

A Bolters at Dawn Narrative Crusade League
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Rulebook | Version 1.0.9

"I MAY DIE BY YOUR HAND TODAY, BUT TOMORROW, YOU WILL PERISH BY MINE,"

- Dalla Alinor, moments before her death.







THE HIVE WAR

The Hive War takes place on Hive World Stygian Secundus. This was once a feudal civilization, until many millennia ago, it was discovered that the planet was rich with resources. The excessive mining, resource gathering, and extraction polluted the planet beyond repair.

The Imperium constructed a number of Hive Cities towering over the vast ore fields, water reclamation plants, and many other valuable resources still left to harvest in the name of the Emperor.

Industry yielded horrid results. The oceans turned black and toxic. The once lush fields and forests are now barren wastelands. The very air was a poisonous fume. For thousands of years, the Hive Cities shut their inhabitants in, left to fend for their own.

Hunger fueled civil wars. The cities fell to the brutal underhive gangs that rose up and took control of the upper spires over generations. Though some resisted. Some cities offer their allegiance to the Emperor even still. Others grew corrupt and turned to the gods of Chaos for survival. A few even experimented with warp energies that brought otherworldly factions into their Hive.

But in time, nature gives way to the outside world. And on Stygian Secundus, every Hive City stands alone. The coming war is inevitable. The starved pit in your stomach grows wrathful. You are among the lucky nobles who have risen to power. The engines of war burn and spark with bloodlust.



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INTRODUCTION

Hive war is a Narrative
Crusade League that spans
over the course of
multiple months, dividing
players among three
factions to wage war
against one another in an
effort to defeat and
dominate your opponents.

The following rules give you everything you need to be successful in this league. It is important to read this rulebook thoroughly to understand how to participate in the league, and develop a strategy with your faction to win the league.

Performance and victory on the battlefield will only take you so far. You will need strategy, resource management, and teamwork to overcome your opponents. Throughout this document, important information will be bolded for easy reference. In addition, useful information will be pinned to the #the_hive_war channel on the Bolters at Dawn Discord channel.

In the end, the faction with the most **Domination**Points (DP) will gain a significant advantage in the final match of the game, to take place at this year's BOLTERCON in November.

CRUSADE RULES:

This game system is layered on top of 9th Edition Crusade rules. Some Crusade rules limitations do apply, and are defined in a later section.

If you have not read the Crusade Rules in the Core Rulebook, you should do so before proceeding further in this rulebook.



SETUP

The three main elements of the league consists of the following:

- 1. The TacMap
- 2. Crusade Roster
- 3. Warhammer Matches

The following sections will describe each of the three main elements and their role in the league.

THE TACMAP

The TacMap represents the ruined lands you will wage war against your opponents. It displays current control status for every Location (•) on Stygian Secundus. This is your strategic view of where everyone stands in the league. This is accessible by visiting the league website.

CRUSADE ROSTER

If you are familiar with Crusade, then you are familiar with the Crusade Roster. This roster determines your available units that can be deployed into battle, and tracks their experience, battle honors, scars from ruthless battle, and other

unique information. This league will use Administratum to track all players' Crusade Rosters.

WARHAMMER MATCHES

Each cycle, you will participate in a number of matches determined by decisions all factions make on the TacMap. All matches will be played with custom Hive War missions, in a matched play format, using your Crusade Roster to deploy forces into battle.

COMMAND LIMIT:

Your Command Limit

determines the limit of
points your roster can
play in any given match.
Rosters must use Crusade
Cards. Your Command
Limit increases
automatically, on a set
schedule (See Schedule).



STARTING THE LEAGUE

REGISTER

At the beginning of the league, you must register to participate by signing up through the sign up post pinned to the #the_hive_war Discord channel. This includes your full name, faction, army, and Administratum username.

ELECT A SPIREMASTER

Once signups are complete, each faction will elect a single **Spiremaster**. The Spiremaster is responsible for submitting actions each cycle, assigning players to battles, and rallying their faction to victory.

CREATE ROSTER ON ADMINISTRATUM

Each player is responsible for managing their own

Crusade Roster on

Administratum. Reference useful links, or check the pins on Discord for directions and instructions for registering on Administratum.

Each player's Command Limit will automatically

increase with each cycle.
The following Command
Limits are the limit for
each cycle:

- 1. 625
- 2. 750
- 3. 1000
- 4. 1250
- 5. 1500
- 6. 2000
- 7. 2000

Additionally, your Order of Battle supply limit is initially set to 2000, and can be raised through other means using Requisitions described in a later section.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

No faction-specific
Requisitions may be used
to increase supply
limits. Supply Limits
are always determined by
the current cycle, and
may not be modified in
any other manner.

NAME YOUR HIVE CITY

Each faction should collectively pick a dope ass name for their Hive City, and report this name to the League Master.

SELECT STARTING LOCATIONS

All Spiremasters roll 1D6. Starting with the highest result, the Spiremasters choose from one of the following starting Locations (•) on the TacMap.

THE CROWN:



Starting Locations:
The Crown, Frozen lake,
Ore Fields, Landbridge,
Road, Bay

These Locations always have the "Freezing Winds" keyword.

DEADLANDS:



Starting Locations:

Deadlands, Isle, Hills,

Coast, Ridge, Cave

These Locations always have the "Blistering Sandstorm" keyword.

RIVERLANDS:



Starting Locations:
Riverlands, Cliffs,
Overlook, River, Delta,
High Plains

These Locations always have the "Eternal Swamp" keyword.

SELECT A HIDDEN TACOPS OBJECTIVE

Each faction should collectively select from one of the following Hidden TacOps Objectives. This objective may only be completed once throughout the entire league. You only get one, so pick carefully!

announce this publicly and immediately increase the Domination Points shown on the DP tracker.

DOMINATION:

Control 4 Supply Caches (\mathfrak{G}) at the end of a cycle.

Reward: 20 DP

BLITZ:

Capture 4 new Locations (●) in one cycle.

Reward: 15 DP

ASSAULT:

Have 4 Forward
Operating Bases (A)
Locations at the end of a cycle.

Reward: 10 DP

Once chosen, report the choice to the League

Once the Hidden TacOps conditions have been met,

SELECT A STARTING BONUS

Each faction should collectively select from one of the following starting bonuses. Only one bonus may be selected.

Once your starting bonus is chosen, report the choice to the League Master.

DIG IN:

Pick a starting
Location (●) your
faction currently
controls. You may use
the Forward Operating
Base (♠) action without
spending Requisition
points. Use at the start
of the league.

SCOUT:

Pick a starting
Location (•) your
faction currently
controls. You may use
the Raise Comms Tower
action (*A*) twice at the
start of the league
without spending
Requisition points.

STOCKPILE:

Your faction starts the league with 6 Requisition points (instead of 0).



GAMEPLAY

Each cycle will last a total of one month. Each cycle is played in the following phases:

- 1. Choose Actions
- 2. Generate Matches
- 3. Play Matches
- 4. Score Domination Points
- 5. Play Recon Missions
- 6. Update Administratum
- 7. Transfer Requisition Points
- 8. Use Requisitions

CHOOSE ACTIONS

At the beginning of each cycle, before any matches may be played, each Spiremaster must work with their faction to determine their 4 (+1 if highest generated Intel last cycle) secret Attack Actions and 1-2 Bonus Actions.

These actions must be submitted to the League Master by the cycle's Action Deadline.

GENERATE MATCHES

Once all factions have submitted their actions, a list of games will be generated depending on how each faction chose to perform their actions by the League Master.

Matches are played at a specific Location on the TacMap, depending on the Attack Actions performed by the factions involved.

PLAY MATCHES

All matches generated must be played. Each match's mission is determined by the type of inter-faction encounter.

SCORE DOMINATION POINTS

Your faction earns DPs equal to the number of Locations you currently control. You score DPs for controlling Locations even if they do not have an active Supply Line.

PLAY RECON MISSIONS

If, for any reason, a player was unable to play two matches this cycle, this player must play a Recon Mission against another player from a different faction. Recon missions do not affect the TacMap in any way. Roll to determine the mission played in The Hive War mission pack.

The winner of this match gains 1 Intel for their faction.

UPDATE ADMINISTRATUM

Update your Administratum roster with the matches you played.

TRANSFER REQUISITION POINTS

Once all matches are completed for the cycle, all earned Requisition Points should transfer to the Spiremaster.

USE REQUISITIONS

Working with your Spiremaster, all players in a faction should discuss where to allocate their Requisition Points at the end of each cycle.

SUPPLY LINES:

A Location has an active Supply Line if it can connect continuously through friendly Locations back to your Hive City.



THE TACMAP

The TacMap consists of 25 interlinked Locations, varying on control, Location traits, and crafted bonuses from bonus actions.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

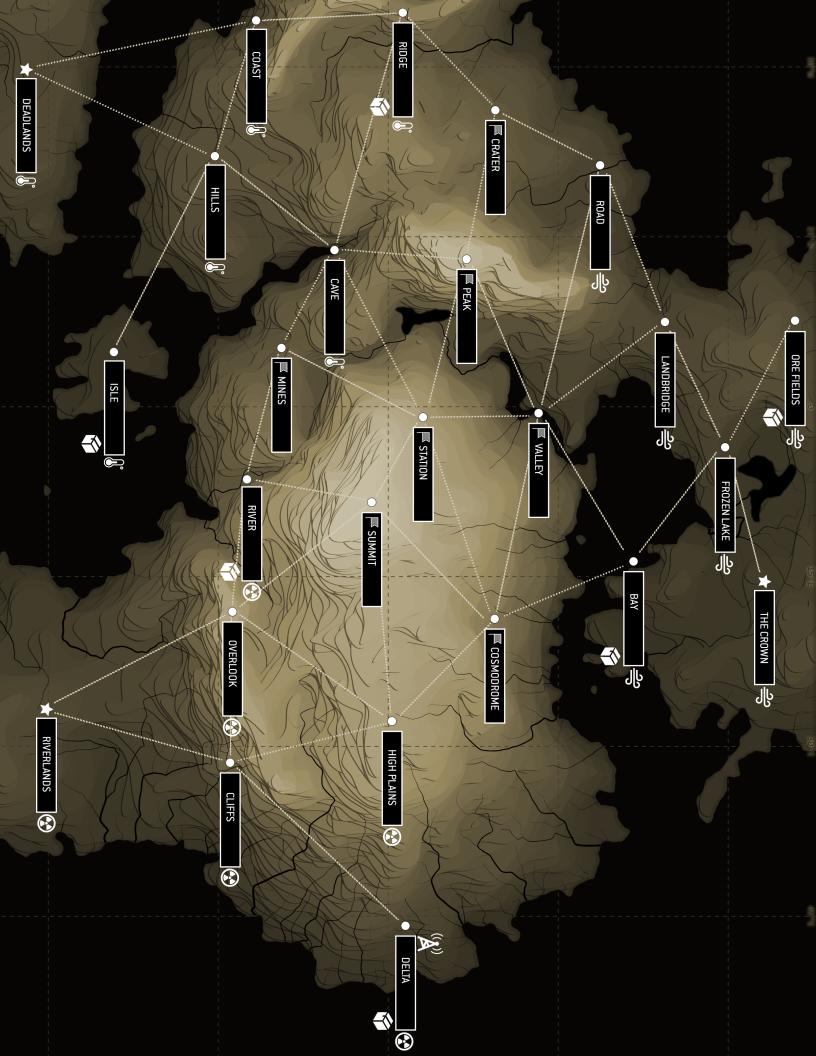
You may only attack from a Location you control that has an active Supply Line.

The TacMap can be viewed live on the league website, and will update twice per cycle (once when matches are completed, and once when actions have been submitted).

You will find various icons shown on the TacMap. Use the following legend to determine what this information entails:

- 1. Supply Cache Generate
 1 additional RP per cycle
 for each Supply Cache you
 control with a Supply Line
 at the end of each cycle.
- 2. A Comms Tower See Bonus Actions.
- 3. A Forward Operating Base Receive one Advantage Tally for matches to or from that Location.

- 4. Uncontested This location is not owned by any faction.
- 5. Faction Icons The corresponding faction currently controls this Location.
- 6. > Attacks Attack arrows display the number of attacks coming from each Location, and directing towards its target Location.
- 7. ★ Hive City Each
 Faction's Hive City. You
 cannot lose this Location!
- 8. O Location Marks a Location on the TacMap.
- 9.
 ➡ Freezing Winds All models subtract 1" to Advance and Charge rolls when playing Matches in a Location inflicted by Freezing Winds.
- 10. Eternal Swamp All models over 10 wounds that do not have fly subtract 2" movement when playing Matches in a Location inflicted by Eternal Swamp.
- 11. Blistering Sandstorm The command reroll
 stratagem costs 2 CP when
 playing Matches in a
 Location inflicted by
 Blistering Sandstorm.
- 12. T Stronghold Advantage when defending, or attacking from, this Location (no exceptions).





ACTIONS

ATTACK ACTION

At the start of every cycle, your faction must secretly use 4 (+1 if Intel winner) Attack Actions.

These actions simulate your armies mustering forces from one of your controlled Locations and attacking enemy territory.

You must always attack from a Location you control, and that Location must have an active Supply Line. Isolated Locations your faction controls may need to defend against enemy attacks, but you cannot attack from this Location.

ATTACK LIMIT:

When attacking from a location to another location, only two attack actions may be played along the same location connection path from your team in the same cycle.

ATTACK ACTION SCENARIOS

The following describes various scenarios for how

Attack Actions get resolved into Matches:

SCENARIO 1:

If you attack a
Location, the match will
be played at that
Location. Defender is
automatically assigned
to the target Location.
If you lose, you do not
lose the Location you
attacked from.



EXAMPLE: Xenos is the defender, and the Match is played at Mines.

SCENARIO 2:

If you attack a
Location that is also
attacking the Location
you are attacking from,
the attack is resolved
in the defender's
Location. The defender
automatically plays as
the defender in that
match. Two matches are
played. If one faction
wins both games, they
win the targeted
Location.



EXAMPLE: Xenos is attacking Cave from Mines. Chaos is attacking Mines from Cave. Chaos plays as the attacker for the match in mines. Xenos plays as the attacker for the match in Cave.

SCENARIO 3:

If two factions attack the same neutral Location, two matches are played in that neutral Location. Attacker/Defender is rolled off between the players, and an "Uncontested Mission" from the Mission Pack is played.



EXAMPLE: Xenos and Chaos attack Mines. Two matches are played at Mines.

SCENARIO 4 - UNCONTESTED VICTORY:

When attacking a
Location that is
uncontrolled, and no
attacks from another
faction are made into
that same Location, you
automatically gain
control of that
Location.



EXAMPLE: Xenos automatically wins Mines.

ADDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

BREAKING TIES:

In the event of a tie, tiebreak by the sum of both games' Victory Points. If VPs are tied, there is no change in control.

STACKING ATTACKS:

Your faction may choose to attempt to overwhelm a Location with two attacks.

If the number of
Attack Actions performed
by your faction exceeds
the total number of
Attack Actions the enemy
faction attacks against
you (to and from the
same Location), gain 1
Advantage Tally when
resolving those Matches.

For each Attack Action, a match must be played.



EXAMPLE: Xenos gets 1 Advantage Tally in all three matches.

THREE FACTION CONFLICTS

There may be circumstances where all three factions get involved in combat over a single Location.

All Attacks only demand a match against the target Location's current faction. Each match is resolved the same way.

However, contested Locations are broken by following the BREAKING TIES rules.

In the event that three factions fight over an uncontested Location, each attack must be resolved against both factions (1 attack = 2 matches, one against each faction). The Location is controlled by the faction with the most victories, or using the BREAKING TIES rules. All matches must play from the "Uncontested Missions" in the Mission Pack.

BONUS ACTIONS

You may use up to 2 Bonus Actions per cycle (or one EXPEDITE action). The following Bonus Actions are available to you:

EXPEDITE

Free:

Double the Requisition Points generated from one Supply Cache this turn.

If you use this Bonus Action, you cannot use any other Bonus Action this cycle. Limit once per cycle.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE 7(+2) Requisition Points:

Build an FOB (A) at a friendly Location that has an active Supply Line. FOBs grant 1 Advantage Tally when defending, or attacking from, that Location.

FOBs are destroyed when you lose control of a Location.

The RP cost of this Bonus Action increases by 2 for every friendly FOB on the TacMap.

CONSTRUCT COMMS TOWER 4 (+2) Requisition

Points: Place a Comms Tower at a friendly Location that has an active Supply Line.

Gain 2 additional
Command Points (CP) at
the start of any Match
played adjacent to a
Location with a friendly
Comms Tower (including
its own Location). This
bonus does not stack.

Comms Towers are destroyed when you lose control of a Location.

The RP cost of this Bonus Action increases by 2 for every friendly Comms Tower on the TacMap.

TRAIN RECRUITS

2 Requisition Points:

Increase a single player's Supply Limit by 300 points.

DEFCON WAAGH

points.

5 Requisition Points: Increase all friendly Supply Limits by 100

AT DAWN, LOOK TO THE EAST

9 Requisition Points:
Once all matches in a cycle have been revealed, select one friendly Location you are defending. You can add a Fortification model to your roster from your Crusade Force for free in all matches played at that Location for the remainder of that cycle.

STRONGHOLD

15 Requisition Points:

Place a Stronghold at a friendly Location on the TacMap with an active supply line.

When resolving defensive matches at this Location, you always have advantage (regardless of Advantage Tally or Supply Lines).

Strongholds are destroyed when you lose control of a Location.

You may only have one friendly Stronghold on the map at any given time.

GAINING ADVANTAGE

There are various ways to gain an Advantage Tally on your opponent for a specific battle, either through Attack Actions or creating FOBs at a Location.

- 1. When defending, or attacking from, a friendly Location with a FOB (\$\hat{\Lambda}\$), gain 1 Advantage Tally.
- 2. If you Attack an enemy Location with more Attack Actions than they Attack your source Location (●), gain 1 Advantage Tally.
- 4. When attacking from your Hive City, you always have advantage.

The faction with the highest Advantage Tally in a Location's conflict gains Advantage in that match. Advantage determines what mission type is played. See the Hive War Mission Pack for more details.

Advantage Tallies reset at the end of every cycle.

NO ADVANTAGE:

When both Factions involved in a match do not have Advantage, the mission and deployment zones must be selected randomly from the missions labeled "No Man's Land" in the Hive War Mission Pack.



REQUISITIONS

Requisition Points are shared across all players in a faction.

At the end of every cycle, report your Requisition Points generated to your Spiremaster. The Spiremaster should bank all of their faction's Requisition Points for future use. Each player should work with the Spiremaster to use their faction's Requisition Points as needed.

REQUISITION LIMITATIONS:

No Requisitions,
Stratagems, or other
Codex- or Crusadespecific rules may be
used that modify your
Supply Limit, unless
otherwise listed in this
document. All Command
Limits will
automatically increase
with each cycle.



SCORING

Your faction earns
Domination Points equal to
the number of Locations
you currently control. You
score DPs for controlling
Locations (•) even if they
do not have an active
Supply Line.

Domination Points at the end of all cycles will influence the final match played at BOLTERCON.

The faction who wins the final match will win the Crusade League.



SCHEDULEAll league schedule information in Adminstratum. Match regstration will be available by sign-up sheet at the start of each cycle, based on attack actions.



CRUSADE AND QT LIMITATIONS

Due to the modifications built within this Crusade League to improve on previous years, some limitations will be put in place for this year's Crusade League:

- 1. No Requisitions,
 Stratagems, or other Codexor Crusade-specific rules
 may be used that modify
 your Supply Limit, unless
 otherwise listed in this
 document. When modifying
 your Crusade Force in
 Administratum, your
 Spiremaster will list the
 reason for reduction in RP
 and pay for the
 modification, while you
 will mark the modification
 as free.
- 2. All missions played in this Crusade League must be missions used from The Hive War Mission Pack.
- 3. All traits and scars must be rolled for publicly, either using the Servitor Fidelis (Discord Bot) or in person with an opponent. Traits and scars that have no impact must be reported to the league master for review to approve a reroll.

- 4. Only two games per cycle can count towards your experience gained, kills, out of action tests, and any other factor that modifies your Order of Battle. Exhibition matches may be required.
- 5. Arks of Omen Detachment will be allowed for use in this Crusade League. For games with rosters below 1000 points, you only need to fill 2 Compulsory Battlefield Roles (Ex. 2 Troops).
- 6. If a Crusade Card has a Battle Scar, it may not be removed from your Crusade Force.
- 7. Any reference to Power or Power Level in crusade rules must be converted to points. The conversion is 1PL = 20 points.
- 8. Every player starts with 2
 RP (instead of 5) they may spend personally at the start of the league.
 Remaining RP must be removed at the start of your first match.

- 9. Only Battle Traits, Battle Scars, Psychic Fortitudes, Crusade Relics, Agendas, and Requisitions may be used from your Army's Codex. All other rules cannot be used this League (ex. Chaos Warbands, Biomass, Scrap, The Great Game, etc). For details on banned Faction Crusade rules, visit the next page.
- 10. When initially creating a crusade card, you may include Wargear even if it is limited by your Crusade rules. Modifications to wargear to an existing unit must use the Core Rules Crusade requisition to change wargear as normal.
- 11. A Battle Scar may not be removed until the end of the cycle after that scar is acquired.
- 12. If any agenda grants additional RP on completion, that RP is immediately converted to additional XP granted to the specified unit.
- 13. Ignore the Warlord Trait and Relic Core Stratagems (AOO page 6). These are purchased with RP through the crusade system.

- 14. Hive team mates may play
 Hive War doubles games
 together without any
 restrictions but YOUR half
 of the force must still
 meet the Battle Brothers
 requirements in AOO (AOO
 pg. 8).
- 15. Determining Mission (AOO pg. 9) will be ignored and replaced with Hive War mission selection.
- 16. Determine Attacker and
 Defender (AOO pg. 9) will
 be ignored if attacker
 defender has been
 determined already by Hive
 War rules.
- 17. Choose Deployment Zone (AOO pg. 9) will be ignored if one side has advantage as determined by Hive War advantage.
- 18. Select Secondary Objectives (AOO pg. 9) will be replaced with Select Agendas from the BRB. (BRB pg. 333).
- 19. Starting CP split between players in doubles pairings. Crusade Point differences have no effect.

DOUBLES PAIRINGS RULES

Cycles 1 and 2 are doubles matches. This means you will pair with another player on your team to fight in The Hive War. However, doubles in Hive War works differently than normal double's matches. Here is a quick guide to understanding those differences:

- 1. Your CP is split!
 Starting CP, and CP
 generated at the
 beginning of every turn,
 is split between each
 player. Crusade point
 difference have no
 effect.
- 2. Your auras and buffs are your own! Buffs via auras, stratagems impacting friendly units, and any other interactions your army has with itself only impacts itself.
- 3. You pick your own
 Agendas! Agendas are not
 shared. Each player gets
 2-3 Agendas. Cycles 1
 and 2 need 2 Agendas.
 Cycle 3 and onward need
 3 Agendas.

- 4. Your pairings do not need to follow allied detachment/battle brothers ruling! You are two separate battle-forged lists, allied together.
- 5. You both take turns
 together! Each player
 does not have a separate
 turn. Your doubles team
 takes a turn. Strategize
 how to play out your
 turn with your teammate.

PAINTING REQUIREMENTS

As with everything else ran by Bolters at Dawn, see our Technical Manual (http://boltersatdawn.com/technical manual html).

In addition, in progress models may only see the table one day. Must be battle-ready thereafter.

BANNED FACTION CRUSADE RULES

IMPERIUM

Adepta Sororitas

- Trials of a Living Saint
- Saint Points
- Martyr Points

Adeptus Custodes

- Magisterium Lex Ultima
- Endeavour Imperatives
- Astra Cartographica
- Archeotech Curiosity Relics

Adeptus Mechanicus

- Archeotech Treasures
- Archeotech Parts

Astra Militarum

- Tours of Duty
- Logistics Points
- Commendation Points

Grey Knights

• Honoured Titles

Imperial Knights

- SWORN TO A QUEST
- Glory Points
- Shame Points

Space Marines

- Honorifics
- Banners of Renown
- Renown Points
- Warden Raiders
- Raid Points
- Torchbearers Crusade Force
- Search Points

CHAOS

Chaos Daemons

- Loci of the Gods
- The Great Game

- Ascendancy Points
- Favoured Rewards

Chaos Knights

- The Eightfold Path to Damnation
- Damnation Points
- Pacts
- Damnations

Chaos Space Marines

- Spawndom
- Chaos Warbands
- Chaos Points
- Favoured Rewards
- Forsaken Punishments

Death Guard

- Chaos Boons
- Spreaders of Disease
- · Virulence Points

Thousand Sons

- Chaos Boons
- Discover the Arcane
- Arcane Points

XENOS Aeldari

- Paths of the Aeldari
- · Souls for Ynnead
- Soul Points
- Grand Performances
- Path of Damnation
- Damnation Points

Drukhari

- Territorial Dominance
- Raid Spoils Points
- Territoral Abilities
- Spoils of Battle

Genestealer Cults

- Path to Ascension
- Ascension Points

Leagues of Votann

- Grudges
- Kindred Acquisitions
- Kindred Assets

Necrons

• Dynastic Epithets

Orks

- Might Takes Right
- Scrap
- Scrap Points

T'au Empire

- Expanding the Empire
- Diplomat Points
- Military Points

Tyranids

- Devouring Worlds
- Biomass Points

A NOTE ON TENTH EDITION

We all know 10th edition is on its way. Until otherwise announced, this Crusade League will use 9th edition. We will announce how 10th edition will be handled when we get closer to release.

MISSION PACK
Mission pack will be supplied in a separate reference document and pinned in Discord.

All missions played in this crusade league are considered Strike Force size.

CHANGELIST

v1.0.9

• Removed doubles from cycle 3.

v1.0.7

- Fixed formatting for Astra Militarum under Banned Faction Crusade Rules
- Added additional "Crusade and GT Limitations" related to Arks of Omen (items 13 through 18).
- · Clarified number of attacks declared.
- CP Bonus from Crusade Point difference is split between players. Odd number is decided by the players granted the bonus CP.
- Trait/Scar rerolls must be approved by the League Master.
- Added doubles pairings rulings.

v1.0.6

 Adjusted wording under "Gaining Advantage" to more accurately reflect how missions are selected and set up in the Mission Pack.

v1.0.5

- Added Painting Requirements.
- Adjusted Attack Limitation to more accurately represent the intended rule.
- Added GT/Crusade Limitation regarding RP generation through the completion of Agendas.
- Added Changelist.

v1.0.4

• Initial Release version.