CARD D&D RULES

**CHARACTER CREATION**

There is a Card D&D Character Sheet you should grab and start to fill out.

* Statistics can be rolled using any method (3d6, 4d6, point buy, etc.). Ask your DM. Point buy is advisable, because progression in this game includes enough randomness without using random stat generation.
* A character’s hit point maximum is equal to (50 + 10 \* CON), where CON is their constitution modifier. So for example, if a new character has a constitution score of 14, they have a +2 constitution modifier, and therefore 70 maximum hit points. A character with a negative constitution modifier will likewise have less than 50 maximum hit points.
* Each character starts with 1500 XP, which should be spent to unlock a basic class pack and buy a few cards!
* When you unlock a basic class pack, be sure to record the features given by unlocking that pack on your character sheet.
* Features and stat bonuses are also given by your race.
* Basic equipment such as armor, weapons, adventuring gear, and bonus gold will be granted by your DM. This equipment will give you cards which will make up most of your starting deck.
* All characters start with the ability to read, write, and speak Common, as well as any native tongues (for example, someone living among Dwarf society is likely fluent in Dwarvish).

**FLOW OF COMBAT**

At the start of a *Round*, all characters draw 3 cards and discard down to their hand limit if they have more cards than their hand limit allows.

Then, creatures take *Actions* or *Pass* in initiative order until every creature has passed, at which point the "round" comes to an end, and a new one begins.

*Pass*: Creatures who *Pass* may not take more actions for the rest of the round, but they may still take reactions.

*Actions* will almost always be to either play a card or discard it to perform one of the following *General Actions*.

When your deck runs out of cards and you need to draw, simply reshuffle your discard pile!

**GENERAL ACTIONS**

Move up to your movement speed (or stand up from *Prone*).

Wait: Take no immediate action, but you are still able to take actions this round.

*Exhaust* a card from your hand (instead of discarding) to draw one from the top of your deck.

Make a *Wisdom Saving Draw 4* to stabilize an adjacent knocked out ally.

Take a miscellaneous action as allowed by the DM.

**MECHANICS**

*Action*: something your character does, such as moving, attacking, or casting a spell. "Actions" essentially take your entire turn to complete--typically about 6 seconds.

*Attack of opportunity*: Once per round, when a creature leaves your effective range, you may instantly play any damage-inflicting card in your hand that targets only that creature.

*Injury:* A detrimental card that is removed from your deck after a long rest.

*Long Rest:* An 8-hour period of rest in which a character sleeps. The character can still benefit from a long rest if they performed a maximum of 2 hours of light activity, such as standing watch. After a long rest, *Exhausted* cards are returned to their deck, *Injury* cards are removed from their deck, and then they may rearrange their deck using cards from their collection however they like, assuming the deck is within the character’s deck size limit. This deck rearrangement is called “preparing.”

*Short Rest:* A 1-hour period of rest during which a character can either regain half of their hit points, remove up to three injuries from their deck, or regain up to three exhausted cards and put them back in your deck or collection (whichever location you used it from).

*Reaction*: can be played from the hand instantly in response to another action. Generally, the reaction card's effect will take place immediately before the action that was reacted to. Only one reaction can be taken by any given creature in reaction to a certain action. For example, an abjuration wizard can cast Arcane Ward and their paladin can use Block on the same damage, but the paladin can’t use Block twice in reaction to the same action. Finally, a creature cannot react to its own action.

*Round*: A "round" consists of each character involved in the combat taking actions in sequential order until each of them has passed.

*Draws*: If a target must make a saving draw, they reveal X cards from the top of their deck, where X is the difficulty of the draw. If any of the revealed card(s) have the attribute (STR, DEX, etc.) listed, the target succeeds the saving draw. The target then shuffles the card(s) back into their deck. If the target is supposed to reveal more cards from their deck than there are cards left in their deck, they must shuffle their discard pile and reveal the remaining cards from their discard pile. The maximum difficulty of a saving draw is 1.

For Example:

Jerrod the Monk is to make a *DEX Saving Draw 4*, but he only has 3 cards left in his draw pile. He reveals all 3 cards in his draw pile. Then, keeping those cards revealed, he shuffles his discard pile. He reveals 1 card randomly from his shuffled discard pile. He checks the 4 revealed cards. He sees that one of them has the DEX attribute marking, and he has thus succeeded the Saving Draw. He then shuffles his first 3 revealed cards and returns them to the deck, and puts his 4th revealed card back into the discard pile where he got it from.

*Advantage/Disadvantage*: If a character must make a Draw with disadvantage, they get to reveal one less card in their attempt. With advantage, they may reveal one additional card.

*Draw* DC rough conversion from 5e:

DC 10 -> Saving Draw 4

DC 15 -> Saving Draw 2

DC 20 -> Saving Draw 1

*Death Saves*: If a player character or other similarly important character reaches 0 hp, they are knocked out, and shuffle all cards in play, in their hand, and in their discard back into their deck. When it is their turn to take an action, they call and flip a coin. If they call it right, the creature succeeds a *Death Save*. Otherwise, they fail. If the character reaches 3 failures, they die. If they reach 3 successes, they are stabilized, and will not die. A creature that is damaged at 0 hp gains one *Death Save* failure. A stabilized creature with 0 hp that takes damage must start the Death Save process over again on their turn, but they begin with 1 failure (from taking damage at 0 hp).

*Spells:* Spells have different mechanics depending on the class’ spellcasting ability, but in general, they represent an arcane or divine ritual performed by a character to cause some sort of magical effect to occur.

*Ritual Spells:* Ritual spells cannot be added to your deck under any circumstances, but rather can only be cast out of combat. They typically have a long casting time, and potentially have a material or gold cost.

**KEYWORDS**

*Combo:* This effect activates if the card is played by another card.

*Exhausted:* Removed from your deck until a long rest

*If Able*: An action followed by *"If Able"* must be performed if the conditions to perform the action are met. However, the card may still be played if it's impossible to perform the action--in that case, the action will simply not be performed.

*Inflict*: Add to the target's discard pile.

*Negate*: Stop the effect from occurring if it is on the stack.

*Pacify*: Convince the target that you and your companions mean it no harm. The target cannot attack you or your companions. This effect lasts 24 hours and ends early if you or a companion harms the target or its allies.

*Persistent:* Lasts until the end of combat.

*Prevent:* Like *Negate*, except *Prevent* lowers a numeric value instead of completely negating an effect.

*Simple:* Do not exhaust this card when it is cast out of combat.

*Unreactable*: No reactions may be made before this card's effect has applied, or in response to its effect.

*Upgraded:* A card that is upgraded is replaced by its “plus” version. For example, upgraded Strike is Strike+.

*Useless*: Cannot be discarded, except at the end of the round, at which point it **must** be discarded. Cannot even be discarded if you are over your hand limit.

**STATUSES**

“Reduce”: reducing a status means to lower its associated value by a given amount.

*Blindness:* You cannot take any actions that require sight.

*Damage Reduction X:* You take **X** less damage from all sources. If you gain this status twice, you keep only the higher-valued status. For example, if you have *Damage Reduction 1* and gain *Damage Reduction 2,* you do not have *Damage Reduction 3,* you have *Damage Reduction 2.*

*Grappled:* You are being pushed around by another creature. Your movement speed is 0. You may not perform the somatic components required to cast a spell.

You may take a *General Action* to make a *Saving Draw* of either STR or DEX. It is the same difficulty as the one you failed when you became grappled (5 minus the STR of the *Grappling* creature). If you succeed the *Draw*, the condition ends. The condition also ends if the *Grappling* creature is incapacitated. If this status ends, the *Grappling* creature is no longer *Grappling*.

*Grappling:* You are pushing around another creature. When you move, you can drag or carry the *Grappled* creature with you, but your speed is halved.

You may release the target whenever you like, ending the status (no action required). If this status ends, the *Grappled* creature is no longer *Grappled*.

*Laughter:* You find everything hilarious, and are incapacitated. You may only take General Actions. You may take a General Action to attempt a *WIS Saving Draw 2* to end the status.

*Rooted*: All parts of the creature that were touching the ground when this status began are stuck there. They may use a general action to make a *STR Saving Draw 2* to remove this status.

*On Fire X*: Take **X** damage at the start of each round. An afflicted creature may take a General Action to make a *DEX Saving Draw 2* to attempt to remove this status. Outside of combat, you may spend 30 seconds to remove this status by rolling on the ground.

*Poison X*: Lower your CON score by **X**. For every point your modifier decreases, decrease your Max HP by 10. If your current HP is now higher than your Max HP, lower your current HP to your new Max. These effects go away after a long rest.

*Prone:* You are lying on the ground. You may not take any actions except a General Action to stand up. When you do so, adjacent foes may make attacks of opportunity.

Combat Statuses: These statuses disappear at the end of combat.

*Frostbite X:* Take **X** damage at the start of each round.

*Thorns X:* Whenever you are the target of a damaging card, the source of the damage takes **X** damage.

*Regenerate X:* Gain **X** health at the start of each round.

*Slow X:* Your movement speed is reduced by **X** feet.

*Strength X:* Your cards that deal damage deal **X** additional damage.

*Spell Weakness X:* Take **X** additional damage from spells.

*Ward X:* Nullify the next **X** instances of incoming damage.

**STATS**

Focus: Affects deck size limit (below). Calculated by summing the modifiers of your three mind stats (INT, WIS, CHA). *Only include positive modifiers in this calculation.*

Hand Size: The maximum number of cards allowed in your hand at one time. Calculated as 3 + DEX. Cannot go below 4.

Deck Size Limit: A Deck must be at least (15 – Focus) cards, and no more than (20 + Focus) cards. If your collection does not contain (15 – Focus) cards, you must have every card from your collection in your deck.

Initiative: Directly determines turn order. There is no roll!

**PROGRESSION**

The DM will dole out experience points for completing adventures, quests, encounters, puzzles and for any other accomplishments they feel your character deserves them for! You can use experience points to “buy” cards.

It costs a certain amount of XP to unlock a given card pack, which may or may not include a new feature for your character. There is an additional XP cost to get a random card from that pack.

You can buy a *specific* card from a pack if your character has:

* seen it used in combat. This costs 3x the cost of a random card from the corresponding pack.
* already got a copy of the card in their collection. This costs 2x the cost of a random card from the pack.
* an ally who has the card in their collection train them in the ability for a number of days equal to the card’s level. This costs 2x the cost of a random card from the pack.

There is a spreadsheet that lists all available card packs, as well as their features, requirements, and costs.

Additionally, magical items and the like can be found along your journey which can have incredible, character-altering effects. Some of these items will add cards to your collection. For example, a wizard might learn a new spell by copying it from another wizard’s scroll or spellbook.

**CASTING SPELLS OUT OF COMBAT**

You can cast spells outside of combat, even if they are not in your deck! Any spell from your deck may be cast outside of combat by exhausting it. Any spell from your collection may be cast outside of combat by exhausting all copies of it from your collection until your next long rest. Even if the spell does not have *Exhaust*, it still must be exhausted to be cast outside of combat.