered characters during combat [CoE 3].



**Editor's Note:** This ruling is somewhat incorrect. Allies are not considered characters during combat. They are considered characters for the purposes of combat. Also, allies are considered characters for the purposes of skill use [ME:LE, 42]. The essential point stands. Allies are not considered characters for the purposes of cards that target a character. The following list of permanent events are those that target an entity with a skill/race without specifying that it be a character:

- *Andúril, Flame of the West*
- *Dark Numbers*
- *Dragon-lore*
- *Dreams of Lore*
- *Map to Mithril*
- *Reforging*
- *To Fealty Sworn*
- *Vein of Arda*
- *When I Know Anything*
- *When You Know More*
- *Maker's Map*
- *Stabbed Him In His Sleep*
- *The Names Among Them*

CoE 13 bears this out.

- Allies may never control items [ME:TW, 43].

**At Home:** A type of Dragon manifestation. If an attack from this manifestation is defeated, the Dragon's Lair loses its normal automatic-attack.

- *"Can at home manifestations be played on-guard & if so, when is that attack faced? Yes, and the attack is faced after the regular auto attack just as if the At Home manifestation was in play all the time"* [CoE 13].

**Editor's Note:** This is incorrect. Adding an automatic-attack is not affecting the attack any more than removing an automatic-attack affects an automatic-attack. An At Home dragon is not a creature, nor does it affect the automatic-attack. If the At Home dragon has an effect which applies during the Site Phase, it may be revealed, but the company will have already faced all automatic-attacks that were at the site at the beginning of the Site Phase.

- The attack from an At Home dragon is faced after the automatic-attack listed on the site card [CoE 13].
- Deal with card appropriately even if the card is discarded during the actual attack (*i.e.* put it in your marshalling point pile if you would gain MPs for defeating the attack, etc.) [CoE 29].

**Attack:** Combat consists of one or more attacks that must be resolved one at a time. An attack consists of one or more strikes.

- An attack is considered to be resolved and concluded when the final strike, all special actions resulting from the final strike, and the associated body

check are resolved [CRF].

- An attack may not be canceled once its strikes have been assigned [CRF].
- A canceled attack has no effect on its target company, except that the company is considered in its history to have faced the attack [CRF].
- In order to cancel an attack or to directly affect an attack, the character doing so must be in the company facing the attack. Note that the region/site type a hazard creature was keyed to can be affected otherwise [CRF].

**Controversial Cards: Hoarmûrath Unleashed**

This card is only controversial in conjunction with the current ruling on *Adûnaphel* (the Nazgûl hazard). *Hoarmûrath Unleashed* states: "Playable on Hoarmurath the Ringwraith (as your Ringwraith). Cancel an attack against any one of your companies." According to the above rule, this card should nevertheless only be capable of canceling an attack against Hoarmûrath's company as per the above rule, just as *Adûnaphel* is only capable of targeting the current company despite being able to cause "any one character to tap." Current rulings state that *Hoarmûrath Unleashed* overrides the related limiting rule and *Adûnaphel* does not despite having the exact same wording. If challenged on this, the best option is to shrug apologetically, as no explanation has really been forthcoming for the contradictory rulings.

Cards only modify attacks if they say they specifically mention attacks [CRF].

- When a minion company defeats an attack with no "\*" by the MPs, the creature goes to the out-of-play pile belonging to the person who played the attack. They may still be taken as a trophy, but go to the appropriate out-of-play pile when the trophy is discarded [CRF].
- If an attack states all characters in a company face a strike, then effects which allow a character to face more than one strike have no effect against the attack. Similarly, effects that change the attack's number of strikes have no effect. As an exception, effects which reduce the number of strikes to a specific number do work [CRF].
- Any effect that would change the number of strikes for an attack may not be played after strikes are assigned. This includes cards that have other additional effects, and cards that only indirectly change the number of strikes [CRF].
- Attacks created by events are not keyed to anything unless specifically stated as being keyed to something on the card [CRF]. See also the section *Playing Creatures*.
- Attacks created by events are not considered playing a hazard creature unless stated otherwise on the card [CoE 41].
- There are three levels of cards which reassign strikes. Alatar is the top level, and overrides any other conflicting card which changes the assignment of

strikes. Cards which say they “always” or “in all cases” change the assignment of strikes are the next change the assignment of strikes “regardless of...” certain factors are the third level, and are overridden by all other effects from conflicting cards. If two effects on the same level conflict, the resource overrides the hazard [CRF].



- An attack is considered faced by a company if it successfully resolves in its chain of effects [CRF].
- Attacks or strikes keyed by name to a region or site cannot be cancelled by effects which refer only to the type of the region or site [CRF].
- Between the resolution of the creation of an attack and the assigning of the strikes there is time for multiple chains of effect. Thus you could for example make two attempts to cancel the attack or your opponent could use Hoarmûrath for an extra strike, recycle him and add another strike [CRF, CoE].
- Once a declared attack has resolved in a chain of effects, you may not fizzle it by removing the card that created the attack [CoE 28].
- Strike assignment cards must be declared and resolved before any strikes are assigned [CoE 33].
- An effect which reduces the prowess of the attack as a whole must be played before strikes are assigned. [CoE 41].
- The resource player decides the order of any passive strike-enhancing effects [CoE 51].
- An attack is defeated if all its assigned strikes are defeated. A detainment attack is never defeated [CoE 103]. If no strikes are assigned, the attack is not defeated [CoE 115].

**Automatic-attack:** An attack that must be faced at the start of the Site Phase if a company wishes to enter a site they are at.

- A card that can cancel an attack can cancel an au-

tomatic-attack, and this counts as facing the automatic-attack [CRF].

- Automatic-attacks added to a site are faced after the normal automatic-events for the site.
- Multiple automatic-attacks are faced in the order listed and/or resolved [CRF].
  - » Therefore, you need not reveal a card if an automatic-attack lets you reveal one until the company is actually facing that attack [CoE 67].
- Company composition and overt/covert status is checked before each automatic-attack [CRF].
- Any character may tap to cancel one automatic-attack at his home site [CRF].
- Automatic-attacks that allow the revealing of creature cards are not stopped by Stealth or Secret Entrance [CRF].
- Creatures revealed as automatic-attacks do not count as creatures [CRF].
  - » Such a creature is always discarded after the automatic-attack is faced regardless of the result.
- The only resources you may play against automatic-attacks are ones that cancel the attack, cancel a strike, or would be otherwise playable during the strike sequence [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** This means that cards which alter the number of strikes or affect strike assignment are not playable against automatic-attacks.

**Avatar:** A term used to denote the character card that represents you. Avatars may be Wizards, Fallen Wizards, Ringwraiths, or the Balrog.

**Balrog:** A special type of minion avatar. When cards refer to a Ringwraith, they refer to a Ringwraith or the Balrog. If the Balrog is in play or has been defeated, ignore all Balrog automatic-attacks.

**Bear, bearer:** A bearer of a card controls that card.

**Body Check:** A check made against an entity's body value. A body check made against a wounded character receives a +1 to the roll.

- When a character fails a body check, his items may be immediately reassigned to unwounded characters in his company, one item per character. Reassigning of the eliminated character's items is considered to be synonymous with his failed body check, *i.e.*, no action may take place between the failed check and reassigning the items. Unassigned items are discarded [CRF].
- Effects that modify a character's body also modify the number an Orc or Troll would be discarded on. A maximum to body applies equally to the discard number [CRF].
- If an Orc or Troll could be discarded and elimi-



nated by a result, discard them instead of eliminating them [CRF].

- “*Affecting the body check*” includes modifying the die roll or the body of the character making the check [CRF].
- Cards which require an unwounded character to make a body check will eliminate a character as normal, but have no other effect unless specified on the card [CoE 13].

**Body:** An attribute located in the lower left hand of a card, after the “/” type. Body measures a character’s survivability. Frodo, for example, has a body of 9.

**Chain of Effects:** A series of declared actions made in response to one another is called a chain of effects.

**Character:** An entity that can move and independently take actions. Characters usually require influence to control.

- A character enacting an effect counts as a character in his company, and may affect himself as a character in the company [CRF].
- This means that cards such as *And Forth He Hastened* may be used to untap an Avatar capable of playing them [Van, 581].

**Editor’s Note:** Konrad Klar remarks that the above example is imprecise. The Wizard does not enact the effect of *And Forth He Hastened*; a Wizard’s company is merely the condition. He suggests *New Friendship* being used on.

- A character in play must always be in one of three independent states: untapped, tapped, or wounded [CRF].
- Characters can be:
  - » (a) For a Hero player
    - ◆ (i) hero
  - » (b) For a Minion player
    - ◆ (i) minion
  - » (c) For a Fallen Wizard player
    - ◆ (i) hero (non-Orcs, non-Trolls)
    - ◆ (ii) minion (orcs, including Half-orcs, and Trolls) [CoE 110]

**Check:** A roll made against a given value. Examples of possible checks are body checks and influence checks. Certain cards also require unique checks which are not standard, i.e. *Plague*.

**Command Card:** A special type of resource normally playable on a leader. A Command Card played on a character will return any other command cards of the same name played on that character to your hand [CRF].

- If a company has two leaders, then each can have his own command card. The CRF makes

it clear that a leader cannot have two copies of the same command card [Van, 586].

- I’ll try to make it clearer. Each command card says, “*Return all other command cards on target leader to your hand when this card is played.*” By a strict reading, you could therefore have two or more of the same command cards on the same leader. The CRF plugs that loophole by stating that even if the same command card is played, the previous command card is returned to your hand [Van, 587].
  - » To further clarify: when played on the same leader [CoE 110].

**Editor’s Note:** Konrad Klar points out that “*other*” in the case of command cards need not necessarily be read as “*different*”, and this simplifies the above rulings even further.

**Company:** One or more characters at the same site. A company is limited to a size of seven at non-Haven sites. Unless at a Haven, you cannot have more than one company at site; they must either join or enough companies must declare movement that there will not be more than one company at the site.

- Companies can be:
  - » (a) For a Hero player:
    - ◆ (i) hero
  - » (b) For a Minion player
    - ◆ (i) covert minion
    - ◆ (ii) overt minion
  - » (c) For a Fallen Wizard player
    - ◆ (i) covert Hero (companies with nothing making them overt)
    - ◆ (ii) covert minion (a company consisting of Half-orcs is non-overt, but nevertheless minion due to the presence of Orcs)
    - ◆ (iii) overt
      - o (1) non-minion (due to overt-making non-Orc non-Troll ally, *Freeze the Flesh*, or *Cast from the Order*)
      - o (2) minion (due to presence of an orc, a Troll, or a Half-orc with other characters than only Half-orcs and Men) [CoE 110]

**Condition, Active:** A prerequisite for an action actively made by a player. Typically this involves tapping a character, discarding an item, or having a character of a particular skill in play. Active conditions are declared and resolved with no time for response by an opponent or yourself. See also the section *Active Conditions of Actions*.

**Condition, Passive:** A situation in the game that causes another action to take effect. The triggered action will be the first declared action in the chain of effects



immediately following the chain of effects that contained the passive condition. See also the section *Actions as the Result of Passive Conditions*.

**Control:** When an item, ally, event, or follower is placed with a character, that character is said to control the entity in question.

**Corruption Card:** A hazard card with the Corruption keyword.

**Corruption Check:** A check made against a character's current Corruption Point total (see below).

**Corruption Points:** A value found on the lower right of most cards. A character's Corruption Point total is the sum of the Corruption Points of all cards he controls. Certain cards carry an innate modifier to corruption checks rather than a corruption point value, indicated by a + or - in the field on the card.

**Covert Company:** Any company that is not overt.

**Creature:** A creature is a hazard card that can be played to directly attack one of your opponent's companies.

**Current Site:** If a company is not moving, the site they are at is their current site.

**CvCC:** A common abbreviation for Company vs Company Combat.

**Darkhaven:** Minion players use Darkhaven sites instead of Haven or Wizardhaven sites.

- Whenever a hazard affecting heroes refers to a Darkhaven, interpret it as referring to a Haven instead

[CRF].

- Attacks at Darkhavens are canceled only if the company is at the Darkhaven (*i.e.* if they are moving to the Darkhaven, they are not at the Darkhaven yet [CRF]).
- Darkhavens count as their own nearest Darkhaven.

**Detainment:** An attack that taps rather than wounds a character. The following attacks are detainment:

- Card text will sometimes state that an attack is detainment.
- Any Nazgûl attack against a minion company is detainment.
- If you are a Minion player, any attack keyed to a Dark-Domain, Shadow-hold, or Dark-hold is a detainment attack.
- If you are a Minion player, any Orc, Troll, Undead, or Man attack keyed to a Shadow-Land is detainment.
- The above parameters also apply to attacks keyed by name if the named region/site is of the appropriate type.
- A Fallen Wizard's Overt companies are not minion companies for the purpose of these detainment attack rules.
- Attacks keyed to Darkhavens are considered detainment [CRF].
- Agent attacks against minions are always detainment [CRF].
- When a strike from a detainment attack succeeds, the character who was facing that particular strike must tap [CRF].
- Attacks that have special effects when they wound a character do not have that effect when they are detainment attacks. This is because detainment attacks never wound a character [CRF].

**Direct Influence:** The value in the black hand on the





left side of a character's card. Direct influence is used to control other characters. Unused Direct Influence often gives a bonus to various influence checks.

- A character cannot use a bonus to direct influence against Blue Mountain Dwarves to control characters with the home site Blue Mountain Dwarfhold. The bonus only applies to the faction [CRF].
- Bonuses to direct influence against characters apply only once, not for each character [CRF].
- A character's direct influence must be greater than or equal to the mind attribute of another character to allow him to take control of that other character, even if the character's mind stat would be lowered once he /she became a follower [CRF, CoE].
- Restricted direct influence is limited in its use, usually to characters and/or factions of specific races. Unrestricted influence has no use restrictions [CRF].
- When a character suffers a minus to direct influence, it must come from unrestricted direct influence first. If there is no unrestricted influence and there are multiple instances of restricted direct influence, the player may choose which restricted direct influence the minus is applied to [CRF].

**Discard:** The act of putting a card in your discard pile.

- A discarded non-Wizard/non-Ringwraith character may be brought into play again by any player [CRF].
- When a card is discarded, so are all permanent-events on that card [CRF].
- Cards discarded from a player's hand must be discarded one at a time. This is mainly to allow a Pallando player to see each card as it is discarded [CRF].
- Whenever a character is discarded, all non-follower cards played with that character are also discarded [CRF].
- If a card leaves active play, including being returned to a player's hand, it immediately ceases having an effect on play [CRF].
- Cards in the discard pile do not remember how they were played [CRF].
- Discarding a card is not playing it, thus cards that allow you to play other cards as if they are in your hand do not allow you to discard such card as if they are in your hand (This means, for example, that a ring on *Rumours of Rings* cannot be discarded for *Rolled Down to the Sea*, nor can a dragon be discarded from *Summons from Long Sleep* to satisfy *Dragon Feuds*) [CRF, CoE].
- You may not shuffle your discard pile unless a game effect requires it [CRF].
- To randomly access a card or cards from your discard pile, shuffle it and draw the required number of cards from the pile. The remaining cards become your new discard pile [CRF].

- You may not arbitrarily discard an item from play. There must be an effect which permits/requires you to discard the item [Van, 585].

**Dragons:** The following rules apply to Dragons:

- Dragon automatic-attacks on site cards are not considered manifestations of any unique Dragon [CRF].
- If you defeat the attack from a Dragon manifestation, you get kill marshalling points from the manifestation as if you had defeated a creature [CRF].

**Drawing Cards:** Taking cards from your play deck to hand.

- Drawing cards is considered one effect and cannot be interrupted [Van, 581].

**Dwarven Ring:** A kind of Ring item.

- Dwarven rings give a bonus of +7 and +4 to Direct Influence and Prowess, respectively. The values are not set to 7 and 4 [Van, 581].

**Each Character Faces A Strike:** An attack with this phrasing ignores effects which modify the number of strikes unless such effects reduce the number of strikes to a specific number [ME:LE, 29].

**Eliminated:** Removed from play. If a Unique entity is removed from play, it may not reenter the game.

- When a card is eliminated, all permanent-events on that card are discarded [CRF].

**End Of:** When an action specifies it must be taken at the end of a phase no actions may be taken after it in that phase that do not also specify that they must be taken at the end of said phase [CRF, CoE].

**Event:** A card with the word "Event" between the picture and the effect text. Based upon how long it stays in play, there are 3 types of events: short-events, long-events, and permanent-events.

**Exhausting a Deck:** Your play deck is exhausted when you draw its last card.

- Permanent-events discarded when the play deck is exhausted are shuffled into the new play deck along with the rest of the discard pile [CRF].
- If there is ever a situation where you have no cards in your play deck or discard pile, the first card discarded becomes the new play deck [CoE 82].

**Faction:** A type of MP source that represents a large group.

**Fallen Wizard:** A wizard that has been slightly corrupted and can become extremely corrupted. Also an alignment that is neither Hero nor Minion.

- Fallen wizards use the rules for wizards except

for the Fallen Wizard-specific rules outlined in this document.

- Fallen wizards have a unique value called Stage Points (represented by a gear icon). A Fallen Wizard's total stage points measure how far he has deviated from his original mission and the total is used to determine the effects of several cards.
- When rules and cards refer to a Wizard, they apply to your Fallen Wizard [ME:WH].
  - » There is no similar rule for cards which refer to a Ringwraith [CoE 25].
- When rules and non-site cards refer to Havens, they refer instead to your Wizardhavens.
- The special effects of Hero Havens and Minion Havens found in the rules do not apply (*i.e.* you may not store items, heal, have multiple companies there, etc.). Any special effects listed on the card still apply.
- If your Fallen Wizard leaves play, discard all of your Stage resource permanent-events in play that are specific to that Fallen Wizard.
- Fallen-wizards may not play characters with more than five mind, but if they have one in play the character is not discarded [CRF].
- Fallen-wizards can have a character with more than five mind, they just can't start with one or play one [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** Of course, the White Hand rules still prevent a Fallen Wizard player from using a character with more than five mind. Presumably this would mean that a character with more than 5 mind would not be able to take actions, initiate resource effects, move, control other cards, face strikes, etc. Since "use" is such a vague word, it is recommended that you clarify your position in this regard when organizing a tournament.

- A Fallen-wizard is at -5 for influence attempts against a Ringwraith, but not against a Wizard [CRF].
- You may not declare yourself as a specific Fallen Wizard unless you have his card in your deck [CRF].
- You must select a specific Fallen-wizard and thus have at least one copy of him in your deck, because you must declare yourself as a specific one [CRF, CoE].
- If your Fallen Wizard is eliminated, you may no longer play stage cards specific to that Fallen Wizard [CRF, CoE 75]. You also do not count as that Fallen Wizard for the purpose of generic stage resource cards.

**Followers:** A character that is controlled by another character. Followers may not have followers.

- Note that followers are controlled by a character. Thus, any card which forces the discard of a cha-

acter and all cards he controls will force the discard of followers unless otherwise stated on the card [CoE 29].

**General Influence:** Each player has a pool of 20 points used to control characters. Certain cards may change this total. When a Fallen Wizard enters play, his base general influence becomes the number in the white hand on the left side of his card. A Balrog player has an extra 5 points of General Influence that may not be used to control characters [ME:BA].

- If you reveal your Fallen-wizard, and no longer have enough influence to control your characters, discard other characters until you can control them all [CRF].
- All Ringwraith/Sauron players always have +5 unused general influence at all times. This bonus general influence can never be used to control characters [CRF].
- You cannot have negative free general influence: it will halt at zero. If you're playing by the tournament rules, and are a minion player, you will add your +5 bonus at all times, effectively leaving you at a minimum +5 against any hazards [CRF, CoE].
- A character removed from the control of direct influence outside the Organization Phase does not need to be controlled by general influence until that player's next Organization Phase [CRF].
- Changes to general influence take place immediately, with a minimum of zero free general influence [CRF]. Note that per the above rule, changes to GI as a result of a character no longer being a follower happen during the Organization Phase.

**Half-Orc:** A special kind of Orc that does not make a company overt and may not take trophies.

**Hazard Limit:** A company's hazard limit is equal to two or the size of the company, whichever is greater. The maximum number of hazards that can be played on a company during a given Movement/Hazard Phase is equal to its hazard limit. Playing hazards does not reduce the hazard limit; rather, the hazard limit is simply a value against which the total number of hazards declared and resolved must be checked. See the section *Actions and Timing*.

- The hazard limit is set when the company's Movement/Hazard Phase begins. Any actions which affect the hazard limit which were declared before that point are immediately applied (*i.e.*, nobody may respond to the declaration) in the order chosen by the player controlling the company. All effects after this point apply in the order in which they resolve [ME:TD].
- You check the hazard limit at declaration and resolution. At declaration there must be less hazards already declared than the hazard limit. At





resolution there must be no more hazards declared than the hazard limit [CRF].

- Reaching the hazard limit does not mean the hazard player may not play cards or take more actions, but no further actions can count against the hazard limit unless the hazard limit is raised [CoE 5].

**Hazards:** Hazard cards represent forces that present a threat to your characters. Most hazards can only be played during your opponent's Movement/Hazard Phase.

**Haven:** A hero site that represents a place of peace and safety.

- Havens can tap. Whenever a hazard affecting minions refers to a Haven, interpret it as referring to a Darkhaven instead. Havens count as their own nearest Haven [CRF].
- If two companies join at a Haven, cards played on the discarded version of the Haven transfer to the version of the Haven that stays in play [CRF].
- Hero Havens do not automatically cancel attacks. Cancelling attacks is not an inherent part of having the Haven site type [Van, 582].

**Editor's Note:** Yes, that means it is possible to effectively untap a haven for which you have multiple copies by playing a character at the site in a different company and then joining the two companies together at the untapped site. In the case of Fallen Wizards, such cards as *Fortress of Isen* and *Warforged* transfer over to the new site.

- Hero Havens for Fallen Wizards are still the haven site type, but a Fallen Wizard player's company do not receive any of the benefits normally associated with being at a haven [CoE 13].

**Hero:** Can refer to the following:

- » A Wizard player's characters [ME:LE, 74].
- » A Fallen Wizard's non-Orc, non-Troll characters [ME:WH].
  - ◆ A resource that may only be played on minions is only playable by a Fallen Wizard on his orc/troll characters [CoE 105].
- » Any company composed of the aforementioned characters [CRF].
- » A Wizard player in general, as an alignment (*i.e.* a Hero player is player who is playing a Wizard).
- » Resources with a coppery background (*i.e.* hero items, hero events).
- » A site with a light-colored background.

**Hoard:** Certain sites contain Hoards. A Hoard Item is only playable at a site that contains a hoard. Any site that had a Dragon automatic-attack at the beginning



of the turn contains a hoard. Other sites state that they contain a hoard. Certain effects can cause a site to contain a hoard or lose its hoard status.

- Only items that say they are "Hoard item" are hoard items. [Van, 582].
- If a creature with the Dragon type is played as an automatic-attack, the site is considered to have a hoard for the rest of the turn [CoE 105].

**Hobbit:** A type of race of characters in Middle Earth; may also be a type of attack.

- If a Hobbit is a starting character and leaves play, then it may only be brought back into play normally at Bag End [CRF].

**Home Site:** One or more sites listed on the bottom right of a character's card. Certain effects, most notably playing characters, depend on the character's home site.

**Influence Check:** A check against a target value determined by the card you are attempting to influence.

- A Hero or Fallen Wizard player attempting to influence the resources or characters of a Minion player. receives a -5 penalty to the roll, and vice versa.
- A successful influence attempt on an opponent's resource does not tap the site [CRF].
- You may only make one influence attempt against your opponent's resources during each turn [CRF].
- When influencing factions across alignments, you roll against the number on the card in play that you are trying to influence away [CRF].
  - » You have the -5 penalty because you are influencing the faction away from the opposite alignment. By playing the card, the influence roll on the card is reduced to 0 [Van, 581].
- For a Fallen Wizard, the resource revealed must

match the alignment of the site at which the attempt is taking place [CRF].

- “Influence Check” and “Influence Attempt” are not synonymous. [CoE 122].
- You may not make influence attempts against cards an avatar controls [ME:BA].
  - » Oh, yes you can. The game summary is just that –a summary, not new rules, which are clearly delineated. Therefore, the ME:LE rules will take precedence over the ME:BA game summary, but not over the new rules presented in the ME:BA booklet [CoE 35].

**Item:** A type of MP source that represents physical objects. Minor Items are not usually sources of MPs, however.

**Keyword:** A word on a card that makes it usable by other effects. Sample keywords are *Palantir*, *Orc*, *Elf*, *Weapon*, etc.

**Keyed:** A hazard creature may only be played against a company if the creature is “keyed to” the company’s site or site path.

**Lair:** A term that denotes a Dragon’s “Home.” Each Unique Dragon has a specific Lair associated with it:

- » *Ēarcaxë*: Isle of the Ulond
- » *Scorba*: Zarak Dûm
- » *Bairanax*: Ovir Hollow
- » *Scatha*: Gondmaeglom
- » *Smaug*: The Lonely Mountain
- » *Daelomin*: Dancing Spire
- » *Leucaruth*: Irerock
- » *Agburanar*: Caves of Ûlund
- » *Itangast*: Gold Hill

**Leader:** A special type of character. Normally, a company can only contain one leader unless at a Haven.

- If a company has two leaders, then each can have his own command card. The CRF makes it clear that a leader cannot have two copies of the same command card [Van, 586].

**Long-event:** Long-events last approximately a number of turns equal to the number of players: one of yours and one of each your opponent’s.

**Making a Roll:** Two six-sided dice (2D6) should be used to generate random values during play. This is called “making a roll.” To make a roll, roll 2D6 and add the two results together.

**Manifestation:** A mechanically different version of the same entity. Only one manifestation of a unique entity may be in play at a time, unless it is a Dragon. A face-down agent is not considered in play for these purposes. If a card says that it is a manifestation of

another card, the limitation applies to both cards.

When attempting to influence away a resource that is of the opposite alignment, you may reveal a resource manifestation of the opposite alignment instead of the identical resource. If a unique manifestation is removed from play, no manifestations of that entity may re-enter play, and any manifestations in play are removed from play.

- A hero version of a Unique resource is a manifestation of the minion version and vice versa. You may not include both the Hero and Minion version of a unique resource in your deck.
- A manifestation of a card is not the same as the named card [CRF, Van].
- A manifestation of a given card cannot play cards that are specific to a given card (*i.e.* Strider cannot play cards that only Aragorn can play/are only playable on Aragorn) [CRF, Van].

**Marshalling Points:** A running total of how well you are doing in the game. Marshalling Points (MPs) are located in the upper left hand of a card.

- You may not target hazards in your opponent’s marshalling point pile for removal [CRF].
- You may not gain marshalling points from a hazard you played yourself [CRF].

**May Not Be Duplicated:** Only one copy may be in play at a given time under the given conditions. You may declare the play of such a card in a chain of effects if a card already in play has been targeted for removal earlier in that same chain of effects [ME:LE, 87].

- Short-events that cannot be duplicated cannot be played if a card of the same name is currently having an effect on play [CRF].

**Mind:** A value located in the white head on the left side of a character card. Used to determine whether a character can be controlled. Also used by characters and allies to resist influence attempts by an opponent.

- A card which changes the influence required to control a character does not change that character’s mind [Van, 585].
- Mind-altering effects are not considered when determining whether you have enough influence to bring a character into play. They are only considered once the character is in play [CoE 118].

**Minion:** Can refer to the following:

- » A character card with a purple background when in play as a character.
- » A Ringwraith player and/or his companies.
- » A Balrog player and/or his companies.
- » Resources with a steel gray background (*i.e.* Minion Allies, Minion Factions)
- » Sites with a dark-colored background.





**Movement:** Replacing one site card with another (that is not a different version of the former). Usually, this is done by declaring movement during the Organization Phase and moving during the Movement/Hazard Phase. Note that cards such as *Refuge* state that they are used as site cards.

**Nazgûl:** A type of hazard that is a manifestation of a Ringwraith.

- If a Nazgûl is tapped to become a short-event as printed on its card, it turns into a short-event upon declaration. At this point, the Nazgûl is a short-event just as if had been played as such from your hand [CRF].
  - » *Wizard's River Horses* and *In The Name of Mordor* may be played in response to discard such before they resolve [CoE 110]. Note that a Nazgûl tapped in response to *Wizard's River Horses/In The Name of Mordor* will resolve first and have their full effect.
- The body referred to in the text of female characters with combat bonuses against Nazgûl is the body of the Nazgûl [CRF].
- You may tap a Nazgûl in response to a *Marvels Told* or *Voices of Malice* and get its effect [Van, 579].

**New Site:** When a company declares movement, the site they are moving to is their new site.

**Normal:** Normal means as written on the card, not considering other card's effects. Note that this definition only applies to effects referring to card texts [CRF].

- Non-stage cards do not normally give more than 1 MP to Fallen Wizards, regardless of other cards in play [CoE 26].
- If a card has alternate values stated on the card itself depending on its condition, these are considered normal values. *i.e.* *Durin's Axe* is normally worth 4 MPs when held by a Dwarf [CoE 95].

**Off To The Side:** Certain cards and effects require other cards to be placed off to the side. Such cards are kept with the host event which caused the effect. Any card placed off to the side cannot be targeted or otherwise affected by the game except by cards that specifically affect cards placed off to the side.

Cards placed off to the side are in play for purposes of uniqueness. Unless otherwise stated, when a host event is discarded, cards placed off to the side with the host are also discarded.

- Host cards of cards off to the side can be targeted normally [CRF].

**Overt Company:** Any of the following:

- » A company with an Orc or Troll.
- » A company with a Ringwraith in Fell Rider mode.

- » Certain cards may make a company overt.
- » The following allies make a company overt:
  - ◆ *Great Bats*
  - ◆ *Great Lord of Goblin Gate*
  - ◆ *Last Child of Ungoliant*
  - ◆ *Regiment of Black Crows*
  - ◆ *Two-Headed Troll*
  - ◆ *The Balrog*
  - ◆ *Creature Of An Older World*
- » The Balrog's company is always overt.

**Permanent-event:** Any effects of a resource permanent-event last until the card is discarded

**Prowess:** A value located in the lower left of a card before the “/” type. Generally a measure of a card's offensive capabilities in combat.

- Prowess modifications due to tapped and wounded status apply only during the strike sequence [CRF].

**Playing A Card:** Playing a card is the process of bringing a card from your hand into play.

You may not play a card which has no effect on the game. Causing a dice roll is considered to be having an effect on the game [CRF].

- A card is not in play until it is resolved in its chain of effects. When the play of a card is declared, no elements of the card may be the target of actions declared in the same chain of effects. An exception to this is a dice-rolling action; *i.e.*, a corruption check [CRF].
- Placing a card is not the same as playing it [CoE 52].

**Race:** An attribute located between the picture and the effect text of a character card. The races are: Dúndan, Dwarf, Elf, Hobbit, Man, Wizard, Fallen Wizard, Orc, Troll, Ringwraith, Balrog.

**Region:** A type of card representing an area of Middle Earth. A given region may contain several sites.

- Region cards are not unique [CoE 21].

**Resources:** Resource cards represent various advantageous occurrences, personalities, groups, and objects. You may normally play resource cards only during your own turn.

**Returning to Site of Origin:** Also known as “bouncing.” This is an effect which sends a moving company back to the site they started at.

- If a company returns to its site of origin, its site path immediately disappears, and its Movement/Hazard phase immediately ends [CRF].
- An effect that returns a company to its site of origin may not be declared in the middle of an attack [CRF].

- **Rules Erratum:** If a company returns to its site of origin, it may do nothing during its Site Phase. A company failing its Under-deeps movement roll is not affected by this rule [CRF].
- A company that gets sent back to its site of origin is not considered to have moved to that site this turn [CRF, CoE].
- Because the Movement/Hazard Phase immediately ends, there is no opportunity to play any further cards, even those playable at the end of a Movement/Hazard Phase [Van, 582].



**Riddling:** A special type of card that usually relies on guessing what is in your opponent's hand.

- You may not use pencil and paper or any other mechanical means to note down which cards your opponent has/has played. You must rely on your own memory [CoE 1].

**Ring:** A specific subset of items. There are seven types of Ring Items: mind rings, gold rings, lesser rings, magic rings, spirit rings, dwarven rings, and the One Ring [ME:LE, 44].

**Ringwraith:** A type of character card that may act as an avatar.

- When one mode effect is applied to a Ringwraith, all other cards applying a mode effect to that Ringwraith are discarded [CRF].
- When a Ringwraith is in a mode, only apply the effects listed on the mode card, on the Ringwraith, and in the rules for that mode. Do not worry about cards that are not in play [CRF].
- If an ally giving a mode is removed from play during the movement/hazard phase, the Ringwraith immediately stops being in that mode, but continues to move to his new site [CRF].

#### Controversial Cards: Black Horse/Creature Of An Older World

The following phrases are found on these cards:

- *Black Horse:* "Return its controller to your hand if Black Horse leaves active play."
- *Creature Of An Older World:* "Return your Ringwraith to your hand if this ally leaves active play."

Given that the above rule was issued after the release of this card, it could be taken as an errata of these statements on the card. However, it does not actually refer to itself as an errata on these cards.

Nevertheless, a rule published after these cards were printed clearly states that the Ringwraith continues to move to his new site when these allies are removed from play during the Movement/Hazard phase. This would seem to override the text on these ally cards about what happens when they are removed from play in this instance. CoE 105 takes the position that this rule does not supersede the text of the ally cards in question.

- You may have any number of Ringwraiths in your sideboard, as long as you do not duplicate more than one of them in the combined deck and sideboard [CRF].
- Characters with combat bonuses against Nazgûl also get those bonuses against Ringwraiths. However, other effects that affect Nazgûl do not affect Ringwraiths [CRF]. *The Balrog* is considered a Ringwraith for this rule [ME:BA].

**Editor's Note:** Yes, I know.

- Ringwraiths may not move from a non-Darkhaven site to another non-Darkhaven site unless they are using *Dwar Unleashed*. This means a Ringwraith may not move to Under-deeps sites that do not have a Darkhaven for a surface site [CRF].

**Ringwraith Follower:** A different Ringwraith than your Ringwraith avatar that acts as a follower of your Ringwraith.

**Roused:** A type of Dragon Manifestation. If an attack from this manifestation is defeated, the Dragon's Lair loses its normal automatic-attack. If an attack from this manifestation is defeated, no player receives its Marshalling Points [ME:LE, 42].

**Sage Only:** Any card requiring a sage to play is a sage only card [CRF].

**Search:** Looking through a given deck for a specific card. Reshuffle your play deck after it is searched unless the effect specifically allows you to not shuffle your play deck.





- Drawing cards is not searching a deck. Revealing cards from your playdeck or discard pile is considered a form of searching, but does not automatically require reshuffling [CoE 14].

**Short-event:** A short-event's effects are implemented when the card resolves, then the card is discarded.



**Site of Origin:** At the beginning of its movement/hazard phase, a moving company's current site card becomes its site of origin-the company is considered to be moving to its new site.

**Site Path:** The site path of a site is the sequence of regions between the site and its nearest Haven as listed on the site's card. A company's site path is the sequence of regions between its site of origin and its new site.

- For the purposes of interpreting hazards, no Darkhaven or Haven has a site path except for Geann a-Lisch [CRF].
- Certain cards refer to the site's site path. The site's site path is always the site path given on the site card, regardless of how the company got to that site [CRF].
- Events can alter both a site's site path and a company's site path [CRF].
- You may not target a face-down site's site path [CoE 29].

**Site:** Sites represent places that characters can visit in Middle-earth.

- When a site is replaced with a site of the opposite alignment, the new site comes into play in the same orientation as the other site [CRF].
- If any version of a site is in play or in your discard

pile, you may not play another version of that site [CRF].

- To untap a site the character doing so must be at that site [CRF].
- A permanent-event played on a site affects only the copy of the site it is played on, unless otherwise specified. A permanent-event not played on a site affects all versions of affected sites [CRF].
- Hero events cannot target or affect minion sites, and vice versa. *News of the Shire* is an exception [CRF]. If you play a hazard forcing a Fallen Wizard to change site alignments, and he does not have the other version of the site he is moving to, you must provide it for him. After that it is his responsibility to provide sites [CRF].
- Non-Haven sites are not technically considered unique. But my ruling is that non-haven sites could not be removed with *Aware of their Ways* [Van 582]. See also Card-specific rulings: *Aware of Their Ways*.
- Copies of resource cards that are played as sites are not considered the same site [CoE 19].

**Editor's Note:** Thus, a company at such a site is safe from influence attempts/Company vs Company Combat/A Malady Without Healing.

**Size:** A company's size is equal to the number of characters in it, with each Hobbit or Orc scout character only counting half (round up).

**Skill:** An attribute located between the picture and the effect text of a card that helps define a character or ally. The skills are: diplomat, ranger, sage, scout, warrior.

- Two or more skill cards may be played by a single character outside of the strike sequence [CRF].
- Two skill cards may not be declared by one character against a given strike [CRF].
- "X only" cards can only be played by characters with skill X [CRF].

**Spawn:** A designation on some hazards your determine certain effects. Certain cards state that they are spawn. *Shelob*, *Spider of the Mōrlat*, and *Balrog of Moria* are all spawn.

- Manifestations of Balrog of Moria are not spawn. [CoE 7].

**Specific:** To include a card that is specific to a character, you must be that character. To play a card that is specific to a character, you need not necessarily have that character in play, and another player may even have that character in play.

**Stage Resource:** A card with a greenish background. All Stage Resources are specific to Fallen Wizards.

Some resources are specific to only one Fallen Wizard.

- If your opponent is playing the same Fallen-wizard as you, and reveals that Fallen-wizard first, you must discard any Fallen-wizard specific stage resources that you have in play [CRF].
- Wizard specific Stage Resources may be played with the starting company [CRF].
- Stored stage resources give stage points, and may be discarded normally [CRF].
- If you start with Hidden Haven, you must bring out your staging site when you reveal Hidden Haven [CRF].

**Standard Modification:** Most faction cards list some “standard modifications” to the influence check based only upon the race of the character that was tapped to make the influence check. Some factions only list Modifications, not Standard Modifications.

**Storing Cards:** Certain cards can be stored if they are at a Haven. Such a card is removed from play and placed in its player’s marshalling point pile. Any item except the One Ring can be stored. Certain other cards indicate under what conditions and which locations they may be stored.



- A Balrog player may not store anything at Barad-dûr.
- To store an item, a successful corruption check is required.
- Stored cards are not considered to be in play, except for uniqueness [CRF].
- Stored cards get no bonuses based on who bears them [CRF].

**Strike:** An attack consists of one or more strikes. A strike is assigned to a character if one is available. A

character may not be assigned more than one strike without an ability that allows them to do so.

**Strike Sequence:** The series of events that resolves an assigned strike, performed in the following order:

- Start with the defending character’s prowess as a base value.
- The defending character applies a weapon modifier to his prowess if applicable.
- The attacker may play hazard cards that affect the strike (not strike assignment).
- The attacker may decide to use any or all of his remaining unassigned strikes as -1 modifiers.
  - » Excess strikes applied as -1 modifiers do not have to have their body defeated [CRF].
  - » You may not cancel unassigned strikes [CoE 19].
- A target untapped character may take a -3 modification so that he will not automatically tap following the strike sequence.
- The defending player may play resource cards that affect the strike (up to one card that requires skill). You may also use items if applicable.

**Editor’s Note:** This means that, as an attacker, you cannot wait and see if your opponent will cancel the strike before you enhance it –you can only declare hazards that affect the strike before the defender starts playing resources that will affect it.

- Interpret “may play resource cards that affect the strike” above as “may initiate resource/character effects that affect the strike” [CRF, CoE 4].
- Getting rid of an event that boosts the strike’s prowess is affecting the strike [CRF].
- If an attack can not be cancelled, strikes from the attack may still be cancelled [CRF].
- Apply any other modifiers (such as bonuses/penalties to the character from long-events, non-weapon item bonuses to prowess). Standard modifiers:
  - » Character is wounded: -2
    - ♦ Wounded characters only suffer a -2 prowess. In general, wounded characters are not considered tapped. [CRF].
  - » Character is tapped: -1
  - » Each character not assigned a strike that taps in support: +1
- Non-item prowess bonuses are applied in the order the player controlling the character decides [CRF].
- Using alternative attributes in place of a character’s prowess does not cancel the tapped/not-tapping prowess modifiers [CRF, CoE 6]
- Make a roll and add the character’s modified prowess. In the case of Company vs Company Combat, the attacker rolls first [ME:BA]. If the result is greater than the modified prowess of the





strike, the strike fails. If the result is a tie, the strike is ineffectual. If the result is lower, the strike succeeds. Perform the following actions based on the result:

- » If the strike fails, it is defeated if it has no body value. Otherwise, if the strike is non-detainment, make a body check against the strike's body. The strike is defeated if the body check is greater than the strike's body.
- » If the strike is ineffectual, nothing further happens.
- » If the strike succeeds and is detainment, the character is tapped. Otherwise, the character is wounded and the attacker makes a body check. If the body check result is higher than the character's body, the character is eliminated, and all non-follower cards he controls are discarded (as an exception, you may immediately transfer one item to each unwounded character in his company). Otherwise, nothing further happens.
- » If a body check against a Ringwraith is exactly equal to 7 or 8, the Ringwraith is returned to your hand. If your Ringwraith is returned to your hand, you may not reveal a different Ringwraith as your Ringwraith.
- » If a wounded character becomes unwounded, he is considered in his history to have been wounded and must face any special actions the wounding strike presented him [CRF].
- » A strike may not be canceled once the dice roll for the strike has been made [CRF].
- » Following each successful non-detainment strike or non-detainment failed strike, a body check must be rolled (unless the failed strike has no body). However, if the strike calls for any special actions to follow it (*i.e.*, a character wounded by *William* may be required to discard his items), these special actions are resolved before the body check. The body check is the first declared action in a nested chain of effects that immediately follows the strike dice-roll and special actions resulting from the strike. Other actions may be declared in response to a body check, in the same chain of effects, but these are limited to those actions that directly affect the body check dice-roll (*i.e.* *Tookish Blood* could not be declared in response to the body check caused by *Giant Spiders* wounding a Hobbit.) No action may be declared in response to a special action resulting from a strike unless the special action is a dice-rolling action, *i.e.*, a special action is generally considered synonymous with the strike dice-roll. If the special action is a dicerolling action, an action may be declared in response to it if the action directly affects the dice-roll [CRF].
- » If more than one special action is to follow

a strike, the defending player decides the order they are resolved [CRF].

- » A successful non-detainment strike against a character is synonymous with that character being wounded; *i.e.*, inverting a character card on the playing surface is not a separate action from the successful strike [CRF].
- If a character through an effect or ability faces more than one strike from an attack, the character faces a separate strike sequence for each one [ME:TD].



- You must play card(s) that allow your character to face multiple strikes before strikes are assigned [CRF, CoE].
- If a character is facing two or more strikes, and the first strike kills the character, remaining strikes are considered successful [CRF].
- Side effects of losing a character are resolved immediately after the character is lost, before other characters resolve their strikes [CRF].
- All strikes of an attack must be assigned before any are resolved [CRF].
- There is time between strike sequences to take actions that are otherwise legal [CRF].

**Surface Site:** A site above a given Under-deeps card. A surface site is a site that is located in a region and is also adjacent to the Under-deeps site in question. It is possible for an Under-deeps site to have more than one surface site. Surface sites serve as transition points between Underdeeps movement and other forms of movement.

**Tapping/Untapping a Card:** Normally, during play, each of your cards is placed so that its bottom is towards its player. During play certain cards must be

“tapped” when they are used-this is a record-keeping mechanism to keep track of card usage. To tap a card, rotate it 90° so that it is turned sideways-to untap a card, rotate it back 90° to its normal position.

- Tapping a resource can only be done at a time when you could otherwise play a resource event [CRF].
- Nothing may untap a character who is the subject of an effect that states the character may not untap [CRF].
- Untapping effects are not healing effects [CRF, CoE].
- Unless otherwise stated on the card, if a card requires you to tap a character, site, or whatever, that entity must be untapped when you play the card [CoE 31].

**Target:** An entity through which an action is played out. To be a target, the action must specify the entity by number and type.

- For Fallen Wizards, a hero event may not target/affect a minion site card or resource card, and vice versa. Spells and Magic are an exception to this rule.
- For Fallen Wizards, a hero resource may not target an orc or troll character.
- Once the effects of an environment card have been applied to a target during a given Movement/Hazard Phase, that effect is not applied again to that target during the current turn [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** Since long-events do not have targets, this rule technically does not apply to them. It has been the practice, though, to treat this rule as applying to environment long-events as well: they apply their effects to a give entity only once. CoE 46 makes this official.

- Note that “the X” counts as specifying one “X” [CRF].
- A card is not in play until it is resolved in its chain of effects. When the play of a card is declared, no elements of the card may be the target of actions declared in the same chain of effects. An exception to this is a dice-rolling action; *i.e.*, a corruption check [CRF].
- A corruption check or any dice-rolling action can be targeted in the chain of effects during which it was declared [CRF].
- Long-events and certain other cards do not have targets because they are not played out through one specific entity, *i.e.*, they generally affect an entire class of things [CRF].
- An action may not target a face-down card nor any element of a face down card. Face down cards include unrevealed new site cards and on-guard cards [CRF].
- You cannot target an opponent’s character or resources with your own resources [CRF].

- A card that is played on a card continuously targets the card it is on [CRF].
- This means a card such as Tom Bobadil can cancel its effects [CoE 8].
- Cards which cancel effects which target a company cannot cancel effects which affect the company but do not target them [CoE 7].
- Hero Items may not be used as the Conditions for Minion Resources and vice versa. Note that targets are conditions [CRF].

**Transferring Items:** Moving an item from the control of one character in a company to another. Typically, this is done during the Organization Phase by the controlling character making a corruption check.

**Trophy:** An orc or troll character that has faced a strike from a defeated creature can elect to take the creature card as a trophy. Trophies give bonuses based on the total Marshalling Points indicated on the creature cards:

- » 1: +1 Direct Influence.
- » 2: +1 Direct Influence, +1 Prowess
- » 3: +2 Direct Influence, +1 Prowess
- » 4 or more: +2 Direct Influence, +2 Prowess

These bonuses do not stack; use the one that applies.

- Creatures whose marshalling points are listed with an “\*” give the marshalling points they would normally give the player while used as trophies [CRF].
- Defeated Dragon manifestations can be used as trophies, including Dragon factions [CRF].
- Trophies can be discarded to satisfy “thieving” attacks, and count as minor items for all other effects [CRF, ME:LE, 62]. They may not be transferred or stored, however [ME:LE, 62].
- Characters may not be taken as trophies [CRF].
- Trophies in Fallen-wizard companies give prowess and influence bonuses based on the MPs printed on the card [CRF].

**Under-deeps:** Special sites not in any region. Described more fully in section *Under-deeps Movement*.

- With the addition of the sites in Balrog, The Wind Throne is now always the surface site of an Under-deeps site [CRF].

**Unique:** There can only be one copy of each unique card in play at a time. Each player can only have one copy of each unique card in his play deck and starting cards combined.

- Cards removed from play are still counted for purposes of uniqueness [CoE 43].

**Van Norton’s Ruling Policy:** A clear statement of why ICE issued rulings and errata. To wit:

- Rulings are provided as a free service to make playing Middle Earth: CCG more consistent and





hopefully more enjoyable.

**Wizardhaven:** A Haven card for a Fallen Wizard, or a site that has been converted into such (usually by a stage resource).

- A Wizardhaven is not considered to be adjacent to an Under-deeps site unless Deep Mines has been played on it [CRF].
- Protected Wizardhavens do not allow you to move an extra region with region movement [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** The effect which led to this ruling has since been removed by errata.

- The phrase “*protected Wizardhaven*” is just a key-

word, and has no effect by itself [CRF].

- If you are influencing against your opponent, and he is at a Wizardhaven where you can not play cards that give MPs, you can reveal the card you are influencing against to reduce the number you roll against to 0, but you may not play that card afterwards (if it gives MPs) [CRF].

**Wounded:** A wounded entity card (avatar, character, agent or ally) is damaged but not eliminated. When an entity is wounded, invert it 180° on the playing surface.

- A character may be wounded who is already wounded; this would apply in cases such as the play of *Pale Dream Maker* [Van 587].
- However, they may not “become wounded” if they are already wounded [CoE 105].

# PLAYER TURN SUMMARY



## BUILDING A DECK

A Middle Earth Deck Actually consists of three decks: the Location Deck, the Play Deck, and the Sideboard. These decks are discussed individually below.

### LOCATION DECK

A location deck consists of a maximum of one of each site you own and your region cards. As an exception, a location deck can include multiple copies of Haven cards.



A Fallen Wizard's location deck may include multiple copies of the Fallen Wizard site cards (White Towers, Isengard, Rhosgobel, Deep Mines), but only one copy of all other sites.

A Balrog player uses minion sites with following exceptions, which must instead use the Balrog versions of the site:

- » Moria, Carn Dûm, Dol Guldur, Minas Morgul.
- » All Dark-Holds.

- » All Under-deeps sites.

In addition, as The Balrog, you may only have multiple copies of Moria and The Under-gates. Geann-a-Lisch is a Ruins & Lairs with no Darkhaven effects.

A non-Balrog player cannot use Balrog sites. However, for the purpose of playing certain hazards, a non-Balrog player may include the following sites in their location deck:

- » Ancient Deep-Hold
- » The Wind Deeps
- » The Drowning Deeps
- » The Rusted Deeps
- » Remains of Thangorodrim

### PLAY DECK

A play deck consists of between 30-50 resources, and equal number of hazards, up to 10 character cards, and avatar cards depending on your alignment:

#### General

- You must have at least 12 hazard creatures in your play deck. The following count as half a creature for this purpose:
  - » A creature that is also playable as an event.
  - » An Ahunt or At Home manifestation.
  - » Agents, if you are a Wizard or Balrog player.
  - » Spawn permanent-events [ME:BA].
- *Tournament Convention*: A card that can be played as a resource or hazard can be considered either for the purpose of deck construction [ME:LE, 86].
  - » A Fallen Wizard may only count two *Twilights* as resources, the third must be counted as a hazard. The same goes for other hazards that may be played as resources [CRF].

#### Hero players

- Hero Players may place up to three avatar cards in their play deck. Any combination except three different avatars is allowed.
- Hero Players may only include hero characters



as characters. Agents are considered hazards in a Hero Player's play deck [ME:LE, 77]. This restriction also applies to the sideboard (see below).

- Except for items (and cards explicitly allowing themselves to be played as non-minion resources), a Hero Player may only include Hero Resources [ME:LE, 77]. This restriction also applies to the sideboard (see below).

### Minion players

- Minion Players may place up to three avatar cards in their play deck. Any combination except three different avatars is allowed.
- Minion Players may only include minion characters as characters. Agents are considered characters in a Ringwraith player's deck, and hazards in a Balrog player's deck.
- Ringwraith players may place any number of Ringwraiths in their sideboard so long as they do not duplicate more than one of them in their combined play deck and sideboard.
- Except for items (and cards explicitly allowing themselves to be played as non-hero resources), a Minion player may only include minion resources [ME:LE, 77]. This restriction also applies to the sideboard (see below).

### Fallen Wizard players

- A Fallen Wizard must declare that they are a Fallen Wizard and which Fallen Wizard. If you opponent has the normal hero wizard in his play deck or sideboard, they may exchange it for a different wizard. If you declare that you are playing a Fallen Wizard, your opponent may not play the corresponding hero wizard.
- A Fallen Wizard is subject to the following restrictions on their play deck:
  - » One of each unique card (including cards with the same name)
  - » Three of each non-unique Stage Resource card.
  - » Two of each non-unique character card.
  - » Two of each non-unique hero resource card.
  - » Two of each non-unique minion resource card.
  - » You may not include stage resource cards that are "specific" to another Fallen Wizard.
- Fallen Wizards may not include the following cards:
  - » *The Balrog (Ally)*
  - » *Cracks of Doom*
  - » *Favor of the Valar*
  - » *Gollum's Fate*
  - » *Hour of Need*
  - » *Kill All But Not the Halfings*
  - » *The Lidless Eye*
  - » *The Sun Unveiled*
  - » *Glamour of Surpassing Excellence*
  - » *Messenger of Mordor*
  - » *News Must Get Through*

- » *News of the Shire*
- » *Old Road*
- » *The Windlord Found Me*
- » *Wizard Uncloaked*
- » *Use Your Legs*

### Balrog players

- A Balrog player must declare that they are Balrog. [ME:BA]
  - » You declare yourself as a minion [Van, 579]. My error. I was thinking of another question regarding whether the Balrog was a new type, like Fallen Wizards, or just another type of minion player. Before starting companies are picked, you must tell your opponent you are playing a Balrog [Van, 580].



- A Balrog player is subject to the following restrictions on their play deck:
  - » You may only include Orc and Troll characters.
  - » Unless they are Balrog Specific, only character with a mind less than 9 may be included.
  - » Agents are always considered hazards for the Balrog.
  - » You may only include Orc, Troll, Wolf, Animal, and Dragon factions.
  - » A Balrog player may not include any of the following cards:
    - ♦ *Above the Abyss*
    - ♦ *Bade to Rule*
    - ♦ *The Balrog (ally)*
    - ♦ *The Black Council*
    - ♦ *Black Horse*
    - ♦ *Black Rider*
    - ♦ *By The Ringwraith's Word*



- ◆ *Creature of an Older World*
- ◆ *Fell Rider*
- ◆ *The Fiery Blade*
- ◆ *Helm of Fear*
- ◆ *Heralded Lord*
- ◆ *Kill All But NOT the Halflings*
- ◆ *The Lidless Eye*
- ◆ *Morgul-Blade*
- ◆ *News of the Shire*
- ◆ *Open to the Summons*
- ◆ *Orders from Lugburz*
- ◆ *Padding Feet*
- ◆ *The Ring Leaves Its Mark*
- ◆ Ringwraith cards
- ◆ *Sauron*
- ◆ *They Ride Together*
- ◆ *Use Your Legs*
- ◆ *While The Yellow Face Sleeps*
- ◆ *Balrog of Moria*

## SIDEBOARD

A special set of cards set off to the side. The sideboard can contain any mix of resources, characters, and hazards, so long as you do not duplicate non-unique cards. The maximum number of cards in the sideboard depends on the length of the game (see below).

There are a number of methods for accessing a sideboard:

- When you exhaust your deck, you may exchange up to five cards (regardless of type) from your discard pile with five cards from your sideboard.
- You may tap your avatar during the organization phase to bring either up to five resource/character cards to your discard pile or, if your play deck has at least five cards in it, to bring one resource/character directly into your play deck and shuffle.
- You use one against the hazard limit to tap and discard a Nazgûl hazard during your opponent's movement/hazard phase to access the sideboard. The normal effect of tapping a Nazgûl does not apply and the Nazgûl is discarded on declaration. When you access your sideboard in this manner you may either bring up to five hazards from your sideboard to your discard pile or, if your play deck has at least five cards, you may bring one hazard directly into your play deck and shuffle.
- Certain cards permit you to access your sideboard.
- If your opponent's avatar is in play, you may bring five hazards from your sideboard to the discard pile (or one hazard directly into your play deck and shuffle if your play deck has at least five cards) at the end of the untap phase. If you do so, the hazard limit for each of your opponent's companies at the start of their movement/hazard phase is halved (round up).
  - » This also applies if you opponent has played *The Lidless Eye* or *Sauron* [CoE 42].

- The total mind attributes of all agents in your play deck and sideboard may not exceed 36.
- Agents in starting companies count against the 36 mind limit [CRF].
- If your opponent is a Fallen Wizard, add 10 cards to your sideboard.
- If you are the Balrog, your opponent may not play any of the following cards:
  - ◆ *The Balrog (ally)*
  - ◆ *The Black Council*
  - ◆ *Durin's Bane*
  - ◆ *Balrog of Moria*
  - ◆ *Reluctant Final Parting*
- If your opponent is the Balrog, you may at any time remove one of the above cards from your hand and place it out-of-play in order to bring one card of any type from your sideboard into your play deck and shuffle.
- Tapping a Nazgûl to bring cards in from the sideboard does not turn the Nazgûl into a short-event. It is discarded immediately upon declaration [CRF].
- You may have Wizards in your sideboard. You may have no more than three copies of one Wizard, and one copy of each other Wizard, in your sideboard and play deck combined [CRF].
- You may access your sideboard when your opponent plays *The Lidless Eye* as if he had revealed his Ringwraith [CRF].

## STARTING CARDS

- Choose a number of characters whose mind total no more than 20 and place them in front of you. You and your opponent reveal your choices at the same time. Any duplicates (including manifestations) are shuffled into the deck. Choose two non-unique minor items not from your play deck [ME:LE, 14] and place them under the control of any character(s) in your starting company.
- Hero players may choose up to five hero characters (no Wizards). There is no provision for Heroes to start with minion minor items, as these items do not form part of the Hero player's decks [ME:TW, 16].
- A Hero player's starting company must start at Rivendell [ME:TW, 16].
- Minion players may choose up to six minion characters (no Ringwraiths, no agents).
- A Ringwraith player's starting company must start at Minas Morgul [ME:LE, 14].
  - » Ringwraith/Sauron players may have starting companies at Dol Guldur and/or Minas Morgul [CRF].
- A Balrog player may have two starting companies at either Moria or the Under-gates.
- A Fallen Wizard may choose up to five hero and



minion characters. You may not choose a character with a mind greater than 5 unless you use an appropriate stage resource card.

You may not choose Orc and Troll characters unless you start with an appropriate stage resource card.

You may not start agents.

- » For starting companies, minor items come into play after characters, so they cannot affect a character's mind for the purpose of playing him [CRF].
- A Fallen Wizard must attempt to start with up to 3 Stage resource permanent-events. The total stage points of these events must be three. At least one of these events must be non-unique. All conditions to play the event must be met.
- A Fallen Wizard's company may begin play at the White Towers or at a Ruins & Lairs in Arthedain or Rhudaur. If your company begins play at a Ruins & Lairs, one of your starting stage resources may be a *Hidden Haven* played on that site.
  - » You may not look at your hand before choosing your site [CoE 53].

**Editor's Note:** The White Hand rules insert specifically states that its rules for starting characters are exceptions to the rules used for Wizards. The White Hand rules failed to re-include the prohibition against starting an avatar. A player is within their rights to argue that starting a Fallen Wizard character is legal.

However, since it is a gray area, it is up to a judge or tournament organizer to have the final say. Starting an avatar is most likely broken, and it is highly discouraged to allow it.

To determine who goes first, roll the dice. The player with the higher total goes first. Reroll ties. Draw 8 cards to start the game.

- Your starting hand is eight cards, regardless of what characters you have at particular sites [CRF].
- Effects which increase your hand size or allow you to hold one more card in your hand mean that you draw up to your new hand size or discard down to it at the appropriate points during the game [CRF].
- Effects which increase hand size are cumulative [CRF].

*Tournament Convention: Character Draft.* The character draft was instituted to help lessen the likelihood of too many bounced characters. It formalizes the process of revealing characters at the start of the game. Some cards that take the place of the two minor items you select are also revealed during this time. Some stage resources are also revealed at this time. To use the character draft, follow this process:

- Select a pool of up to ten valid characters. Non-character cards which are drafted as characters do not count toward this total.

- Each player reveals his or her choice for their first character simultaneously.
- Duplicated characters are set aside. This includes manifestations [CRF].
- Each player continues revealing cards (simultaneously unless one player cannot reveal cards) until one of the following happens:
  - » The player has 5 characters in his company [ME:LE, 86].
    - ◆ Minion players may start with six characters in the character draft [CRF].
  - » The total mind of the player's starting characters is 20 (regardless of effects which decrease a character's mind).
  - » Playing a character would bring the total mind over 20.
  - » The player has exhausted their starting pool of ten characters.
  - » The player no longer wishes to reveal characters.
- You may now assign up to ten characters to go into your play deck.
- This may include duplicated and unused characters from your starting pool.
- Duplicated characters that were set aside do not count against the ten character limit.
- A Fallen Wizard's (up to three) starting stage cards are treated as if they were characters during the draft.
- Non-character cards duplicated in the character draft may not be placed into the play deck [CRF].

## PLAYER'S TURN PHASES

### UNTAP PHASE

- You may untap your tapped cards (other than sites) during this phase if they have not already untapped or healed.
- You may heal wounded characters to a tapped position if they are at a Haven.
- You may take actions not restricted to another phase.
- Corruption checks triggered at the end of the untap phase happen after everyone untaps [CRF].

### ORGANIZATION PHASE

- You may organize your characters into companies.
- You may declare movement.
- You may store cards that state they can be stored. Unless otherwise indicated, any item may be stored at a haven by having its bearer make a corruption check.
- You may transfer control of an item from one



of your characters to another at the same site by having the bearer make a corruption check.

- A Fallen Wizard may discard a stage resource from play, but only if this would not reduce his stage point total below three.

### LONG-EVENT PHASE

- You may play resource Long-Events during this phase.
- The hazard player removes any hazard Long-Events he had in play during this phase.

### MOVEMENT/HAZARD PHASE

- In the order the resource player chooses, each company reveals its new site (if any), draws cards (if necessary), and faces any hazards the opponent plays on them. Each player then resolves hand size. Once your opponent has had an opportunity to play hazards on each company, the Movement/Hazard Phase has ended. If a player has no companies, there is no Movement/Hazard Phase.

» If, at the start of a player's Movement/Hazard Phase, there are multiple effects in play such that their net effect depends on the order they are applied, the player who is currently not taking his turn (*i.e.*, the hazard player) decides the order in which they are to be applied. Once this interpretation is established, all further actions are applied in the order they are resolved for the rest of the turn [CRF].

- If a company does not move, it still has a Movement/Hazard Phase. No cards are drawn based on the company's movement, and the only hazards that can be played on the company are events and creatures that can be keyed to the company's site [CRF].
- If a company moves twice in one turn, resources played during the organization phase, like *Secret Passage*, are reapplied to the company at the beginning of each of their movement/hazard phases, if the conditions of the card are met [CRF].
- If you say you are done playing hazards and your opponent plays a resource before the Movement/Hazard Phase ends, you may then resume playing hazards, assuming you have not yet reached the hazard limit [CRF].
- The process of revealing the new site is as follows:

A. Revealing the site: Simultaneously determine the company's site path and the base hazard limit. This happens immediately, and cannot be responded to.

- ♦ Opponent halving the hazard limit in order to sideboard affects the base hazard limit.
- ♦ Any cards which modify a company's

hazard limit played prior to this point are then immediately applied to the company's base hazard limit in the order chosen by the player controlling the company. [ME:TD] This does not include hazard limit reduction effects which depend on a site path.

- ♦ There are special rules concerning Under-deeps movement [CRF, Rulings by Term: Under-deeps].

B. Resolution of the site: Simultaneously draw cards, resolve other effects of the site card, and apply any other relevant effects in play. This happens immediately, and cannot be responded to.

- ♦ If, at the start of a player's Movement/Hazard Phase, there are multiple effects in play such that their net effect depends on the order they are applied, the player who is currently not taking his turn (*i.e.*, the hazard player) decides the order in which they are to be applied. Once this interpretation is established, all further actions are applied in the order they are resolved for the rest of the turn [CRF].

C. First chain of effects: Effects that were played during the Organization Phase and depend on the site or site path of a moving company, create an effect which is now declared along with actions from passive conditions.

- \*After all of these effects/actions have been declared, players are free to add to this chain of effects by playing cards and/or declaring more actions.

### SITE PHASE

- Each of your companies may do one of the following two options:
  - » Nothing.
    - ♦ Several cards force a company to take this first option. In this case, there is no time to play any other resources during that company's portion of your Site Phase [CoE 105].
  - » Enter their current site and attempt to play resources.
- Items, factions and allies must be played during the Site Phase [CRF].
- There is no one resource card per Site Phase rule. However, the tapping of the site usually limits you to one card per site phase [CRF].
- The site taps upon successful play of the resource that would tap it [CRF].
- A company may not play any resource during the Site Phase until they have faced all automatic-attacks, unless that resource directly affects an automatic-attack. Removing an automatic-attack does not directly affect it, although cancelling does [CRF].



**Editor's Note:** By this logic, adding an automatic-attack to a site also does not affect the automatic-attack

- You may only play a free minor item after playing an ally, faction, or item that taps the site [CRF].
- Play of an ally, item, faction, or resource card which will normally tap the site must be after the company resolves all automatic, agent and on-guard creature attacks [CRF].
- “Does not tap the site” is not equal to “playable at a tapped site.” [CRF, Van].
- Unless explicitly stated otherwise you need an untapped site to play an item, ally or faction and successful play taps the company's site [CRF, CoE].
- In order to do anything during the site phase, you must first enter a site and face any automatic-attacks thereat [ME:BA].

## END-OF-TURN PHASE

- Return on-guard cards to your hand.
- After returning on-guard cards to your hand, you may discard a card.
- Draw or discard until you have reached your hand size. Base hand size is 8.
- Perform any other actions not restricted from being declared during the End-of-turn Phase.
- Signal the end of your turn.
- End-of-turn effects are triggered by the ending of the End-of-turn Phase. Once both players are done with all actions in the End-of-turn phase, all End-of-Turn effects are declared and resolved in the order chosen by the current player. No further actions may be declared that time [CRF].
- Cards may be played during the End-of-turn Phase after hand size has been reconciled [CRF].
- Replacing one site with another at the end of the turn counts as movement, without a Movement/Hazard Phase [CRF].

## VICTORY CONDITIONS

### ELIMINATING YOUR OPPONENT'S AVATAR

If your opponent's avatar is eliminated, you win the game. The most typical means of eliminating an opponent's avatar are through body checks or corruption checks.

*Tournament Convention:* The elimination of a player's Wizard or Ringwraith no longer ends the game. The

eliminated Wizard/Ringwraith should be placed in the player's out-of-play pile. It provides -5 marshalling points, subtracted off the player's final marshalling point total at the End-of-game. The -5 also comes off the player's “raw” total for the purposes of calling the End-of-game.

A player whose Wizard or Ringwraith has been eliminated may not reveal another Wizard or Ringwraith. This includes all Wizards who fail corruption checks [CRF, ME:BA 12].

## WIN BY MEANS OF THE ONE RING

- As a hero player, if you move *The One Ring* to Mount Doom and play certain cards, the game ends and you win [ME:TW 19].

### Controversial Cards: *Gollum's Fate/Cracks of Doom*

There are two cards which allow a Hero player to win in this way: *Gollum's Fate* and *Cracks of Doom*. Both of these state playability conditions and that the player of the card wins the game. There is some debate as to whether these cards override the stated requirement in the rules that you must also move *The One Ring* to Mount Doom. While neither card specifically overrides the rule, it is undeniably traditional to test a Gold Ring Item at Mount Doom rather than moving *The One Ring* there. As a tournament organizer, consider which point of view you want to support. Requiring *The One Ring* to be in play before moving to Mount Doom makes winning this kind of victory more dangerous, and may discourage people from trying. Not requiring *The One Ring* to move to Mount Doom makes it rather difficult to stop a deck focused on destroying *The One Ring*, essentially encouraging this sort of deck.



- As a Ringwraith player, if you move *The One Ring* to Barad-dûr, Sauron is reunited with *The One*

*Ring* and you win.

- » “Yes, you do really have to move there with *The One Ring*. You can’t just have *The One Ring* there” [CoE 48].
- » You are not at the site until the beginning of the Site Phase, therefore, you do not win until then [CoE 48].

**Editor’s Note:** The requirement that a Ringwraith player move *The One Ring* to Barad-dûr rather than a generic requirement that *The One Ring* be at Barad-dûr is meant to prevent the following ridiculous situations:

- A Hero or Fallen Wizard player has *The One Ring* at Barad-dûr, therefore a Ringwraith player wins.
- A Ringwraith player has *The One Ring* at Barad-dûr, therefore all Ringwraith players win a One Ring victory.
- The Balrog has *The One Ring* at Barad-dûr, and therefore a Ringwraith player wins.

Thematically speaking, when you are a Ringwraith, the question is not whether Sauron is reunited with *The One Ring*, victory is determined by whose efforts have brought it to Sauron.

- As a Fallen Wizard, at least one copy of *A New Ringlord* must be played and the conditions outlined on that card must be met.
- As the Balrog, at least one *Challenge the Power* must be played and the conditions outlined on the card must be met.

## WINNING BY MEANS OF MARSHALLING POINTS

If neither of the above victories occur, the game ends depending on conditions decided before the game starts. The four kinds of games are the 1-deck (Quick), 2-decks (Short), 3-decks (Long), and 4-decks (Campaign). The necessary Marshalling Point requirement for win the game are 20, 25, 30, and 40, respectively.

The maximum sideboard size is 25, 25, 30, and 35 cards, respectively [ME:LE, 51-54]. For a tournament, increase the sideboard size to 30, 30, 35, and 40 cards, respectively [ME:WH].

### For a Quick game:

- If you have at least 20 Marshalling Points, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent in this case takes one last turn after the end of your turn.
- If you have exhausted your play deck at least once, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent in this case takes one last turn after the end of your turn.
- When each play deck has been exhausted once, the game ends after the current turn.

### For a Short game:

- If you have at least 25 Marshalling Points and have exhausted your play deck at least once, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- If you have exhausted your play deck at least twice, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- When each play deck has been exhausted twice, the game ends after the current turn.

### For a Long game:

- If you have at least 30 Marshalling Points and have exhausted your play deck twice, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- If you have exhausted your play deck three times, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- When each play deck has been exhausted three times, the game ends after the current turn.

### For a Campaign game:

- If you have at least 40 Marshalling Points and have exhausted your play deck three times, you may elect to end the game during your turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- If you have exhausted your play deck four times, you may elect to end the game during your current turn. Your opponent takes one last turn.
- When each play deck has been exhausted four times, the game ends.

## THE END OF A GAME TO MARSHALLING POINTS

When all conditions agreed before the start of the game have been fulfilled, it is time to score points.

A Minion player may not freely elect to end the game when the above conditions are met; instead, they must play the *Sudden Call* card. This card can be played as a resource on your town turn.

You may also use *Sudden Call* as a hazard if your Minion opponent has met the above conditions. In this case, you get one last turn.

- Unless you are a Balrog player, Marshalling Points that you have at an Under-deeps site do not count for the purposes of being able to end the game, but do count when comparing Marshalling Point totals at the end of the game.

### At the end of the game:

- Each character makes a corruption check.
- Characters may tap to aid corruption checks, if they are in the same company [CRF].
- Long and permanent-events still in play will still have an effect [CRF].





- Only resources that directly affect corruption checks may be played during the Free Council. This includes cards that reduce a character's corruption point total or prevent a character from being discarded [CRF].
- Each player totals their Marshalling Points, keeping track of the source. The sources are Character, Ally, Item, Faction, Kill, and Miscellaneous.
  - » All non-stage Marshalling Point sources are worth 1 MP to a Fallen Wizard. Marshalling points on stage resources are handled normally. A Fallen Wizard's Marshalling Points cannot be modified by non-stage resources. They can be modified by stage resources, Fallen Wizard abilities, and hazards.
  - » Fallen-wizards may receive one extra MP for factions played on a leader [CRF].
  - » Factions played with a leader are worth two extra MP per group of factions, not per faction [CRF].
  - » These two extra MP's are faction points. [CRF, CoE 8].
  - » Fallen Wizards do not receive Marshalling Points for resources stored at non-Wizardhaven sites.
  - » If you are Minion, Hero Items are only worth half MPs (rounded up). If you are Hero, Minion items are only worth half MPs (rounded up).
  - » Balrog players receive no MPs for hero items played at their Darkhavens [CRF].
  - » You may not receive kill MPs from a card you played [CRF].
  - » Fallen Wizards do not normally receive MPs from hazards with "\*" by their MP total. Certain stage resources/hazards may change this [CoE 61].
- You may reveal any unique cards in your hand that match unique cards your opponent has in play. Such cards reduce your opponent's Marshalling Point total by one. You may also reveal an opposite alignment manifestation of the Unique entity for the same effect.
  - » You may only reveal such a card if the entity in question is giving positive MPs to your opponent [CoE 101].
- If your opponent(s) has zero (or less) points in any source except Kill and/or Miscellaneous, double your Marshalling Points in that Source.
- No more than half your Marshalling Points can come from any one Source. If you have too many Marshalling Points from a given source, reduce the amount until they are equal to half your Marshalling Point total.
- If, after these modifications, you have the highest Marshalling Point total, you win the game.

**Editor's Note:** The implications of game length upon game balance are profound. Which type of game you wish to run in a tournament merits a great deal of thought. Here are some of the implications of the game length:

- *Quick Game.* One Ring victory is almost impossible. Players may be able to call after two or three turns. Big-MP cards are the biggest goal, favoring the Hero alignment. Fallen Wizards, which rely on time to gain MPs, are at a distinct disadvantage. There are almost no combos for hazard strategies. The positive side of this type of game is its speed; it will be over very quickly.
- *Short Game.* One Ring victories are doable within the time frame. Games last 4-6 turns. The biggest goal for the short game is deck speed; you want to draw through your cards to gain MPs and exhaust, calling before your opponent can muster his own MPs. Hazards are likely to focus on turn advantage, with the sideboard often sporting one anti-One Ring card. The positive side of this type of game is that Hero, Minion, and Fallen Wizard players all have viable options. The negative is that the turn limit constraints can lead to homogeneous hazard portions and even disturbingly similar resource portions.
- *Long Game.* One Ring victories become a definite threat here; a player must devote more of their hazard portion to dealing with it. Hence, Marshalling Point gathering becomes safer. The biggest goal for the Long Game is completing high-MP "quest" type cards (*Kill All But NOT The Halflings*, *Fate of the Ithil-Stone*, etc.) in order to get a solid MP "push" to the 30 point requirement. Fallen Wizards begin to thrive in this length, as they have high-yield big MP cards that usually provide significant in-game benefits. Minions, however, begin to feel some MP pressure, given the relatively low value of their MPs/card. The positive side of the three-deck game is providing a fairly level playing field – speed decks need not rule, One Ring decks can bide their time for optimal circumstances, and the necessity of spending hazards to counter the potential One Ring decks means possibly safer resource-gathering for both sides. The negative, of course, is the time investment, but with many people likely choosing to attempt One Ring victories, games will not often go to the full three decks.
- *Campaign Game.* One Ring victories become the biggest goal of this game. Influencing away opponent's resources becomes the 2nd most important thing; to reach 40 MPs without losing any of them over the course of 4 cycles requires unfathomable luck. Many players will devote not only significant portions of their hazards to stopping The One Ring, but also significant portions of their resources to attaining it through influence. Marshalling Point gathering focuses on big-ticket MP sources that are not easily influenced away as a means of attaining the 40 MPs. Games that do not feature *The One Ring* may become a race to see who can complete a "quest" first. The advantage of this game type is that the broadest range of experience is possible – almost any card can see the light of day; speed is not an issue, and competition to keep resources already gathered has prime importance. The disadvantage is, of course, the time investment. Many players will not like the length of a game even if they enjoy the options it enables.

# GAME MECHANICS



## TIMING & ACTIONS

Taking Actions consists of two parts: Declaring an Action and Resolving an action.

**Editor's Note:** The timing rules are part of what make Middle Earth such an intricate game. They allow for a high level of precision and complexity. Unfortunately, ICE did not use a high level of precision and complexity when they worded the rules. Thus, they often used the words "action" and "effect" interchangeably, and often made logical inconsistencies in their rulings. There are broad debates about any number of cards under these rules. I present a few possible guidelines below for adjudicating actions, but remember that the most important thing is to ensure that players in your tournament know which approach you are using before they construct their decks:

- *The Literal Approach:* This idea is that if you as a player must do something, it is an action. Otherwise, it is an effect. Discarding cards, tapping, rolling dice, etc. are actions under this guideline. Adding strikes to an attack is not. This guideline has the advantage of simplicity and the disadvantage of disregarding ICE's numerous comments on what constitutes an action.

- *The Konrad Klar Approach:* Named for the player, this approach asks a basic question: if you remove what caused the effect, does the effect go away or does it remain? *Fell Winter* gives each Border-Hold an automatic-attack, but if you remove it, Border-Holds no longer have an attack. *Long Winter* can send a company back to their site of origin, but if you remove it, any company sent back to their site of origin still remains there. *Fell Winter* is an example of a card with an effect; *Long Winter* is an example of a card with an action.

- *The Traditional Approach:* This simply makes a ruling based on past experience. This allows for quick decisions but has the manifest disadvantage of being arbitrary and highly subjective.

Sample actions include card play, tapping a card, rolling dice, etc. When you attempt an action, you declare the action. Once you have declared an action, your opponent may respond to that action by declaring his own action. Should he not wish to do so, you can



respond to your own declaration. Such a sequence of declarations is called a **Chain of Effects**. Once neither player wishes to declare anymore actions, the declared actions begin resolving in reverse order, *i.e.*, the last action declared is the first action to resolve. Once a chain of effects has begun resolving, you may not declare any more actions until the chain of effects has completely resolved.

To resolve an action, simply implement the action you declared. Note that some actions which were legal upon declaration become illegal during resolution; this effect is commonly called fizzling the action. The most common example is using a resource to lower the hazard limit in response to a player declaring a hazard that reaches the hazard limit.

You must give your opponent a chance to respond to each of your actions unless said action declares and resolves immediately. Certain cards and rules indicate when an action declares and resolves immediately.

- Creature cards must start a chain of effects [*ME:LE*, 69].



- An attack must be the first declared action in a chain of effects; *i.e.*, a creature card may not be played in response to another card in the same chain of effects. Revealing an on-guard creature is an exception [CRF].
- Any card that has the potential to immediately create an attack is considered an attack for purposes of interpreting the above rule [CRF, CoE].



- If a card specifies that more than one action occurs when the card is itself resolved in a chain of effects, all of these actions are to be resolved in the card's chain of effects uninterrupted and in the order listed on the card. No actions may be declared to occur between these multiple actions. The actions listed on the card are considered to have been declared in the reverse order as they are printed. As an exception, in one of the effects of a card is an attack, cards may be played that cancel the attack, cancel one of the strikes, or that otherwise are playable during the strike sequence [ME:BA].
- Effects that are played during the Organization Phase and depend on the site or site path of a moving company create an effect which is not declared until the new site is revealed. If the site or site path is not of the appropriate type when the effect resolves, the resource has no effect. If the company has multiple Movement/Hazard Phases on the same turn, the card applies separately to each phase, having an effect only if the correct conditions are met [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** This rule is an example of how ICE would use "action" and "effect" interchangeably, which creates a great deal of confusion. In this case, it seems best to read "create an effect" as "create an action" for clarity, but this is admittedly subjective. See also the section *Special Movement*.

- The resolution of a character tapping to give +1 to a corruption check happens when the corruption check itself resolves [CRF].
- The validity of an effect, including the hazard limit, is checked upon declaration and upon resolution [CRF].
- If a card has optional effects, the player playing the card must choose which will take place. He must do this at the time the card is played, not when it is resolved in its chain of effects. When such a card is resolved, if any active conditions for the choice of effects do not exist, the card has no effect and is discarded. The player may not at this point choose to implement an alternative effect of the card [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** Another example of imprecise wording leading to messy situations. Strictly speaking, a card is not in play until it resolves in its chain of effects (according to the same CRF that gave us this rule), and the use of the term "played" here is inaccurate or the other rule is inaccurate. Generally speaking, it's safer to assume that this rule is the inaccurate one, as cards being in play only when they are declared opens up mess upon mess of card abuses and strange functions.

- When a long or permanent-event is triggered, it begins a chain of effects that can be responded to [Van 579].
- You may tap a Nazgûl in response to a *Marvels Told* or *Voices of Malice* and get its effect [Van 579]. You may not use *Marvels/Voices* on a tapped Nazgûl [CoE 31].
- You may not do anything between the effects listed on a card. So you may not *Cram* between the events on *Windlord* etc. [Van 588]
- You may tap a character in response to the de-



claration of a hazard card or effect in order to initiate another effect. [CoE 4].

- No, really. You can't initiate a new chain of effects in the middle of the resolution of an old one [CoE 70].

## ACTIVE CONDITIONS OF ACTIONS

Active conditions serve as the price for actions, not effects. Card play is only one of many possible actions.

**Editor's Note:** If ICE was unclear on their definition of Action, the method for determining whether a given text on a card is an Action of the card or an Active Condition of a different action on the card is dicey, at best. A good rule of thumb for most cards is if the card contains the phrasing "do X to do Y," then X is an active condition for Y.

Furthermore, do not assume that merely because a card has a potentially negative effect, that effect is a "cost" and therefore an active condition of the entire card or any portion of it. Oftentimes, a negative effect is just that – a negative effect.

Finally, do not assume that an active condition for one action of a card with multiple actions somehow invalidates all of the actions if you are unable to establish the condition for that one action. This is nowhere borne out by the rules, but keep in mind the restrictions below.

- An active condition must be in play or established when the action requiring it is declared. Active conditions serve as the price of an action. They are restrictions on the player invoking the action [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** And here the difficulties begin. The One Ring states, "Bearer may make a corruption check modified by -2 to cancel a strike." Thus, the corruption check is an active condition for the action of cancelling the strike. All is well and good, so far, except corruption checks are never "in play," so they must be "established." Presumably, establishing the corruption check means making a corruption check. However, according to the rules, "Active conditions are declared and resolved with no time for response by an opponent or yourself." Therefore this corruption check is made instantly and there is no time to tap characters to support the corruption check, etc. Presumably, on a successful corruption check, the strike-cancelling action is able to be declared and will resolve once the chain of effects begins resolution.

- If an action requires an entity to tap as a condition for the action's main effect, that entity must be untapped when the action is declared; else, the action may not be declared. Tap the entity at this point; this is considered synonymous with the action's declaration; *i.e.*, it is not a separate action. When

it comes time to resolve the action in its chain of effects, that entity must still be in play and tapped or the action is canceled [CRF].

- If an action requires an entity to be discarded as a condition for the action's main effect, that entity must be discarded when the action is declared; this is considered synonymous with the action's declaration; *i.e.*, it is not a separate action [CRF].
- If any other active condition for an action does not exist when the action is resolved, the action has no effect; if the action was playing a card from your hand, it is discarded [CRF].
- An action that requires a target is considered to have the active condition that the target be in play when the action is declared and when it is resolved. An action may not be declared if its target is not in play. However, dice-rolling actions may always be targeted by other actions declared later in the same chain of effects [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** And here the second set of difficulties begins. Let us take a simple example: *Far Sight*.

Text card says "Sage only during the Site Phase at an untapped site where Information is playable. Tap the sage and the site to search through your play deck and choose an item that you must reveal to your opponent."

There are two actions involved in declaring this card:

1. The Card Play action, which has as its active condition a Sage at an untapped site; and
2. The "search through your play deck" action, which has as its active condition that you tap the sage and the site.

Whether you believe that the card play action is declared before or after the "search through your play deck" action, at some point in the chain of effects, this card is going to be tapped when the card play action requires that it be untapped, and the card will fizzle itself.

There is no way around this hole in the rules. As an entirely personal remark from the editor, this is the single strongest argument I can think of for the Council of Elrond to authorize a complete rewrite of the timing rules, the active condition rules, and the passive condition rules into something consistent, workable, and non-exploitable. Write your Chairman today!

Your opponent's resources may be the active conditions for your resources, but may not be the targets for your resources [CRF].

- If an "alternative" or "additional" effect does not have any "playable..." conditions, then the "playable on..." conditions from the primary effect of the card apply. The following cards are exceptions to this rule: *Gloom*, *Good Sense Revolts*, *Half an Eye Open*, *Heedless Revelry*, *Here is a Snake!*, *In the Name of Mordor*, *Inner Cunning*, *Nobody's Friend*, *Withdrawn to Mordor*, and *Wolf-riders* [CRF].
- Hero items may not be used as conditions for minion resources, and minion items may not be





used as conditions for hero resources. Note that a Fallen-wizard may play special ring items regardless of the alignment of the gold ring item tested.

- Conditions for the play of a card are not checked after the card play action has resolved, regardless of the type of card [CoE 43].

## ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF PASSIVE CONDITIONS

To repeat the definition from the glossary:

*“Condition, Passive: A situation in the game that causes another action to take effect. The triggered action will be the first declared action in the chain of effects immediately following the chain of effects that contained the passive condition.”*

**Editor’s Note:** Because ICE never provided a solid definition of an action, Passive Conditions are very shaky ground, indeed. Remember two important things:

- If there is no action, there is no passive condition. Make sure all players are aware of what definition of an action you are using.
- The reasoning for Passive Conditions immediately initiating a chain of effects after the one that triggers them is simple:
  - » A passive condition normally is triggered by an action resolving.
  - » If an action is resolving, though, then a chain of effects is resolving. New actions may not be declared while a chain of effects is resolving.
- Therefore, the declaration of the Passive Condition’s action is delayed until the chain of effects that triggered it has finished resolving.

Keep in mind that this is without a doubt the most controversial, confusing, difficult, and at times broken concept in the game. Depending on what your definition of an action is, certain cards become effectively useless (*i.e.* *In The Heart Of His Realm*, where current rulings enable you to respond to moving in a Dark-domain by playing a ritual to discard the card that is supposed to prevent you from playing rituals while moving in a Dark-domain). The single greatest thing you can do for players in a tournament is make it clear

- Hero items may not be used as conditions for minion resources, and minion items may not be used as conditions for hero resources. Note that a Fallen Wizard may play special ring items regardless of the alignment of the gold ring item tested [CRF].
- A passive condition causes an action to happen as stated on a card already in play [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** Therefore, if a given card is not in play, even if it has a continuing effect, there is no Passive Condition.



- If a card specifies that an action is to occur as a result of some specific passive condition, this action becomes automatically the first action declared in the chain of effects to immediately follow the chain of effects producing the passive condition. The passive condition must exist when this resulting action is resolved in its own chain of effects, or the action is canceled. Note that actions in the strike sequence follow a different set of rules [CRF].
- If a card is required to be discarded by some passive condition, the card is discarded immediately when the condition resolves, not in the following chain of effects [CRF].
- If more than one action is required to be the first action declared in a chain of effects, the player whose turn it is chooses the order in which they are declared. No other actions may be declared in this follow-up chain until the multiple required actions have been declared [CRF].
- A card causing an action as a result of a passive condition must be in play when the action resolves, or else the action is canceled [CRF].

## TAPPING AND UNTAPPING

- To tap a card, rotate it 90°. To untap a card, revert it to unrotated [ME:TW, 15].
- If an action requires an entity to tap, that entity must be untapped when the action is declared.

## HEALING

- To heal a character, move them from the woun-

ded position to the tapped position [ME:TW, 23].

## PLAYING CHARACTER CARDS

- In the Organization Phase, you may play a character if you do not have enough influence to control them. However, if there are any characters you do not have the influence to control at the end of your Organization Phase, the character you brought into play this turn must be returned to your hand [CRF].
- Characters must be played during the Organization Phase [ME:BA]. See also *Playing Characters as the Result of a Successful Influence Attempt Against Your Opponent* below for the exception to this rule.

## PLAYING AVATARS

- During your Organization Phase, you may play an avatar if you do not already have one in play and have not already played a character this turn [ME:TW, 22].
- If your avatar is a Wizard, you may bring him into play at his Home Site or at Rivendell.
- If your avatar is a Ringwraith, you may bring him into play at his Home Site or Minas Morgul. Discard any corresponding Nazgûl hazard manifestation [ME:LE, 78].
- A Ringwraith may also be brought into play at Dol Guldur, Minas Morgul, or his home site [CRF].
- A Fallen Wizard may only start at his home site [ME:WH].
- The Balrog may come into play at the Under-gates.
- If you play a Ringwraith at a non-Darkhaven site where there is one of your non-Ringwraith companies, one of the companies must move that turn. If both companies are still there at the end of the Movement/Hazard phase, discard the non-Ringwraith company [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** Keep in mind, though, that effects which would cause company composition violation (such as returning one of the companies to the site of origin) are automatically canceled.  
See section: *Organizing Characters and Companies*.

## PLAYING CHARACTERS

- During your organization phase, you may play a character if you have not already played a character this turn [ME:TW, 22].

- The Balrog can play or discard a non-unique character with a mind of three or less in addition to a normal character. The normal requirements for playing the character must still be met.
- When a Balrog player plays a non-unique character with a mind of three or less, that character may come from his hand, discard pile, or sideboard.
- Such a character may come into play at his home site or at a Haven [ME:TW, 22].
- An agent may only come into play at his home site [ME:LE, 58].
- If your avatar is in play, either your avatar must be at the site where the character comes into play or the character must be played as a follower [ME:-TW, 54].
- You must have enough influence available to control the character [ME:TW, 22].
- A Fallen Wizard may not bring into play any character with a mind greater than five. Note that some stage resource cards overrides this rule (*i.e. Thrall of the voice*).
- A Fallen Wizard may not play Orcs or Trolls without the appropriate stage resource.
- A Balrog’s characters with a home site of “Any Dark-Hold” instead have a home site of “Any non-Dark-hold Under-deeps site” instead.



## PLAYING RINGWRAITH FOLLOWERS

If the following conditions are met, you may play a Ringwraith Follower:

- Your Ringwraith is already in play.
- Your Ringwraith is at a Darkhaven or at the Ringwraith’s home site.
- You have the card of the additional Ringwraith in your hand.
- You have a card or ability allowing the Ringwraith follower to be played.





**Editor's Note:** Unlike the rules for character play and avatar play, the rules for Ringwraith Followers mention no specific phase requirement. It is up to the tournament organizer to decide whether Ringwraith Followers are playable during any phase subject to the requirements above or whether they follow the phase requirements of the two other kinds of character play. Note that many abilities which enable the play of Ringwraith Followers already specify a phase (*i.e.* *Witch-King*, *Khamûl the Ringwraith*, *They Ride Together*, etc.), so allowing Ringwraith followers to be played during any phase subject to the above limitations is not necessarily too powerful. See also *Black Horse*. Note that it is generally not possible to play a Ringwraith Follower and a different character because playing a normal character requires that you not play any other characters in the turn.

**Controversial Cards: Úvatha the Ringwraith**

Úvatha the Ringwraith states, "He may join another Ringwraith's company during your Organization Phase and requires no influence to control." This ability means that once he comes into play, he is a Ringwraith Follower. The question is whether his card overrides the site restriction. This is only of great concern if there is an actively moving Ringwraith. Since moving a Ringwraith efficiently is task unto itself, it does not seem too overpowered to allow Úvatha to join a Ringwraith at any site, but it is something to consider.

- Play of a Ringwraith Follower discards any corresponding Nazgûl hazard manifestation [ME:LE, 78]. Each Ringwraith Follower requires one point of Direct Influence to control, and must be controlled by your Ringwraith.
- A Ringwraith Follower may not use any of his special abilities. A Ringwraith follower may use magic as indicated on his card. Úvatha's ability to join another Ringwraith's company is an exception to this rule [CRF].
  - » Ringwraith Followers may use their Skills and Direct Influence without restriction. They may not use their special abilities or Unleashed cards [Van 585].
- When your revealed Ringwraith leaves play without being eliminated, you have until the end of your next organization phase to bring your Ringwraith back into play and use him to re-control any Ringwraith followers. Otherwise, all Ringwraith followers are discarded [CRF].
- A Ringwraith follower is still a Ringwraith character [CoE 7].

## ORGANIZING CHARACTERS AND COMPANIES

- Companies at a Haven may be any size.
- Companies not at a Haven have a maximum size of 7.

- Hobbits count as half characters for the purpose of company size.
- Two companies may not leave the same site and travel to the same site in the same turn.
- Unless at a Haven, Ringwraiths may only be in a company with other Ringwraiths.
- Any company with a Ringwraith in it is a Ringwraith company [CoE 115].
- Orc Scouts only count as half character for the purpose of company size.
- When you play a character, you may place him into a company already at his arrival site *or* he may become a new company (consisting of one character). In the second case, you must place the arrival site card next to the character played. If the appropriate site is not available, you may not play the character [ME:LE].
- Unless at a haven, Orcs and Trolls may not be in a company with Dúnedain, Dwarves, Elves, or Hobbits [ME:TW, ME:LE].
- Unless at a haven, a company can only contain one Leader.
- If two companies attempt to join at a non-Haven site and a company composition rule is violated, one of the companies must immediately return to their site of origin. Any effect which would cause such a violation is immediately canceled [ME:LE, 57].

**Editor's Note:** *i.e.* Nature's Revenge would not change the site type of a Wizardhaven if such would result in company composition rules being violated.

- If companies would join at the end of the Movement/Hazard Phase such that the company composition rules are violated, one company of the hazard player's choice must return to its site of origin [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** This rule can obviously only apply if a company has moved to the site in question. If only one company has moved to the site, then they are the only one that can be sent to a different site of origin.

- A company may move to a site that would violate company composition rules and then use a movement-extending effect on the same turn to move to a legal site [CoE 67].
- When a company splits up, its player chooses which characters are the original company and which characters are a new company, unless otherwise directed by a card. All resource permanent-events played on the original company stay with the original company [CRF].
  - » When a company splits, all but one of the re-

sulting companies must attempt to move to a different site this turn [*Van 581*].

- » The hazard player chooses which hazard events played on the company go to which company on a per hazard basis [*CoE 51*].
- Company composition changes that you choose to make, including bringing a character into play, must all be done at the same time during the organization phase. During this time no other actions may be taken [*CRF*].
- If a company splits, all but one of the split companies must attempt to move to a different site this turn. The company may not rejoin in the same phase [*CRF*].
- You may transfer a character from one company at a site to another, without creating a third company [*CRF*].
- Companies at the same non-Haven/non-Darkhaven site must join at the end of all movement/hazard phases, before the site phase starts. Companies at the same Haven/Darkhaven site may join at this time [*CRF*].
- If two companies join at a site, cards affecting one of the companies now affect them both [*CRF*].
- If all characters in a company are removed from the company, all resource permanent events played on the company as a whole are discarded [*CRF*].
- If all characters in a company leave play, the site goes to the location deck or discard pile, depending on its tapped status. If this happens during the Movement/Hazard phase, the site card stays in play until the end of all Movement/Hazard Phases. In this case, on-guard cards may still be played on the site [*CRF*].
- You may use one site card to represent multiple companies during the Organization Phase, but not during any other phase [*CoE 67*].
- Non-Haven site cards that have been changed to Havens follow the rules for joining and splitting at non-Haven sites [*CoE 67*].

**Editor's Note:** This ruling followed a great deal of discussion on the part of the NetRep and ultimately allows for fewer abuses.

## PLAYING CHARACTERS AS THE RESULT OF A SUCCESSFUL INFLUENCE ATTEMPT AGAINST YOUR OPPONENT

During the site phase, you may attempt to influence away one of your opponent's characters if the following apply:

1. You have not made an influence attempt against your opponent or attacked your opponent with a company this turn;
2. It is not your first turn;
3. It is not the turn your played your avatar; *and*

4. One of your characters is at the same site as one of your opponent's characters.

To make the influence attempt, do the following:

1. Tap the character who will make the influence attempt.
2. Make a roll.
3. Add your character's unused Direct Influence.
4. Subtract your opponent's unused General Influence.
5. If your opponent's character is a follower, subtract the controlling character's unused direct influence.
6. Subtract the result of a roll made by your opponent.
7. Apply any other modifiers (from cards or abilities).
8. If the result is greater than the character's mind, the character is discarded as well as all non-follower cards he controls.
9. You may reveal an identical character card for this attempt. In this case, the character's mind attribute is treated as zero, and you may play the character at the site if you have enough influence to control them.
  - ♦ Fallen Wizards may reveal a character with greater than 5 mind, but may not play them [*CoE 65*].

**Editor's Note:** Fallen Wizards are not only prevented from playing character with more than 5 mind, they are prevented from using them. In my mind, revealing such a character as part of influence attempt constitutes "use."

- ♦ You may influence a Hobbit if you are not at Bag End [*CRF*].

## DISCARDING CHARACTERS

During your organization phase, you may discard a character if the following apply:

1. The character is not your avatar.
2. The character is at his home site or a haven.
3. You have not already played a character in the Organization Phase. If you discard a character, you may not play any character (even an avatar) during the Organization Phase.
4. When the Balrog discards a character from play, he may also play or discard a nonunique character with a mind of three or less. All normal restrictions for discarding a character apply.
5. You **must** take this action when you do not have enough available influence to control all your characters. In this case, the character need not be at a Haven.





- ◆ You may not move a character out from under direct influence in order to cause such a shortage, but there is no rule that you must move a character under direct influence rather than discard them, provided that you did not move them out from under direct influence during the organization phase in the first place [*CoE 61*].

## PLAYING ALLY CARDS

To play an ally, the following must apply:

1. It must be during the site phase [*ME:LE, 42*].
2. The company must have already faced any automatic attacks at the site [*ME:LE, 15*].
3. You must be at the site indicated on the ally's card [*ME:LE, 42*].
4. To play the ally, tap a character and place the ally under that character's control. Tap the site.
5. For a Fallen Wizard to play an Ally, the alignment of the resource and site must match. For these purposes, Wizardhavens/Stage Resources count as either alignment.

You may also attempt to influence an ally away from your opponent. Follow the rules for influencing your opponent's follower.

## PLAYING FACTION CARDS

To play a faction, the following must apply:

1. It must be during the site phase [*ME:LE, 42*].
2. The company must have already faced any automatic attacks at the site [*ME:LE, 15*].
3. You must be at the site indicated on the faction's card [*ME:LE, 42*].
4. For a Fallen Wizard to play a Faction, the alignment of the resource and site must match. For these purposes, Wizardhavens/Stage Resources count as either alignment.

If the above apply, follow this procedure:

- a. Reveal the faction from your hand.
- b. Tap a character to make an influence check.
- c. Make a roll. Add the character's unused Direct Influence.
- d. Add any modifications listed on the faction card.
- e. Apply any other modifiers from cards.
- f. If the result is higher than the number listed on the faction, you successfully play the faction. Tap the site.
  - ◆ When you play a faction at a site it

is not normally playable at (*i.e.* through the use of Old Road or Hour of Need), you tap the site the character making the influence check is currently at. This means you may not play such a card at a tapped site [*Van 581 & 582*]. Note that if you are such a card to make an influence attempt against an opponent's faction, then the site need not be untapped and will not tap, according to the rules on influencing an opponent's resource below.

- g. If the result is not higher, discard the faction you revealed.

You may also attempt to influence a faction away from your opponent. Follow the rules for influencing your opponent's follower. The following exceptions apply:

- You must be at a site where the faction is playable.
- Instead of a mind value, you use the number required to influence the faction.

## PLAYING ITEM CARDS

### PLAYING ITEM CARDS

To play an item card, the following must apply:

1. It must be during the Site Phase.
2. The company must have faced any automatic attacks at the site.
3. You must be at a site that indicates that the item is playable there (in the case of greater, major, minor, and gold ring items). Special Items indicate at which sites they are playable.
4. Tap a character. Place the item under the character's control. Tap the site.
5. For a Fallen Wizard to play an Item, the alignment of the resource and site must match. For these purposes, Wizardhavens/Stage Resources count as either alignment.

You may also attempt to influence an item away from your opponent. Follow the rules for influencing your opponent's follower, but the following exceptions apply:

- Use the mind attribute of the item's controlling character.
- You must reveal an identical item to make this attempt. The item need not be played with the influencing character if the attempt is successful, however.
- You may not make an influence attempt on an item with a permanent event on it [*ME:DM*].
- It is not possible to influence an item away from a Wizard or Ringwraith [*CRF*]. This rule also applies to the Balrog and Fallen Wizards.



**Editor's Note:** It is not possible for the simple reason that influencing an item requires the use of the mind of the controlling character. Avatars do not have a mind attribute. Therefore, it is literally impossible to roll greater than the mind of the character; you cannot compare a nonexistent value.

So long as an influence attempt does not require the avatar's mind attribute as a value, that influence attempt is possible.

ME:BA states that you may not make an influence attempt against any card controlled by an avatar. This does not mean that such a thing would be impossible, merely that you may not attempt it.



- In addition to the above method for playing items, a character may tap to play a minor item when a resource is played that taps their current site. Minor items need not be playable at the site.
  - » This includes Havens. This is not limited to the Site Phase [Van 581]. The Site Phase ruling was overturned in a later digest; see below.
- If you are at any Under-deeps site, this minor item may instead be any item playable at the site [ME:DM].
- The “free” minor item may only be played immediately after playing the resource that taps that site [CRF].
- The option to play a ‘free’ minor item directly after playing a resource that taps the site is available in the site phase only [CRF, Van 582].
- Ring Special Items (Magic Rings, Spirit Rings, Dwarven Rings, Lesser Rings, *The One Ring*) do not tap a site when played and do not require an untapped site or character. Instead, you must test a Gold Ring you have in play using a test card or ability.
  - Gold Ring Items list which Ring Special Items you may play based on the result of a roll and mo-

difiers.

- » Despite this, playing a Ring Special item is still considered playing an item [CoE 61].
- When a gold ring item is tested, the ring is discarded and its marshalling points are lost whether or not you are able to play a special item [CRF].
- Any Gold Ring Item in a Ringwraith's company is automatically tested at the beginning of the end-of-turn phase. Apply a -2 modification to the roll of any ring test in a Ringwraith's company. This rule also applies to the Balrog.
- If you are a Ringwraith player, any Gold Ring Item at Barad-Dur is automatically tested at the beginning of the end-of-turn phase. Apply a -3 modification to the roll.
- A Gold Ring stored at a Darkhaven is automatically tested with a -2 to the roll. Any Ring Special Item played as a result of this test comes into play stored [CRF].
- Mind Rings are minor items and are played as such. They are not special items [ME:LE, 45].
- A Hero Gold Ring tested by a Fallen Wizard player has an additional -1 to the roll.
- A Fallen Wizard may replace a Gold Ring Item with either a hero or minion Ring Special Item after a test.

## USING ITEM CARDS

Any of the following constitute the use of an item card:

- Discarding an item for an effect.
- Applying an enhancement to a character attribute from an item.
- Tapping an item for an effect.

A character may bear multiple items of a given type. However, a character may only use one weapon, armor, shield, and helmet item at a time.

- A Ringwraith may bear, but may not use items. This rule also applies to the Balrog.
- If you are Hero, ignore all bonuses and special abilities from minion items you play.
- If you are Minion, ignore all bonuses and special abilities from Hero Items you play.
- A Fallen Wizard's non-Orc, non-Troll characters may freely use both hero and minion items.
- A Fallen Wizard's Orc and Troll characters may bear Hero Items, but ignore all bonuses and special abilities of the item.

## PLAYING RESOURCE PERMANENT-EVENTS

- Unless otherwise stated, a card is playable only



if its effect applies to an existing situation. A card may be played if it has a **potential** effect.

- The effects of a resource permanent-event are immediately implemented. A permanent-event remains in play until it is discarded.



- Certain resource events are playable during the Site Phase. If such a resource event taps the site, it requires an untapped site.
- If one of your companies splits into two or more companies, you may place any resource permanent-events that were on the original company (as a whole) with any of the resulting companies. Some events are discarded when a company is split [ME:DM].
- A Stage Resource Permanent Event may only be played during the Organization phase unless otherwise specified [ME:TW].
- You may not play a Hero Resource Event on a company with an Orc or Troll in it.
- A Hero Resource that requires a character with a specific skill may not use an Orc or Troll character to fulfill that requirement.
- An Orc or Troll may not tap to initiate an effect from a hero resource.

## PLAYING RESOURCE LONG-EVENTS

- Unless otherwise stated, a card is playable only if its effect applies to an existing situation. A card may be played if it has a **potential** effect. Long-events may always be played [ME:LE, 87].
- The effects of a resource long-event are immediate-

ly implemented when it is played. You may only play a long-event resource during your Long-event Phase.

- A Hero Resource that requires a character with a specific skill may not use an Orc or Troll character to fulfill that requirement.
- An Orc or Troll may not tap to initiate an effect from a hero resource.

## PLAYING RESOURCE SHORT-EVENTS

- Unless otherwise stated, a card is playable only if its effect applies to an existing situation. A card may be played if it has a **potential** effect [ME:LE, 40].
- A Hero Resource that requires a character with a specific skill may not use an Orc or Troll character to fulfill that requirement.
- An Orc or Troll may not tap to initiate an effect from a hero resource.

### *Controversial Cards: A Chance Meeting*

*A Chance Meeting* states: "A character (even a Hobbit) may be brought into play with direct influence at any Free-hold, Border-hold, or Ruins & Lairs."

To many player's minds, this card is only playable when you would otherwise be able to play a character. This is because a card's effect must apply to an existing situation. If the ability to play a character does not exist, then a card that modifies the method of playing characters does not apply and may not be played unless it is stated otherwise on the card. However, *A Chance Meeting* lacks any statement indicating the conditions under which it may be played, so it reverts to default.

Against this, players who purchased a Player's Guide supplement when ME:TW was first released read that the card could be played at any time. This is also the current official ruling, but it is widely disputed.

Unquestionably, the ability to bring a character into play at any time is disastrous for balance. It circumvents the point of automatic attacks, supercharges the Balrog's character playing ability, and generally hampers the player who neglects to include such cards in their deck.

When organizing a tournament, make sure all players are aware of the current official ruling before building their decks. If you have decided to adopt a stricter interpretation of the rules, make sure all players are equally aware.

- The effects of a resource short-event are immediately implemented, then it is discarded. The effects of some short-events last for a specific period as stated on its card (*i.e.* some say: "until the end of the turn").
  - » "If a short-event's text doesn't indicate a duration for its effect, the effect lasts until the end of the turn, so you presume correctly." [CoE 31].



**Editor’s Note:** I’m not sure where that idea came from. It directly contradicts the ME:LE rules, which says that some cards indicate they last until the end of the turn.

- Certain resource events are playable during the Site Phase. If such a resource event taps the site, it requires an untapped site.
- Short-events are discarded when resolved in a chain of effects, not when declared. Thus, they can be targeted by certain special effects in the chain of effects [CRF].
- Whenever a short-lasting effect (an effect that is not long or permanent, but has a duration) affects a specific character’s company, the company concerned is that character’s current company. If it affects a company generally, the result is spread over any companies that then split [CoE 71].

## PLAYING HAZARD CREATURES

- You may use a creature card to attack one of your opponent’s companies if the following conditions apply:
  - a. It is that company’s Movement/Hazard Phase.
  - b. A creature card’s declaration must start a chain of effects.
  - c. There must be at least one less hazard declared than the current hazard limit (unless the creature does not count against the hazard limit).
  - d. Upon resolution of the creature card’s declaration, there must be fewer hazards resolved than the hazard limit (unless the creature does not count against the hazard limit).
  - e. At least one of the region symbols on the creature’s card matches one of the region types the company moved through this turn. (If two region symbols of the same type appear, a company must have moved through at least two, etc.) **or**
  - f. At least one of the site types on the creature’s card matches the site type of the company’s new or current site **or**
  - g. The company’s site of origin or new site are in a region where the creature’s text indicates they may be played **or**
  - h. The company uses region movement and moves through a region where the creature’s text indicates they may be played **or**
  - i. The company’s new or current site is mentioned in the creature’s text as a site where the creature may be played.
- If a creature satisfies more than one of these con-

ditions, you must choose which condition the attack is “keyed to” when the creature card is played as well as the specific region/site type the creature is keyed to.

Certain cards have effects based on what a hazard creature is keyed to. If the condition that the creature was keyed to changes (*i.e.* a creature is keyed to a Border-Hold and the Border-Hold changes to a Ruins & Lairs) before the creature resolves, the creature fizzles. This keyability is checked before each attack of the creature.

**Editor’s Note:** There is actually room for doubt on how exactly to fizzle a hazard creature based on keying. According to the rules, a hazard creature may attack so long as at least one of the site types matches the company’s new or current site, etc. You also have to specify which condition and site type. What is not adequately covered is what happens when the site type changes but is still of the same type as one of the site symbols on the creature’s card. The classic example is the Orc-Lieutenant (playable keyed to Ruins & Lairs and Shadow-holds) keyed to a Ruins & Lairs and Choking Shadows played in response to change the Ruins & Lairs to a Shadow-hold. Since the site type still matches a site type on the Creature, the card play was still valid according to the rules –and yet the specific keying is no longer valid. The current interpretation is that the attack will indeed fizzle – but that may be no more than confusing the expression “keyed to” as it relates to playing a creature as opposed to how it relates to designating a specific region/site type.

ME:BA states that when you key a creature to the site, you need only check to see if one of the site types along the side of the card matches the site’s current type. This more than implies that it doesn’t matter what the matching symbol was originally so long as there is still a matching symbol at the end.

CoE 49 explicitly states that you need not choose the specific symbol. This means that you would need to at least change all instances of a given keyability, but does doing so fizzle the hazard?

- If a card must be keyed to two or more instances of a region type, those region types do not have to be consecutive in the site path [CRF].
- A creature “played at” a site is the same as being “keyed to” the site [CRF].
- A creature “played at a site in” a region is the same as being “keyed to” the site by name [CRF].
- If using a special movement card that creates its own site path, hazard creatures may be still keyed to the new site, the region of origin, or the new region (unless otherwise noted by the card), as these are different keyability permissions than region type [CoE 13].
- If a creature is successfully played, the company faces an attack, and combat ensues. See the section: *Combat As The Result of Creatures*.
- Certain cards give you the ability to attack with creatures according to special conditions set forth



on the cards themselves. Such attacks are not necessarily keyed to anything.

- A Fallen Wizard's overt companies are considered minion companies for hazard creatures that can only attack minion companies.

## PLAYING HAZARD EVENTS

- Unless otherwise stated, a card is playable only if its effect applies to an existing situation. A card may be played if it has a **potential** effect. Long-events may always be played (subject to the hazard limit) [ME:LE, 87].
- You may play hazard events if the following apply:
  - a. It is the Movement/Hazard Phase of one of your opponent's companies.
  - b. At declaration, there is at least one less hazard declared than the hazard limit (unless the hazard does not count against the hazard limit).
  - c. At resolution, there are fewer hazards resolved than the hazard limit (unless the hazard does not count against the hazard limit).
  - d. A Fallen Wizard's overt companies are considered minion companies for hazard events that affect minion companies.
  - e. If a hazard has a target, that target must include the current company, an entity associated with that company, the company's new site, site path, or the site's site path.
- Hazards may only be played on a company whose Movement/Hazard Phase is being resolved, or on the site they are moving to. Long-events and permanent-events may affect more than one company even though they are only played "on" one company [CRF]. Note that there is no similar restriction against resource cards; the resource player may generally play them regardless of which company's Movement/Hazard Phase it is.

### Controversial Cards: Adûnaphel

In contrast to cards like *New Moon*, which contains the phrasing "tap a character," *Adûnaphel* contains the phrase "causes any one character to tap." There is doubt in many minds whether this phrasing is meant to override the above restrictions. A literal reading of the card and comparison with other tapping cards/cards that use the phrasing "any one" support the idea that *Adûnaphel* is a special hazard that can indeed tap a character not currently taking their Movement/Hazard Phase.

The current official ruling is that *Adûnaphel* must target a character in the current company. If, as a tournament organizer, you decide to allow *Adûnaphel* to target any character as per the card text, bear in mind that you drastically increase the power of this hazard to the point that it will be even more overplayed than it already is.

- Some hazard permanent-events allow you to tap or discard them for an effect, and this does not count against the hazard limit unless specified otherwise on the card [CRF].
- Short-events are discarded when resolved in a chain of effects, not when declared. Thus, they can be targeted by certain special effects in the chain of effects [CRF].

## PLAYING AGENT HAZARDS

Agents are a special kind of hazard that acts somewhat like a creature with the following differences:

1. An agent normally remains in play until it is eliminated.
2. Agents only count as half a creature if using the minimum creature requirement [ME:DM].
3. Agents are always located at a site. They need not always have their location represented by a site card.
  - ♦ A site card representing an agent's location is set aside and reserved for that purpose (*i.e.* you may not move to it). Global effects which affect sites will affect the site [CoE 117].



- Once an agent has been revealed or has moved to a site that is not their home site, one of your site cards must be used for this purpose. A face-up agent's site card must also be face up.
- Agents may not move in companies.
- If a Unique agent is in play face-up and a second, identical agent is revealed, the second agent is discarded.
- Your agents untap during your Untap Phase.

- An agent is played face down and untapped. The agent is at one of his home sites (no card required).

## AGENT ACTIONS

Agents may take actions during the Movement/Hazard Phase. Effects which are initiated by an agent that are not Agent Actions do not count against the hazard limit. Each of your agents that was in play at the start of the turn may use one against the hazard limit to take one of the following actions:

- A tapped or untapped agent may move to a non-Haven, non-Under-deeps site in the same region or an adjacent region. The agent taps if not already tapped. A face-down agent must keep all sites he has moved though face down. A face-up agent need only keep his current site with him. A face-down agent may move back to his previous site by removing the most recent site card played on him.
  - ◆ Agents may not move to any version of a hero Haven, unless they have a special ability allowing them to. (CRF)
  - ◆ Only Elven agents can move to a site that is a Wizardhaven [CRF].
  - ◆ If you are a Ringwraith, your agents may move as if Dagorlad and Udûn are adjacent [CRF].
  - ◆ You may not move to a site in use by your agent [CoE 57].
- An agent may return to his home site by removing all site cards on him.
  - ◆ Revealed agents may return to their home site, even if they are at one of their home sites [CRF].
  - ◆ An agent being revealed at their home site is not movement [CoE 58].
- An agent may tap to make certain creatures playable at a site as outlined below:
  - ◆ An agent may tap at a Ruins & Lairs, Shadow-hold, or Dark-hold to enable you to attack a company with a non-unique creature (regardless of what they are keyed to) of the same type as the site's automatic-attack [ME:DM].
  - ◆ An agent at his home site may tap (and reveal himself) to make the following creatures playable depending on the site type:
    - o Free Hold: Men, Dwarves, Elves, Dúnedain, Hobbits
    - o Border-Hold: Orcs, Nazgûl, Men, Dwarves, Elves, Dúnedain, Hobbits
    - o Ruins & Lairs: Orcs, Nazgûl, Trolls
    - o Shadow-hold: Orcs, Nazgûl, Undead, Trolls
    - o Dark-hold: Orcs, Nazgûl, Trolls
- A wounded agent may heal (to a tapped state).

- A tapped Agent may untap [CRF].
- A revealed agent may be turned face down, becoming unrevealed. His site card is also turned face down.
  - ◆ Cards played on an agent remain face up when the agent turns face down [CRF].

- Certain cards can allow an agent to take more than one action in a turn.
- A Fallen Wizard player's agents must use Hero Site Cards [ME:WH].

**Editor's Note:** According to these rules, tapping an agent to make use of an ability on the agent's card is not an agent action. Therefore, an agent who has two actions might potentially move, untap, and tap to use their ability in the same turn.

## REVEAL AN AGENT

Revealing an agent means turning an agent-face up along with his sites.

- Certain cards can force an agent to be revealed.
- You may reveal an agent at any time; this does not count against the hazard limit.
- This is not an agent action.
- You must reveal an agent when the agent attacks or makes an influence attempt.
- Certain cards specify that an agent must tap for the card to take effect. An agent who taps in this fashion is revealed.
- If an agent is revealed before he has moved, choose a site from his list of home sites that the agent is located at. Place the appropriate site from your location deck with the agent.
- If you do not have the appropriate site in your location deck, discard the agent at the end of the current turn.
- If an agent is revealed after he had moved, the first site card played must be his home site or a site in a region adjacent to the region containing his home site or it must be the same site card that was turned face down when he was last unrevealed. Any further site cards must be in the same or adjacent region as the site card before it. If an agent's movement was or has become illegal, the agent is discarded and has no effect. When an agent is revealed and his movement has been verified to be legal, all sites except his current site are returned to the location deck.
  - » When an agent is revealed, only the site he is at will be affected by environment cards.

## ATTACKING WITH AN AGENT

During the site phase, each of your agents may at-





tack a company at the same site if the company enters the site. The attack is enacted immediately following any automatic attacks. See also the section: *Combat as the Result of Agent Attacks*

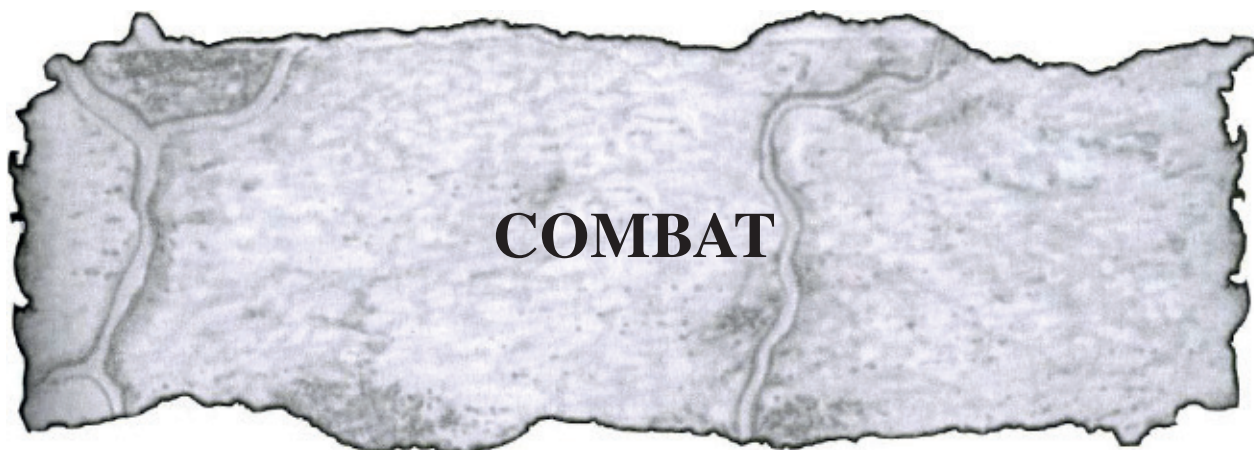
- An agent may only attack once per Site Phase [CRF].
- Such an attack is not an agent action.
  - » Certain cards/abilities allow an agent to attack during a company's Movement/Hazard Phase at the company's new or current site. Such an attack is not an agent action.

## INFLUENCING WITH AN AGENT

Certain cards and abilities allow an agent to make an influence attempt. Such an attempt is not an Agent Action. Such an attempt is handled as an influence attempt against the target player's cards (see previous sections for rules on influencing characters, allies, factions, and

items, respectively) with the following exceptions:

- The agent takes the place of the influencing character.
- You may not play resources to aid the attempt, but you may play hazards that aid the attempt so long as there is available hazard limit.
- If your agent is at his home site, his Direct Influence is modified by a further +2.
- If the target character has the same home site as the agent, their mind attribute is treated as zero and the roll is modified by a further +2.
- If the target ally is playable at the agent's home site, their mind attribute is treated as zero and the roll is modified by a further +2.
- If the target faction is playable at the agent's home site, treat the number required to bring the faction into play as zero and the roll is modified by a further +2.



## COMBAT AS THE RESULT OF CREATURES

To resolve combat as the result of creature attacks:

- I. Determine the number of attacks the company will face (listed on the hazard creature card).

The defender may play cards to cancel the attack at this point. If all of a creature's attacks are canceled, discard the creature. The attacker and defender may play cards to modify the attack.

If any attacks are not cancelled, repeat the following process for all attacks of the creature:

2. Unless there is an effect which allows a player to assign the strikes of the attack:
  - I. The defender chooses which (if any) untapped characters will be assigned strikes;
  - II. The attacker assigns all remaining strikes to defending characters. No character may be assigned more than one strike.
  - III. In the order the defender chooses, perform a Strike Sequence (see *Glossary* section) for each character assigned a strike.
3. If all strikes of the creature's attacks that were assigned are defeated, and at least one strike was assigned, the creature is defeated.

After all attacks of the creature have been faced:

- » If any of the creature's strikes were defeatment, the creature is discarded.
- » If the creature was not defeated, discard it.
- » If you are Hero and the creature's card does not have a "\*" next to its value, place the creature card in your Marshalling Point pile – you have earned its kill MPs.
- » If you are Hero and the creature's card has a "\*" next to its value, remove it from play.
- » If you are Minion and the Creature's card does not have a \* next to its value, it is removed

from play or taken as a trophy.

- » If you are Minion and the Creature's card has a "\*" next to its value, you gain the kill MPs and the creature may be taken as a trophy.

## COMBAT AS THE RESULT OF AUTOMATIC ATTACKS

To resolve combat as the result of automatic attacks:

1. A character at their home site (so long as it is a named home site, *i.e.* not "*any Dark-Hold*") may tap to cancel an automatic-attack at their home site.
2. Determine the number of attacks the company will face (listed on the site and modified by any hazard effects). The defender may play cards to cancel the attack at this point. If all of a creature's attacks are canceled, discard the creature. The defender may play cards to modify the attack except for cards which modify strike assignment/number of strikes. If any attacks are not cancelled, repeat the following process for all attacks of the creature:
  - ♦ Resources which state they are playable on an automatic attack are playable at any time a relevant site is on the table, subject to the playability restrictions of the card itself [*CoE 117*].
3. Unless there is an effect which allows a player to assign the strikes of the attack:
  - I. The defender chooses which (if any) untapped characters will be assigned strikes;
  - II. The attacker assigns all remaining strikes to defending characters. No character may be assigned more than one strike.
  - III. In the order the defender chooses, perform a Strike Sequence (see *Glossary* section) for each character assigned a strike.



- If all strikes of an automatic attack that were assigned are defeated, and at least one strike was assigned, the attack is defeated.
- If a creature is used as an automatic attack, it is discarded after the attack ends regardless of the result of the combat [ME:DM].

## COMBAT AS THE RESULT OF AGENT ATTACKS

- Playing a card that makes an agent attack is considered the attack's declaration [CRF].
- Agent attacks are not keyed to anything [CRF].
- To resolve combat as the result of agent attacks:
  1. The defender may play cards to cancel the attack. The defender may also play cards which modify the attack, including strike assignment cards.
  2. When the agent's strikes have been assigned, follow the strike sequence with the following exceptions:
    - ◆ The prowess for each of the agent's strikes is modified by a roll. A separate roll is made for each strike.
    - ◆ Rolls made by agents during the strike sequence are done simultaneously with rolls made by characters during the strike sequence [CRF].
    - ◆ A wounded agent's prowess is modified by -2.
    - ◆ If the agent was face down when the attack is declared, one of the following applies:
      - o An agent at his home site receives +5 prowess, +1 Body, and he chooses defending characters.
      - o An agent otherwise receives +2 prowess.
    - ◆ If the agent was face up and at his home site when the attack was declared, he receives +2 prowess and +1 body.
    - ◆ If at least one strike fails, the agent is wounded. If all strikes are defeated, the agent is eliminated and you receive their character MPs as kill MPs if you are a Hero and you did not play the agent.

## COMBAT AS THE RESULT OF AN OPPOSING COMPANY (CvCC)

Certain companies may attack other companies. The rules below explain which companies may attack other companies and under what circumstances:

- It must be during the Site Phase.
- You must be at the same site as one of your opponent's companies.
- You must have entered the site.

- You cannot have already made an influence attempt against this opponent on that turn.
- A minion player's companies may attack a hero player's companies and vice versa.
- A Fallen Wizard's non-overt companies may attack minion companies and vice versa.
- A Fallen Wizard's overt companies may attack any company and be attacked by any company.
- The attack is declared at the end of the Site Phase following all other actions your company takes during the site phase.
- Hazard effects in play that affect attacks have no effect on company vs. company combat [CRF].

To resolve combat as the result of an opposing company:

- When one of your companies is attacked by an opponent's company during their site phase, you are considered to be the defending company.
- Your opponent's company is considered to be making a single attack with one strike for each member of the attacking company.
- Hazards have no effect on this attack.
- In company vs. company combat, if the hazard says it affects attacks (like *Chill Them with Fear*) then it has no effect on CvCC. If it doesn't affect attacks, then it has its normal effect (like *Gloom's* first ability) [Van 579].
- Hazards have no effect during company vs. company combat [ME:BA].

**Editor's Note:** This odd little rule means that Van's ruling is incorrect. All hazards currently in play have absolutely no effect whatsoever while company vs. company combat is occurring. The *Witch-King* temporarily stops turning Shadow-Holds into Dark-Holds. *In the Heart of His Realm* stops removing the sage skill from companies in Dark Domains. It is possible that ICE did not intend this any more than they intended to say that you could not make influence attempts against followers and allies controlled by an avatar, but we must take this rule as written. See also the CRF ruling below, which is worded differently.

- You may attempt to cancel the attack. If a cancellation effect only cancels a certain type of attack (*i.e.* Orcs, Men), then all members of the attacking company must be of one of the types listed on the effect.
- If the attack is not canceled, follow this process for assigning strikes:
  1. The defender chooses which of his untapped characters will be the target of any strikes.
  2. The defender may play resources which will untap characters, as this affects strike assignment [CoE 60]. Note that it is too late at this point to cancel the attack [CoE 115].

3. The attacker chooses which defending characters will be the target of strikes from his remaining untapped characters.
4. The defender assigns any remaining strikes.
5. Each character may only be the target of one strike.



- Follow the strike sequence for each strike with the following exceptions:
  - » Each player’s character is considered to be facing a strike, and applies the relevant modifier for such.
  - » Neither player may play hazards to affect the strike.
  - » Both players may play resources that affect a strike. The attacker must play all his resources before the defender plays any of his.
  - » Only the attacker may assign unused strikes as a -1 penalty.
  - » Only the defender may tap characters to support the prowess of the character facing the strike.
  - » Both players make a roll to add to their modified prowess.
  - » Whichever character has the lower prowess is wounded and a body check is made.
- You receive kill Marshalling Points equal to the value of any of your opponent’s characters or allies that you eliminate during this combat [CoE 17].
- The defender may take actions that affect the attack or any of the strikes. The attacker may only take actions that affect individual strikes [CRF].
- The attacker cannot play *Black Arrow* because he is not facing an attack. The defender cannot play *Black Arrow* because it is a resource during the defender’s hazard turn. The only resources which may be played by the defender during CvCC are

ones that cancel the attack or affect a strike [Van 580].

» *Black Arrow* CAN be used by the defender in CvCC [Van 581].

- Hazards have no effect on company vs. company combat [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** This does not mean the inverse. Company vs. company combat may have an effect on hazards. For example, a character wounded by company vs. company combat would still trigger the corruption check from *Despair of the Heart*.

- Only the defender is considered to be facing an attack, but all characters are considered to be facing strikes [CRF].
- Only the defender can play cards that affect the attack as a whole [ME:BA].

## PRISONERS

Certain hazards can cause a character to be taken prisoner. Such hazards affect an attack or a strike. These hazards are called hazard hosts, and will take a character prisoner at a site as specified on the card – such a site is called the rescue site.

A hazard host may only be played if a rescue site is available under the following restrictions:

- Any restrictions on the hazard host must be observed.
- A rescue site must be taken from your location deck, not your discard pile.
- If the host is played on a character moving with region movement, the rescue site must be a site located in a region in which the character was moving or in a region adjacent thereunto.
- If the host is played on a character using starter movement, the rescue site must be located in the region containing the site of origin or the new site.
- If the host is played on a character that is not moving, the rescue site must be located in the same region as the character’s site.
- If the hazard host is played on a character moving to an adjacent site of an Under-deeps site, the rescue site can be the adjacent Under-deeps site [ME:DM].

**Editor’s Note:** This means that a character in the Under-deeps that is not moving cannot be taken prisoner! Note that *Troll-purse* specifically allows taking prisoners at the same site, though.

- Prisoner-taking cards which state they are play-





ble on a character facing an attack/strike are not able to be revealed on-guard because the target did not exist during the Movement/Hazard Phase [CoE 56].

**Controversial Cards: To Get You Away**

*To Get You Away* allows prisoner-taking regardless of the above restrictions. The problem comes in that the agent must also move to the same site, and thus two competing priorities are set up for the use of the site card.

Given that ICE intended *To Get You Away* to work, it is reasonable to allow both *To Get You Away* and the agent in question to use the same site card as an implicit effect of the card.

The following effects occur when a character is taken prisoner:

- » They are worth negative marshalling points. If a character is eliminated while a prisoner, they continue to be worth negative marshalling points.
- » While a prisoner, a character cannot take any actions (including healing or untapping).
- » They cannot be affected except by cards that specifically affect prisoners.
- » A character taken prisoner does not cost influence to control.
- » All non-Ring, non-Follower cards the character controls are discarded.

There are many possible ways of rescuing a prisoner:

- » Any card which discards the hazard host causes a character to form a new company at the rescue site.

- ♦ Whenever there are no characters off to the side with the hazard host, the hazard host is discarded and the rescue site returns to the location deck.

» A company may elect to move to the rescue site in order to rescue the prisoner. In order to do so, follow this process:

1. It must be during the Site Phase.
2. The company must have entered the site.
3. The company must face any rescue attacks as specified on the hazard host.
4. At this point, a character can tap to rescue all characters taken prisoner under the hazard host. Such characters immediately join the company and begin counting against influence again (which must be reconciled during the Organization Phase).
5. If a character is successfully rescued, the rescue site taps if it was untapped.
6. If a character is successfully rescued, one minor item may be played with an untapped member of the rescuing company.
7. At an Under-deeps site, after a successful rescue attempt, a character can tap for a minor item only [CRF].
8. If a player does not have the necessary site in his location deck, use the site with the hazard host to show movement. The site in this case is not available for any other purpose, and is returned to the host's player's location deck when it is no longer being used to show movement [ME:DM].



Corruption measures how close a character is to losing their loyalty to their cause. The following rules apply to corruption:

- A Corruption card is a card with the Corruption keyword. Only one corruption card may be played on given character during a turn. Corruption cards must always start a chain of effects [CRF].
- Cards which force corruption checks are not corruption cards.
- Certain cards modify corruption checks rather than having a corruption point value. A card which modifies corruption checks is not assumed to be a source of corruption unless otherwise indicated.
- Ringwraiths are immune to corruption and never make corruption checks. Corruption cards may not be played on Ringwraiths. This rule also applies to the Balrog.
- Corruption cards that may not be played on Dwarves may also not be played on Orcs [ME:LE, 35].
- Corruption points on all non-item stage resource cards apply to your Fallen Wizard.

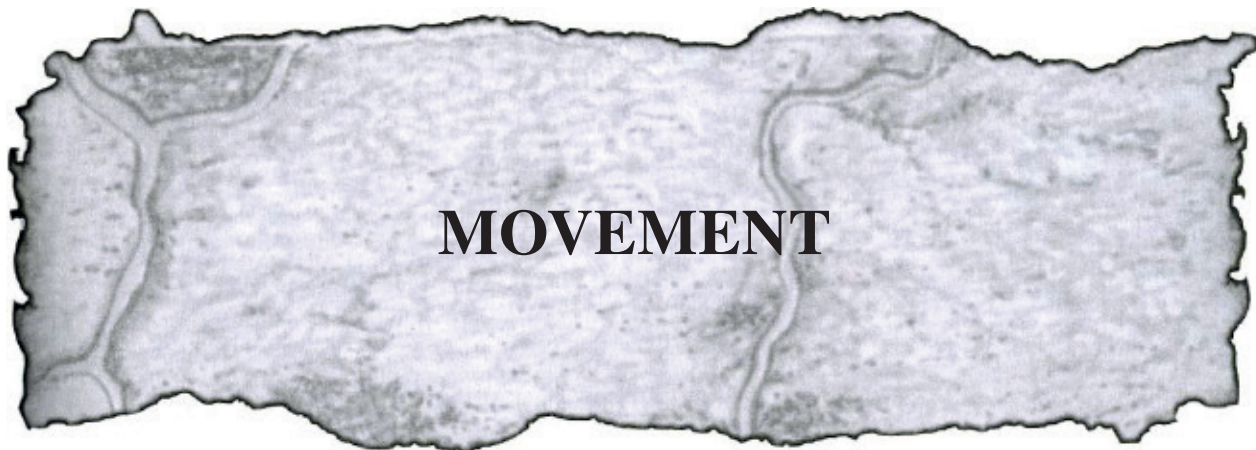
When a corruption check is called for, follow this process:

1. You may play any cards which might modify the corruption check and are legally playable.
2. Make a roll.
3. Add any modifiers from cards/abilities. A character may tap to give a +1 modifier to a corruption check made by another character in his company.
4. A character in a Ringwraith's company receives a +2 to corruption checks.
5. Compare the total with the character's current corruption point total. The result depends on the character and your avatar:
  - a. If the result is greater than the corruption point total, the corruption check succeeds and there is no effect.
  - b. If the result is equal to or one less than the corruption point total and it is a hero character, the character is discarded, along with all non-follower cards he controls. In this case, if the character is a Wizard, you lose the game. If an effect prevents your character from being discarded, the corruption check is considered to have succeeded, and you do not discard your character.
    - o *Tournament Convention:* If your Wizard fails the corruption check by one or zero, he is eliminated and you lose the -5 MPs [Van 581].
  - c. If the result is equal to or one less than the corruption point total and the character is Minion, Fallen Wizard, and/or Orc or Troll, then the character taps. The corruption check is considered to have succeeded.
  - d. If the result is two or more less than the character's corruption point total, the character is eliminated and all non-follower cards he controls are discarded. If the character is your avatar, you lose



the game.

- When attempting to remove a corruption card that states you may tap to make a roll to remove it. A character may elect not to tap and instead receive a -3 penalty to the roll. A character may not attempt to remove a given corruption card more than once per turn.
- A character who has tapped to attempt to remove a corruption card and then untaps may tap as many times as he can to attempt to remove the corruption card [*Van 588*].
- When a character fails a corruption check, the standard effects of this (*i.e.*, the character being discarded or eliminated and his items being discarded) are implemented immediately and are considered synonymous with the failed check. A card causing the corruption check may modify the standard effects of a failed check (*i.e. The Precious*), but this timing would not be changed.
- Certain cards, *i.e. Traitor*, which do not cause a corruption check, but specify an action that results from the passive condition of a failed check, take effect as the first declared action in a chain of effects immediately following the chain of effects that contains the corruption check [*CRF*].
- Characters with 0 corruption points must still make corruption checks [*CRF*].



# MOVEMENT

There are four types of characters/companies movement in the game: *starter movement*, *region movement*, *Under-deeps movement*, and *special movement*. Movement is the process of replacing a company's current site with a different site.

Movement is most commonly decided upon during the Organization Phase and enacted during the movement/hazard phase, but there are exceptions. Note that a company is not required to move at all on a given turn. Bear in mind that the following points apply to all movement:

- When you have moved to a new site, your site of origin is discarded if it is tapped (unless it is a haven or a Haven card).
  - » You are not "at" your site until the beginning of the Site Phase [CoE 43].
    - ◆ Characters which give bonuses at certain sites will not give those bonuses until the Site Phase if they move to the site that turn [CoE 67].
- You may not play sites from your discard pile.
- If one version of a site is in the discard pile, you may not play a different version of that site from your location deck.
- If a company is moving, the number of cards you draw is in the lighter box. The number of cards your opponent draws in the darker box. You must draw at least one card.
- When you draw cards for movement, you may continue drawing cards until you either want to stop, or have drawn the number of cards allowed for the movement [CRF].
- You may only draw cards for a moving company on your turn if the company contains a character with 3 mind or greater or an avatar.
- In order to move from a Darkhaven to a non-Darkhaven site, a Ringwraith must be in a mode (*i.e.* *Black Rider*, *Fell Rider*, or *Heralded Lord*) regardless of the type of movement used [ME:LE, 25]. A Ringwraith may freely move to a Darkhaven regardless of mode. The rules contain no provision for a Ringwraith to move from a non-Darkhaven to non-Darkhaven site.

**Editor's Note:** The ME:BA rules, which were more recent than the ME:LE rules and contain a list of special Ringwraith rules, make no mention of this restriction. Taken as they stand, the ME:BA rules allow a Ringwraith to move to non-Darkhaven sites without a mode card, subject to the restriction below.

- » Ringwraiths may not move from a non-Darkhaven site to another non-Darkhaven site unless they are using *Dwar Unleashed*. This means a Ringwraith may not move to Under-deeps sites that do not have a Darkhaven for a surface site [CRF].
- Fallen Wizards:
  - » May use either the hero or minion versions of a Ruins & Lairs.
  - » Must use hero sites for their non-overt companies.
  - » Must use minion sites for Border-holds, Free-holds, and hero Havens if a company is overt.
  - » Must use hero sites for Shadow-holds, Dark-holds, and minion Darkhavens if a company is overt.
- If a company returns to its site of origin, it may do nothing during its Site Phase. A company failing its Under-deeps movement roll is not affected by this rule [CRF].
- A site provided by your opponent as the result of a movement-changing card is not your site of origin unless you were attempting to move from the site card your opponent provided [CoE 58].
- Any company may declare as its new site a site already on the table. That site will remain on the table at least until the end of that company's Movement/Hazard Phase [CRF].
- Two companies may not start at the same site of origin and move to the same new site [CRF].
- A company is considered to be at the site given by its site card at all times except from the moment their new site card is revealed during their Movement/Hazard Phase until their old site card is discarded during the same Movement/Hazard Phase.



- During this period a company is considered to be en route between sites and not at any site [CRF].
- Removing the site of origin and resetting to hand size are simultaneous actions, and they are the last actions in any Movement/Hazard Phase. This means a moving company is not at a site until the Site Phase [CRF].
  - A company's Movement/Hazard Phase is concluded when a moving company removes its site of origin and both players agree to reconcile (discard down to/draw up to) their hand sizes. No resources (and obviously no hazards) can be played, and no resource effects can be activated, until the Site Phase or until both players have drawn cards for the movement of a following company [CRF].
  - Players drawing cards when a new site is revealed is synonymous with the resolution of the new site being revealed. It happens immediately, not in the following chain of effects [CRF].
  - A non-moving company's current site is considered its new site for card play [CRF].
    - » Including agent actions/abilities that specify the company's new site [Van 582].
  - Wizard companies cannot use starter movement to or from sites in Gorgoroth. If using region movement to or from sites in Gorgoroth, they must move from a site in Imlad Morgul, through either Nurn or Udûn, or use a movement enhancer like *Ash Mountains* or *Eagle-mounts*. Such sites may be reached normally with Under-deeps movement [CRF].
  - In the case of cards that result in separate Movement/Hazard Phase: the separate M/H Phase begins immediately. Moving companies draw cards again and are susceptible to being sent back to the site of origin [CoE 7].
  - You can use a movement enhancer to move back to your site of origin if not prohibited by the specific card [CoE 11].



- If an effect changes a company's new site, the site path of the company stays the same but the destination site and the site's site path change [CoE 11].
- If a company travels without a site path consisting of region symbols (*i.e.* through the use of *Hey! Come Merry Do!*), they nevertheless still travel through region names [CoE 15].

## STARTER MOVEMENT

To use starter movement:

- » Each site has a nearest site listed for it. In the case of Havens, there may be multiple nearest sites listed.
- » You may move to any site that is listed as the nearest site for your current site. Play the site card face down with the company during the Organization Phase.
- » Reveal the card during the Movement/Hazard Phase when it is that company's Movement/Hazard Phase and draw cards. If you are moving to haven site, you draw the amount of cards indicated on the site you moved from, otherwise you draw cards based on the site you are moving to.
- » The site path is listed on the non-Haven card unless you are moving from Haven to Haven, in which case it is listed on the Haven card.
- » A Ringwraith's site path may not contain Coastal Sea Regions.
- » A Fallen Wizard player may not use starter movement.
- » A Balrog player may not use starter movement.

## REGION MOVEMENT

To use region movement:

- » Play the region card containing your current site face down. You may play a region card face down that is adjacent to the last region you played. Repeat this to a maximum of four region cards. You may not move through a given region twice in the same movement.
- » After you have played the region cards you wish, play a site located in the last region card you played.
- » During the Movement/Hazard Phase, reveal the site and the region cards when it is the company's Movement/Hazard Phase. Draw cards based on the site being moved to unless it is a Haven, in which case you draw cards based on the site being moved from.
- » Fallen Wizard players' companies always draw cards based on the site being moved to [ME:WH].
- » Balrog players' companies always draw cards

based on the site being moved to [ME:BA].

- » The company's site path is denoted by the region cards. A site's site path is denoted on the site card in all cases (some hazards refer to a site's site path rather than the company's site path).
- » If an effect allows you to move more than four regions, you are still limited to a maximum of six [ME:TD].
- » A Ringwraith company may not use region movement.
- » A company with the Balrog in it may not use region movement.
- » If both players have access to region movement, then neither player may be stopped from using region movement. Access includes region cards or an appropriate map [CRF].

**Editor's Note: The Use Of Maps.** Region cards can get bulky and time-consuming. Players and tournament organizers may agree to use a standard map instead of region cards to the delight of all involved, but bear in mind that this is a representation of using region cards to move. The distinction is unimportant in most cases, but if a question of movement arises regarding region movement, bear in mind that the player must have been able to play the region cards in the Organization Phase.

- » Lebennin and Ithilien are not adjacent, even though they look that way on some maps [CRF].
- » Dagorlad and Ûdun are adjacent for Minion players [CoE 39].

## UNDER-DEEPS MOVEMENT

Under-deeps movement is a form of movement that goes from site to site without any intervening regions. Each Under-deeps site lists adjacent sites. Movement to or from an Under-deeps site is only allowed to occur between adjacent sites. In addition, the following rules apply:

- » Eagle-Mounts and Gwaihir cannot be used to move to or from an Under-deeps site [ME:DM]. A company moving to and/or from an Under-deeps site has no site path [ME:DM].
- » Environment Cards which change site type cannot be used to change the site type of an Under-deeps site.
- » Under-deeps sites are not located in any region.

When an Under-deeps site is revealed during the Movement/Hazard Phase, you do not automatically draw cards/move. Instead, you must make a roll and add any relevant modifiers to your Under-deeps movement (certain cards can give bonuses or penalties). The result must at least equal the number in parenthesis on

the site of origin for the adjacent site.

- » You need not roll to move from a Surface Site to an Under-deeps site. You do need to roll to move from an Under-deeps site to a surface site [ME:DM].
- » Fallen Wizard players' companies always draw cards based on the site being moved to [ME:WH].
- » Balrog players' companies always draw cards based on the site being moved to [ME:BA].
- » If a company is moving from a surface site to an Under-deeps site, hazards may not be played keyed to the region of the surface site [CRF].
- » When a company's site of origin is an Under-deeps site and the company reveals a new site at the start of its Movement/Hazard Phase, the company is declaring it will make a roll to determine if the movement was successful. No cards can be played between the site being revealed and the roll except for *Reach of Ulmo*. Neither player draws cards for this movement if the roll is not successful. (CRF)

## SPECIAL MOVEMENT

Special movement encompasses cards which allow you to circumvent the normal movement processes. An example of such a card is *Eagle-Mounts*. *Eagle-Mounts* is played during the organization phase and allows the company to move to any site that is not a Shadow-hold or Dark-hold, and prevents the hazard player from playing certain creatures. This movement is neither starter nor region nor Under-deeps movement. Unless otherwise noted, a card which permits special movement enables that movement during the Movement/Hazard Phase.

**Editor's Note: Special movement vs. cards whose effect depends on a site path.** These two types of cards are distinct from one another, and certain rules affect each. As examples of special movement cards, we have *Eagle-Mounts*, *Great Road*, *Forod*, etc. As examples of "site path effect" cards, we have *Fair Travels in the Wilderness*, *Washed and Refreshed*, etc.

The critical distinction is that the former create a site path or movement. They do not depend on a site path to function. *Fair Travels in the Wilderness* may have a variable effect or indeed even none at all depending on what site path the company chooses, but it in no way determines that site path. See also the CRF ruling under *A Short Rest*.

## ENTERING A SITE AND ON-GUARD CARDS

This is a company's alternative to doing nothing during the site phase. When you enter a site, you first face the automatic attacks. Then, you face possible agent





attacks. Also, at any point, your opponent may reveal an appropriate on-guard card he has placed there.

On-guard cards are subject to the following rules:

- » You may only play one on-guard card per Movement/Hazard Phase per company.
- » The card is played face-down at the site and counts as a declared hazard against the company.
- » You may play any card in your hand as an on-guard card.
- » If the card is a creature, can be keyed to the site, and the site in question has an automatic-attack when the company enters it, you may reveal it. The on-guard creature attacks after all automatic-attacks have been faced.
- » If the card is a hazard event, you may reveal it if the following are true:
  - ♦ A hazard that affects the automatic-attack can be revealed when the company faces the automatic attack. Note that adding an automatic attack is not affecting it [CRF].
  - ♦ The company plays a card that would tap an untapped site [CoE 119].

**Editor's Note:** This one comes from the ME:BA turn summary. The stricter version of ME:LE only allows for revealing on-guards at untapped sites. Even then, it is entirely based upon a highly subjective reading of "potentially tap an untapped site." The ME:LE rules make it clear that the card must tap the site the company is at. As with the rules on influencing followers and allies of an avatar and Ringwraith mode restrictions, the Balrog rules were poorly written, but have lamentably been made official by the NetRep team.

- ♦ The card could have been played on the company/character during the Movement/Hazard Phase. This means all targets for the card must have existed during the M/H Phase unless otherwise specified [CRF].
  - o Though the target must have existed during the Movement/Hazard Phase, the on-guard card does not target anything until revealed [CoE 101]. It affects a character/the company.
- ♦ It does not:
  - o Return a company to its site of origin
  - o Tap the company's site.
  - o Potentially remove a character from a company, besides combat or corruption checks.
  - o Force a company to do nothing during its Site Phase.
  - o Directly tap a character in the company.
- ♦ As a special exception to the above, a card that affects an influence check or

that will only take effect if the influence attempt succeeds may be revealed.

- ♦ A successful ring test does not allow an on-guard card to be revealed [CRF].
- ♦ Only declared or on-going cards and effects can be considered when determining the validity of revealing an on-guard card. Potential effects that have not been triggered cannot be considered [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** Yes, this also means that on-guard events cannot be revealed at tapped sites (unless affecting the auto-attack)! You can't say that a site is potentially going to tap when tapped unless there's a declared action that will untap it. See also ME:BA, which can just as easily be read to say that on-guards require untapped sites.

- ♦ A card that potentially removes an ally from the company can be revealed, so long as it otherwise is legal [CRF].
- ♦ If two companies are at a Haven, on-guard cards played on one company can only be revealed against that company, and can only affect that company (unless the hazard states it affects all versions of the site) [CRF].
  - » Note that certain cards specify that they may be played on-guard and under what circumstances they may be revealed. Such specifications override any contradictory rules above.
  - » The on-guard card is not considered to be in any player's hand [CRF].
  - » When an on-guard card is revealed, it immediately ceases to be considered an on-guard card [CRF].
  - » If a company makes another movement during the movement/hazard phase such that a site with an on-guard card played on it is removed from play, the on-guard card returns to its player's hand [Van 588].

A revealed on-guard card takes effect as though it were declared and resolved immediately prior to the chain of effects during which it was revealed. This means:

- » You cannot respond to actions created by an on-guard card. There is no way to "fizzle" an on-guard card.
- » A character might become ineligible to play the resource that they were attempting to play. For example, if you reduce the prowess of a character attempting to play *Thong of Fire*, they may become unable to control the item, which requires its bearer to have a prowess of 6.

Unrevealed on-guard cards are placed in your hand at the end of the Site Phase.

# CARD-SPECIFIC ERRATA & RULINGS



as yourself [CRF].

- » *Worn and Famished*
- » All Events that require an agent
  - ◆ *Near to Hear a Whisper* from *Middle-earth: Against the Shadow* and *Sudden Fury & Great Need* or *Purpose* from *Middle-earth: Dark Minions* may be played because they do not target a specific agent [CRF].

### Controversial Cards: *Nobody's Friend/Inner Cunning*

These cards allow you to search your play deck for an agent of a given specification and place them in your hand. The question is whether this use of the card “requires” an agent or not. There has not been a clear ruling on the subject, but given the ability to play the cards to search through your deck whether or not there actually is an agent in the deck, it would seem that these cards do not require an agent when that effect is used.

## CARDS WITHOUT EFFECT ON MINION PLAYERS

The following cards have no effect on a Minion player:

- » *Bane of the Ithil-stone*
- » *Foul Fumes*
- » *Mûmak*
- » *The Nazgûl Are Abroad*
  - ◆ This card may be played against a Ringwraith or Sauron player. The only restriction is that the first two paragraphs are ignored when you play Nazgûl creatures against a Ringwraith or Sauron opponent. Any player can recycle Nazgûl hazards as stated on the card [CRF].
- » *Winds of Wrath*
  - ◆ You may play these cards against any opponent who is using the same type of location deck (hero sites or minion sites)

- » *The Black Enemy's Wrath*
- » *Chance of Being Lost*
  - ◆ You may play *The Black Enemy's Wrath* & *Chance of Being Lost* against any opponent who is using the same type of location deck (hero sites or minion sites) as yourself [CRF].
- » *Great Secrets Buried There*
  - ◆ This card may be played against a Ringwraith or Sauron player [CRF].
- » *In The Heart of His Realm*
- » *Mordor In Arms*

## CARDS-SPECIFIC ERRATA AND RULINGS

### *A Chance Meeting*

- You can't use *A Chance Meeting* to bring in Wizards.





- You can only play *A Chance Meeting* when you are at a site, normally, the Untap, Organization, Site and End-of-turn Phases [Van 588].

**Editor's Note:** I mentioned *A Chance Meeting* under character play as a controversial card. At first glance, this ruling indicates that *A Chance Meeting* may be played any time. However, all it says is that companies are normally at a site during the phases mentioned. Also the wording is restrictive rather than permissive. You can only play *A Chance Meeting* when you are at a site. There may still be other things that prevent you from playing it.

Nevertheless, this ruling is a good example of why arguments about *A Chance Meeting* are prolonged and recurrent.

- A Fallen Wizard may use this card to play agents as characters at any site [CoE 63].

### *A Malady Without Healing*

- When making the corruption check caused by this card, you may not respond to the corruption check by playing resources because it is not your turn [Van 582].
- Cannot actually be played on your opponent's characters, as you may not target your opponent's characters with your own resources. Fallen Wizards may get use of the kill MPs awarded from characters eliminated by means of this card.

**Editor's Note:** CoE 21 desperately tries to justify playing this on opponent's characters, but it won't wash. The card does not specify that you may play it on an opponent's characters. Kiss AkhōraKILL goodbye; it was pretty broken anyway. CoE 46 follows suit by saying it was two sets before the release of ME:WH, but it really doesn't matter.

The Nazgûl auto-attacks on Balrog sites are unintentionally detainment, but that doesn't mean we can throw out the rules on detainment attacks for those sites. Nowhere does this card state that it may target an opponent's characters. Feel free to recommend that the CoE publish an erratum to this card. *A Malady Without Healing* can be useful for getting rid of characters with annoying permanent-events on them (*So You've Come Back, Plague...*) or getting rid of a wounded character you can't realistically heal and freeing up some influence thereby.

**Editor's Note:** The CRF states that you may not receive Kill MPs from a card you played. Therefore it's anybody's guess as to whether *A Malady Without Healing* provides MPs in any case, but my hunch is that "If target character is a hero and is eliminated by these checks, you receive his kill marshalling points." is sufficient to override the CRF rule.

### *A Merrier World*

- Grants full kill MPs to hazards defeated before

the card comes into play [CoE 97].

### *A More Evil Hour*

- Can be duplicated. The 6-region limitation still applies [Van 581].

### *A Panoply of Wings*

- Any of your characters receives the +3 modification if you have declared yourself as Fallen Radagast or revealed Radagast as your Avatar [CoE 21].

### *A Short Rest*

- This card only allows the extra card draw for moving companies that actually have a site path. It cannot be used with Under-deeps movement, or special movement cards like Belegaer [CRF].

### *A Strident Spawn*

- Card Erratum:* Add "Unique" [CRF].
- Allows you to play Half-orcs without *Bad Company* in play [CRF].

### *Abductor*

- Does not affect Ringwraiths [CRF].

### *Adûnaphel*

- Current opponent's company's Movement/Hazard Phase only [CoE 10].

**Editor's Note:** See commentary on *Hoarmûrath Unleashed* under the attack section of the *Glossary of Terms*. This ruling is official. Either it or the current interpretation of *Hoarmûrath Unleashed* is also wrong.

- The hazard player chooses with character to tap [CoE 50].
- It is possible to tap the character in response to *Adûnaphel* for a different effect [CoE 67].

### *Aiglos*

- Does not get the bonus for *Doors of Night* when used in company vs. company combat [CRF].

### *Akhôrahil*

- Card Erratum:* Change "...gives -1 penalty to one..." to "...modifies any one character's body by -1 for the rest of the turn" [CRF].

### *Alatar*

- Card Erratum:* Change "he must tap and make a corruption check immediately following the attack." to "he must make a corruption check immediately following the attack, and, if untapped, he must tap" [CRF].
- Alatar* can force someone to draw 0 cards when he moves [CRF].
- When *Alatar* uses his special ability he must face

a strike. *Alatar* overrides all other effects pertaining to the assigning of strikes [CRF].

- *Alatar* must teleport and declare he is facing a strike before any other strikes are assigned [CRF].
- Allies *Alatar* controls are discarded when he teleports [CRF].

#### ***Alatar (Fallen Wizard)***

- You still cannot receive MPs from your own hazards [CoE 40].

#### ***Align Palantír***

- *Card Erratum:* Add “May not be duplicated on a given *Palantír*” [CRF].
- *Align Palantír* can be stored [CRF].

#### ***Alone and Unadvised***

- Does not check type of movement, only number of regions moved through [CoE 16].
- The corruption check modification is referring to all of the CC’s resulting from this particular *Alone and Unadvised* card [CoE 19].
  - » “No, it refers to all CC’s” [CoE 21].

#### ***An Unexpected Outpost***

- If *Doors of Night* is in play, you may take a hazard from the discard pile and one from the sideboard [CoE 32].

#### ***Ancient Stair***

- Replacing the site card is considered movement without a Movement/Hazard Phase [CRF].

#### ***Anduin River***

- The “otherwise” on this card should be read as “alternatively” [CRF].

#### ***Angmar Arises***

- May not be used to play creatures keyed to double Shadow-lands [CRF].
- This card allows you to key creatures to the mentioned regions by name. It does not change the region type used to judge whether an attack is detainment or not [CoE, CRF].

#### ***Armory***

- The three items must be under a give copy of *Armory* for that copy to give its MP [CoE 110].

#### ***Army of the Dead***

- *Card Erratum:* Add “May not be influenced by an opponent.” (CRF)

#### ***Arwen***

- Arwen can only use her Direct Influence bonus for *Aragorn II*, not *Strider*. This is because a manifestation of an entity is not the same as that named entity [Van 583].

#### ***Ash Mountains***

- The “otherwise” on this card should be read as “alternatively” [CRF].

#### ***Assassin***



- *Card Erratum:* Gives 2 MP, not 1 [CRF].
- If a strike of the first attack is not assigned, the other two attacks fizzle [CoE 25].
- Once the creature card resolves successfully, further changes to the hazard limit do not affect the attacks [CoE 31].
- If an attack from *Assassin* is given more than one strike, each additional strike becomes an excess strike (-1 prowess modification) against the attacked character. An *Assassin* can never assign strikes to more than one character [CRF].
- You may decide to cancel one of the attacks after facing another attack [CRF].
- As a special case, you may cancel the first attack of an *Assassin* by tapping a character, after strikes are assigned [CRF].

#### ***Asternak***

- His bonus to Direct Influence does not consider where the faction is actually played, only where the faction is playable [CoE 63].

#### ***Await the Advent of Allies***

- Read “is wounded” as “becomes wounded” [CRF].
- “Playing a resource at the site” means playing a resource that taps the site or a resource that requires the site [CRF].

#### ***Awaken Defenders***

- Causes all applicable attacks to become non-detainment, even those created by other cards [Van





585].

### **Aware of Their Ways**

- Non-Haven sites are not technically considered unique. But my ruling is that non-haven sites could not be removed with *Aware of their Ways* [Van 582].
- To sum up, non-haven sites are supposed to be placed in your discard pile once they leave play tapped. Havens are never discarded. Therefore, non-haven sites are eligible to be picked by the random selection of *Aware of Their Ways*. Non-Haven Sites are unique in that you may only have one of each in your site deck, but they are not ‘unique’ in that they have the keyword ‘unique.’ My ruling is that since they are indeed unique without having the keyword, then they cannot be removed by *Aware of Their Ways* [Van 583].

### **Bad Company**

- Does not allow you to start with a character that says he cannot be in the starting company [CRF].

### **Bade to Rule**

- Fallen Wizards may not play this card [CRF].
- If a Ringwraith declares movement, will be discarded at the start of that Ringwraith’s Movement/Hazard Phase [CoE 18].
- *Bade to Rule* may only be played if you are playing an actual Ringwraith deck, not a Fallen Wizard or Balrog deck [CRF].

### **Baduila**

- Read “*If Baduila is discarded...*” as “*If you choose to discard Baduila...*” [CRF].

### **Bag End (Minion version)**

- Site alignment restrictions on the play of greater items still apply to Fallen Wizards. You may not play Minion versions of hero greater items [CoE 31].

### **Balrog of Moria**

- Affects the auto-attack it creates [CoE 19].
- If *Galadriel* is not in play (including out of play), nothing happens to Lórien. *Balrog of Moria* will only change Lórien to a Free-hold if *Galadriel* is in play and she is not at Lórien [CoE 55].
- You cannot get the MP from a *Balrog of Moria* that you played [CRF].

### **Bane of the Ithil-Stone**

- Stops hero *Pallando*’s ability [CoE 12].
- *Bane of the Ithil-stone* will only cancel effects out of normal play as outlined in the rules [CRF].
- If a card has multiple effects, *Bane of the Ithil-stone* will only cancel those effects that concern search-

ching through decks and discard piles [CRF].

### **Barad-dûr**

- A Ringwraith may not move to Barad-dûr without a mode card because Barad-dûr is not a Darkhaven in the Organization Phase, when movement is declared.

**Editor’s Note:** Yes, this is as stupid as it sounds, but those are the rules. Personally speaking, I would have made Barad-dûr the Darkhaven and Minas Morgul a Darkhold.

### **Belegaer**

- Elven Coast should read Elven Shores, as the Elven Coast region does not exist [CoE 6].

### **Beorning Skin-changers**

- Can be played on any moving hero company anywhere [CoE 105].

**Editor’s Note:** Yes, that is as repulsively broken as it sounds. The idea behind it was to nail Hobbit companies, but instead they ended up nailing *Saruman* as well as *Radagast* in Bird Form.

- The warrior’s modified prowess is used [CoE 105].

### **Bill the Pony**

- *Card Erratum:* the body should be 10, not 6 [CRF].
- Bill the Pony’s special ability may not be used at an Under-deeps site [CRF].
- Replacing the site card is considered movement, without a Movement/Hazard Phase [CRF].
- For a Fallen-wizard the nearest Haven is the site listed as the nearest Haven on the hero version of the site you are currently at [CRF].

### **Biter and Beater!**

- Biter and Beater! increases the bonus the weapon gives, so maximums on the weapon still apply [CRF].

### **Black Breath**

- May be played following a Nazgûl attack against Minions [CoE 67].

### **Black Horse**

- You may only play the followers enabled by the Black Horse during the Organization Phase [Van 585].
- May be duplicated on your Ringwraith or a Ringwraith Follower [Van 585].
- Is not playable at a tapped site. [Van 586; overturns Van 585].
- Every Ringwraith in the company must control

a *Black Horse* for the company to be in Black Rider mode through the effect of this ally [*Van 585*].

### **Black Rain**

- A Fallen Wizard may use this to play a hero ring item, but a Ringwraith player may not [*CRF*].

### **Black Vapour**

- Does not cancel effects which would cause an attack/card to fizzle, only effects which cancel the attack [*CoE 19*].

### **Blackbole**

- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an automatic-attack, or hazard keyed to his site [*CRF*].
- *Blackbole* may attack in company vs. company combat, but he may not defend [*CRF*].

### **Book of Mazarbul**

- *Card Erratum*: Replace “...tap the bearer during the Organization Phase...” with “...tap Book of Mazarbul during your Organization Phase...” [*CRF*].

### **Bridge**

- Reset to hand size before moving to the second site [*CRF*].

### **Bring Our Curses Home**

- Refers to the creature’s card, so it is legally playable on the attack created by a Dragon Ahunt, but the Ahunt Dragon would not be placed off to the side with this card.

**Editor’s Note:** CoE 27a ruled incorrectly on this, resulting in the abuse of having ahunt dragons attacking the company at the start of each of their Movement/Hazard Phases no matter where they were or indeed if they were even moving at all. CoE 46 also ruled incorrectly on this. Ahunt

Dragons are not a Creature Card and cannot be placed with hazards which require a creature’s card. See also *Ready to His Will*, CoE 50.

- If played on the same attack as *Foes Shall Fall*, the hazard player may choose which event the creature’s card is placed off to the side with [*CoE 27a*].

### **Burglary**

- After a successful burglary attempt, another character may tap to play a minor item [*CRF*].
- The character who fails the burglary roll must face the automatic-attack as though he were a one-character company. He can receive no combat support other than what he himself can provide [*CRF*].
- For all other purposes a burgling character is still part of his company [*CRF, CoE 24*].

- On-guard creatures are faced by the whole company after a burglary attempt, regardless of the success of the attempt [*CRF*].
- If you fail the roll for *Burglary*, you cannot then play an item [*CRF*].

### **Bûthrakaur the Green**

- Any hazard creatures played using the ability of Bûthrakaur the Green need not be keyed to anything and are in fact not keyed to anything [*CoE 5*].

### **By The Ringwraith’s Word**

- Can be used on a Ringwraith Follower [*CoE 116*].

### **Carambor**

- Taps at the end of the Movement/Hazard Phase, so no further hazards may be played [*CoE 118*].

### **Carn Dûm**

- Effects/abilities which allow the play of Ringwraith followers override the restriction on this card [*CoE 119*].

### **Cast From the Order**

- Prevents the play of *Refuge* [*CoE 19*].

### **Caverns Unchoked**

- The newly adjacent sites become surface sites [*CoE 121*].

### **Chambers in the Royal Court**

- Is not discarded if your opponent reveals Fallen Gandalf [*CoE 79*].

### **Chance of Being Lost**

- Changes the site path [*CRF*].

### **Chill Douser**

- Does not affect itself when played [*CRF*].

### **Círdan**

- Only cancels creatures keyed by type, not name [*CRF*].

### **Clouds**

- Has no playability condition, but has an effect that requires Doors of Night [*CoE 54*].

### **Come At Need**

- Allies restricted from facing some kinds of attacks are still playable with this card so long as they are capable of facing some attacks [*CoE 3*].

### **Corsairs of Umbar**

- *Card Erratum*: Add “May also be played at any sites in *Elven Shores, Eriadoran Coast, Andrast Coast, Bay of Belfalas, or Mouths of the Anduin*” [*CRF*].





### Cracks of Doom

- *Card Erratum:* Add “Only playable during the Site Phase”. Remove “Otherwise, discard The One Ring and its bearer” [CRF].
- Pledge of Conduct played on the bearer of *The One Ring* for this check will discard *Cracks of Doom* without effect [CRF].

### Creature of an Older World

- Makes a company overt [CRF].
- This card will not put a Ringwraith into Fell Rider mode if there are any other allies in the company [CRF].

### Cruel Caradhras

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “Minas Morgul” with “Imlad Morgul” [CRF].
- This card can be played on a company using region movement to leave a site in an affected region [CRF].

### Deep Mines

- *Card Erratum:* Add “Cannot be duplicated on a given Wizardhaven” [CRF].
- You can move to one copy of this site for each surface site you have in play that meets the requirements [CoE 84].



### Deeper Shadow

- *Card Erratum:* This is a short-event, not a long-event [CRF].
- Only targets the hazard limit for the current Movement/Hazard Phase [CoE 72].
- *Deeper Shadow* can cancel hazards by reducing the hazard limit to the point where the hazard resolving is no longer playable. If this is done to an on-guard card, the card is returned to the player’s

hand [CRF].

- The character must be moving to the site to change the site type. This works even though the site is not technically part of the site path. The character must also be moving to lower the hazard limit [CRF].

### Deftness of Agility

- The extra strike is dealt with in a separate strike sequence [CRF].

### Desire All For Thy Belly

- Does not exhaust the deck by revealing cards; you reveal either the maximum number or until the end of your play deck [CoE 21].

**Editor’s Note:** What happens when your opponent has one card left in his deck and it is removed because of *Desire All For Thy Belly* is therefore a mystery.

### Despair of the Heart

- The corruption check occurs before the body check [CRF].

### Dodge

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “...his body check is modified by -1.” with “...his body is modified by -1 for the resulting body check” [CRF].

### Double Dealing

- You may only play items as listed on the card in front of you, although they may be of the other alignment [CRF].

### Doubled Vigilance

- Can be revealed on-guard [CRF].

### Dragon Helm

- The canceling ability is also Warrior only [Van 582].

### Dragon’s Blood

- Cannot be revealed as an on-guard, as it does not affect the automatic-attack, merely the results of a successful strike [CoE 55].
- You still roll the body check even in the case of *Sacrifice of Form* [CoE 63].
- If the body check forced by *Dragon’s Blood* fails, the character is not wounded [CRF].

### Dragon’s Desolation

- One dragon may be played using the effect of this card, but it does not prevent other dragons from being played using other effects [CoE 39].
- May be played on moving companies [CoE 109].
- Playing *Dragon’s Desolation* to make a Dragon playable at a Ruins & Lairs does not necessarily re-

quire you to play a Dragon later in the turn [CRF].

### **Dragon's Hunger**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “Otherwise, the attack is canceled.” with “Otherwise, the attack is canceled and the opponent must reveal his hand” [CRF].
- This card can be played regardless of how much of the hazard limit is used up, and may also be played against an automatic-attack. The opponent must discard a hazard creature from his hand if he has one [CRF].

### **Dragon's Terror**

- May target the same character with its effect provided you discard another card [CoE 29].

### **Drowning Seas**

- *Card Erratum:* Remove “Cannot be duplicated” [CRF].

### **Dwar Unleashed**

- *Dwar the Ringwraith* must already be in a mode to use this card [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** Technically speaking, you can use *Dwar Unleashed* to move to a Darkhaven without a mode card –the requirement is that you must be in a mode to move to non-Darkhaven sites.

Officially speaking, I have to say that you need to be in a mode card even then. This is a clear example of imprecise wording.

### **Dwarven Rings (All)**

- Give +7 to direct influence to a Dwarf bearer [CRF].

### **Dwarven Ring of Barin's Tribe**

- The site has to be untapped to use this ring [CRF].

### **Dwarven Ring of Druin's Tribe**

- One reshuffle is sufficient [CRF].

### **Dwarven Ring of Thelor's Tribe (Hero version)**

- *Card Erratum:* Values in parentheses and brackets apply to a Dwarf bearer. The prowess/body modifications should read: “+2(4)/+1” [CRF].

### **Dwarven Ring of Thrar's Tribe (Hero version)**

- *Card Erratum:* Values in parentheses and brackets apply to a Dwarf bearer. The prowess/body modifications should read: “+2(4)/+1” [CRF].

### **Ēarcaxë**

- May be played with *Long Dark Reach* if *Doors of Night* is in play [Van 585].
- May attack in conjunction with *Dragon's Desolation* [CoE 15].

### **Echo of All Joy**

- Does not prevent the long-event from being discarded by effects such as *Many Sorrows Befall*. [CoE 23].

### **Echoes of the Song**

- Cannot cause the discard of stage cards that state they may not be discarded [CoE 24].
- You must discard the stage card from play [CoE 118].

### **Elf-Path**

- Two regions maximum, no Shadow-lands or Dark-domains at all [CoE 67].

### **Elf Song**

- Prevents influence attempts against a player's characters from succeeding if those characters are at a Haven [CoE 6].
- When Elf-song saves a character from being discarded it also saves that character's items [CRF].
- *Elf-song* will effectively stop influence attempts against characters [CRF].

### **Elven Cloak**

- Can cancel hazards keyed to double Wilderness or more [CRF, CoE 30].

### **Emerald of the Mariner**

- *Emerald of the Mariner* is considered a source of 0 corruption points [CRF].

### **Enchanted Stream**

- *Enchanted Stream* stops you from moving in the first place, so effects that keep your company from being returned to their site of origin do not stop it [CRF].

### **Ent-Draughts**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “...as a minor item” with “...in addition to an ally or faction which has been successfully been played at Wellinghall” [CRF].
- There is no limit to the number of these that can be played [CoE 50].

### **Escape**

- Cannot be played on a wounded character [CRF].

### **Exile of Solitude**

- Followers are discarded as well [CRF, CoE].

### **Face Out of Sight**

- Any on-guard is immediately returned to the hand of the player [CoE 77].
- Does not affect agents played as characters [CoE 98].

### **Faces of the Dead**

- The hazard player chooses the targeted character.





[CoE 7].

- *Promptings of Wisdom/Piercing All Shadows* will not prevent a character from being sent back unless it is on that character, because *Faces of the Dead* splits the character off from the company first. In the case of *Promptings/Piercing* on such a separated character, they are not sent back but are still in their own separate company [CoE 19].

### **Farmer Maggot**

- There are currently no generic “teleportation” rules that would link the *Great-road* movement rule to this use of *Farmer Maggot* [CoE 6].

**Editor’s Note:** This is not entirely accurate; the ME:LE rulebook defines a moving company as one in the process of moving between their site of origin and their new site. This almost leads to a circular definition, but when a company replaces their current site with another site, that’s movement. It just isn’t during the Movement/Hazard Phase.

- In a situation where *Farmer Maggot* is used to move a company from one site to another against an *Assassin* attack, the remaining attacks of the *Assassin* are not rekeyable to the new site. The remaining attacks are discarded without effect, but not cancelled. The attack is still considered faced [CoE 6].

**Editor’s Note:** This ruling springs from a belief that attacks must be keyed or fizzle. There is room for debate; see *Playing Hazard Creatures* for further details.

- If you teleport to a site with an automatic attack, you must face that attack before playing any resources during the Site Phase [CoE 116].

### **Fate of the Ithil-Stone**

- Fate of the Ithil-stone must be tapped before entering Barad-dûr in order to rotate it 180 degrees [CRF].

### **Favor of the Valar**

- *Favor of the Valar* requires you to draw eight cards, not to your hand size [CRF].

### **Fear! Fire! Foes!**

- Can be played on a site with no automatic attack [CoE 23].

### **Fell Beast**

- This card can be played and resolved before any Nazgûl is played with it. A Nazgûl must be played as the first declared action in the chain of effects

following the resolution of *Fell Beast*, or else this card is returned to its player’s hand. This card can be played on an existing Nazgûl attack, but the extra playability this card provides would not apply [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** Yet more evidence that ICE didn’t really understand their own timing rules.

### **Fever of Unrest**

- The Dragon played is not considered keyed to anything [CRF].

### **Fireworks**

- There is no erratum for this card. You can play it at Wellinghall all you want [CoE 12].

### **Flatter A Foe**

- Against attacks with two of the types listed, use the harder number [CRF].
- Does not tap the character making the attempt. (CoE 7)
- A character with a DI bonus against a race receives that bonus to the roll if available [CoE 18].
- Is Flattery Attempt that requires an Influence Check [CoE 52].

### **Fled Into Darkness**

- Affects the automatic attack by affecting one of its strikes, and so may be revealed on-guard if the appropriate playability conditions are met [CoE 17].

### **Flies and Spiders**

- Must be played before strikes are assigned [CoE 49].
- No, it can be played after, but must be played in between given strike sequences [CoE 56].
- Actually, it can be played during the strike sequence [CoE 58].

### **Focus Palantír**

- Will not allow a Ringwraith to use a Palantír [CRF].

### **Foes Shall Fall**

- Refers to the creature’s card, so it is legally playable on the attack created by a Dragon Ahunt, but the Ahunt Dragon would not be placed off to the side with this card. See also *Bring Our Curses Home*.
- If played on the same attack as *Bring Our Curses Home*, the hazard player may choose which event the creature’s card is placed off to the side with [CoE 27a].

### **Folco Boffin**

- Overrides rules about the presence of an avatar

at the site [CoE 16].

### **Foolish Words**

- Cannot be duplicated on a given character [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** According to CoE 29, this erratum has been incorrectly posted at times as simply "cannot be duplicated." The above is the correct erratum.

### **Forewarned Is Forearmed**

- Will be activated at any Under-deeps site with an extra automatic attack that allows the play of a creature, since the hazard player need not play the creature for the second automatic attack until the first automatic attack is dealt with [CoE 31, CoE 67].

### **Foul Fumes**

- Will tap all sites in play that meet the requirements [CRF].
- Foul Fumes will not continually keep sites tapped; it is only applied once to each site each turn [CRF].

### **Fortress of the Towers**

- *Card Erratum:* Remove "A company moving to or from The White Towers is not considered to be moving through Arthedain (including one less Wilderness in their site path)" [CRF].

### **Freeze the Flesh**

- Freeze the Flesh will stop your opponent from gaining kill marshalling points from a character he eliminated in company vs. company combat [CRF].
- Cannot be used on your Ringwraith to prevent it from being placed out of play (*i.e.* Cannot be used on your Ringwraith to keep you from losing the game if that loss condition is being used) [CRF].
- If used on your Ringwraith or Fallen Wizard, it will remove the -5 MP penalty for having them eliminated [CRF].
- A shadow-magic user may not prevent themselves from being eliminated with this card [CoE 18].
- Can be duplicated on a character [Van 583]. By implication, this means the card is not automatically discarded when the character would otherwise be eliminated by the body check.

### **Fury of the Iron Crown**

- Orc and Troll characters may use a creature enhanced by Fury of the Iron Crown as a trophy [CRF].
- A player only gains marshalling points from the creature if he would have received them normally [CRF].
- Even if the associated card is placed in the MP pile, a player only receives MPs for that card if they

would normally receive those MPs [CoE 43].

### **Gandalf**

- Must be in the same company as the ring he tests [CRF].

### **Gandalf (Fallen Wizard)**

- Since Gandalf's untapping ability occurs at the end of the organization phase, the only thing he could then tap for in that same organization phase would be the condition of an effect occurring at the end of the organization phase. There is no time for other effects/actions [CoE 26].

### **Gangways Over the Fire**

- *Gangways Over the Fire* can be used as many times as you can manage the rolls [Van 581].
- You cannot attempt to move again if you do not make your Under-deeps roll. This is because the Movement/Hazard Phase continues as if the company had not moved [ME:DM]. Thus, they are not a moving company.

**Editor's Note:** The CoE ruling on this is blatantly incorrect. *Gangways Over the Fire* requires a moving company.

### **Gates of Morning**

- *Gates of Morning* discards hazard environments when it resolves, even if *Peril Returned* is in play [CRF].

### **Giant**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Giant" [CRF].

### **Girdle of Radagast**

- Does not affect the regions in Starter movement, except for the starting and ending regions [CRF].

### **Gloom**

- The "Playable on..." conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

### **Glove of Radagast**

- The ally must still be able to be played (*i.e.* an untapped site/character are necessary) [CoE 105].

### **Goldberry**

- You may tap *Goldberry* to cancel an effect declared earlier in the same chain of effects that would return *Goldberry's* company to its site of origin [CRF].
- *Goldberry* cannot prevent a company from returning to its site of origin that failed its roll to move to an adjacent Under-deeps site [CRF].
- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character





facing an attack [CRF].

### **Gollum**

- The text on *Gollum* is an ability that you can choose to use [CRF].

### **Gollum's Fate**

- This card is considered to target both *The One Ring* and *Gollum*. This means it cannot be played on your opponent's *The One Ring* or *Gollum* [CRF].

### **Golodhros**

- He may use his special influence ability only during an opponent's Movement/Hazard Phase. His tapping to use his special ability does not count against the hazard limit [CRF].

### **Good Sense Revolts**

- The "Playable on..." conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

### **Gothmog**

- *Gothmog* is not keyed to anything, the Orc or Troll he is played after must be keyed to a Shadow-land or Dark-domain [CRF].

### **Great-road**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace "Opponent draws twice..." with "Opponent draws up to twice..." [CRF].
- If you have two Movement/Hazard Phases on the turn you played a *Great-road*, you return to the Haven at which you started the turn [CRF].
- Replacing the site card is considered movement without a Movement/Hazard Phase [CRF].
- The opponent draws twice normal, so other effects which modify card draw (i.e. *Alatar*) are applied after this amount is established [Van 586].

### **Great Bats**

- Makes a company overt [CRF].
- May tap to give +1 prowess to characters in combat [CRF].

### **Great Goblin**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Unique. Orc. One Strike" [CRF].

### **Great Lord of Goblin-Gate**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Unique" [CRF].
- Makes a company overt [CRF].

### **Great Ruse**

- May not be played by an overt company at *Morannon* [CoE 19].

### **Great Secrets Buried There**

- If you play this card as a hazard on your opponent, you must be able to provide your opponent



with a copy of any uncommon Under-deeps sites if he does not have a copy in his location deck [CRF].

- If you give an Under-deeps site to your opponent, it will return to your location deck when he is done with it, unless you have also used the site, in which case it returns to your discard pile [CRF].
- You can place a minor item under *Great Secrets Buried There*. If you discard the *Great Secrets* the item under it will be discarded [Van 585].
- It's a hazard card when it's resolved on the table as a permanent-event. It's a resource when it's played as such and not resolved yet [CoE 19].
- *Bane of the Ithil-Stone/Lady of the Golden Wood* prevent *Great Secrets Buried There* from taking effect on the relevant alignment regardless of who played *Great Secrets* [CoE 36].
- The item must be normally playable at the Under-deeps site [CRF].

### **Great Ship**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Tap a character in target company during the organization phase to play *Great Ship* on that company" [CRF].
- *Card Erratum:* Replace "...a Coastal Sea region..." with "...a Coastal Sea region and no consecutive non-Coastal Sea regions..." [CRF].
- Allows the canceling of one creature or the canceling and discarding of an event that targets the company in question or an entity associated with that company [CRF].
- The effect can be used multiple times; the CRF entry is worded poorly [CoE 105].

### **Greed**

- Is triggered by a special ring item being pla-

yed, but not by items being transferred [CRF].

### Guarded Haven

- You may not use this card as a starting stage resource [CRF].
- Card Erratum:* Remove “A company moving to or from this site is not considered to be moving through the region containing the site (including one less region in their site path)” [CRF].

### Gwaihir

- Card Erratum:* Should read “You may discard Gwaihir during the organization phase to allow his company...” [CRF].

### Hail of Darts

- The effect lasts until the end of the turn [CoE 27b].

**Editor’s Note:** This is not official because it is an erratum to the card. The rules state that short-events indicate their duration by their text. *Hail of Darts* lacks any such text indicating its duration. Therefore, it is immediately implemented and applies only to attacks that occur in the Organization Phase. To have erratum issued for the card, contact a CoE representative and ask them to put the motion forward.

### Half An Eye Open

- The “Playable on...” conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

### Halfling Strength

- Is a healing effect and so will affect all characters regardless of race if there is an effect in play which causes healing effects to affect all characters [CRF, CoE 25, CoE 51]

### Hall of Fire

- Can be duplicated on a given site; each copy allows you to untap/heal a character [CoE 56]. A Fallen Wizard player may use this ability to untap orcs and trolls [CoE 121].

### Healing Herbs

- Cannot stop a body check [CRF].

### Heart Grown Cold

- If there is no site to exchange for, no exchange takes place [CoE 118, i.e. *Refuge*].

### Heedless Revelry

- Card Erratum:* Change “...after the successful play...” to “...in response to the play...” [CRF].
- The “Playable on...” conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF]. Does not interfere with the playing of the card it is

revealed in response to [CRF].

### Helm of Fear

- Has no effect on a non-Ringwraith [CRF].

### Helm of Her Secrecy

- You can play multiple *Helms of Her Secrecy* in one chain of effects. The player should make sure that he does not take the option of playing *Éowyn* out of his hand until the first copy declared is resolved [CRF].

### Helms of Iron

- Three in play will give relevant attacks without a normal body a body of 6 [CoE 19].

### Herb-Lore

- Radagast* must tap to use it, but its effect will untap him [CoE 54].

### Here Is A Snake!

- If declared in response to an effect that allows the hazard player to retrieve a hazard from the discard pile to hand, it will resolve before that effect and thus potentially prevent the play of the retrieved hazard [CoE 18].
- Here is a Snake!* does not prevent the use of hazards already on the table [CRF].
- The “Playable on...” conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

### Here, There or Yonder

- Checks to see if an ally cannot move to a site in the given region. Strictly speaking, allies are not prevented from moving in any region [CoE 58].
- The ally does not have to be chosen or played until after the dice are rolled [CRF].





### ***Hermit's Hill***

- To play a major item here, *Hermit's Hill* must be untapped [CRF].

### ***Hidden Haven***

- If both players reveal this as a starting stage card, on the same site, at the same time, it is set aside, and may not be played on that site by either player until the game begins [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** This CRF ruling unfortunately gives no indication for the method of playing the card on the site. It's off to the side, not in your hand, and the CRF prevents the card from being shuffled into your play deck (though treated as a character for the purposes of the draft, it remains a non-character card). In the absence of a clearly defined method, it is up to the tournament organizer to decide whether to allow the play of *Hidden Haven* at all, or under what conditions subject to the limitations provided in the rules.

### ***Hidden Knife***

- *Hidden Knife* is effectively an attack [CRF].

### ***Hoarmûrath of Dír***

- Because there is time for multiple chains of effect before you assign the strikes of the attack, *Hoarmûrath of Dír* may be tapped as many times as you can legally play and tap him for his effect [CoE 11].

### ***Hold Rebuilt And Repaired***

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Playable during the Site phase" [CRF].

### ***Horses***

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Playable only at the end of the Organization Phase" [CRF].
- It is impossible to respond to the hazard limit reduction of *Horses* for this reason. See also Hazard Limit in *Glossary of Terms* section and *Many Turns and Doublings* card errata and rulings.

### ***Hounds of Sauron***

- The defender may not play cards to cancel this attack because it is not CvCC [CoE 15].

### ***Hour of Need***

- May not be played in the Under-deeps [CRF].
- If successful, *Hour of Need* taps the site it is played, not the site associated with the faction [Van 581].
- Cannot be played at a tapped site [Van 581].
- Will not allow the play of a 'free' minor item when played in the Organization Phase [CoE 95].

### ***The Hunt***

- The discarding and revealing of the card do not

have to be in any specific order [CRF].

- A *Noble Hound* does not shield Alatar from the creatures; he is still alone against them [Van 585].

### ***Ice-Orcs***

- *Card Erratum:* Change the Shadow-hold symbol into a Ruins & Lairs symbol [CRF].

### ***Icy Touch***

- If two of these are in play, they both trigger at the same time, and the second one is discarded without effect [CRF].

### ***In Darkness Bind Them***

- May not be used to play creatures keyed to double Shadow-lands [CRF].

### ***In The Heart Of His Realm***

- Changing from being able to use rituals, spells, etc. to not is not a passive condition [CoE 27a].
- "Yes, it is" [CoE 38].

**Editor's Note:** The logic in CoE 38 is debatable, to say the least. They maintain that the card sets up a passive condition, but also is a direct action when first played that is not a passive condition. How the same phrasing can be a direct action declared within the chain of effects and also a passive condition which will trigger immediately after the chain of effects has not been clarified to my knowledge.

- "No, really. Because of timing rules, *In The Heart of His Realm* doesn't work at all, because you can always declare *Marvels Told* in response to 'may not use rituals'." [CoE 74].

**Editor's Note:** Which is another point in favor of scrapping the timing rules and rewriting them from scratch into something that works. See also the note on cards that require tapped and untapped sites, under *Active Conditions of Actions* section.

### ***In The Name of Mordor***

- The "playable on ..." conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

### ***Incite Denizens***

- When copying an attack put on the site by another card, *Incite Denizens* will not copy any other effects of the card [CRF].
- When copying an attack put on the site by another card, the *Incite Denizens* attack will disappear if the other card is discarded [CRF].

### ***Indûr Dawndeath***

- The hazard player chooses the character and the item [CoE 30]. See also *Adûnaphel*; *Indûr* contains

the phrase “*any wounded character.*”

- Only one wounded character has to discard an item, and the hazard player chooses which character and which item they bear [CRF].

### **Inner Cunning**

- The site type for the agent’s home site is the one you would use if you went to visit the site [CRF].
- The “*Playable on...*” conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].
- The search for an agent function of this card is considered to require an agent [CoE 91].

### **Ioreth**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “*Healing cards...*” with “*Healing effect...*” [CRF].
- Will not duplicate the untap portion of a healing effect on tapped but unwounded characters [CRF].

### **Iron Road**

- Replacing the site card is considered movement, without a movement/hazard phase [CRF].

### **Iron Shield of Old**

- *Card Erratum:* Add “*Shield.*” [CRF]

### **Isles of the Dead That Live (Minion version)**

- There is no errata on this card. (CoE 4) This means it taps a covert company member, not an overt one.

### **Itangast at Home**

- Is not a source of corruption, but rather modifies the item’s corruption [CoE 45].

### **Khamûl the Easterling**

- The number of cards discarded is set at the time of declaration [CRF].
- The cards are discarded from your opponent’s hand [CRF].

### **King Under the Mountain**

- The effect or “glory” of defeating the dragon At Home manifestation is not a card so it cannot affect Dáin’s company that joins solo Fram Framson. The potential Dwarf King must have been in the company that faced the attack [CoE 14].

**Editor’s Note:** This is incorrect. If any member of the current company was part of a company that defeated an At Home dragon, then that company is considered to have defeated an At Home dragon. Put another way, how does one name that point at which the company ceases to have defeated an At Home dragon?

### **Knowledge of the Enemy**

- Does not have to be played immediately after an agent attack [CoE 67].

- But does have to be played during the turn in which the company faced the attack [CoE 74].

**Editor’s Note:** There is absolutely no justification for this ruling whatsoever. It’s official, but correct is open for debate.

- Removes cards from the game, not just from play [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** I’m not sure what the functional difference is, here.

### **Lady of the Golden Wood**

- Does not prevent a Balrog player from playing characters from the discard, because this ability of *The Balrog* is part of the normal sequence of play [CoE 17].

### **Last Child of Ungoliant**

- Makes a company overt [CRF].

### **Leaf Brooch**

- The item being replaced by the *Leaf Brooch* being discarded must be in play to satisfy any targeting restrictions. When it comes time to discard that item, discard *Leaf Brooch* instead [CRF].
- If used to replace a gold ring after a successful test, the bearer of the gold ring item gets the special ring item, not the bearer of the *Leaf Brooch* [CRF].

### **Leaflock**

- Allows the canceling of one creature or the canceling and discarding of an event that targets the company in question or an entity associated with that company [CRF].
- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an automatic-attack, or hazard keyed to his site [CRF].

### **Left Behind**

- The character may rejoin his company so long as it is otherwise legal to do so [CoE 25].

### **Legendary Hoard**

- The wording on *Legendary Hoard* can be confusing. I suggest treating “*invert*” as “*flip over*” and players remembering the actual status of the At Home Dragon manifestation. Thus, if it has been *Marvels Tolded*, consider it discarded and the other player is free to play his/her version of the same At Home Dragon. If the dragon has been eliminated, apply all the effects of a slain dragon. Therefore, a “flipped over” At Home Dragon under *Legendary*





*Hoard* does not apply any of its effects. This also avoids any confusion as to how many times the dragon has been rotated and any possible cheesy abominations of a cool thematic card [CoE 7].

- Treat a discarded At Home as “off to the side” with this card [CoE 51].

#### ***Leucaruth At Home***

- Counts as a unique dragon manifestation the turn she is played [CoE 49].
- You may play unique dragon manifestations in response to the play of *Leucaruth at Home*; if they resolve before she does, all remain in play [CoE 50]. Note that such manifestations must not create attacks.

#### ***The Lidless Eye***

- Playing this card discards its player’s *Bade to Rule* and prevents him from subsequently playing *Bade to Rule* [CRF].
- You may only play this card if none of your opponents are Ringwraiths [CRF].

#### ***Long Dark Reach***

- The creature does not count against the hazard limit [CRF].
- A creature must be played if there is one available [CRF].
- Effects which have the potential to alter a creature’s playability must have declared and resolved before this card resolves [CoE 11, CoE 39].
- The attacking creature does not count against the hazard limit [CoE 58].
- Overcomes *Stealth* [CoE 120].

#### ***Long Grievous Siege***

- There must be an eligible Border-hold for this card to be played [CRF].
- Returns all factions playable at the site to their owner’s hand, regardless of alignment [Van 582].

#### ***Long Winter***

- Will tap all sites in play that meet the requirements [CRF].
- *Long Winter* will not continually keeps sites tapped, it is only applied once to each site each turn [CRF].

#### ***Lucky Search***

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “Discard all revealed cards except the item.” with “Reshuffle all revealed cards except the item back into the play deck.” Add at the end of the first paragraph “Discard item if the scout is wounded by this attack” [CRF].
- Does not tap the site.
- A *Noble Hound* does not face the attack instead of the character that played *Lucky Search*, because the strike is never assigned.

- Targets the item [CoE 87].

#### ***Lure of Expedience***

- Will trigger when a gold ring item is tested and a special item is successfully played [CRF].
- Will trigger when an item is transferred [CRF].
- Can be played on-guard and will trigger a corruption check when revealed in response to an item played [CRF].

#### ***Lure of Nature***

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “...at the end of each Movement/Hazard Phase...” with “...after all other hazards have been played...” [CRF].
- When revealed on-guard, will not require any corruption checks as the end of the M/H Phase has already passed [Van 584].
- Corruption checks from *Lure of Nature* do not trigger if its bearer’s company returns to its site of origin [CRF].
- The corruption checks caused by *Lure of Nature* happen at the end of the afflicted character’s Movement/Hazard Phase. Of course, the character’s player can play resources to modify the corruption checks. The hazard player is allowed to play hazards in response, if the hazard player has enough hazard limit remaining. Hazards so played must directly affect the corruption checks caused by *Lure of Nature*. The hazard player can play no other hazards, no creature, no new corruption cards, etc [CRF].

#### ***Lure of Power***

- If triggered by a successful influence attempt against an item, the item’s corruption points will count towards the corruption check if the item was played with the influencing character [CoE 36].
- If two instances of *Lure of Power* are in play and are triggered, only force one check at -4, and both are discarded [CRF].

#### ***Lure of the Senses***

- The corruption checks happen at the end of the Untap Phase [CRF].

#### ***Magical Harp***

- Can be used at the Free Council [CRF].

#### ***Mallorn***

- *Card Erratum:* The first sentence should read: “Playable at Bag End only if *Earth of Galadriel’s Orchard* is stored there” [CRF].
- Any player may play this if anybody has stored *Earth of Galadriel’s Orchard* at Bag End [CoE 33].

#### ***Man of Skill***

- The permanent-event must require Information, not merely be playable at a site that happens to



have Information cards playable [CoE 103].

- Gives points to cards it affects regardless of their stored status [CoE 103].

### **Many Turns And Doublings**

- If *Gates of Morning* is in play, *Many Turns and Doublings* can fizzle hazards by reducing the hazard limit to the point where the hazard resolving is no longer playable. If this is done to an on-guard card, the card is returned to the player's hand [CRF].
- Targets the hazard limit, and may only therefore be played when a hazard limit exists [CoE 57].

### **Map to Mithril**

- Does not raise the prowess maximum of the weapon [CoE 72].

### **Marvels Told**

- May be played during the site phase by a character in another company as if he were in the company resolving their Site Phase [CRF].

### **Messenger of Mordor**

- The resource must be generically storable at a Darkhaven, not storable at a specific site which happens to be a Darkhaven at the time [CRF, CoE 57].

### **Mind Rings**

- May not be used by a Fallen Wizard to play a six mind character [CRF].

### **Mistress Lobelia**

- May not retrieve minor items unless they are listed as playable on the site or the item [CRF].

### **Misty Mountains**

- The "otherwise" on this card should be read as "alternatively" [CRF].

### **Morannon**

- *Card Erratum:* Should read "This card is used as a Dark-hold site card in the region of Udûn that is moved to..." [CRF].

### **More Alert Than Most**

- The minimum of one strike still applies while *Gates of Morning* is in play [CRF].

### **More Sense Than You**

- If there is only one character in the company, the attack is discarded without effect, but not canceled. The attack is still considered faced [CRF].

### **Morgul Horse**

- Cannot be used on a Nazgûl that was tapped to sideboard because that Nazgûl was discarded upon declaration [CoE 115].
- To bring a Nazgûl permanent-event back into your

hand, *Morgul-horse* must be declared after tapping the Nazgûl is declared and before it resolves [CRF].

- The alternative effect of this card can be played and resolved before any Nazgûl is played with it. A Nazgûl must be played as the first declared action in the chain of effects following the resolution of the alternative effect of *Morgul-horse*. If a Nazgûl is not played immediately following the resolution of this card, this card is returned to its player's hand. This card cannot be played for no effect just to discard it [CRF].

### **Morgul Knife**

- The corruption is received immediately following the attack [CRF].

### **Morgul Knight**

- *Morgul Knight* is not discarded if *Doors of Night* leaves play [CRF].

### **Motionless Among the Slain**

- The +1 to body checks mentioned on the card refers to characters controlled by the player of the card [CoE 25].

### **Mount Doom (Hero)**

- The hazard limit increase is part of revealing the new site card and will be applied at that time [CoE 36].
- If the site type of *Mount Doom* changes, creatures may be keyed to the new site type, but not to the old site type [CRF].

### **Mountains of Shadow**

- The "otherwise" on this card should be read as "alternatively" [CRF].

### **Mouth of Sauron**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Man." [CRF].
- Must completely resolve to force *The Mouth* to be returned to its player's hand [CoE 73].
- Cannot be played if *The Mouth* has been taken prisoner [CoE 95].

### **Muster**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace entire text with: "Warrior only. An influence check against a faction by a warrior is modified by adding the warrior's prowess to a maximum modifier of +5" [CRF].

### **Muster Disperses**

- *Muster Disperses* cannot be revealed as an on-guard card [CRF].

### **My Precious**

- Does not count as Gollum for the purposes of *Gollum's Fate* or any other card that specifically calls for *Gollum* [CRF].



- May not be played as a character [CRF].
- Does not give -1 MP to minions [CRF].
- Must be face-up to gain two actions [CRF].
- His attack is successful if all of the strikes are successful. His attack fails if any of his strikes fail [CRF].

### Narya

- Because of the card's untapping effect and timing rules, it is ineffective to tap characters to support the corruption check – *Narya* will untap them before the corruption check occurs, fizzling the action. You may not declare actions once a chain of effects has begun resolving, so there is no way to tap characters after *Narya* has untapped them [CRF, CoE 54].
- No, really. Because of timing rules, there is no way to support the corruption check by tapping characters [CoE 97].

### Nature's Revenge

- Changes the site type of the site. Does not cancel any special abilities of the site, such as a Wizardhaven cancelling attacks [CoE 118].

**Editor's Note:** This has been ruled on incorrectly in the past; but let us notice that even though the Ents went to Isengard and wrecked the place, *Saruman* remained in his tower unscathed.

### Neeker-Breakers

- *Card Erratum:* Add “Does not effect Wizards” [CRF].

### Neither So Ancient Nor So Potent

- Gives Kill MPs [CoE 110].

### Nenseldë the Wingild

- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an attack.

### Nenya

- May be played during the end of the game to affect a corruption check if the conditions on the card are met [CoE 1].

### Never Seen Him

- The extra action taken is declared as the result of a passive condition. That action becomes the first declared action in the chain of effects immediately following the agent's first action [CoE 21].

### New Friendship

- The influence bonus from *New Friendship* applies only to the diplomat, but the corruption check bonus applies to any character in the diplomat's company [CRF].

### News Must Get Through

- The resource must be generically storable at a Darkhaven, not storable at a specific site which happens to be a Darkhaven at the time [CRF, CoE 57].

### News of Doom

- If *News of Doom* has been removed from the game, it may not be played again [Van 581].



### News of the Shire

- Affects all versions of Bag End [CRF].

### Night

- If Doors of Night is in play, the total prowess modification to non-Ranger Dúnedain is -2 [CoE 16].
- The prowess modifications to Men and Dúnedain do not apply to attacks [CRF].

### No Escape From My Magic

- *Card Erratum:* Change “Playable on any faction in play...” to “Playable on any unique faction in play...” [CRF].

### No Strangers At This Time

- May be played on any turn, not merely the turn the faction is first played [CoE 21].
- Prevents any effect which would cause a Fallen Wizard to switch the site [CoE 46].

### Noble Hound

- *Card Erratum:* Add the sentence: “If Noble Hound is tapped or wounded, treat it as though it were untapped for the purposes of assigning strikes” [CRF].

- Does not affect *The Hunt*. *Alatar* is alone against the creature [Van 585].

### **Nobody's Friend**

- The “*Playable on...*” conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].
- The search for an agent function of this card is considered to require an agent [CoE 91].

### **Not At Home**

- Cannot cancel any attack or automatic-attack except one from a Dragon, Drake, or Troll [CRF].

### **Old Forest**

- *Card Erratum*: Replace “Healing cards...” with “Healing effects...” [CRF].

### **Old Man Willow**

- *Card Erratum*: Add “*Awakened Plant.*” [CRF].

### **Old Prejudice**

- Will triple standard modifications listed on hero factions, as these are modifiers to the influence check, not modifiers to the faction [Van 585].

### **Old Road**

- May be used to influence an opponent's faction only when you are attempting to bring your copy of the faction into play [CRF].
- CRF Site Phase/General: “*Items, factions and allies must be played during the Site Phase.*” [CoE 11].
- CRF Site Phase/General: “*The site taps upon successful play of the resource that would tap it.*” [CoE 11].

**Editor's Note:** And here, in a nutshell, is why it is illegal to play *A Chance Meeting/We Have Come to Kill* except during the Organization Phase. The organization phase is as inherent a part of character play mechanics outside of an influence attempt as the site phase is to faction play.

The question/comment that provoked this ruling was, “*I can't find anything that tells me I can't use Old Road in the Organization Phase, or even that it results in the Haven or the remote site tapping.*” You similarly can't find restrictions on *A Chance Meeting/We Have Come to Kill* because such restrictions are inherent in the rules.

See also CoE 22: “*The cards would need a special clause to keep the site untapped, not the other way around.*” Likewise *A Chance Meeting/We Have Come To Kill* need a special clause to override rules.

### **Open To The Summons**

- *Card Erratum*: Replace “*Playable on a minion company*” with “*Playable on a company*” [CRF].
- Does not allow you to start with a character that says he cannot be in the starting company [CRF].

- Does not allow a Fallen Wizard player to start a character with a mind of 6.
- Does allow you to start with an agent character when you would otherwise not [CoE 14].
- Does not allow character play at Geann-a-Lisch [CoE 104].

### **Orc Mail**

- Does not cancel the CvCC attack and so may not be played in response to CvCC [CoE 2].

**Editor's Note:** Bear in mind that because CvCC is declared on the attacker's turn, the defender may not play resources at all unless permitted by the CvCC rules.

- You make *Orc Mail's* requisite roll once for each copy in play [CoE 2].
- If the minion company is sent back to its site of origin, you are not [CoE 59].
- You may later add non-Dwarf non-Hobbit characters to the company. You merely may not have such when you play the card [CoE 59].
- Cannot be played on a company with allies in it, as there are no Dwarf or Hobbit allies [CRF].

### **Orders from Lugbúrz**

- Only permits an extra leader in the company. All other company composition rules must be observed. (CoE 117) The extra leader must be a troll.

### **Padding Feet**

- *Card Erratum*: Replace the first sentence with “*Playable during the site phase on a lone scout minion (no other characters or allies in his company) at the same site as an opponent hero company containing a Hobbit*” [CRF].

### **Palantír of Amon Sûl**

- Discard immediately if its company contains less than two characters while moving [CRF].

### **Palantír of Elostirion**

- *Card Erratum*: This item does not give MPs to a Fallen Wizard regardless of other cards in play [CRF].

### **Palantír of Orthanc**

- *Card Erratum*: This item does not give MPs to a Fallen Wizard regardless of other cards in play [CRF].
- Cannot be used on site cards [CRF].

### **Palantír of Osgiliath**

- Discard immediately if its company contains less than four characters while moving [CRF].
- Only copies tapping effects of other Palantíri, not continuous effects [CRF].



**Pallando**

- Can only see the top card of an opponent's discard pile [CRF].

**Pallando the Soul-Keeper**

- Minion agents in play as hazards are not characters [CoE 34]. They are still minions [CoE 35].

**Editor's Note:** Therefore, he will nail *Baduila's* ugly head to a tree the first time he bounces someone, but he will not do a thing to *Lobelia Sackville-Baggins*, because she is not a minion, even though she is an agent.

**A Panoply of Wings**

- The Radagast bonus applies if you have a character manifestation of Radagast in play, or if you have declared you are playing Fallen-Radagast [CRF].

**Parsimony Of Seclusion**

- May target resource manifestations of unique dragons [CoE 10].

**Paths of the Dead**

- Is playable on any company that contains *Aragorn II* [CoE 18].

**Peril Returned**

- Assuming *Gates of Morning* is not in play, this card will enable the play of *Will of Sauron*, thus keeping *Peril Returned* in play until the conditions of *Will of Sauron* are met [CoE 37].
- Will not stop *Gates of Morning* from forcing the

discard of hazard environments when *Gates of Morning* resolves [CRF].

**Pierced By Many Wounds**

- Characters not assigned strikes are nevertheless defending characters against the attack [CoE 117, i.e. *Assassin* with *Rank Upon Rank*].

**Piercing All Shadows**

- You must choose one of the types of effect [CoE 105].

**Pilfer Anything Unwatched**

- May be used on the turn the agent came into play [Van 585].
- Targets the character [CoE 91].

**Editor's Note:** There has been debate about this. Essentially, the character is the entity through which the discard action is played out, and so fits the primary definition of a target.

**Plague**

- *Card Erratum:* Change “At the end of the target's Movement/Hazard Phase...” to “At the end of your opponent's turn...” [CRF].
- The player controlling the character(s) makes the rolls [CoE 14].
- The roll is not a body check; it merely compares against the body value to determine its effect [CoE 17].

**Pledge of Conduct**

- Will fizzle *Cracks of Doom* [CoE 53].

**Praise to Elbereth**

- Nazgûl events discarded by *Praise to Elbereth* have no effect [CRF].
- Which characters are tapping to discard which events must be declared when *Praise to Elbereth* is declared [CRF].
- Nazgûl permanent-events that are targeted by *Praise to Elbereth* may not be tapped in response to its play [CRF].

**Promptings of Wisdom**

- You must choose one of the types of effect [CoE 105].

**Prophet of Doom**

- When Pallando uses *Prophet of Doom* to influence away an opponent's resources from a site where the influence attempt could not normally be made, you modify it by the distance between the sites, meaning the number of regions the site path would normally contain (i.e. including starting and ending

regions) [CRF, Van 579]

### **Pûkel-men**

- Card Erratum: Add “Pûkel-creature.” [CRF].

### **Quiet Lands**

- Card Erratum: Replace “...is reduced to half its original prowess (rounded up).” with “...is reduced by half (rounded up)” [CRF].

### **Quickbeam**

- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an automatic-attack, or hazard keyed to his site [CRF].

### **Radagast’s Black Bird**

- May cancel as many strikes against himself as needed [Van 579].
- This is a two mind ally [CRF].

### **Rank Upon Rank**

- Because the effect is an action created by a passive condition, you can respond to the declaration with *Ready to His Will*, and *Ready to His Will* will work [CoE 61].

### **Rats!**

- Only an unwounded character may be wounded by this card [CRF].

### **Reaching Shadow**

- May not be used to play creatures keyed to double Shadow-lands [CRF].

### **Ready To His Will**

- The resultant ally has no race [CoE 16].
- Yes, it does [CoE 33, CoE 34]. This means an Orc/Troll under *Ready to His Will* makes a company overt.
- Requires a hazard creature card, not a hazard creature attack [CoE 50].
- A creature which normally receives a prowess bonus only has that bonus during the turn it is played [CoE 96].
- Tapping a character is an active condition of the play of this card [CoE 110].

**Editor’s Note:** This is a much-disputed ruling, mainly because the card text shows that tapping the character is the condition of making the hazard an ally. To say that it is a condition of playing the card is equivalent to saying that tapping the Diplomat is an Active Condition for the play of *Ruse*. It isn’t, because an untapped diplomat is the Active Condition of the play of *Ruse*. Tapping the Diplomat is a condition for the action of canceling the attack. That’s all. Nevertheless, the official ruling is that you must be able to tap a character to play the card at all. See also *Sacrifice of Form*.

**Editor’s Note:** Konrad Klar made the following additional comment (edited for clarity):

ME:WH says: “An Orc or Troll character may not tap to initiate an effect from a hero resource (i.e., *Praise to Elbereth*, *Great Ship*, etc.).” And this is a situation of just such a class. Tapping a character to make the creature ally is tapping to initiate effect of an (already played) resource.

- Note that cards like *Rank Upon Rank* are applied as a passive condition, once an attack of the right type is in play. Therefore you can play and successfully resolve *Ready to His Will* in response to the declaration of *Rank Upon Rank*’s effect [CRF].

### **Rebuild the Town**

- Card Erratum: Replace “Playable on...” with “Playable during the site phase on...” [CRF].

### **Reforging**

- You can use it on hoard items [CRF].

### **Refuge**

- As long as a character is at the site, a company may move to and from the site [CoE 56].

### **Regiment of Black Crows**

- The creature is placed in its player’s hand regardless of whether it was initially in his hand [CoE 37].
- *Regiment of Black Crows* makes a company overt [CRF].
- May tap to give +1 prowess to characters during combat [CRF].

### **Reluctant Final Parting**

- Card Erratum: Add “Determine nearest Haven using site cards of the same alignment (minion/hero) as the ally.” [CRF]
- It doesn’t matter where an ally was played. *Reluctant Final Parting* only considers if he is playable at a site with the same nearest Haven as his current nearest Haven [Van 581].
- *Reluctant Final Parting* has no effect on *The Balrog*. [CRF].

### **Remnants Of Old Robberies**

- Will not give MPs if you defeat a hazard you played yourself [CoE 74].

### **Ren the Unclean**

- His tapping effect does not target anything [CoE 6]. If you tap Ren the Unclean, then you cannot play resources to aid your character’s corruption checks. Your characters may tap in support [CRF].
- The moving player makes corruption checks first. Each player decides the order of the corruption checks for their characters [CRF].





### Rescue Prisoners

- *Card Erratum:* This cards gives 2 marshalling points, not 3. Add “*You receive the marshalling points for this card only when it is stored.*” [CRF].

### Returned Beyond All Hope

- Gives Kill MPs [CoE 110].
- *Returned Beyond All Hope* “un-eliminates” a hazard creature, allowing any manifestation of that character to be played [CRF].
- This card may target creatures still in play as trophies [CRF].

### Revealed to All Watchers

- Is not stopped by *Bane of the Ithil-stone*, as drawing cards is different from searching/looking [CoE]. Note that *Bane of the Ithil-stone* does not stop you from looking at a person’s hand.

### Rhosgobel (Fallen Wizard)

- *Card Erratum:* Remove “*A company moving to or from Rhosgobel is not considered to be moving through Southern Mirkwood (including one less Dark-domain in their site path.)*” [CRF]

### Rhosgobel (Hero version)

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “*Healing cards...*” with “*Healing effects...*” [CRF].

### Ride Against The Enemy

- Hazards have no effect on the attack, and any resource effects that benefit the attack are cancelled. The attack may still be cancelled [CRF].
- Only the benefit to the attack is canceled, not the benefit to other entities [CoE 32].
- You may not use a Wizard your opponent has played Sacrifice of Form on [CRF].
- The character gets any appropriate combat bonuses list on his card [CRF].
- You may not attack with a character if such would violate uniqueness rules [CoE 39].
- The character is brought into play. If the character gives a penalty when eliminated, such is applied to the attacker, including the defeat of an avatar if you have declared yourself as such [CoE 105].

### Ringlore

- *Card Erratum:* Add “*Playable only during the Site Phase. Tap the sage and the site.*” [CRF]

### The Ring’s Betrayal

- The ring must be chosen at time of declaration if the character bears more than one [CRF].

### River

- Because the *River* is played on a site, it won’t affect your opponent’s company if they end up sto-

pping at a site other than the one you played the *River* on [CoE 4].

**Editor’s Note:** It’s actually impossible to tap a Ranger to satisfy *River*. This is because you must tap a Ranger in “*a company that has moved to the site.*” The company has not successfully moved to the site until the Site Phase begins. Unfortunately, this is when the time limit for tapping a Ranger runs out.

- You have until the beginning of the Site Phase to tap a Ranger, and you may tap the Ranger at the beginning of the Site Phase without entering the site. You must tap one ranger for each *River* played on the site [CRF].

**Editor’s Note:** Which brings up the paradox of a card which prevents you from doing something allowing you to do something that not only it, but also the rules prevent you from doing. This makes it at least theoretically possible to tap a Ranger, but only at the start of the site phase, and even then, this could be read as preventing you from entering the site anyway. I personally believe this card is a mess.

- You can tap a Ranger that has not moved to the site yet [CoE 73].

**Editor’s Note:** Not that the card text supports this. Nor does the CRF actually state this. If we support that you can tap a Ranger that will have potentially moved to the site by the Site Phase, then tapping any Ranger in any company will satisfy the requirements of a *River*, just as you can currently play a *River* on any site because a company may potentially move there.

### Roïc the Raven

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “*...no modifications to the influence check are required.*” with “*...treat this influence check as if it was made by a diplomat.*” [CRF]
- His special ability may only be used during the Site Phase [CRF].
- He can make the attempt by himself [CRF].
- Using this ally to make an influence attempt does not tap a site, and may be done if his company is at a tapped site [CRF].

### Rolled Down to the Sea

- Discarding is not playing, so *Whispers of Rings/Rumours of Rings* cannot be used to satisfy *Rolled Down to the Sea* [Van 581].
- Will discard any Ring Item (see *Glossary of Terms* section) [CoE 4].

### Rumor of Wealth

- Can be played on-guard [CRF].

**Rumor of the One**

- Does not modify the MP value of cards that have no MP value (*i.e.* Mind Rings), but if a Ring Item is worth 0 MPs, it will modify that value [CoE 110].

**Ruse**

- If *Ruse* is played by a scout who is the only character in the company, the attack has no effect. If there is a creature card it is discarded. The attack is considered faced but not canceled [CRF].

**Sable Shield**

- A bearer who did not tap while facing a strike will not tap if the strike is successful [CRF].
- A detainment strike will not discard the *Sable Shield* [CRF].

**Sack Over the Head**

- Affects any Hobbit or Dwarf wounded by the attack, not just those wounded by the Troll [CRF].

**Sacrifice of Form**

- Cannot be used in company versus company combat [CRF].
- Card Erratum:* Replace "...-3 to any body checks..." with "...+3 to any body checks..." [CRF]
- After *Sacrifice of Form* is played, you may not play a different Wizard and your opponent may not play the Wizard you sacrificed [CRF].
- This card is played after strikes are assigned [CRF].
- Your opponent may not reveal the avatar you used *Sacrifice of Form* on [CoE 56].
- Followers are also discarded, as these are controlled by the Wizard [CoE 57].
- Discarding the Wizard is an active condition for the play of this card [CoE 110].

**Editor's Note:** Apparently, the NetRep team was going through a phase where they assumed that active conditions serve as the price of card play only. This is an official ruling, but is highly suspect, especially since if you discard the Wizard as an active condition, then there is no longer an attack against the Wizard's company when the card resolves, and it fizzles itself.

**Sauron**

- Does not allow you to discard more than one character per turn, nor does it allow you to both play and discard characters in a turn [CoE 51].

**Scorba at Home**

- Is not a source of corruption, but rather modifies the item's corruption [CoE 45].

**Secret Entrance**

- Can be played on a company that does not move [CRF].

**Secret Passage**

- Does not work if the site type changes [CRF].

**Seized by Terror**

- Requires a mind value and therefore will not work on Avatars [CoE 121].

**Sentinels of Númenor**

- Sentinels of Númenor will not give an extra marshalling point to Army of the Dead [CRF].

**Shadowfax**

- Card Erratum:* Replace "...an additional site card may be played and a additional Movement/Hazard Phase..." for "...an additional site card may be played and an additional Movement/Hazard Phase..." [CRF].
- Cannot use his special ability if another ally is in the company [CRF].

**Shadow of Mordor**

- If discarded after having increased the hazard limit and replayed, then the effect will be cumulative [CoE 11].
- Does not affect the hazard limit of the company during the Movement/Hazard Phase it is first played [CoE 15]. This obliquely contradicts CoE 11.
- Will apply to *Dark Tryst* if such is played during the Movement/Hazard Phase [CoE 72].

**Shifter of Hues**

- Radagast must be in play for the bonus to hand size and general influence to apply [CoE 67, CoE 92].

**Editor's Note:** The card's still one of the best stage cards in the game. Don't get too greedy!

**Siege**

- Card Erratum:* Change the Border-land symbol in the first line to a Border-hold symbol [CRF].
- Goes away when the site it was played on is discarded [CRF].
- If you move to a site with *Siege* played on it, any effect which can give you a second Movement/Hazard Phase that turn will allow you to avoid the effects of *Siege* [CRF].

**Silent Watcher**

- Card Erratum:* Gives 1 marshalling point, not 0. Add "*Pükel-creature.*" [CRF]

**Skinbark**

- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an automatic-attack, or hazard keyed to his site [CRF].



**Slayer**

- *Card Erratum:* Gives 2 marshalling points, not 0. Add “*Slayer.*” [CRF].
- Only one attack can be canceled by tapping a character. [CRF].
- All of the strikes will go against the same character [CRF].

**Sly Southerner**

- This is a two mind character [CRF].

**Something Has Slipped**

- If the company splits, the hazard player decides which company gets the hazard [CoE 50].

**Smaug**

- Says “*Attacker chooses defending character.*” Please read this as “*Attacker chooses defending characters.*” [CoE 60].

**Snaga-Hai**

- Can be influenced at any site they can be played at [CRF].

**Sneakin’**

- Will still affect the company if its size rises above two after resolution [CRF].

**So You’ve Come Back**

- If two companies join, and both companies have a *So You’ve Come Back* played on them, the hazard player chooses which one to discard [CRF].
- A character in a company with just allies is by himself for the purposes of this card [CRF].

**Something Has Slipped**

- The -2 applies for each character that is wounded [CRF].



- Wounding an ally triggers this card [CRF].
- You cannot “become wounded” if you are already wounded before the strike [CRF].

**Spider of the Mòrlat**

- It is legal to use the “back to hand” ability of this card and replay in order to have a company face two attacks, provided there is hazard limit available [CoE 11].
- Spider attacks from *Spider of the Mòrlat* played as a permanent-event are considered detainment vs. minion companies [CRF].

**Spying Out the Land**

- Cards do not have memory of how they were played, or revealed in this instance. Therefore, an opponent may play as many copies of a revealed card as they are able to get in their hand [CoE 3].

**Editor’s Note:** The rule was misquoted here, which throws the whole conclusion onto a dubious foundation. The actual rule is “*Cards in the discard pile do not remember how they were played*” [CRF].

**Squint-Eyed Brute**

- This is a two mind character [CRF].

**Staff Asunder**

- Wizard’s Staff is discarded, so its prowess modification does not apply [CoE 67].

**Star of High Hope**

- Does not affect attacks [CRF]. Read that as does not affect hazards [CoE].

**Stay Her Appetite**

- *Card Erratum:* Change “*plus two*” to “*plus five.*” [CRF].
- There is no known way to defeat detainment attacks [CoE 82].
- If *Stay Her Appetite* is played on an ally with no prowess, there is no attack, but all other affects of the card apply [CRF].

**Stealth**

- Prevents the revealing of a creature on-guard [CRF].

**Stone of Erech**

- May be played if any player’s *Men of Lamedon* faction is in play [CoE 32].

**Strider**

- May not be revealed during an influence attempt to reduce *Aragorn II*’s mind to 0 and vice versa [CoE 5, on the authority of *Ichabod as witnessed*

once by Josh Grace, reaffirmed by CoE 37].

- The replacement may be done any time during your turn and does not count against the one character per turn limit as per the logic of *A Chance Meeting* [CoE 14].

**Editor's Note:** *Strider* does not contain the word "replace" or "replacement." *Strider* is not an event, he is a character. So is *Aragorn II*. The logic of *A Chance Meeting*, such as it is, does not apply here. This ruling is incorrect.

- *Aragorn II* comes into play unwounded and untapped [CoE 118].

### Sudden Call

- Is not restricted from being played in any part of the turn [CoE 43].
- You may not shuffle *Sudden Call* into your deck while you are drawing cards. Drawing cards is an indivisible action [CRF].

### Summons from Long Sleep

- *Card Erratum:* Change "When the reserved creature is played, another Dragon or Drake may be reserved" to "Discard this card after the reserved creature attacks." [CRF]
- If you remove this card in a chain of effects before the action of playing the creature from the card resolves, then both the creature and the card are discarded [CoE 2].
- No, the card is discarded, but the creature still attacks [CoE 45].

**Editor's Note:** There was apparently a long discussion about this. I'm not sure what the reasoning is that overturned the previous ruling, which seems fairly logical.

- If there is no attack, for whatever reason, *Summons from Long Sleep* is not discarded [CoE 45].
- Reserving the creature does not count against the hazard limit [CRF].

### Sun

- If *Gates of Morning* is in play, the prowess of each Dúnanad is modified by +2 total [CoE 16].
- Does not affect attacks [CRF]. See *Star of High Hope*.

### Swarm of Bats

- Does not help an attacking company in company vs. company combat [CRF].

### Taladhan

- As an agent, if detainment, defending characters

are not tapped [CoE 72].

### The Arkenstone (Minion version)

- *Card Erratum* (minion version): Change "...and all cards he controls" to "...and all non-follower cards he controls." [CRF].



### The Balance of Things

- The resource player chooses which corruption source will be doubled for each corruption check he makes [CoE 49].
- *The Balance of Things* may be revealed as an on-guard card so long as at least one character in the company during whose site phase *The Balance of Things* is revealed carries at least one corruption source [CRF].

### The Balrog

- Makes a company overt [CRF].

### The Evenstar

- Can be played even if there are no Wildernesses in play [CRF].
- Does not affect hazards [CRF, CoE].

### The Fortress of Isen

- *Card Erratum:* Remove "A company moving to or from Isengard is not considered to be moving through Gap of Isen (including one less Border-land in their site path)" [CRF].

### The Great Hunt

- Ignore restrictions on the creature's cards regarding what kind of companies they can normally attack [CoE 38].
- Is prevented by *Bane of the Ithil-Stone* [CoE 38].
- You may discard the Great Hunt in the Orga-





nization Phase and play another copy [CoE 38].

- If you reveal a unique creature that cannot be played because of uniqueness, the creature does not attack, but does count against the maximum creature limit [CoE 39].

### **The Hunt**

- You may not take notes with pen and paper or other means to remember which creatures your opponent has revealed [CoE 1].



### **The Ithil Stone**

- May be played by a minion player. The roll is part of the normal play requirements [CoE 10].

### **The Moon Is Dead**

- If you defeat the first automatic-attack, the second one is removed; you do not have to face it [CoE 43].

### **The Old Thrush**

- *Card Erratum:* Add “Cannot be duplicated on a given attack” [CRF].
- Cannot be used against agents, since none of them have a listed prowess of 13 or greater [CRF].

### **The One Ring**

- Can be used multiple times in a turn if the corruption checks are successful [CRF].
- “Starting prowess” refers to the prowess printed on the character card [CRF].
- If the bearer is a Ringwraith, *The One Ring* does not provide corruption to the characters in the company [CRF].
- Cannot be played after a test from storing a gold ring [CRF].

- A Hero player may play the minion version of *The One Ring* and vice versa upon a successful ring test. In this case, *The One Ring*’s additional corruption point ability is ignored, as it is a special ability of the card [CoE 1]. Note that since Hero players cannot use Minion Items as conditions for their resources (and vice versa), you cannot obtain a One Ring victory when using a *The One Ring* of the opposite alignment.

### **The Pale Sword**

- The corruption is received immediately following the attack [CRF].
- You must control both *The Pale Sword* and the Nazgûl it is played on [CRF].

### **The White Tree**

- You may not use your opponent’s stored *Sapling of the White Tree* because this card targets the Sapling by discarding it [CoE 33].

### **They Ride Together**

- You still can’t have a company size greater than seven outside of a haven, so only seven Ringwraiths at any given time will actually be riding together [CRF, CoE 97].
- Followers played by means of this card are in addition to the one character per turn limitation [CoE 110].

### **Thing Stolen**

- Playing the item will tap the site if it is not already tapped [CRF].

### **Thong of Fire**

- The prowess requirement only applies when transferring or playing *Thong of Fire*, and includes modifications to the character’s prowess [CRF].

### **Thorough Search**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace “...to play any item normally found at its current site” with “...to play a minor, major, or gold ring item normally found at its current site.” [CRF]

### **Thrall of the Voice**

- Permits the play of an Orc or Troll character because it states that it is instead of a normal character for a Fallen Wizard [CoE 98, clarified by editor].
- Does not allow starting with a character that specifies it may not be in the starting company [CRF].

### **Threats**

- This card is not cumulative because the modifier is used instead of the normal modifiers [CoE 18].
- For this card, your prowess is calculated when it resolves [CRF].

**Thror's Map**

- Requires a site with a Dragon automatic-attack, not a hoard site [CoE 110].

**Tidings of Bold Spies**

- If used on an At Home attack, the attack created is considered an At Home attack [CoE 102].
- Nevertheless, defeating it does not defeat the At Home dragon [CoE 120].

**Editor's Note:** Makes no sense to me, either.

- *Tidings of Bold Spies* only copies attacks, not effects that allow certain creatures to become automatic-attacks [CRF].

**Tolfalas**

- *Card Erratum:* Should read: "Playable: Items (minor, major, greater\*) \*Scroll of Isildur only." [CRF]

**Tookish Blood**

- May not be played to prevent an influence attempt because resources are not normally playable on your opponent's turn [CoE 17].
- A Minion player may not include this card as a resource in his decks [CoE 53].

**Tom Bombadil**

- *Card Erratum:* Change "...that targets a company..." to "...that targets a company, or an entity associated with a company..." [CRF].

**Traitor**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace the last paragraph with "This card is discarded when a character fails his corruption check." [CRF]
- The prowess of the attack is its "normal" prowess for the purposes of cards that consider such [CoE 17].
- Extra strikes become -1 modifiers [CoE 103].

**Editor's Note:** Because of the timing rules on passive conditions, this erratum means that *Traitor* fizzles itself. Yet another point in favor of rewriting the timing rules entirely.

- Two instances in play of *Traitor* have no extra effect and are both discarded with the next failed corruption check [CRF].
- *Traitor* cannot be revealed as an on-guard card [CRF].
- This is an attack with the same race as the character attacking, and a normal prowess of ten plus

the character's prowess [CRF].

- Characters facing a *Traitor* when it is not their turn may not play resources, but may still tap for full prowess [CRF].

**Treason the Greatest Foe**

- The roll is not an influence check; effects which affect an influence check will have no effect [CoE 110].

**Treebeard**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace "Redhorn Gap" with "Redhorn Gate." [CRF]
- May tap to give +1 prowess to another character facing an automatic-attack, or hazard keyed to his site [CRF].

**Trouble On All Borders**

- Affects all companies [CoE 62].

**True Fána**

- Cannot be used in company versus company combat [CRF].
- The prowess of the Wizard is modified by weapons as well as any other relevant modifiers [CoE 13].
- May only be used before strikes are assigned [CoE 29].
- Items that affect the body of the attack affect the body of the strikes if the strikes fail [CoE 29]. Note that items that affect the body of an individual strike will not have an effect, but any resulting body check rolls may be targeted by effects which would alter the body/body check.
- Combat modifiers that modify prowess only against a strike do not count when determining the Wizard's prowess [CRF].
- When this spell is used against an agent, the agent does not receive the two 6-sided dice bonus [CRF].

**Twilight**

- *Card Erratum:* Add "This card may be played at any time during any player's turn." [CRF]
- May be played as a resource or hazard and included as either for deck construction, but remains a hazard card for purposes such as recycling [CoE 51].
- Can target a card that has not yet resolved [CRF].
- Can be played as a resource during your opponent's turn [CRF].

**"Two-Headed" Troll**

- Makes a company overt [CRF].

**Umagaur the Pale**

- Any hazard creatures played using the ability of *Umagaur the Pale* need not be keyed to anything and are in fact not keyed to anything [CoE 5].





### Unabated In Malice

- When combined with *Tidings of Bold Spies*, you must cancel the Tidings attack twice, and this does not affect the original *Unabated in Malice* card [CoE 61, CoE 103].

**Editor's Note:** Yes, you can force an opponent to blow four cancelers for one against the hazard limit. This is another one you might want to petition the CoE to do something about.

### The Under-Galleries

- You cannot play *Morannon* at The Under-galleries. However, you can play *Ancient Stair* from *Morannon*, move to The Under-galleries, and zip back to *Morannon* at the end of the turn [CRF].

### The Worthy Hills (Minion version)

- Since this site never taps, no free minor items may be played here [CRF].
- The Worthy Hills effect of not tapping does not interfere with the satisfying of active conditions [CRF].



### Under His Blow

- Nullifies detainment strikes [CoE 107].
- Oh, no it doesn't [CoE 113]. *Under his blow* only prevents the -3 penalty for not tapping to face a strike.

### Unhappy Blows

- The player selects character(s) whose total mind equals or exceeds the discard requirement [Van, 585].
- This includes selecting zero characters [CoE 81].

### Use Palantír

- Card Erratum:** Replace the full text to the following: "Sage only. Tap sage to enable him to use one Palantír he bears until the end of turn" [CRF].

### Use Your Legs

- All strikes by the entire company count for capturing Hobbits [CRF].
- The characters placed off to the side are not considered prisoners for MP purposes [CRF].

### Usriev of Treachery

- You may not use this item to assign a third strike to the character [CRF].

### Veils Flung Away

- Card Erratum:** Each body check is modified by -1, not +1 [CRF].

### Vilya

- Card Erratum:** Vilya should now read: "Playable on Elrond only. +4 prowess, +2 body, +6 direct influence until the end of the turn. If Elrond is at Rivendell and your play deck has at least 5 cards in it, you may take 3 resource cards of your choice from your discard pile and shuffle them into your play deck. Elrond makes a corruption check modified by -3. Cannot be duplicated on a given turn" [CRF].

### Voices of Malice

- May be played during the site phase by a character in another company, as if he were in the company resolving their Site Phase [CRF].

### We Have Come To Kill

- We have Come to Kill can't be used to bring in a Ringwraith. The restriction applies that you must be at the site [Van 585].

**Editor's Note:** This ruling came in response to a question about bringing in your Ringwraith. Therefore it is uncertain whether the restriction applies to Ringwraith followers, which do require influence to control.

Even those who maintain that it will allow you to bring in Ringwraith followers say that there must first be the ability to play Ringwraith followers. Thus, there is at least some basis to the idea that *A Chance Meeting/We Have Come to Kill* are only playable when character play is otherwise allowed. These cards are debated on a regular basis. See also *Bringing Characters Into Play* section and the rulings on *A Chance Meeting* and *Old Road*.

- You can exceed your influence [CoE 57].
  - » *Whoops*; no, you can't [CRF, CoE 58].
- Fallen Wizards can bring in orcs and trolls with this card [CoE 63].



**Editor's Note:** This is incorrect. Fallen Wizards may not play orcs or trolls without an appropriate card. *We Have Come to Kill* is not one of these. If we accept that *We Have Come to Kill* can be used to play Orcs and Trolls regardless of the rules for Fallen Wizard character play, we must also accept that it can be used to bring in 9-minders.

- Can be used to play *Fram Framson* [CoE 63].
- Can bring in Hobbits if you're a Fallen Wizard [CoE 63].

**Editor's Note:** *We Have Come to Kill* lacks the inclusive phrase that *A Chance Meeting* has, but at the same time directly affects the site requirement of character play. In the case of card vs. card (as opposed to card vs. rule), it can be difficult to decide; the NetRep came down on the side of *We Have Come to Kill* winning.

### Were-Worm

- Wounding an ally discards an item. (CRF)

### Where There's a Whip

- Only characters with a mind and prowess less than the *Whip* bearer's will untap. (CRF)
- The body check will discard Orcs and Trolls. (CRF)

### Whispers of Rings

- You may start with two. Each card allows you to bring one ring from the sideboard in the Organization Phase [Van 588].

### White Mountains

- The "otherwise" on this card should be read as "alternatively" [CRF].

### The White Tree

- *Card Erratum:* Add "Discard the Sapling of the White Tree" [CRF].

### Will of Sauron

- Long-events are only discarded if *Will of Sauron* ceases to be in play, not if one particular copy leaves play [CRF].

### Will Shaken

- Once in your opponent's marshalling point pile, this card may not be targeted by any effects which discard hazard permanent-events. It may only be discarded as outlined on the card itself [CoE 24].
- Is overcome by effects which force the discard of the revealed card [CoE 74].
- Gives Miscellaneous MPs [CoE 110].

### The Windlord Found Me

- *Card Erratum:* Add "If you do not place this card

with a character after the attack, discard it."

- Can be used to recover a Wizard discarded with *Sacrifice of Form* [CRF].
- You can play your Wizard at the Haven when you store this card even if *Saw Further and Deeper* is in play [CRF].

### Winged Change Master

- Only affects *Radagast* when using region movement [CRF].

**Editor's Note:** The intent is to clarify that you may not move to/from Under-deeps sites with the card. *Winged Change Master's* movement is Special Movement, not Region Movement.



### Wit

- Only modifies one roll, not rerolls [CoE 120].

### The Witch-King

- May only play Ringwraith followers through his special ability during the organization phase [Van 585].

### Witch-King of Angmar

- Although he becomes a long-event when tapped, he is discarded when the effect resolves just like other Nazgûl. The long-event effect will remain until the appropriate time [CRF].

### Withdrawn to Mordor

- To discard an on-guard card with Withdrawn to Mordor you must do so before the card is revealed [CRF].
- The "playable on ..." conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

**Withered Lands**

- If Morgul Night is already in play, its effect has already been applied to the site path; Withered Lands will create two Wildernesses, not two Shadow-lands [CoE 46].

**Wizard's Laughter**

- *Card Erratum:* Change "Wizard only" to "Wizard only during opponent's Site Phase." [CRF]

**Wizard's Myrmidon**

- Can be played with another card, like *Squire of the Hunt*, that reduces the influence required to control the character. Use the lower number to control the character [CRF].

**Wizard's Ring**

- *Card Erratum:* Replace "Ignore any effect that would discard this item" with "Cannot be stored, stolen, or transferred." [CRF]
- This is not a ring item [CRF].
- No, really. This is not a ring item [CoE 13].

**Wizard's Trove**

- Does not allow you to store cards that may not normally be stored [CoE 51].
- Since the text of *The White Tree* is ignored, *The White Tree* is not Unique when played by means of *Wizard's Trove* [CoE 63]. Keep in mind that it is still Unique for the purposes of deck construction

[CoE 64].

- Never mind, *The White Tree* is still unique [CoE 65].
- *The White Tree* does not discard *Sapling of the White Tree* if used with the playability clause of *Wizard's Trove* [CoE 65].

**Wolf-Riders**

- The "Playable on..." conditions of the first paragraph do not apply to the second paragraph [CRF].

**Wolves**

- *Card Erratum:* Change "Animals" to "Wolves." [CRF]

**Wondrous Maps**

- As long as a character is at the site, a company may move to and from the site [CoE 56].

**World Gnawed By The Nameless**

- Returns to your hand before you resolve hand size [CoE 43].

**Woses of the Eryn Vorn (Minion version)**

- *Card erratum:* Change "Man faction" to "Wose faction." [CRF]

**Wound Of Long Burden**

- The body penalty will resolve before the dice-rolling action of the strike [CoE 60].