

PARIAH NEXUS TOURNAMENT COMPANION

VERSION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Pariah Nexus Tournament Companion! The following guidelines are designed to support organisers of Warhammer 40,000 events in delivering a fine-tuned tournament experience using the *Pariah Nexus Mission Deck*. That product offers unprecedented scope for all kinds of matched play, and its many variables create a dizzying array of potential missions – thousands, in fact! Some of these are particularly well suited to the most hotly contested scenarios, and this pack provides suggestions for the best event configurations. We have also taken the opportunity to optimise certain Core Rules concepts for tournament play.

This document provides a ready-made framework for levelling the playing field and getting games underway quickly, whether you are planning your first matched play event or have years of experience organising the largest and most acclaimed tournaments. Its recommendations will be followed in full at most Games Workshop matched play events, and are considered the official way to play Warhammer 40,000 in a tournament setting, but can be adapted to suit your own circumstances – the terrain layout advice is aimed primarily at newer organisers, for example, and those with large established terrain collections should feel free to interpret it accordingly.

The recommendations are presented as follows:

- **Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission Sequence:** Adjustments to the steps players would normally follow to generate a mission and prepare the battlefield.
- **Pariah Nexus Mission Deck Errata & FAQ:** Updates to certain cards and answers to frequently asked questions.
- **Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission Pool:** 20 recommended tournament rounds to draw from, with pre-set Primary Missions, Mission Rules and deployment modes that put all players on an equal footing and minimise pre-game admin.
- **Terrain Layouts:** A suite of carefully designed terrain setups to be used in conjunction with the Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission Pool.
- **Pairings and Rankings:** Advice for fairly pairing players and determining rankings.

PARIAH NEXUS TOURNAMENT MISSION SEQUENCE

A Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission battle is waged by following the sequence below.

- 1 MUSTER ARMIES**
Muster armies as described in the Core Rules.
- 2 DETERMINE MISSION**
Instead of shuffling and drawing from the Deployment, Mission Rule and Primary Mission decks, players should use the pre-generated missions from the Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission Pool. Set aside the Secondary Mission and Secret Mission decks as normal [players will receive these later].
- 3 READ MISSION**
Read the Primary Mission and Mission Rule cards drawn. The Primary Mission card details how and when you score Victory points (VP), and may also apply additional conditions to the battle. You can also score VP by achieving Secondary Missions and Secret Missions [described later]. The Mission Rule card details any special rules that apply to the battle.
- 4 PLACE OBJECTIVE MARKERS**
Players now set up objective markers on the battlefield. Each Deployment card's deployment map will show players how many objective markers to set up and where each should be placed. In Pariah Nexus Tournament Missions, models can end any type of move on top of an objective marker.
- 5 CREATE THE BATTLEFIELD**
Designer's Note: In the Warhammer 40,000 Core Rules, objective markers are physical artefacts that models cannot end a move on, representing vital data caches, xenos relics, Chaos portals or anything else that suits your narrative. While this adds to the cinematic nature of the battlefield and offers exciting hobby opportunities, it can sometimes result in model-positioning circumstances that not everyone will enjoy equally. As such, these guidelines recommend treating objective markers as flat, circular markers 40mm in diameter that offer no impediment to the movement or placement of models.
Players now create the battlefield and set up terrain features. Missions are played on rectangular battlefields whose dimensions are approximately 44" by 60". When setting up terrain features, use the guidelines detailed in the Terrain Layouts section of this pack. Players must use the rules for terrain features detailed in the Core Rules. While other approaches to terrain layout may work within the collections of experienced organisers, we recommend these terrain guidelines when otherwise in doubt.

6 DETERMINE ATTACKER AND DEFENDER

Look at the Deployment card drawn and agree which edges of your battlefield are the Attacker's and Defender's battlefield edges. Roll off: the winner decides who will be the Attacker and who will be the Defender.

7 SELECT SECONDARY MISSIONS

Secondary Mission cards detail additional ways to score VP, and must be used either as Fixed or Tactical Missions. Players now secretly note down whether they will use Fixed or Tactical Missions; if using Fixed Missions, they must also note down which two Fixed Missions they will use (see below). Players then reveal these decisions and proceed accordingly.

FIXED MISSIONS

Fixed Missions are goals that remain throughout the battle, and can be achieved multiple times.

 Fixed Missions are those marked with the symbol shown on the left. After revealing the two Fixed Missions you will use, set aside the remainder of your Secondary Mission deck (it will not be needed during the battle). Your selected Fixed Mission cards cannot be discarded for any reason other than the Adapt or Die Mission Rule card.

TACTICAL MISSIONS

Tactical Missions are replenished at the start of your Command phase, and are discarded once achieved.

After revealing that you will use Tactical Missions, shuffle your Secondary Mission deck.

If you are using Tactical Missions:

- At the start of your first Command phase, draw two cards from your Secondary Mission deck; those two Secondary Mission cards are active for you until you achieve them. At the start of each of your subsequent Command phases, if you have fewer than two active Secondary Mission cards, draw from your Secondary Mission deck until you have two active Secondary Mission cards.
- At the end of your Command phase, you can spend CP to use the New Orders Stratagem below.



NEW ORDERS

CORE – STRATEGIC PLOY STRATEGEM

High command has received new intelligence.

WHEN:

End of your Command phase.

TARGET:

One of your active Secondary Mission cards.

EFFECT:

Discard it and draw one new Secondary Mission card.

- At the end of either player's turn, if you scored any VP this turn as described on a Secondary Mission card, discard that Secondary Mission card – it is achieved.
- At the end of your turn, you can discard one or more of your active Secondary Mission cards. If you do, you gain 1CP.
- If your Secondary Mission deck runs out, you cannot generate any additional Secondary Missions during the battle.

8 DECLARE BATTLE FORMATIONS

Players secretly note down which of their Leader units will start the battle attached to which Bodyguard units, which of their units will start the battle embarked within which TRANSPORTS, and which of their units will start the battle in Reserves (including Strategic Reserves). Players then reveal these decisions.

RESERVES RESTRICTIONS

- No more than half of the units in your army can start the battle in Reserves, and the points total of those units cannot be more than half of the points total of your army (units embarked within a TRANSPORT that is set up in Reserves also count towards these limits).
- Reserves units cannot arrive on the battlefield during the first battle round (excluding units placed into Strategic Reserves during the battle).
- Any Reserves units that have not arrived on the battlefield by the end of the third battle round count as having been destroyed, as do any units embarked within them (excluding units placed into Strategic Reserves during the battle).

9 DEPLOY ARMIES

Players take it in turns to set up their remaining units one at a time, starting with the Defender. A player's models must be set up wholly within their deployment zone. If a player sets up a TITANIC unit when it is their turn to set up a unit, they skip their next turn to set up a unit. If one player finishes deploying all of their units, their opponent then deploys the remainder of their units.

10 REDEPLOY UNITS

Some rules allow players to redeploy certain units after both armies are deployed. Unless otherwise stated, such rules are resolved in this step. Players alternate resolving any such rules, starting with the Attacker.

11 DETERMINE FIRST TURN

Roll off: the winner takes the first turn.

12 RESOLVE PRE-BATTLE RULES

Players alternate resolving any pre-battle rules units from their army may have, starting with the player who will take the first turn.

13 BEGIN THE BATTLE

The first battle round begins. Players continue to resolve battle rounds until the battle ends.

14 END THE BATTLE

The battle ends after five battle rounds have been completed. Even if one player has no models remaining in their army at the start of their turn, players continue to play out their turns until the battle ends.

15

DETERMINE VICTOR

At the end of the battle, the player with the most VP is the winner. If the players are tied, the battle is a draw.

The maximum VP each player can score is 100VP. Each player scores 10VP if their army is painted to a Battle Ready standard. The maximum VP that can be scored from each source of VP is detailed on below. In all cases, any excess VP awarded above these maximums are lost.

VP SOURCE	MAXIMUM VP
Primary Mission and/or Secret Mission	50VP
Secondary Missions	40VP*
Army painted to a Battle Ready standard	10VP

* If using Fixed Missions, 20VP maximum per Fixed Mission card.

DESIGNER'S NOTES

VP FOR DESTROYING MODELS OR UNITS

Some cards award VP for destroying enemy models or units. If you gain VP as described on such cards, you retain those VP even if those destroyed models or units are subsequently returned to the battlefield.

VP UP TO A LIMIT

Some cards award VP up to a stated limit, which may not be a round multiple, e.g. '2VP (up to 5VP)'. In such cases, you can keep scoring up to the stated limit, then any excess VP awarded are lost.

DISCARDING CARDS

Some cards begin with a section named 'When Drawn', which details immediate next steps including when such cards either can or must be discarded. Note that if such a card is a Secondary Mission card, this section only applies if you are using Tactical Missions.

DEPLOYMENT CARD KEY

ATTACKER'S DEPLOYMENT ZONE

The Attacker must set up their army within this area.



DEFENDER'S DEPLOYMENT ZONE

The Defender must set up their army within this area.



NO MAN'S LAND

The region of the battlefield that is not within either player's deployment zone.



OBJECTIVE MARKERS

The quantity and locations of objective markers are shown with this icon.



CENTRE OF BATTLEFIELD



ATTACKER'S
BATTLEFIELD EDGE



DEFENDER'S
BATTLEFIELD EDGE

SECRET MISSIONS

Secret Missions are challenging covert goals you can pursue if the Primary Mission seems in jeopardy.

At the end of the third battle round, starting with the player who had the second turn, if your Primary Mission VP total is less than or equal to your opponent's, you can choose to undertake a Secret Mission. If you do:

- Secretly select one card from your Secret Mission deck and place it to one side, face-down.
- You cannot score more than 20VP from the Primary Mission card; any excess VP awarded above this maximum are lost.
- At the end of the battle, reveal your Secret Mission card to your opponent. If you achieved the goal described on that card, you score VP as described on that card.

ACTIONS

Your forces can attempt daring battlefield tasks to turn the conflict in your favour.



Some cards feature Actions that certain units can perform. Each Action states which units can perform it, when it is started and completed, and what the effects of completing it are.

A unit cannot start to perform an Action if one or more of the following apply to that unit:

- It is an **AIRCRAFT** unit.
- It is Battle-shocked.
- It has an Objective Control characteristic of 0.
- It is within Engagement Range of one or more enemy units (unless it is a **TITANIC CHARACTER** unit).
- It Advanced or Fell Back this turn.
- It is not eligible to shoot this phase (including units that have already been selected to shoot this phase).

If a unit starts to perform an Action, until the end of the turn, that unit is not eligible to shoot or declare a charge, unless it is a **TITANIC CHARACTER** unit, in which case, until the end of the turn, that unit cannot start to perform another Action and is not eligible to declare a charge.

If a unit performing an Action makes a move (excluding Pile-in and Consolidation moves) or leaves the battlefield, that Action cannot be completed.

PARIAH NEXUS MISSION DECK: CARDS ERRATA

When using the Pariah Nexus Mission Deck, use the updated cards presented below in place of their printed equivalents. Note that both the Attacker and Defender should use the text presented on the Attacker cards shown below. Updated text is shown in red.

SECONDARY MISSION – ATTACKER RECOVER ASSETS

Scattered strategic assets must be swiftly reclaimed.

When Drawn: If there are fewer than two units from your army on the battlefield, you can discard this card and draw a new Secondary Mission card.

RECOVER ASSETS (ACTION)

STARTS: Your Shooting phase.

UNITS: One or more units from your army, if each of those units is wholly within a different one of the following areas: your deployment zone; No Man's Land; your opponent's deployment zone.

COMPLETES: End of your opponent's next turn or the end of the battle (whichever comes first), if either two or three of those units are on the battlefield.

IF COMPLETED: Those units **recover assets**.

ANY BATTLE ROUND	VICTORY POINTS
WHEN: End of your opponent's turn or the end of the battle (whichever comes first).	
Two of your units recovered assets this turn.	3VP
OR	
Three of your units recovered assets this turn.	6VP

This Secondary Mission cannot be selected as a Fixed Mission, and should not have the Fixed Mission symbol.

SECONDARY MISSION – ATTACKER ASSASSINATION

The enemy look to their champions for courage. Identify and eliminate them with extreme prejudice.

ANY BATTLE ROUND	VICTORY POINTS
WHEN: While this card is active (if you are using Fixed Missions).	
Each time an enemy CHARACTER model is destroyed.	FIXED 4VP

ANY BATTLE ROUND	VICTORY POINTS
WHEN: End of either player's turn (if you are using Tactical Missions).	
One or more enemy CHARACTER models were destroyed this turn.	TACTICAL 5VP
OR	
All CHARACTER models from your opponent's army have been destroyed during the battle.	TACTICAL 5VP

SECONDARY MISSION – ATTACKER CULL THE HORDE

The enemy come forth in teeming masses. Their ranks must be thinned if the day is to be won.

When Drawn: If there are no enemy units on the battlefield that satisfy either of the conditions required to achieve this card, you can discard this card and draw a new Secondary Mission card.

ANY BATTLE ROUND	VICTORY POINTS
WHEN: While this card is active.	
Each time an enemy INFANTRY unit is destroyed, if one or more of the following conditions are satisfied:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Starting Strength of the destroyed unit was 20+.■ The total of the Wounds characteristics of the models in the destroyed unit was 25+ (at its Starting Strength).■ When that unit's player added that unit to their army, the points value they subtracted from the total permitted for this battle was sufficient for that unit to be composed of 20 or more models.	5VP

Note: For the purposes of the above conditions, models in attached Leader units are ignored.

MISSION RULE HIDDEN SUPPLIES

Reconnaissance units have uncovered a hidden cache of ammunition, fuel and rations in this war zone.

When Drawn: If you also drew The Ritual Primary Mission card, discard this Mission Rule card and draw a new Mission Rule card.

In the Place Objective Markers step, players must set up one additional objective marker in No Man's Land.

Before setting up this new objective marker, players must first move the objective marker in the centre of the battlefield 6" directly towards one of the corners of the battlefield (if No Man's Land touches any of the corners of the battlefield, you must move the objective marker towards one of those corners). **Otherwise, the players roll-off, and the winner selects which corner the objective marker is moved towards.** Players then set up the new objective marker 6" from the centre of the battlefield towards the diagonally opposite corner of the battlefield to the previously moved objective marker.

PRIMARY MISSION SCORCHED EARTH

What cannot be secured must be burned to ash.

BURN OBJECTIVE (ACTION)



STARTS: Your Shooting phase, from the second battle round onwards.

UNITS: One unit from your army within range of an objective marker that is not within your deployment zone.

COMPLETES: End of your opponent's next turn or the end of the battle (whichever comes first), if your unit is still within range of the same objective marker and you control that objective marker.

IF COMPLETED: That objective marker is **burned** and removed from the battlefield.

SECOND BATTLE ROUND ONWARDS

WHEN: Any time.

Each time a **player** **burns** an objective marker, that player scores **5VP** if that objective marker was in No Man's Land, or **10VP** instead if that objective marker was in their opponent's deployment zone.

SECOND BATTLE ROUND ONWARDS

WHEN: End of the Command phase [or the end of your turn if it is the fifth battle round and you are going second].

The player whose turn it is scores **5VP** for each objective marker they control (up to **10VP** per turn).

PARIAH NEXUS MISSION DECK: FAQS

Your questions about the Pariah Nexus Mission Deck will be reviewed periodically and answered below.

Q: When setting up objective markers as part of step 4 of the Pariah Nexus Tournament Mission Sequence, or setting up a new objective marker as part of a Primary Mission (such as The Ritual), do I measure from/to the centre or the edge of the objective marker?

A: In all of these instances, you measure from the centre of the objective marker. This also includes the central objective marker in the Search and Destroy deployment map when measuring the boundaries of the deployment zones.

Q: If a unit includes some models that have an Objective Control characteristic of 0 and some models that have an Objective Control Characteristic of higher than 0, does that prevent it from performing an Action?

A: No.

Q: To start performing the Sabotage Action, does it require both the terrain feature and your unit to not be within your deployment zone? Or is it just your unit that must not be within your deployment zone?

A: Only your unit must not be within your deployment zone to start performing the Sabotage Action.

Q: In Burden of Trust, can you guard objective markers in your own deployment zone?

A: Yes.

Q: If an Action states in its Units section that one unit can perform it, is it possible for multiple units to each be performing one instance of that Action?

A: No, only one unit from an army can be performing that Action at any one time.

Q: For Primary and Secondary Missions that award VP for destroying CHARACTER models or units, if those models or units are returned to the battlefield and then subsequently destroyed again, will such Primary and Secondary Missions award VP for them being destroyed again?

A: Yes, unless that Primary or Secondary Mission specifies otherwise.

Q: For the purposes of the Mission Pack, are there any amendments to the Core Rules regarding how Ruins affect charging units and which models can fight?

A: No. This means models can be positioned to make it difficult to charge directly through sections of terrain features into combat, as models can't end their Charge move where any part of their model or base would be within sections of those terrain features (e.g. a solid Ruins wall). This may mean the result of a Charge roll needs to be greater to allow a unit to make a Charge move that ends within Engagement Range and not within any sections of those terrain features, while still following all other conditions of charging.

Designer's Note: Organisers, if your terrain collection includes large enclosed structures, or similar, that units would be able to move within, but may render ending a Charge move within Engagement Range of those units within that terrain impossible, you may wish to include additional clarification for your particular terrain elements within your event packs to avoid uninteractive situations.

CORE RULES UPDATES: TOURNAMENT PLAY

The changes presented below revise those presented in the Core Rules Updates document, to ensure the most balanced experience for matched play.

Pivot Value

- Models have a pivot value of 0", unless otherwise stated.
- Models that are not on a round base (excluding AIRCRAFT models) have a pivot value of 2", unless otherwise stated.

Designer's Note: This change expands the pivot value of 2" to all models on non-round bases (excluding AIRCRAFT), as well as to models that do not have any base, to ensure no undue advantage is conferred by pivoting such models (e.g. while making a Charge move).

PARIAH NEXUS TOURNAMENT MISSION POOL

The 20 Pariah Nexus Tournament Missions in this section are designed to act as a pool from which organisers can build their events, selecting from it in random order. Further commentary on these is given below.

PRIMARY MISSIONS

Every Primary Mission from the Pariah Nexus Mission Deck is included in this mission pool. If you are running an event with only 3-6 rounds, we recommend selecting options that span a variety of different Primary Missions. For example, if running a 3-round Saturday tournament, you might use missions B, I, and M, or C, K, and O.

For those running longer-format events, or whose attendees are particularly expectant of a perfectly balanced mission every time, we have included the more straightforward Primary Missions in a greater number of configurations.

MISSION RULES

Mission Rules are an exciting component of the Pariah Nexus Mission Deck, providing twists to the way a mission is normally played, and the ones recommended here are particularly suited to tournament play.

RECOMMENDED TERRAIN LAYOUTS

When using the recommended terrain layouts in this pack, please note the layouts best suited for each deployment mode, as shown in the table below. We recommend structuring your mission order to facilitate any changes to terrain layouts you will need to make during your event, if, as the organiser, you choose to set up the tables for the players.

PARIAH NEXUS TOURNAMENT MISSION POOL

PRIMARY MISSION	MISSION RULE	DEPLOYMENT	TERRAIN LAYOUTS
A	Take and Hold	Raise Banners	Tipping Point 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8
B	Purge the Foe	Smoke and Mirrors	Tipping Point 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8
C	Linchpin	Fog of War	Tipping Point 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8
D	Scorched Earth	Swift Action	Tipping Point 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8
E	Take and Hold	Prepared Positions	Hammer and Anvil 1, 7, 8
F	Burden of Trust	Hidden Supplies	Hammer and Anvil 1, 7, 8
G	The Ritual	Stalwarts	Hammer and Anvil 1, 7, 8
H	Supply Drop	Smoke and Mirrors	Hammer and Anvil 1, 7, 8
I	Burden of Trust	Prepared Positions	Search and Destroy 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
J	Linchpin	Raise Banners	Search and Destroy 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
K	Scorched Earth	Stalwarts	Search and Destroy 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
L	Take and Hold	Hidden Supplies	Search and Destroy 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
M	Purge the Foe	Rapid Escalation	Crucible of Battle 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
N	The Ritual	Swift Action	Crucible of Battle 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
O	Terraform	Stalwarts	Crucible of Battle 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
P	Scorched Earth	Inspired Leadership	Crucible of Battle 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
Q	Supply Drop	Rapid Escalation	Sweeping Engagement 3, 5
R	Terraform	Swift Action	Sweeping Engagement 3, 5
S	Linchpin	Raise Banners	Dawn of War 5
T	Unexploded Ordnance	Inspired Leadership	Dawn of War 5

TERRAIN LAYOUTS

The following battlefield recommendations are intended primarily for newer organisers and those looking for a steer in building up a terrain collection for regular tournament play. These layouts will be seen at most Games Workshop matched play events, and reflect the type of terrain density that creates risk-and-reward decisions that a wide variety of army types can engage with. They are by no means the only way to set up a battlefield for balanced play, but represent a reliable starting point when in doubt.

These are the terrain layouts we use for balance and internal testing within the Warhammer Design Studio. We feel they reflect how a battlefield should look for balanced play in the current edition of Warhammer 40,000.

They are by no means the only way to set up a battlefield for balanced play, but represent a reliable starting point when in doubt. These layouts were designed with a few key principles in mind:

RECOMMENDED MEASUREMENTS

For all of the battlefield recommendations we use a combination of three different sizes of area terrain outlines:

AREA TERRAIN SIZE	QUANTITY
6" x 4"	4
10" x 5"	2
12" x 6"	6

Using the area terrain outlines detailed above, all of the battlefield recommendations have preset measurements provided. This allows for organisers to easily set up the tables, or allow the players themselves to set up their own tables at the beginning of each round.



OBJECTIVE MARKERS

Objective markers can and sometimes will be either hidden within terrain or placed in the open.

USE OF RUINS

The following layouts primarily use the Ruins terrain feature. This efficiently achieves a good amount of line-of-sight blockage and cover appropriate for balanced games, thanks to the natural abstraction of line of sight within the rules for Ruins. Remember that a variety of terrain heights not only adds to the immersive nature of the battlefield, but is also important for line of sight and rules such as Plunging Fire. For organisers and players with a more robust terrain collection (especially elements that block true line of sight), incorporating features such as Woods, Barricades and Hills into your chosen layouts is perfectly acceptable.

TERRAIN KEY – SUGGESTED TERRAIN HEIGHT

MORE THAN 4"



2" OR LESS



For model mobility purposes, we have shaded the area terrain outlines in the above colours to show our recommendations for how tall the terrain should be in each section.

Below are examples of Ruins terrain placements within area terrain sections, as well as icons that denote if connected area terrain outlines are a single area terrain section or separate area terrain sections when determining line of sight.

These height and Ruin placement guidelines help provide a balanced tournament experience; as organisers you are free to adjust this to suit your terrain collection.



RECOMMENDED
RUINS TERRAIN
PLACEMENT

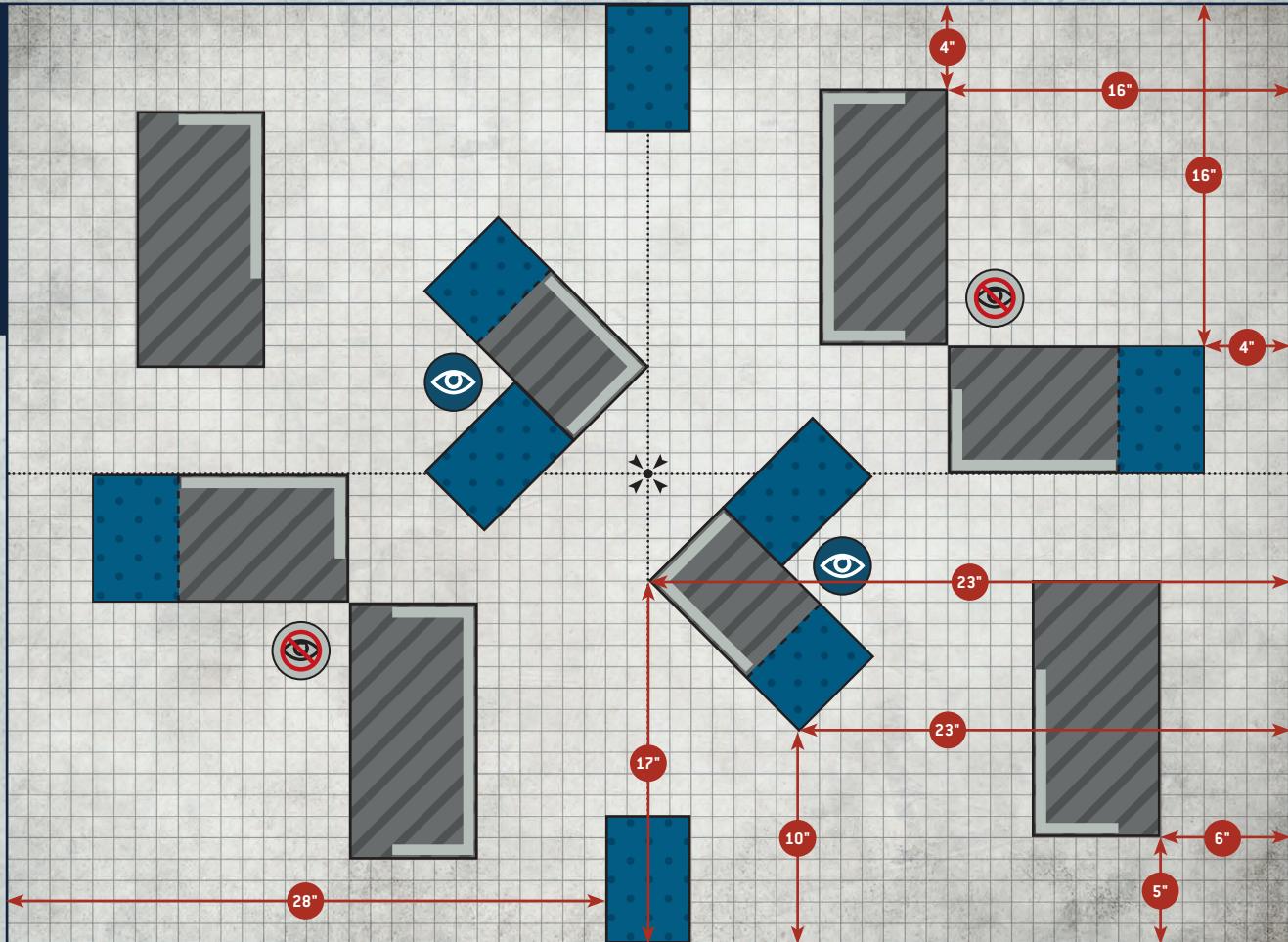


SINGLE
AREA TERRAIN
SECTION

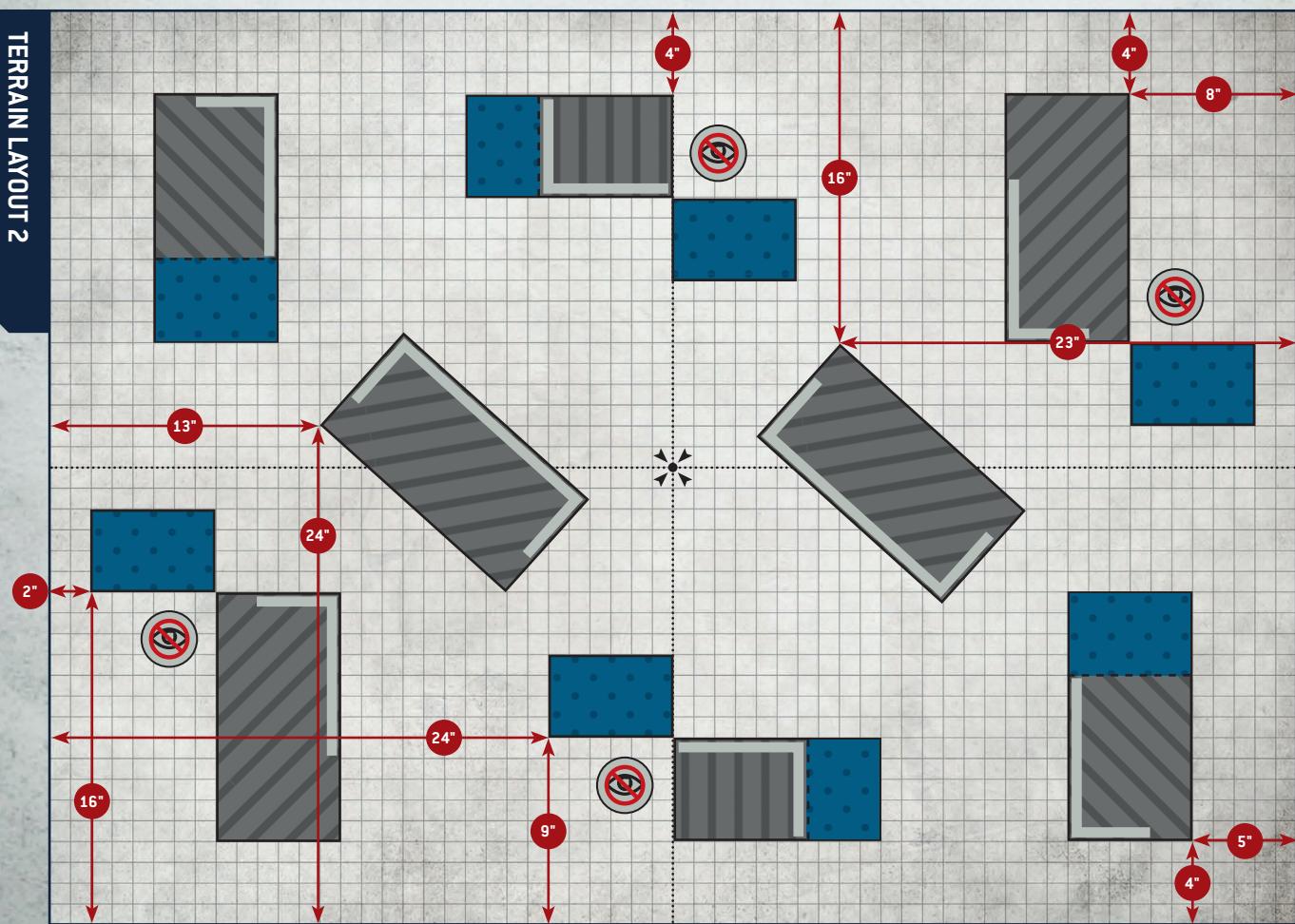


SEPARATE
AREA TERRAIN
SECTIONS

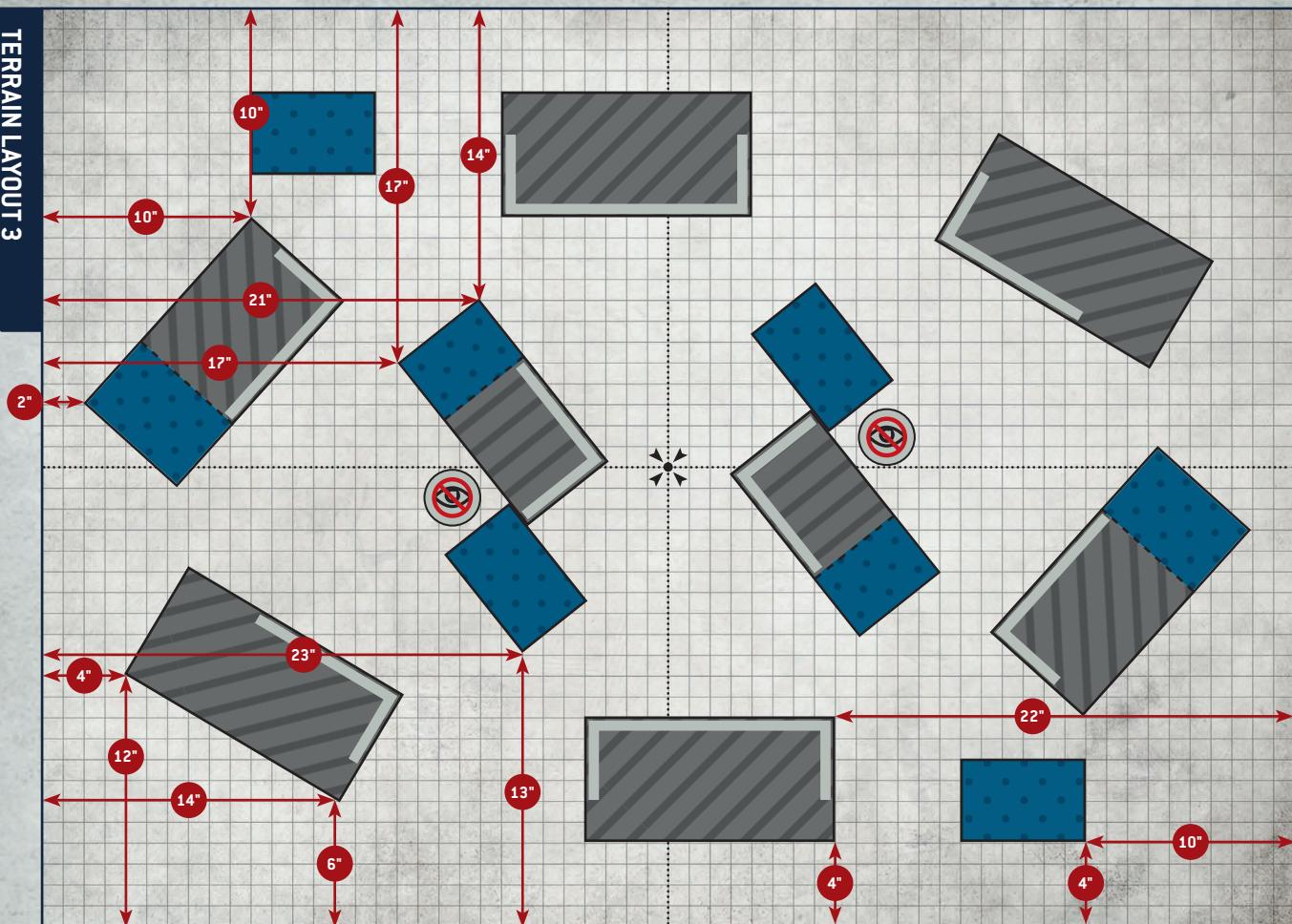
TERRAIN LAYOUT 1



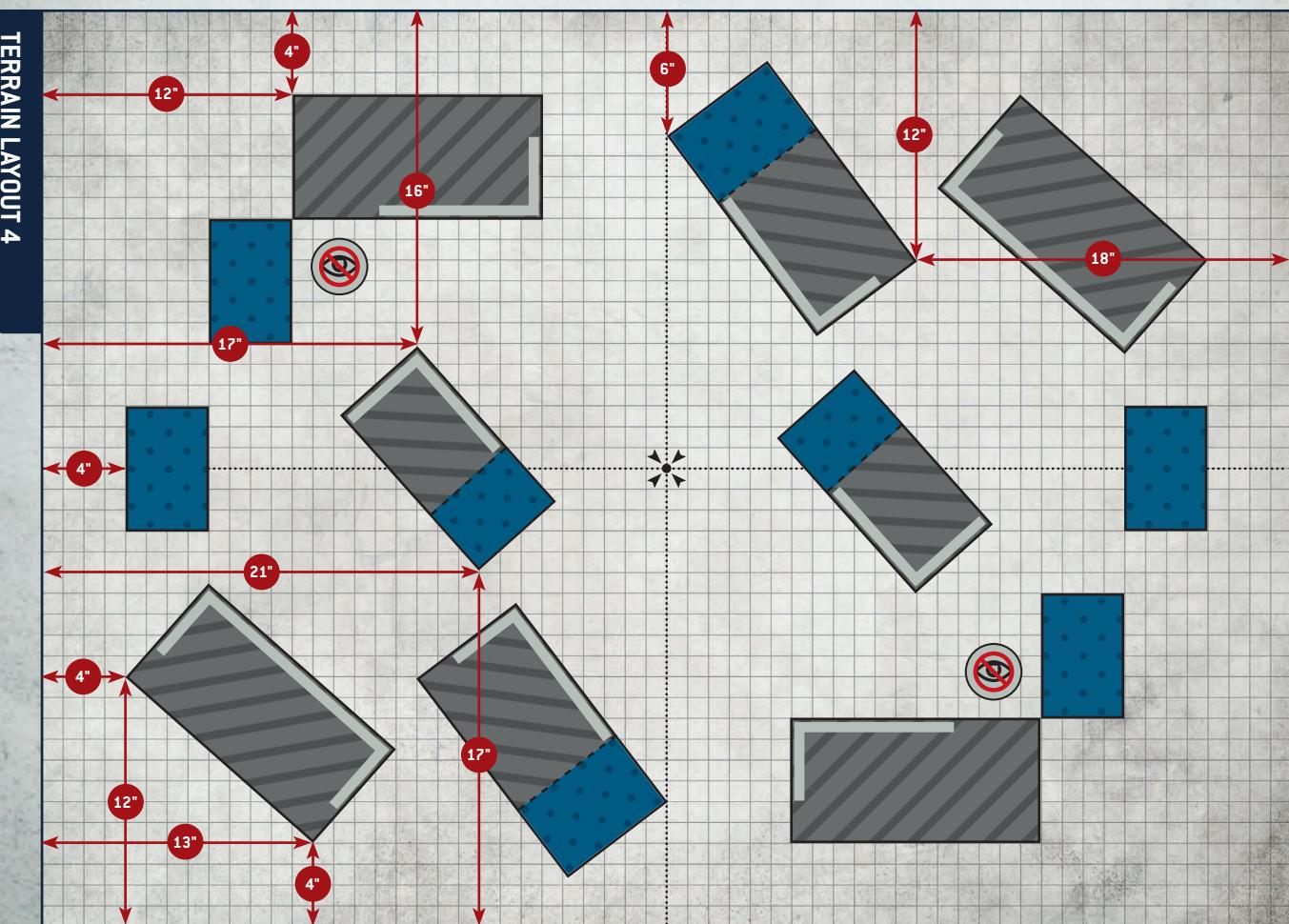
TERRAIN LAYOUT 2



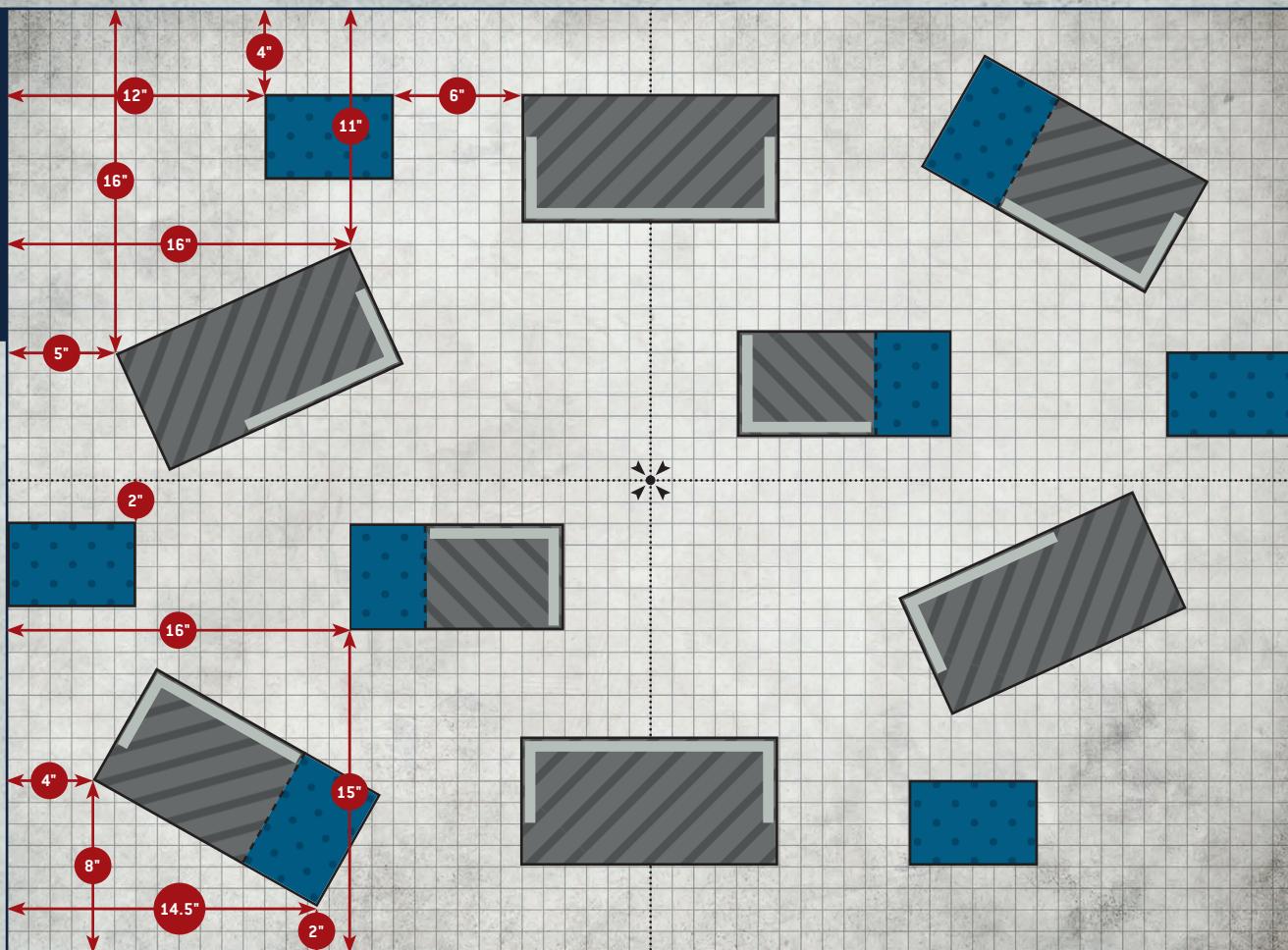
TERRAIN LAYOUT 3



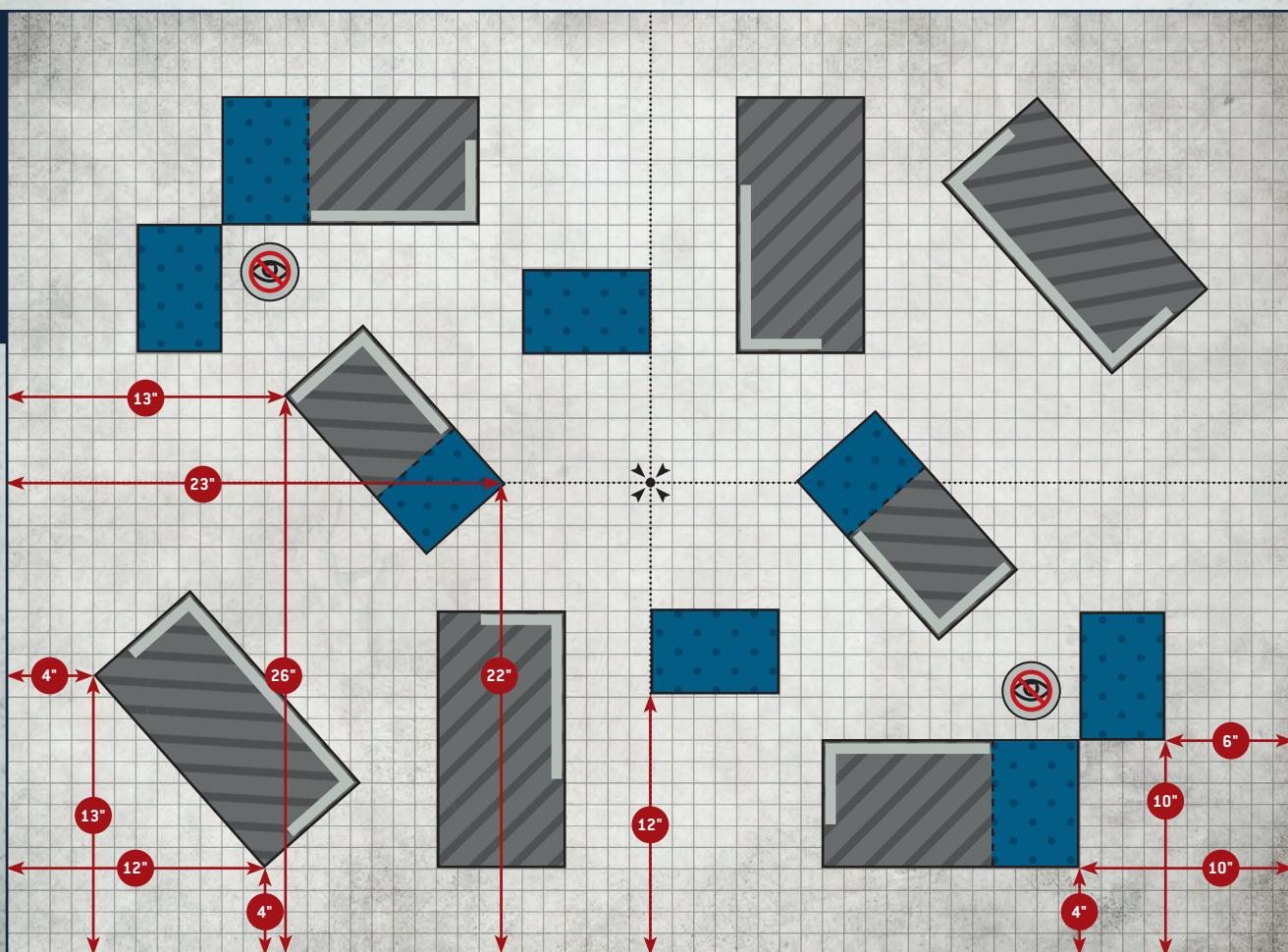
TERRAIN LAYOUT 4



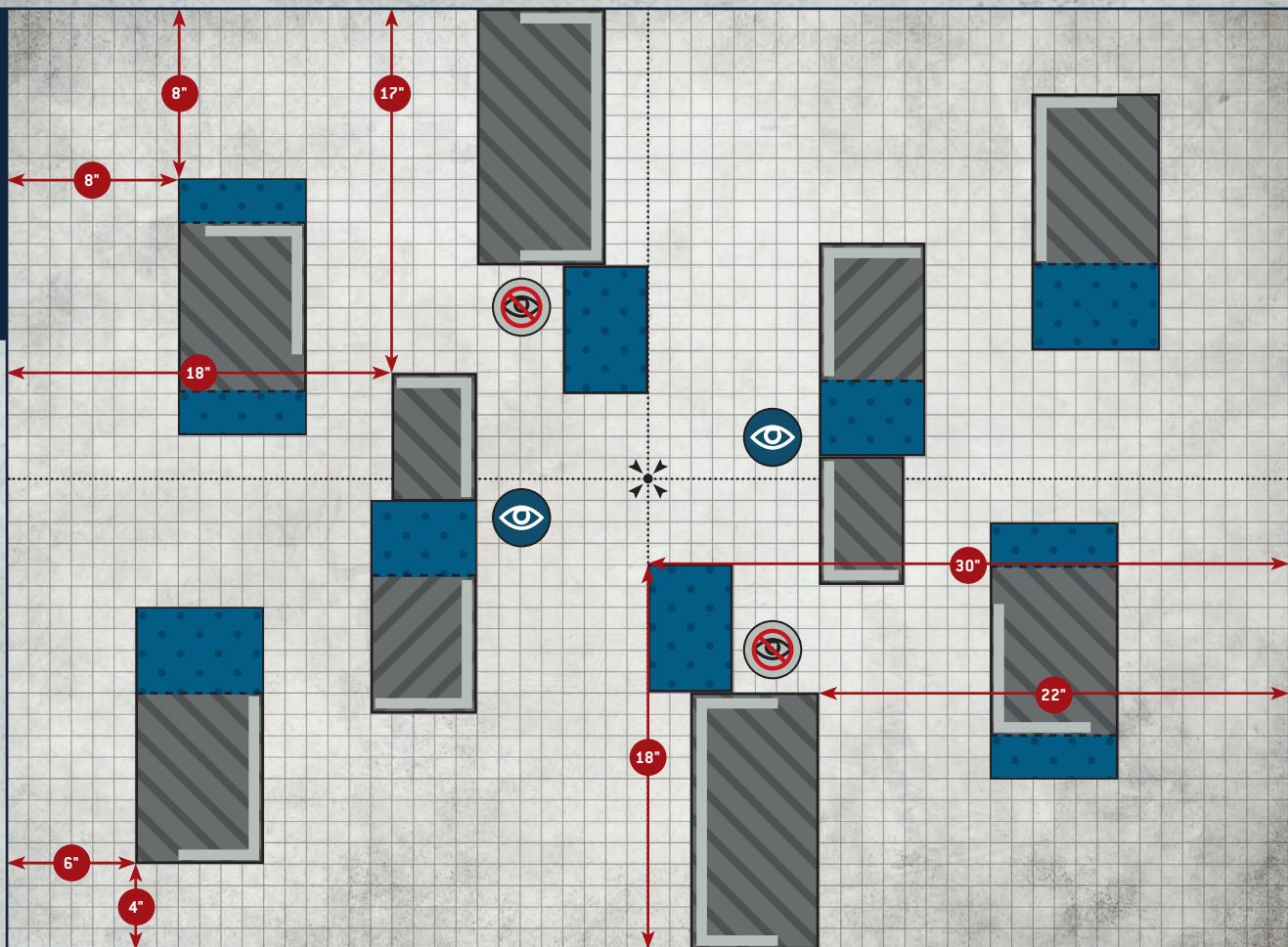
TERRAIN LAYOUT 5



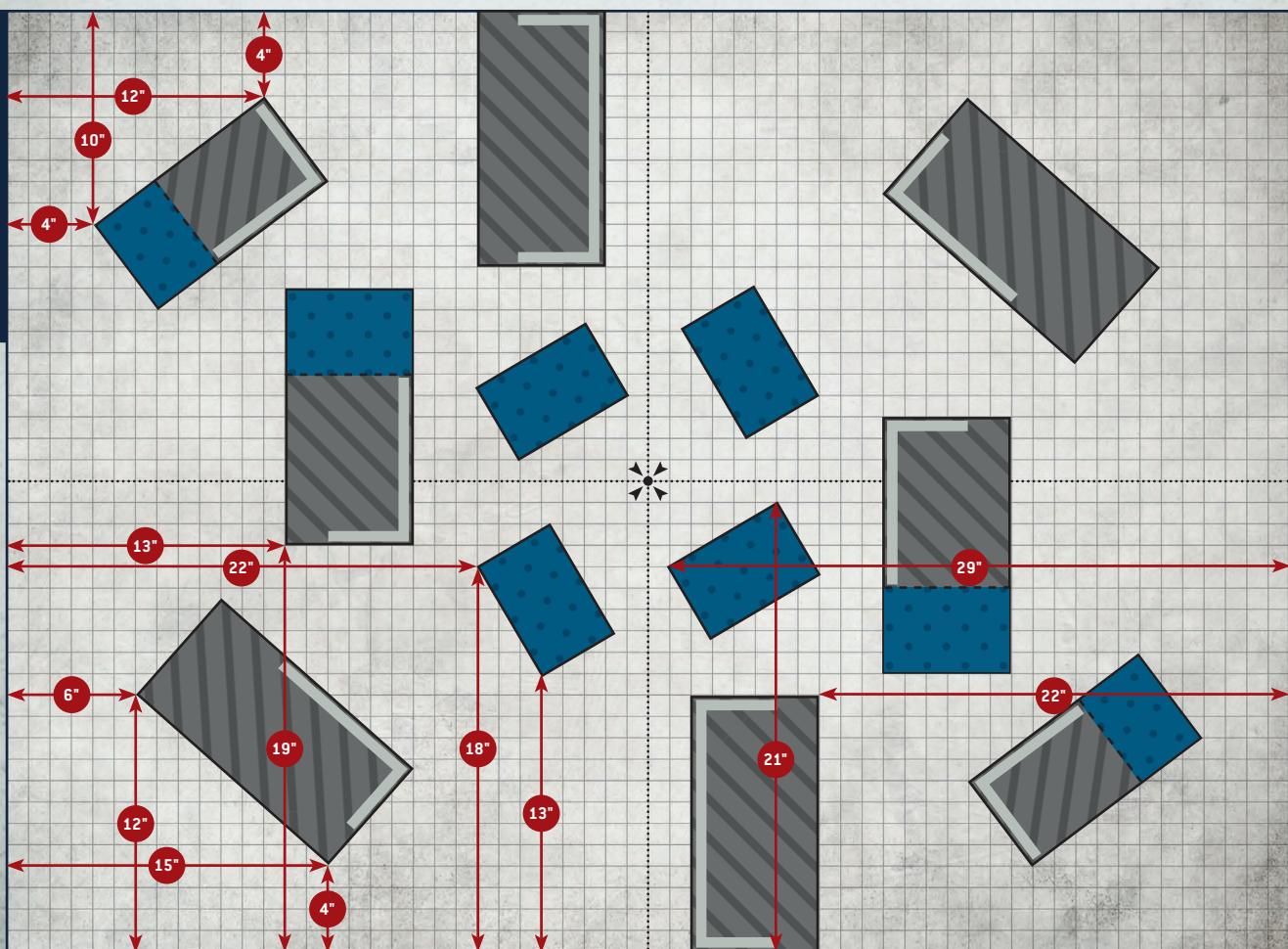
TERRAIN LAYOUT 6



TERRAIN LAYOUT 7



TERRAIN LAYOUT 8



PAIRINGS AND RANKINGS

There are countless different ways in which a Warhammer organised play event can be run. While broad-stroke concepts like pairing off players with the same record are straightforward enough, the nuance of running a successful Warhammer tournament is the subject of continuous conversation and evolution. The following recommendations are once again for newer organisers who are still establishing their principles and best practices, to help improve the average experience at any Warhammer tournament. These principles are also followed at most official Games Workshop events, and are designed to create the fairest, most fun experience possible for every attendee, regardless of standing.

PAIRING PLAYERS

While the first round of most tournaments is randomly paired, subsequent round pairing can be done in a number of ways. The first pairing metric will almost always be player record, i.e. pairing a 3-1 player with another 3-1 player, and so on. Given that most rounds will include numerous players with the same record, however, deciding pairings beyond this metric can be quite nuanced, and the different methods available can have significant impacts on the experience of players at an event. We recommend pairing players by the following criteria:

- **First** – by record (i.e. the number of wins, losses and draws)
- **Second** – by win path (i.e. the timing of the rounds in which a player won or lost their games)
- **Third** – randomly within players of the same ranking

Win Path

A player's 'win path' refers not to their number of wins and losses, but to the timing of those wins and losses. While pairing by win path has an incidental tendency to pair people by strength of schedule, its greatest impact is on the overall enjoyment experienced by all players, as it tends to pair players based upon shared experience.

For example, let's take two 3-1 players. One of them lost their first game; they likely lowered their expectations for winning the whole event after this, but are probably in a great mood after three consecutive victories. The other won their first three games then lost their fourth – a sharp disappointment after a 3-0 start. Should these players face off, their shared enjoyment may be at odds as they are in very different emotional places. Win path ensures players enter their match with recent common experiences upon which to build a friendship during their next game of Warhammer.

RANKING PLAYERS

In many tournaments, the overall Best General will be the single remaining undefeated player at the end of the event. Sometimes, however, there are not enough rounds available to determine a single undefeated player, and players often wish to know their ranking regardless of whether they won the whole event. To help break ties between players who end an event with the same record, we recommend ranking players by the following criteria:

- **First** – by overall record (wins, losses and draws)
- **Second** – by their opponents' win records (i.e. those with more wins against opponents with better win records would place higher)
- **Third** – by total Victory points (VP)

Designer's Note: Traditionally, many organisers use total VP or VP differential to determine ranking. However, the number of VP scored within any one game of Warhammer 40,000 rarely tells a clear story about how close that game actually was. Often, a more challenging opponent will be harder to score against (and thus yield a lower score despite the victory being all the more hard-earned), or the nature of how the two armies match up may dictate a risky strategy that doesn't pay off (and thus yield a wide score disparity despite almost working out).

As such, we do not recommend using VP as a pairing metric, nor as a ranking metric until all other metrics have been exhausted, or when further tie-breaking is required (e.g. in larger events where identical rankings become more likely). By contrast, opponent win record is an ideal metric, because when two players end up with the same record, the overall skill of their opponents is a better indicator of which player had the more challenging path along the way.

The Rules Commentary, Errata and FAQ

There are myriad ways to enjoy the Warhammer hobby, and these all manifest themselves at a tournament: gifted hobbyists with beautiful armies, skilled competitors aiming for Best General, casual players looking to face new opponents and make new friends (by far the most common type of attendee), and even practitioners of the niche hobby of Rules Lawyer! These particular hobbyists often find unusual rules interactions at the very fringes of Warhammer 40,000, which can create interesting challenges for tournament organisers looking to provide clear answers and an easy gaming experience for their attendees. For the current edition, the Warhammer Design Studio has created its most robust and comprehensive Rules Commentary, Errata and FAQ to date. Available to download on warhammer-community.com, these living documents will be reviewed periodically to clarify any issues that may be causing uncertainty. Should an odd rules interaction come up during your event and the Core Rules do not provide a clear answer, we recommend consulting these resources.

AFTERWORD

WHAT IS THE POINT OF A WARHAMMER TOURNAMENT?

Warhammer is more popular than ever, and this popularity has extended to the tournament scene. Over the last few years, more than one million games of Warhammer 40,000 were played in tournaments around the world, and that growth will only continue in the future. With so many Warhammer hobbyists participating in the game within growing communities, it's important to ruminate on the point of a tournament. First and foremost, it is not about celebrating the ultimate victor; someone who goes undefeated and wins Best General needs very little acclaim beyond the outcome itself (after all, they won!). Instead, it is the experience of every single attendee that truly matters, and the recognition that, for most people who attend a tournament, community and friendship are both the purpose and the outcome.

Before you roll a single dice against an opponent to start your tournament experience, remember two things:

- 1] The person across the table from you shares your love of Warhammer.
- 2] By the time the dust settles on the event, almost everyone will have lost a game (typically, at most, only one or two people will manage to leave the event without a loss).

While any game often yields winners and losers on the tabletop, the magic of Warhammer in an event setting is the opportunity it provides every participant to become a bigger part of the Warhammer community, and to build friendships with fellow hobbyists that can last a lifetime. As an organiser or a player, if you focus on this inalienable truth, then while most of you will have lost a game or two, you'll all share victory in your experience of what it is to attend a Warhammer event.

*- The Warhammer Design Studio and
the Warhammer Events Team*

