

PENANCE

Turn Structure (Final)

Absolution Through Steel

Generated turn-structure

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Penance: Absolution Through Steel

Version: 2.0 Base Rules (October 10, 2025) **v3.0 Enhancements:** Optional Taint Exploitation available

Game Structure

Setup

1. Both players shuffle their Casket HP decks (26-50 cards, varies by equipment loadout)
2. Draw starting hand (6 cards)
3. **Mulligan** (optional): Shuffle hand back into deck, draw 6 new cards (once only)
4. Place Pilot Wound deck (10 cards, face-down) next to Casket deck
5. Set SP tracker to maximum (varies by Casket type)
6. Set Heat tracker to 0
7. Deploy Caskets on map (see scenario rules)

Game Round

A round consists of all players taking one turn each.

Initiative Phase

- All players roll 1d6

- Highest roll acts first
- Ties: Re-roll
- Turn order proceeds clockwise from first player

Player Turns

- Each player takes one complete turn
- Once all players have acted, the round ends
- Start new round (roll initiative again)

Player Turn Structure

Each turn has 4 phases: Refresh → Action → Draw → End

PHASE 1: REFRESH

Restore your resources and check status.

1.1 Restore SP - Set SP to your maximum (based on Casket type) - Scout Caskets: 6 SP - Assault Caskets: 5 SP - Heavy Caskets: 4 SP - Fortress Caskets: 3 SP - Modified by: - Chassis destroyed: -1 SP max - undergone Flesh Bargain pilots: +1 SP max - Certain Scars/Wounds

1.1b Overspending SP (Push System) - You can spend UP TO DOUBLE your SP maximum per turn - **Every SP beyond your maximum costs 1 card** (discard from hand or deck) - **Example:** Scout (6 SP) can spend up to 12 SP total - First 6 SP: Free - 7th-12th SP: Discard 1 card each - This is **voluntary self-harm** for tactical advantage - Discarded cards go to discard pile (can be recovered) - “Burn HP for power. Risk everything for the kill.”

1.2 Heat Check - If you have **5+ Heat** (Danger Zone): - Roll **Strain** (1d6 + current Heat) - Apply result from Strain Table (see Quick Reference) - If you have **0-4 Heat** (Safe Zone): - No penalties, skip this step

1.3 Taint Markers (if using v3.0 Taint Exploitation)

v3.0 OPTIONAL: Track Taint accumulation here. Gain 1 Taint per 3 damage taken. At 10+ Taint, roll Corruption Save. See [taint-exploitation.md](#) for spending Taint offensively/defensively.

1.4 Start-of-Turn Effects - Resolve any “at start of your turn” card effects - Example: Internal Bleeding Wound = discard 1 card

PHASE 2: ACTION PHASE

Spend SP to play cards and perform actions.

You may: - Play cards from your hand (costs SP) - Move your Casket (costs 1 SP per hex) - Use free actions (0 SP cards) - Mix actions in any order

Continue until: - You run out of SP, OR - You choose to pass (saving SP for reactive cards), OR - Your hand is empty

Card Types: - **Standard Cards:** Cost SP (listed on card) - **Free Actions:** 0 SP cost (can play multiple) - **Reactive Cards:** 0 SP, can only be played during opponent’s turn

Movement Rules: - Costs **1 SP per hex** moved - Can move through allies (don’t stop) - Cannot move through enemies - Cannot move through walls/obstacles - Difficult terrain: +1 SP per hex (2 SP total) - Must have line of sight to destination hex (can’t move blindly through walls)

Rotation: - Rotating to face different direction: **Free** (can do once per turn) - Facing matters for attacks (front/side/rear modifiers)

Common Actions: | Action | SP Cost | Notes | |-----|-----|-----| | Move 1 hex | 1 SP | +1 SP if difficult terrain | | Play attack card | Varies | 1-5 SP depending on card | | Play defense card | 0 SP | Reactive, during enemy turn | | Play utility card | Varies | 1-3 SP typically | | Vent Heat | 2 SP | Remove 3 Heat (Emergency Vent card) | | Rotate facing | Free | Once per turn |

PHASE 3: DRAW PHASE

Refill your hand to 6 cards.

3.1 Draw Cards - Draw cards from your Casket HP deck until hand size = 6 - If hand already has 6+ cards, don't draw - Draw one at a time (order matters for deck-out situations)

3.2 Reshuffle Trigger - If HP Draw Deck runs out while drawing: 1. Shuffle your **Discard Pile** into a new HP Draw Deck 2. **Damage Graveyard stays separate** (those cards are gone forever) 3. Continue drawing normally - **No penalty for reshuffling** - DAMAGED cards only come from Major Wounds (5+ damage attacks) - Any DAMAGED cards in your Discard Pile will now be in your HP Draw Deck

3.3 Deck Empty = Defeated - If you need to draw but HP Draw Deck AND Discard Pile are both empty: - Your Casket is **defeated** (structural failure) - Pilot must roll on Survival table (see Campaign rules) - In Arena: You lose the match - **Note:** Damage Graveyard doesn't count - those cards are permanently lost

PHASE 4: END TURN

Wrap up your turn.

4.1 End-of-Turn Effects - Resolve any "at end of your turn" effects - Example: "Gain 1 Heat at end of turn"

4.2 Announce Done - Say "Turn complete" or "I pass" - Next player begins their turn

End of Round

After all players have taken their turns, the round ends.

END OF ROUND: Discard Hand

All players simultaneously: 1. Discard entire hand to **Discard Pile** 2. **EXCEPTION: DAMAGED cards persist in hand** (not discarded) 3. Keep any DAMAGED cards in front of you (visible to all players)

Optional Relics/Abilities: - Some relics allow you to “hold your hand” instead of discarding - Example: “Tactical Mind” - Don’t discard hand at end of round, draw 3 cards instead (cannot exceed 6 card hand limit)

Next Round: - Roll initiative for turn order - Players draw up to 6 cards (accounting for DAMAGED cards already in hand)

Special Timing: Reactive Cards

Reactive cards can be played during OPPONENT’S turn.

How Reactives Work:

Trigger: Opponent declares an action (usually an attack)

Response Window: Before damage is resolved, you may play 1 reactive card - Must have **Initiative [—]** keyword - Costs **0 SP** (doesn’t use your SP pool) - Played from hand

Examples: - **Brace for Impact:** “Reduce next damage by 2” - **Deflect** (Shield): “Reduce damage by 1” - **Unyielding Bulwark:** “Reduce damage by 3, gain 1 Heat”

Limits: - Can only play **1 reactive card per attack** - Must be played BEFORE damage is calculated - If you have no reactive cards in hand, you cannot respond

Resolution (With Dice System): 1. Attacker plays attack card, declares target component 2. **Calculate To-Hit Number** (see Dice Reference) - Base 5+, apply modifiers (range, movement, facing, cover, elevation) 3. **Attacker rolls 2 Attack Dice**, adds values - Hit (5-6), Strong Hit (7-8), Critical (9), EXECUTION (10), or Miss (<target) 4. **If hit**, Defender plays reactive card (if they have one) 5. **Defender rolls Defense Dice** (1 per damage point) - Count blocks (), apply special effects () 6. Defender discards final damage (original - blocks) from hand/deck

Round End

When all players have completed their turns:

Check Victory Conditions: - Any player defeated? (deck empty) - Scenario objective completed? - If yes: Game ends

Start New Round: - Roll initiative again - First player takes their turn - Continue until game ends

Special Rules

Heat Management

Heat Zones: - **Safe Zone** (0-4 Heat): No penalties - **Danger Zone** (5-9 Heat): Roll Strain at start of turn - **Critical** (10+ Heat): Auto-fail Strain roll (automatic malfunction)

Gaining Heat: - Certain cards say “Gain X Heat” - Pushing into Danger Zone (high-risk, high-reward)

Removing Heat: - Play cards that say “Remove X Heat” - Stand in water hexes (remove 2 Heat per turn) - Pass entire turn without acting (remove 1 Heat)

Strain Table (Roll 1d6 + current Heat):

Result	Effect
1-5	Minor Overload: Gain 1 Heat
6-8	SP Drain: Lose 1 SP this turn (max reduced temporarily)
9-11	System Damage: Take 2 damage (discard 2 cards)
12+	Critical Failure: Random component malfunctions (roll 1d6: 1-2=Arm, 3-4=Leg, 5=Head, 6=Chassis)

Component Damage Tracking

When you discard Primary Weapon cards due to damage:

Mark Component Damage on your pilot sheet: - Attacker chooses which component to target (or roll randomly) - Each Primary Weapon card discarded = 1 Component Damage - Track separately: Right Arm, Left Arm, Legs, Head, Chassis

Component Destroyed (at threshold): | Component | Threshold | Effect When Destroyed
 | |-----|-----|-----| | **Head** | 3 damage | Cannot use Sensor Sweep. -1 to all ranged attacks. | | **Right Arm** | 4 damage | Discard all Primary Weapon cards from hand. Cannot play Primary Weapon cards. | | **Left Arm** | 4 damage | Discard all Secondary Equipment cards from hand. Cannot play Secondary Equipment cards. | | **Chassis** | 5 damage | Permanent -1 SP maximum (even after Refresh). | | **Legs** | 6 damage | Movement costs +1 SP per hex (2 SP per hex total). |

Destroyed components remain destroyed for rest of battle (cannot be repaired mid-combat).

Pilot Wound System

When Pilot Takes Damage:

Pilots take damage in these situations: 1. **Capsule Breach** (enemy targets capsule specifically, rare) 2. **Neural Feedback** (when you accumulate 5+ total Component Damage) 3. **Thread Snap** (when Hand Thread cards are damaged) 4. **Taint Overload** (when Taint reaches 10) 5. **Casket Destruction** (when Casket HP reaches 0, pilot rolls save)

When pilot takes 1 damage: - Flip top card of Pilot Wound deck face-up - Read effect immediately - Effect is permanent for rest of battle (some are permanent for campaign)

Wound Types: - **Minor Injury** (5 cards): Temporary debuffs until end of mission - **Severe Injury** (3 cards): PERMANENT effects even in future missions - **Trauma** (2 cards): Mental breakdowns affecting behavior

All 10 Wounds flipped = Pilot Death - Casket becomes inert - In Arena: You lose - In Campaign: Pilot is dead, create new character

Example Turn Sequence

Player: Church Confessor (Light, 6 SP)

Starting state: - 24 cards in deck - 6 cards in hand - 2 Heat - Facing north

PHASE 1: REFRESH - Restore to 6 SP - Heat check: 2 Heat (Safe Zone) → No roll needed - No start-of-turn effects

PHASE 2: ACTION 1. **Rotate** (free action) → Now facing enemy 2. **Move 3 hexes** (3 SP) → Advance toward enemy 3. **Play Blood Offering** (0 SP) → Discard 2 cards from deck (self-harm), gain “+3 damage, ignore 1 Armor” buff 4. **Play Faithful Thrust** (2 SP) → Declare attack for 4 damage + buffs - **To-Hit:** Base 5+ | Moved 3 hexes +1 | Medium range (5 hexes) +1 = **Need 7+** - **Roll Attack Dice:** (3) + (5) = **8 total** → **Strong Hit** (+1 damage) - Final damage: 4 base + 3 (Blood Offering) + 1 (Strong Hit) = **8 damage** - **Enemy rolls 8 Defense Dice:** - **2 blocks** → Reduce to 6 damage - **1 Critical** () → +1 Component Damage - **1 Heat** () → Enemy gains 1 Heat - Enemy chooses to discard 6 cards (4 from hand, 2 from deck) 5. **OVERSPEND:** Move 2 more hexes (2 SP) → Costs 7th and 8th SP - 7th SP = Discard 1 card (overspending cost) - 8th SP = Discard 1 card (overspending cost) - Result: Moved total 5 hexes + attacked, but discarded 2 extra cards 6. **Total spent: 8 SP (6 free + 2 paid with cards)**

PHASE 3: DRAW - Hand has 4 cards (played Blood Offering, Faithful Thrust) - Draw 2 cards → Hand back to 6

PHASE 4: END TURN - No end-of-turn effects - Announce “Done” - Next player’s turn

Current state: - 22 cards in deck (started 24, discarded 2 from Blood Offering) - 6 cards in hand - 2 Heat (unchanged) - 2 SP unused (could use for reactive defense if attacked)

FAQ

Q: Can I play multiple 0 SP cards in one turn? A: Yes! Free actions can be played as many times as you have them.

Q: What happens if I'm attacked and have no reactive cards? A: You take full damage. Reactive cards are optional defenses, not mandatory.

Q: Can I move after attacking? A: Yes! Actions can be done in any order during Action Phase.

Q: Do I have to spend all my SP? A: No. You can pass early to save SP for reactive cards.

Q: What if my hand is empty mid-turn? A: You can't play cards, but you can still move (costs SP directly).

Q: Can I play a card during someone else's turn (not reactive)? A: No. Only [—] Initiative reactive cards can be played on opponent's turn.

Q: What happens if both my deck and discard are empty? A: Your Casket is defeated. Game over (or mission failure in campaign).

Q: Do Damage cards count as cards in my deck? A: Yes, they're physical cards. They just do nothing when played (dead draws).

Q: Can I choose NOT to draw cards? A: No. Draw Phase is mandatory (draw to hand size 6).

Q: If I take damage during my turn, do I draw back to 6? A: Damage discards from DECK, not hand. Hand only changes when you play cards or draw.

END OF DOCUMENT

"Refresh. Fight. Draw. Endure. This is the rhythm of war. This is how Caskets die."