



CORE RULES

DESIGNERS COMMENTARY, JULY 2021

The following commentary is intended to complement the Warhammer Age of Sigmar core rules. It is presented as a series of questions and answers; the questions are based on ones that have been asked by players, and the answers are provided by the rules writing team and explain how the rules are intended to be used. The commentaries help provide a default setting for your games, but players should always feel free to discuss the rules before a game and change things as they see fit if they both want to do so (changes like this are usually referred to as 'house rules').

Our commentaries are updated regularly; when changes are made, any changes from the previous version will be highlighted in **magenta**. Where the date has a note, e.g. 'Revision 2', this means it has had a local update, only in that language, to clarify a translation issue or other minor correction.

1.1 FACTIONS, BATTLETOMES AND BATTLEPACKS

Q: Where can I find a list of the factions I can choose from and the units that are in each faction?

A: Each faction has a set of Pitched Battle profiles that includes all of the units that are part of that faction. You can find a set of Pitched Battle profiles in each Warhammer Age of Sigmar battletome. The *General's Handbook: Pitched Battle Profiles 2021* includes sets of Pitched Battle profiles for every faction in Warhammer Age of Sigmar.

1.2 MODELS

Q: Is it okay to use 'proxy' models to stand in for models that I do not have but want to use in a game? For example, using a Slaughterpriest model to represent a Bloodsecurator, or using Stormcast Eternals models painted in the colours of the Hammers of Sigmar to represent Stormcast Eternals from a different Stormhost?

A: The use of proxy models is generally frowned upon, because doing so can confuse the other players (and sometimes even yourself), and because it spoils the spectacle and aesthetic of the game. Because of this, you can only use proxy models if you've gained your opponent's permission to do so before the game begins.

1.4 ARMIES

Q: When I pick a unit to be part of my army, can I wait until I set the unit up before I choose any weapon options or command models for the unit?

A: No. You must decide which options you will take for the unit and if it is understrength or reinforced when you are picking your army.

Q: When I choose my army, or (for example) pick a unit to receive something during a battle, can I keep any information secret from my opponent?

A: No. Unless specifically noted, all information required to play a game is available to both players.

Q: If I have more than one general, and each one allows different types of units to count as Battleline, do all of those units count as Battleline units when I pick the rest of my army?

A: Yes.

Q: If I have more than one general, and one is slain but the others are still alive, do I still get to add 2 to the dice roll when I use the Heroic Leadership heroic action?

A: Yes.

1.5.1 MEASURING DISTANCES

Q: Say I can set up a unit wholly within 6" of the edge of the battlefield and there is an objective set up 12" from the edge of the battlefield.

Can I set up my unit so that it is within 6" of the objective?

A: Yes.

1.5.5 DICE ROLL MODIFIERS

Q: The maximum positive modifier to a save roll is +1. Say that I have a -3 Rend modifier and my opponent has a +3 modifier to their save roll. Is the final modifier -2 (my Rend of -3, less their modifier capped at +1), or is it 0 (my Rend modifier less their total save modifier)?

A: It is 0. You add up all of the modifiers that apply to a roll (both for and against) to get the final modifier, and then apply any limits. See the example in the sidebar next to rule 1.5.5.

1.6 ABILITIES AND EFFECTS

Q: Some abilities say 'you can' do something, such as roll a dice. Which player decides?

A: Any ability that says 'you can' is referring to the player that has the unit with the ability in their army or has the army that an allegiance ability applies to.

Q: Many abilities occur 'before' or 'after' something happens. When this is the case, must I use the ability immediately before or after?

A: Yes, the word 'before' or 'after' is synonymous with 'immediately before' or 'immediately after'.

Q: When the word 'any' is used in the criteria for an ability, how many times is that ability applied when the criteria for the ability are fulfilled? For example, if an ability said 'Add 1 to hit rolls for models that are within 6" of any models with this ability', would I add 1 to the hit rolls of a model that was within 6" of three models with the ability, or would I add 3 to the hit rolls?

A: The word 'any' is treated as being synonymous with 'one or more'. In your example, this means that 1 would be added to the hit rolls.

Q: If several abilities are used simultaneously, can one cancel out the effect of another?

A: It's important to note that ability effects are never actually applied 'simultaneously' in Warhammer Age of Sigmar. If two or more effects would be applied at the same time, they are instead applied one after the other in the sequence described in section 1.6.2 of the core rules. This means that applying the effect of one ability could change the circumstances pertaining to abilities that follow it. For example, one ability effect might cause mortal wounds on a unit, while at the same time another ability effect might allow that unit to fight if it's within 3" of the enemy. If the mortal wounds effect is applied first, then the effect of the second ability can only be applied if the unit is still within 3" of the enemy after all models slain by those mortal wounds have been removed from play.

Q: If two or more modifiers apply to a dice roll or characteristic, and some are positive and some negative, are they considered to be contradictory and therefore cancel out?

A: No. Modifiers to dice rolls and modifiers to characteristic are cumulative. Because of this, a dice roll or characteristic can be affected by several abilities that apply different modifiers to it, both positive and negative, and they will not be contradictory and can all be used.

Q: If two different abilities double or halve a value, is the value doubled or halved once or twice?

A: Twice.

Q: Some abilities require a unit to be visible in order for them to be used. When this is the case, must the whole unit be visible?

A: No, all that is required is for at least one model from the unit to be visible.

Q: Sometimes an ability will refer to 'this model' or 'this unit', and sometimes to 'that model' or 'that unit'. Is there a difference?

A: Yes. When an ability says 'this model', 'this unit', it is referring to a specific model or unit that has the ability, even if there is more than 1 unit with that ability in your army. When an ability says 'that model' or 'that unit', it is referring to a model or unit that was defined earlier in the same ability.

Q: Sometimes an ability will refer to a friendly model that is within a certain distance of 'this model' (or 'the bearer' or 'this general', etc.). When this is the case, do both models have to be from the same army?

A: Yes.

Q: Sometimes an ability requires you to draw a straight line from a model, and everything under that line is affected by the ability. Is the model you draw the line from affected by the ability too?

A: No.

Q: Some abilities stipulate that you can pick a certain number of units to be affected by the ability. When this is the case, can I pick the same unit several times?

A: Yes, unless the ability specifically states otherwise.

Q: If an ability says it negates a wound, will it also negate a mortal wound?

A: No, unless the ability specifically says it negates mortal wounds. By the same token, an ability that negates only mortal wounds will not negate wounds.

Q: If an ability allows a unit to 'fight', does that mean it can pile in and attack or just attack?

A: It can pile in and attack (core rules, 12.1.1).

3.1 RESERVES AND SUMMONED UNITS

Q: Are things like Fanatics or Assassins that hide inside another unit, or embarked Kharadron Overlords units, counted as being reserves?

A: Only if the unit that they are 'inside' is in reserve. A reserve unit is a unit that is set up in a location other than on the battlefield. Units that are on the battlefield are not reserves, even if the models themselves are not set up.

6.0 COMMAND POINTS

Q: Sometimes a model will receive command points only at the start of the first battle round, or only once during a later round. Are these command points lost at the end of the battle round?

A: Yes.

Q: If I have more than one general and they are all on the battlefield at the start of my hero phase, do I receive 1 command point for each?

A: No, you still only receive 1 command point.

6.1 USING COMMAND ABILITIES

Q: Some commands are received by all units within a certain range of the model issuing the command. Can such an order be received by a unit that has already received a command in the same phase?

A: No.

USING COMMAND ABILITIES FROM EARLIER BATTLETOMES

The command abilities included in battletomes written for earlier versions of Warhammer Age of Sigmar are written in a different format to those used in more recent battletomes. The following guidelines should make it clear how to use these command abilities in battles using the latest version of the core rules (see section 6.1 of the core rules).

- Most older command abilities list the unit that benefits from the command and another unit that needs to be within a certain distance of that unit. When this is the case, the unit that benefits from the command is the unit that is receiving the command, and the unit that the distance is measured from is the unit that is issuing the command. In addition, older command abilities will specify the distance at which the command can be issued. When this is the case, use the distance specified in the command ability rather than the distance in section 6.1 of the core rules. For example, the Lord of the Blood Hunt command ability on the Wrath of Khorne Bloodthirster warscroll says:

*'You can use this command ability at the start of the combat phase. If you do so, pick 1 friendly **KHORNE DAEMON** unit wholly within 16" of a friendly model with this command ability. Until the end of the phase, you can re-roll hit rolls for attacks made by that unit.'*

This command is issued by a friendly unit with this command ability (you can pick which one if there is a choice), and can be received by 1 friendly **KHORNE DAEMON** unit that is wholly within 16" of the unit issuing the command.

- Some older command abilities specify that the effect of the command ability applies to multiple units within a certain distance of the unit that is issuing the command (for example, all friendly units with a specific keyword). When this is the case, the command is both issued and received by the same model, even though the effect of the command applies to the specified units within the specified range. The model that issued the command cannot issue or receive another command in that phase (because a model cannot issue more than 1 command in the same phase and a unit cannot receive more than 1 command in the same phase), but could do so in a future phase even if the effect of the command lasts for longer than the phase in which the command was issued. The other units that benefit from the effect of the command do not count as having received the command (and so are not prevented from receiving a different command in the same phase). For example, the Vigour of Undeath command ability on the Manfred von Carstein warscroll says:

'You can use this command ability once per turn in your hero phase. If you do so, add 1 to hit and wound rolls for friendly

SOULBLIGHT GRAVELORDS units wholly within 12" of this model until your next hero phase.'

This command is issued and received by Mannfred von Carstein in your hero phase, but until your next hero phase, you can add 1 to hit and wound rolls for friendly **SOULBLIGHT GRAVELORDS** units while they are wholly within 12" of him. Mannfred could not issue or receive another command in the hero phase in which the command was issued, but he could do so in future phases. Other units benefiting from the effect of the command can still receive a command (for example, they could receive the All-out Defence command in the subsequent combat phase whilst also benefiting from Vigour of Undeath).

- Some older command abilities only affect a single unit, usually the one that issues the command, or do not affect any other units at all. When this is the case, the command is assumed to have been issued and received by the unit specified in the command ability. For example, the Booming Roar command ability from the Allherd subfaction in *Battletome: Beasts of Chaos* says:

'You can use this command ability at the start of your hero phase if your general is on the battlefield. If you do so, you receive 1 Primordial Call point.'

This command ability is issued and received by your general (if they are on the battlefield).

- Some older command abilities that appear in the allegiance abilities section of a battletome say that they can be used by models 'with this command ability'. When this is the case, the command can only be issued by **HEROES** that are from the faction (or subfaction) that is allowed to use the allegiance abilities in question. They cannot be issued by unit champions. For example, the For the Brass Citadel command ability from the Skullfiend Tribe subfaction in *Battletome: Blades of Khorne* says:

*'You can use this command ability at the start of the combat phase. If you do so, pick 1 friendly model with this command ability. Until the end of that phase, you can re-roll hit and wound rolls for attacks made by friendly **SKULLFIEND TRIBE KHORGORATH** units wholly within 10" of that model.'*

This command can be issued by **SKULLFIEND TRIBE HEROES**.

- Some older command abilities say either that they cannot be used more than once per phase or that a unit cannot benefit from them more than once. These instructions can be ignored because the core rules no longer allow you to use the same command ability more than once in the same phase.
- Some older command abilities do not say when they can be used. If this is the case, the command ability can be used in your hero phase.

8.0 MOVEMENT PHASE

Q: Some abilities allow a unit to be set up 'at the end of the movement phase'. Can the unit make a move after it is set up in this way?

A: No. Things that happen at the end of the phase take place after all of that phase's normal activities; in the case of the movement phase, this means they occur after all moves have been made.

Q: Some abilities allow a unit to be set up 'instead of making a normal move'. Does a unit set up with such an ability count as having moved?

A: No, unless the ability specifically states otherwise.

9.0 MOVEMENT

Q: If an ability halves the Move characteristic of a unit but doesn't say if you round up or down, are fractions retained?

A: Yes.

Q: Sometimes an ability is used after a model moves. When this is the case, assuming the model is allowed to make a move, if I decide to leave it stationary, can I still use the ability?

A: Yes. For the purposes of the Warhammer Age of Sigmar rules, if a model is allowed to move, you can choose to 'move' it 0 inches. However, if you do so, the unit cannot also benefit from an ability that requires it to remain stationary.

Q: Some abilities can be used 'instead of a normal move'. Can I use these abilities if the unit is not allowed to make a normal move (e.g. when it is within 3" of an enemy unit)?

A: No.

9.3 TERRAIN

Q: Why are all models allowed to climb all terrain features?

A: For simplicity and ease of play, the rules allow any model to climb any terrain feature. If you wish, you can only allow models to move to places that they could reach 'in real life', but it will require a certain amount of common sense in order to make such a house rule work.

Q: Can a terrain feature be climbed over multiple turns? Can a model run or charge up a terrain feature?

A: Yes. A model may need to spend several turns climbing an especially high terrain feature (you will need to remember how far it has climbed each turn and measure distances and visibility to or from that model as if it were in that location).

Q: Can a model charge up or down a terrain feature?

A: Yes. As noted above, for simplicity and ease of play, models are assumed to be able to climb up terrain features and can finish a move at any point when they do so.

9.4 FLYING

Q: If an ability or spell stops another unit from being able to fly, does this stop that unit from being able to move at all?

A: No, it simply means that the Flying rules do not apply to it.

12.2 PILE-IN

Q: Can the closest enemy unit at the start of a pile-in move be one that is inaccessible or not visible to friendly models?

A: Yes. The closest unit is measured purely by distance, not accessibility or visibility.

Q: If an ability allows a unit to pile in more than the standard 3", can the unit pile in and attack in the combat phase if it is more than 3" from the enemy?

A: No, unless the ability specifically states otherwise.

Q: Some abilities allow a unit to pile in and attack twice, while others allow a unit to immediately pile in and attack a second time. What is the difference?

A: The former allows you to pick the unit to fight twice over the course of the combat phase, rather than only once, while the second allows you to fight with the unit twice in immediate succession. The first version will therefore give your opponent a chance to pick a unit to fight with before you can fight again with your unit, while the second version will not.

Q: What happens when a unit that has been split into two groups because of casualties piles in?

A: A unit must finish any type of move as a single group, including pile-in moves. If this is impossible for any reason, no models from the unit can move.

Q: Can a model that has an ability that allows it to pile in and attack when it dies still use the ability if the unit it is part of has to fight at the end of the combat phase?

A: Yes.

14.0 WOUNDS

Q: Can an attack with a Damage characteristic of more than 1 slay more than one model?

A: Yes, as long as all the models are from the same unit.

Q: Does a wound or mortal wound that is negated still count as having been allocated to a model?

A: No.

14.2.1 RETURNING SLAIN MODELS

Q: When you return a slain model to a unit, does the slain model have to originally have come from the unit that it is returned to?

A: Yes.

Q: If a model is slain but later returned to its unit in the same turn, does it count as being slain for battleshock tests? If it were slain, returned and slain again, would it count as being slain twice?

A: Yes to both questions.

Q: Do any restrictions that applied when I picked a unit for my army still apply when I return a slain model to that unit?

A: No. For example, if a weapon can only be taken by 1 in every 5 models, you could return a slain model with that weapon option to a unit that has fewer than 4 models in it.

14.3 WARDS

Q: Some rules allow you to transfer a wound allocated to one unit to a different unit. If both units have a ward, do I get to make a ward roll for each one?

A: No, you only make the ward roll for the unit that the wound is transferred to.

17.0 TERRAIN

Q: Is a terrain feature considered to be part of the battlefield?

A: Yes.

17.2 GARRISONS

Q: Can a unit that is set up once the battle is under way be set up as a garrison?

A: No.

Q: Can I set up a unit on a defensible terrain feature if it is not part of the garrison?

A: No.

18.0 OBJECTIVES

Q: If I use a miniature as an objective marker, does it count as a terrain piece? Can it block visibility or affect the movement of a unit?

A: No to all questions. An objective marker is simply an object you use to mark the location of an objective on the battlefield. If you want to move a model to the location occupied by an objective marker, it is perfectly acceptable to move the marker to one side as long as you measure distances to the objective using the marker's original location.

Q: Can I use an endless spell, invocation or faction terrain feature to gain control of an objective?

A: No.

19.0 WIZARDS

Q: If there is a spell that appears on two different warscrolls and has exactly the same name, can I use them both in the same turn?

A: No.

19.4 UNITS OF WIZARDS

Q: Some abilities cause a **WIZARD** to suffer mortal wounds (for example, when that **WIZARD** casts a spell). What happens if that **WIZARD** is part of a unit that has more than 1 model?

A: The mortal wounds are allocated to the unit and do not have to be allocated to the model casting the spell.

Q: Some effects inflict damage that can only be allocated to **WIZARDS**. Can you explain how such damage is allocated to a unit that is not a **WIZARD** but includes models that are **WIZARDS**, e.g. a High Warden from a unit of Vanari Auralan Wardens?

A: The wounds are allocated to the unit as normal (core rules, 14.1).

20.0 PRIESTS

Q: Can a **PRIEST** chant more than 1 prayer per turn?

A: No, unless specifically stated otherwise.

22.0 WARSCROLLS

Q: When do I pick command models and weapon options for a unit?

A: When you add the unit to your army roster.

Q: Can the champion of the unit take special weapons, like a Grandhammer?

A: Yes.

Q: Some warscrolls have a weapon profile that says 'See below', but does not include an Attacks characteristic. When I use such a weapon, how many attacks does it make?

A: These types of weapon make 1 attack, as described in the rules that appear below the weapon's characteristics.

Q: Many warscrolls allow weapon options and other upgrades to be taken by '1 in every x' models. For example, 1 in every 10 models in a unit of Blood Warriors can replace the unit's weapon option with a Goreglaive. What happens if the unit has fewer than x models?

A: The weapon or upgrade cannot be taken. For example, a unit of Blood Warriors with fewer than 10 models could not have a Goreglaive.

Q: When a characteristic is referenced (Bravery, for example), does this mean the value on the warscroll, or the value on the warscroll including any modifiers?

A: The value including any modifiers.

Q: Some abilities refer to the Move, Wounds, Save or Bravery characteristic of a unit. What is this?

A: It is the Move, Wounds, Save or Bravery characteristic of the models that make up the unit.

25.0 PITCHED BATTLE PROFILES

Q: Some battletomes have a Minimum and Maximum Unit Size. How do these work?

A: Use the Minimum Unit Size for the Unit Size. If the Maximum Unit Size is 1, then it is considered to have 'Single' in the Notes column.

27.0 ALLEGIANCE ABILITIES

Q: If I add units to my army after a battle has started, and my army has an allegiance ability that adds a keyword to the units in the army, is that keyword received by eligible units I add to my army after the battle has begun? By the same token, if an allegiance ability has a spell lore that grants a spell to WIZARDS in an army, do WIZARDS that I add to the army that have the appropriate allegiance gain a spell?

A: Yes to both questions.

27.1 ALLIED UNITS

Q: Can I include endless spells, invocations and faction terrain features from an allied faction or a faction from which I can include coalition in my army?

A: No, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Q: Can I include endless spells, invocations and faction terrain features in my army even if this is not specifically stated that I can do so in the instructions for a battlepack?

A: Yes (core rules, 1.4.1).

Q: Can allied or coalition units be included in a core battalion?

A: Yes, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Q: If I can take coalition units in my army, can they count as some or all of the Battleline units in my army?

A: Yes, unless the battlepack you are using specifically says otherwise.

27.2.1 SUBFACTIONS

Q: Can I take more than one subfaction for the same army?

A: No.

27.3 ENHANCEMENTS

Q: If I am allowed to take an additional enhancement, can I take the same enhancement more than once?

A: Yes, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Q: If an enhancement allows a unit to fight an extra time, can that unit's mounts fight an extra time?

A: Yes. The enhancement allows the unit to fight an extra time; it does not affect the attacks it makes.

ERRATA, JULY 2021

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15.0 – BATTLESOCK PHASE

Add the following sidebar note:

'Models removed from play as a result of their unit being split have fled. Models that have fled are treated as having been slain for rules purposes, unless noted otherwise.'

17.0.2 – Faction Terrain

Change the header to:

'17.0.3 FACTION TERRAIN'

27.3.3 – Artefacts of Power

Add:

'An army cannot include duplicates of the same artefact of power.'