



GENERAL RULES OF PLAY

version 1.0



In ***20 Strong***, you and 20 dice take on different challenges represented by a deck of cards. Different decks present diverse situations and obstacles, providing a unique gameplay experience that varies vastly from deck to deck.

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WINNING & LOSING

WINNING. Generally, you win *20 Strong* by defeating a boss. Each deck has specific rules for achieving victory.

LOSING. If your Health ♥ is ever reduced below 1, you lose the game.

COMPONENTS

This *20 Strong* core box contains 20 dice, one chip and chip holder, this rulebook, and a deckbox containing the *Solar Sentinels* rules and deck. In order to play *20 Strong*, you will need this core box and any *20 Strong* deck.

RULES

This ruleset goes over the general rules that apply to every game of *20 Strong*. Each deck

also has its own set of rules that supplement these rules. If two rules ever contradict each other, a deck's specific rules take precedence over these general rules. Card text takes precedence over the rules in either rulebook, and effect text takes precedence over reward or hero ability text. The word "may" indicates that the text is optional. If two things would resolve at the same time, you choose the order in which they resolve.

DECKS

Each game uses only the cards from a single deck. Decks generally consist of three types of cards:

- **HEROES** are the characters you play as. They define your starting stats and grant a unique ability.

- **BOSSSES** are the final enemies you must defeat in order to win.
- **CONFLICT CARDS** are the enemies or obstacles you must face along the way.

UNIT DICE

17 of the dice in *20 Strong* are **UNIT DICE**. Unit dice can be red, purple, blue, green, or yellow. Each has **MISS** sides that are blank and **HIT** sides showing one of two hit icons: either a **BASIC HIT** or a **CRIT**. All the dice of the same color have the same sides.



MISS



BASIC HIT



CRIT

Generally, hits on unit dice are assigned to enemies to deal **DAMAGE** to them. A basic hit deals 1 damage, and a crit deals 2 damage.

Note that while a crit deals 2 damage, it is still considered to be one hit.

Units with fewer hit sides are **WEAKER**, and dice with more hit sides are **STRONGER**.

WEAKER «—————» **STRONGER**



COLOR	Yellow	Green	Blue	Purple	Red
QTY	4	4	4	4	1
HITS	2	3	4	5	6
CRITS	1	1	1	1	1
MISSES	4	3	2	1	0

STAT DICE

Three of the dice in *20 Strong* are **STAT DICE**.



HEALTH





STRATEGY




RECOVERY

Each is a gray numbered die (**D6**) with a distinct icon. Your hero card will indicate the starting values for these stats.

- The **HEALTH**  stat die tracks how much damage you can take before you lose the game.
- The **STRATEGY**  stat die indicates two things:
 - » how many items you can hold.
 - » how many times you can go through the Strategy phase each round.

- The **RECOVERY**  stat die tracks how many exhausted dice you can get back each round.

Stat dice are never rolled. They cannot be reduced below 1 (except Health , which results in game loss) or increased above 6, and any effect or reward that would do so is ignored.

CHIP

The included chip is used differently depending on which deck you play.

SETUP

Choose a single deck from your collection to play and follow the setup instructions in that deck's rulebook.

GAME FLOW

20 Strong is played in rounds. Each round, you identify one or more conflict cards to face, roll dice, make a series of decisions, and deal with the results. Rounds continue until you win or lose.



Each round has two parts: **ACTIVATION** and **ENGAGEMENT**.




ACTIVATION

In this part, one or more conflict cards become active.

Most decks will require you to assemble **STACKS** of conflict cards as part of setup. Choose the top card from one of the stacks and **ACTIVATE** it by placing it in the active area.

Most enemies have effects on them, many of which begin affecting gameplay during

Activation. **DURING**  and **SPECIAL**  effects apply as soon as the card is activated.

The **ADDITIONAL ENEMIES** +  icon is also on several enemies and applies during Activation, though it is not an effect. After activating an enemy with + , activate additional enemies equal to the number indicated, one at a time. If any of those enemies have + , they must be resolved as well.

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement consists of two phases: the Strategy phase, where you commit, roll, and apply dice to active conflict cards; and the Resolve phase, where you suffer damage and negative effects, exhaust and recover dice, and gain items as rewards.

STRATEGY PHASE

The Strategy phase has three steps. You may be able to repeat the phase, carrying out its steps again.




1. COMMIT DICE. The first step of the Strategy phase is to **COMMIT** dice, which entails selecting the dice from the dice pool that you would like to use for this Strategy phase. Generally, you may commit any number and combination of dice from your dice pool, up to and including all of them. Place committed dice in your active area.

2. ROLL DICE. Roll all of the dice in your active area at once. Items cannot be used during this step.

3. APPLY DICE. You may **APPLY** hits to active cards – most commonly enemies – to deal damage to them. Hits are applied one at a



time, in any order, and you are not required to apply all rolled hits.

Each time you apply a die, check to see if the state of play has changed. This most commonly happens when the amount of damage on a conflict card equals or exceeds its Health, at which point it is **DEFEATED**. Any During effects on active cards cease as soon as their conflict card is defeated. You may continue to apply hits to cards even after they have been defeated if you wish.

When a card is defeated, rotate it sideways to track its state. If that card has an **INSTANT REWARD** , gain the reward immediately upon defeat. Gaining the reward is optional. **ITEM REWARDS** (those labeled  or ) are not gained at this time.

Dice that are applied to cards are still considered to be committed and in the active area.

REPEATING THE STRATEGY PHASE

After the Apply Dice step, if your Strategy  stat is higher than 1, you may repeat the Strategy phase again. The total number of times you may go through the Strategy phase (including the first) cannot exceed your .

Each repeat is considered a new Strategy phase within the same engagement.

When you repeat the Commit Dice step in a subsequent Strategy phase, you may commit additional dice from the dice pool, adding them to any unapplied dice still in your active area. You then roll *all* unapplied dice and apply the dice you wish to apply.

RESOLVE PHASE

The Resolve phase is where the consequences of your rolls are realized. It has six steps.

1. SUFFER DAMAGE. Add together the Damage stats of all undefeated conflict cards in your active area, and reduce your Health ♥ stat die by the total.

2. AFTER EFFECTS. All **AFTER EFFECTS** ⏩ in the active area (*including* those on defeated enemies) are resolved, one at a time.

3. EXHAUST DICE. Move *all* committed dice, whether applied or not, to your **EXHAUSTED AREA**, a section of the table where you can keep them separate from other dice.

4. RECOVER DICE. Choose a number of exhausted dice up to the number showing on your Recovery ▼ stat die. Move them from your exhausted area to your dice pool.

5. GAIN ITEM REWARDS. If any of the conflict cards you defeated this round has an item reward, either **SINGLE-USE** ▼ or **ONGOING** ∞, you may gain the item by placing its card in your inventory.

6. CLEANUP. Place all conflict cards that remain in your active area – both defeated AND undefeated – in the **DISCARD**.

Now you're ready for the next round.

ENDGAME

The trigger for beginning the endgame differs by deck. In general, the endgame consists of facing a boss, and defeating this enemy results in game victory.

In the endgame, you continue to face the boss (and any other enemies that come with it) each round until you defeat the boss and


win or until your ♥ is depleted and you lose. Unless stated otherwise, only the boss must be defeated, even if there are other active enemies. Endgame rounds are played like normal rounds, with the following exceptions:

- **SKIP ACTIVATION.** For the first Activation of endgame, the deck will contain instructions regarding selecting a boss to activate and what other conflict cards to activate, if any. Skip Activation in all subsequent rounds.
- **UNDEFEATED CARDS REMAIN.** In the Cleanup step during the endgame, do not discard conflict cards that have not yet been defeated. They remain active and must be faced again in the next round. Dice applied to these undefeated cards are exhausted in the Exhaust Dice step as normal.

REWARDS

There are two types of rewards in *20 Strong*.



- **INSTANT REWARDS** ⚡ take effect immediately when the conflict card they are printed on is defeated.
- **ITEM REWARDS** are gained during the Gain Item Rewards step and are held in your inventory. Single-use ▼ items may be used once for the benefit printed on them and are then discarded. Ongoing ∞ items have a persistent effect until the end of the game or until discarded. Unless they specify timing, items can be used at any time except during the Roll Dice step. You may discard items at any time.

The number showing on your Strategy  stat die limits the number of item rewards you can hold in your inventory at any given time. Rewards are gained one at a time. You cannot gain a reward if you do not have room for it in your inventory. However, you may use items you already hold at this time, or discard them, to make room in your inventory. You cannot use items you have yet to gain.

ENEMY EFFECTS

There are three types of enemy effects in *20 Strong*:

- **DURING EFFECTS**  have an ongoing impact that applies from the time the conflict card becomes active until the time it is defeated.

- **AFTER EFFECTS**  trigger during the Resolve phase. All active conflict cards trigger their after effects if they have them, even if those cards are defeated.
- **SPECIAL EFFECTS**  define their own timing and length of impact. Similar to After effects, Special effects trigger even if the card they are on is defeated.

REWARD/EFFECT CLARIFICATIONS

- When a card is discarded, banished, or otherwise removed from the active area, all dice applied to that card are exhausted.
- Effects and rewards that change the damage a die deals also impact dice already applied. However, once an enemy

is defeated, it remains defeated even if the damage on it changes.

KEY TERMS

ACTIVE AREA, ACTIVATE, ACTIVE: The active area is where cards and dice are placed so you can interact with them. Cards are activated by moving them from the stacks to the active area. This occurs during Activation, which is the first part of each round. Dice are moved into the active area during the Commit Dice step, which is the first step of the Strategy phase. Cards and dice in the active area are considered to be active.

APPLY, APPLIED, UNAPPLIED: You apply dice when you place them on cards that are in the active area. Only dice that are in the active area and have not already been applied to

cards can be applied. Dice are applied during the Apply Dice step, which is the third step of the Strategy phase. Dice that are within the active area that are on cards are applied. Dice that are within the active area but are not on cards are unapplied.

BANISHED: When a component is banished, it is removed from the game and can no longer be used. Unless specified, a die being banished can be taken from any area.

COMMIT, COMMITTED: You commit dice when you move them from the dice pool into the active area. This happens during the Commit Dice step, which is the first step of the Strategy phase. Any dice residing in your active area are committed. This includes dice that are applied to active cards and those that are unapplied.


CONFLICT: A conflict occurs anytime enemies are activated. In most cases, a conflict lasts one Engagement. However, in endgame, or in decks where you face the same set of enemies over multiple Engagements or rounds, all Engagements/rounds against the same set of enemies are considered to be a single conflict. A conflict ends when the active area contains no enemies.

DICE POOL: The dice pool is the general supply of dice. It contains all dice that have not been committed, exhausted, or banished. Dice in the dice pool are available to be committed.

RETURNED: When a die is returned, it is moved from the active area back to the dice pool. This differs from recovered dice, which must come from the exhausted area.

ROLL DICE: Dice are rolled during the Roll Dice step, which is the second step of the Strategy phase. You roll all dice in your active area that are not already applied to cards. This includes dice still in your active area from previous Strategy phases that were not applied to cards, as well as all dice committed in the Commit Dice step, which happens just previous to the Roll Dice step.

UNIVERSAL HEROES

Some heroes are designated as **UNIVERSAL HEROES**, marked with the  icon. These heroes can be used in any other **20 Strong** deck for a fun new gameplay experience.

Universal heroes maintain their specific properties and abilities even when ported

into a different deck, so familiarity with its native deck's rules is required.

The gameplay of 20 Strong varies significantly from deck to deck. Because of these differences, universal heroes may not always be as finely tuned to a deck's play style as the heroes designed for that deck. We encourage players to have fun with the universal heroes and discover the toughest or most rewarding pairings across the line!

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ICONS



HEALTH



STRATEGY



RECOVERY



MISS



BASIC HIT



CRIT



YELLOW



GREEN



BLUE



PURPLE



RED



ENEMY HEALTH



ENEMY DAMAGE



UNIVERSAL HERO



**ACTIVATE AN
ADDITIONAL ENEMY**



INSTANT



ONGOING



SINGLE-USE



AFTER

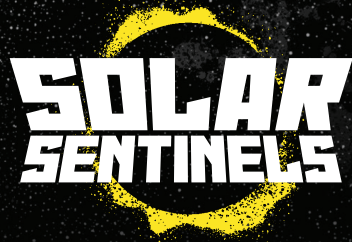


DURING



SPECIAL

Each deck has its own additional icons, and may stylize the above icons to match the style of the deck.



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RULEBOOK

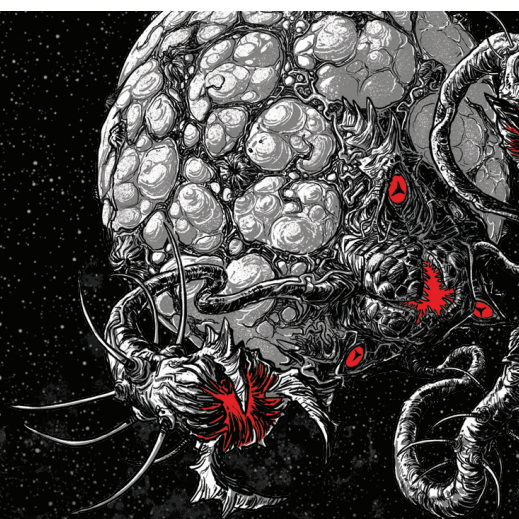
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CONTENTS

Solar Sentinels contains 45 conflict cards, 4 boss cards, 3 hero cards, 12 mission cards, a rulebook (you're reading it!), and a deck box. You will also need the 20 dice, chip, and chip holder from base *20 Strong*.

WINNING & LOSING

To win *Solar Sentinels*, you must defeat one of the bosses.

You can only trigger this final confrontation once you have defeated or discarded all 15 conflict cards in at least one of the three stacks.

As in all games of *20 Strong*, if your Health ♥ is ever reduced below 1, you lose.

SETUP

- 1. CREATE THE DICE POOL.** Set the 17 unit dice in the dice pool.
- 2. CREATE THE STACKS.** Shuffle the 45 conflict cards and divide them into three face-up stacks of 15 cards each, placed in the middle of your play area.
- 3. CHOOSE YOUR HERO.** There are three double-sided hero cards, with six heroes in total

to choose from. Select one to use and place it above the conflict card stacks. Place the three stat dice beside your hero, set to the values shown on the hero card.

- 4. SHUFFLE BOSSES.** Shuffle and set the four boss cards in a face-down deck to the side. A boss will not be faced until the endgame, but some cards may allow you to interact with this deck.
- 5. MISSIONS.** If this is your first game, we recommend you play without missions. If playing with them, shuffle the mission cards and deal out four of them, from left to right, at the top of your play area. Then, choose one mission to discard, leaving the other three in the same order they were dealt. Place the chip in the chip holder with its counter side face up near the missions.

rules of *20 Strong* with the following adjustments.

ACTIVATION: MANDATORY ENEMIES

Some enemies' names are printed in orange and feature a unique border. These cards are **MANDATORY ENEMIES**. When activating cards, if one or more mandatory enemies are on top of the stacks, you must choose one of those cards to activate.

CLEANUP: STACK DISCARD

During the Cleanup step, you must choose the top conflict card from one of the stacks and discard it. However, you *cannot* choose a mandatory enemy to discard. If all of the top cards are mandatory, do not discard a card that round. Mandatory enemies are not restricted from being discarded in other ways, such as through rewards or effects.

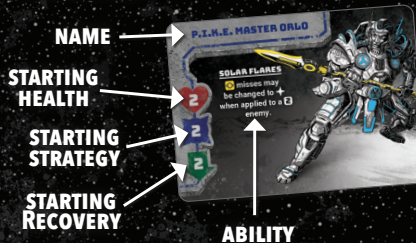
GAME ADJUSTMENTS

Rounds in *Solar Sentinels* follow the common

GAME LAYOUT



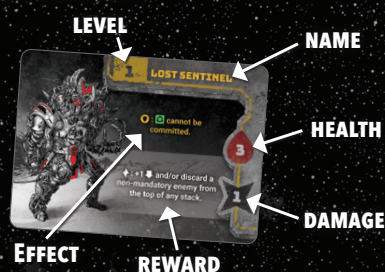
HEROES



MANDATORY ENEMIES



ENEMIES



BOSS



ENEMY LEVELS

The enemies in the conflict stacks have two levels, 1 and 2. This is used for some conflict effects and rewards. Bosses are enemies of their own level.

STACK MANAGEMENT

Any time the top card of a stack is removed – whether activated, discarded, or moved in some other way – the next card immediately becomes the new top card for that stack. This is done before resolving +☠ on a newly-activated card, making the newly-revealed card available to be activated.

The boss deck is not a stack. Keep its discard separate. If the boss deck runs out, shuffle its discard to form a new deck.

MISSIONS

You may choose to play without missions, and we recommend doing so for your first game so you can become familiar with the basics of the gameplay.

Your aim is to complete all of the missions before endgame. For each incomplete mission you have when you start the endgame, you must add +☠ to the boss's entourage.

Missions are completed by satisfying the conditions on the card. You must complete mission cards one at a time, in order from left to right. Once you complete the leftmost mission, flip it face down and start the next. The conditions of a mission can only be met while it is your current mission. For example, a mission requiring you to defeat a certain number of enemies does not count enemies defeated before it became the current mission.

Several missions require tracking the number of times something has occurred. Use the

counter side of the chip to track your progress in these missions.

You may forfeit a mission at any time, setting it aside in order to move on to the next mission. However, in endgame, all forfeited missions count as incomplete and add +☠ to the boss's entourage.

DWINDLING STACKS

As the game goes on, you will begin to empty stacks. At the start of any round after at least one stack has been emptied of all conflict cards, you may decide to face the boss in the endgame. If all three stacks are empty, you must start the endgame.

Ignore empty stacks for all game effects. Cards cannot be returned to a stack once empty; if one would be, discard the card instead. If more enemies would be activated than remain in the stacks (due to +☠), activate as many as possible and ignore the rest.

ENDGAME

You can choose to move to the endgame at the start of any round once at least one stack has been emptied of all cards. However, you are not forced to start the endgame unless all three stacks are empty. Set up the endgame as follows:

- **ACTIVATE A BOSS.** If a boss is already revealed (some rewards and effects cause this), activate the revealed boss. If not, activate one of the four bosses at random. Read the boss's card in full.
- **SHUFFLE THE CONFLICT CARDS.** Take all of the conflict cards in the discard and in the stacks, and shuffle them together into one new stack.
- **ACTIVATE THE ENTOURAGE.** Every boss card has +☠ on it. Randomly select that many conflict cards from the stack you just created and activate those as well (along with any enemies added as a result of incomplete missions). They are the

boss's **ENTOURAGE**. Ignore +☠ on entourage cards.

The endgame is played according to standard endgame rules. When the boss is defeated, the game is won, even if the boss's entourage remains. Some bosses may have additional or alternate win conditions.

DIFFICULTY RANKING

For an escalating challenge, you may use the following optional difficulty ranking. The ranking system starts at Rank 1, which plays as the normal rules describe (with missions included). Each time you win a game, move to the next ranking. Each time you lose a game, move back to the previous ranking. Rank 6 is the highest ranking possible – do you have what it takes to achieve Senior Solar Sentinel status?

For each rank you have achieved beyond Rank 1, during setup, you must either banish one die or exhaust three dice. You must also draw and complete one additional mission for each rank above Rank 1, as outlined below.

RANKING	DRAW	COMPLETE
1: Solar Soldier	4	3
2: Solar Specialist	5	4
3: Solar Sergeant	6	5
4: Solar Staff Sergeant	7	6
5: Solar Sentinel	8	7
6: Senior Solar Sentinel	9	8



FLOW OF A ROUND

ACTIVATION

- Activate one enemy (mandatory enemy if there is one)
 - » Resolve +☠

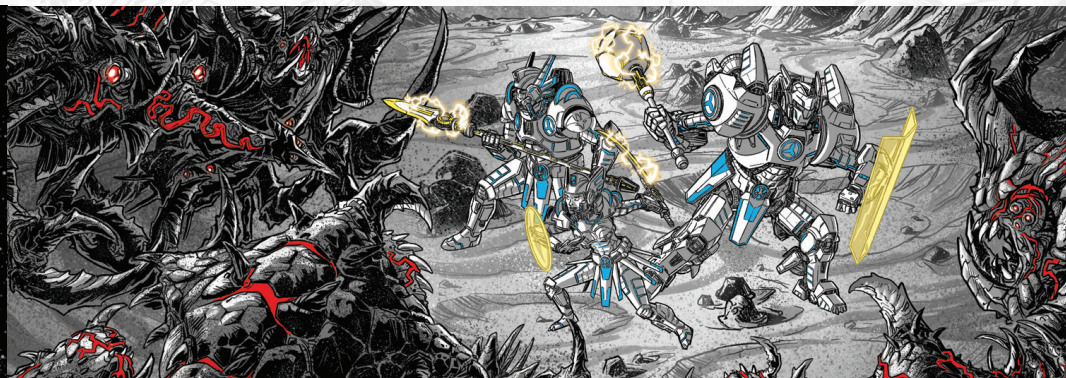
ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGY PHASE (REPEAT = STRATEGY STAT)

- Commit Dice
- Roll Dice
- Apply Dice

RESOLVE PHASE

- Suffer Damage
- After Effects
- Exhaust Dice
- Recover Dice
- Gain Item Rewards
- Cleanup
 - » Discard all active cards
 - » Discard one non-mandatory from stacks



In Earth's future, humanity has harnessed the power of the sun. Harvesters sent to the solar surface have siphoned the stellar body's excess plasma, allowing it to be channeled into a variety of groundbreaking technologies. Among its most potent uses is as the power source of a new breed of plasma-based personal weapons. The fighting force who wields these weapons is known as the Solar Sentinels.

The Earth is in crisis. The Sentinels are humanity's last line of defense against an encroaching alien Horde, which has set up a base beneath the lunar surface. Even now, the remaining surviving members of this elite corps have embarked on a last-ditch assault on the moon, hoping their surprise attack will destroy the Horde before the aliens can launch their final invasion of Earth.