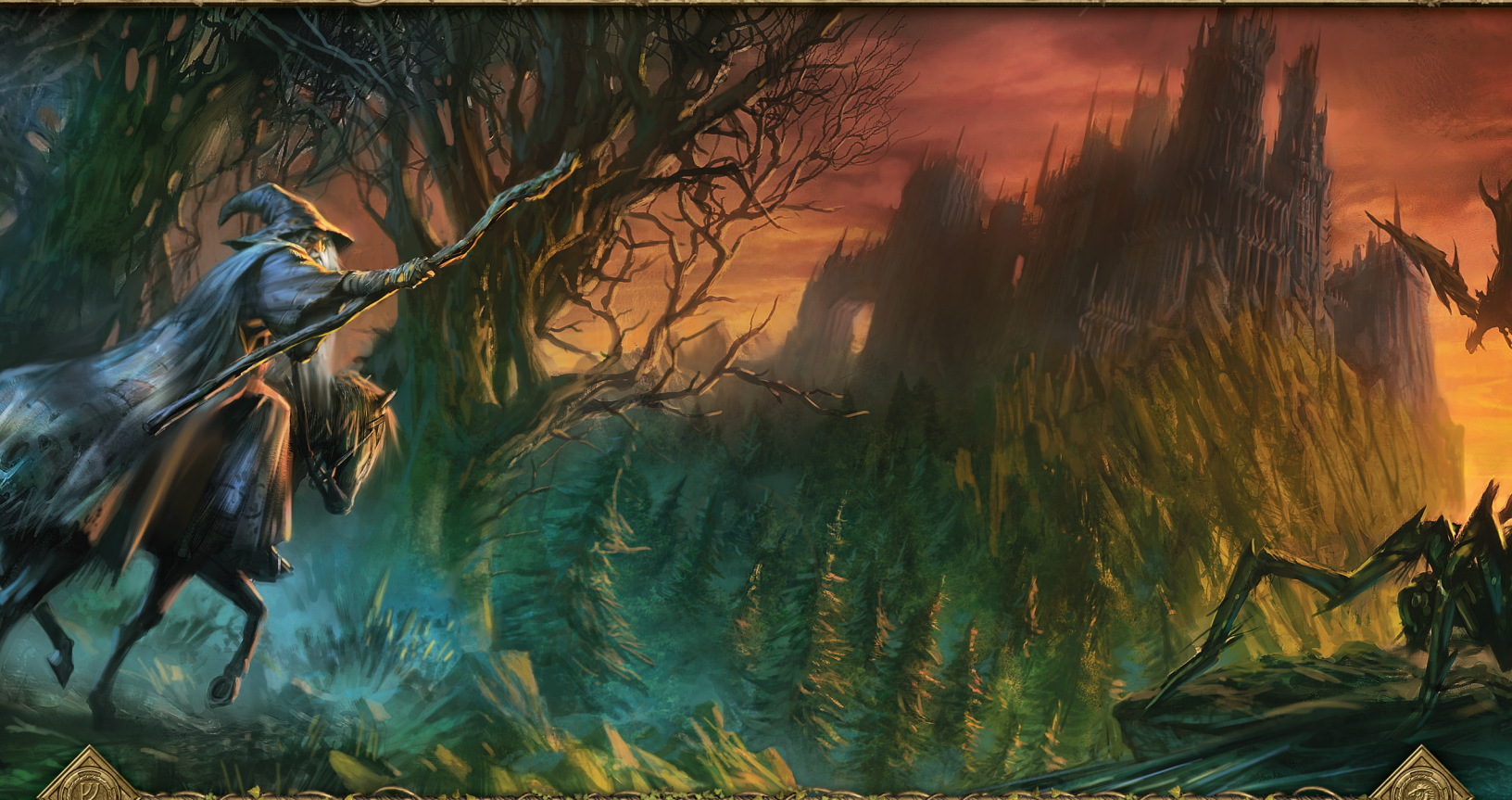


# THE LORD OF THE RINGS™

## THE CARD GAME



### LOTR FAQ VERSION 1.7 -- 1/20/2015

**New Card Errata:** Will of the West (CORE 49), O Elbereth! Gilthoniel! (D 132), Secret Entrance (OtD 45), A Watchful Peace (HoN 12), The Power of Mordor (HoN 61), Trained for War (AtS 36), Counter-attack (AtS 106), Impenetrable Fog (AtS 157), Blue Mountain Trader (RM 6)

**Updated Rules Content:** (1.11) Limitations on Attacks, (1.25) Collecting, Adding, Moving and Gaining Resources, (1.48) Discarding cards vs placing cards in the discard pile, (1.49) Engaging enemies vs being engaged, (1.50) “Considered to be engaged” vs actual engagement, (1.51) Limitations on card effects, (1.52) “The defending player”





# THE LORD OF THE RINGS™

## THE CARD GAME

*The Lord of the Rings: The Card Game*  
FAQ version 1.6  
1/22/2014  
New Content in red

## LOTR Errata

This section contains the official clarifications and errata that have been made on individual cards or sets in *The Lord of the Rings: The Card Game*. The card entries are ordered by the set in which the specified card was printed, with the most recent set in front. The errata on any individual card applies to all reprinted versions of that card.

## LOTR Core Set Rulebook

**Phase 3: Quest** Page 14

The final sentence of the first paragraph in this section should read: "Players have the opportunity to take actions and play event cards at the beginning and ending of each step."

## LOTR Core Set Cards

**Thalin** CORE 6

When an enemy card is revealed from the encounter deck, Thalin's ability resolves before any keyword or "When Revealed" card effects on the encounter card.



**Eleanor** CORE 8

The replacement card is also revealed from the encounter deck. Resolve any "When revealed" effects and keywords on the new card following the standard game rules.

**Beravor** CORE 12

Should read: "**Action:** Exhaust Beravor to choose a player. That player draws 2 cards. Limit once per round."

**Will of the West** CORE 49

Should read: "**Action:** Choose a player. Shuffle that player's discard pile back into his deck. Remove Will of the West from the game."

**Stand and Fight** CORE 51

Stand and Fight cannot return neutral allies from the discard pile, as neutral cards do not belong to "any sphere."

**Feint** CORE 34

Should read: "**Combat Action:** Choose an enemy engaged with a player. That enemy cannot attack that player this phase."

**Thicket of Spears** CORE 36

Should read: "**Action:** Choose a player. That player's engaged enemies cannot attack that player this phase."

**Protector of Lorien** CORE 70

Should read: "**Action:** Discard a card from your hand to give attached hero +1 ♠ or +1 ♣ until the end of the phase. Limit 3 times per phase."

**Dol Guldur Beastmaster** CORE 91

Should read: "**Forced:** When Dol Guldur Beastmaster attacks..."

The additional shadow card is dealt when the Dol Guldur Beastmaster is chosen during step 1 of enemy attack resolution.

**Nazgûl of Dol Guldur** CORE 102

Should have the text: "No attachments can be played on Nazgûl of Dol Guldur."

**The Necromancer's Tower 1A** CORE 123

Should read: "... reveal and place them in the staging area."

**Out of the Dungeons 3B** CORE 125

If a facedown Orc Guard would be returned to the staging area, it is instead placed in its owner's discard pile.

## Khazad-Dûm Expansion

**Narvi's Belt** KD 3

Should read: "**Action:** Exhaust Narvi's Belt to give attached hero a ♠, ♣, ♠, or ♣ icon until the end of the phase."



### Zigil Miner

KD 9

Should read: “**Action:** Exhaust Zigil Miner and name a number to discard the top 2 cards of your deck. If at least one of those cards has cost equal to the named number, choose a hero you control. For each card that matches the named number, add 1 resource to that hero’s resource pool.”

## Dwarrowdelf Expansion


### Snow Warg

D 27

Should read: “**Forced:** After a character is declared as a defender against Snow Warg...”

### Erebor Battle Master

D 79

Should read: “Erebor Battle Master gets +1  for each other *Dwarf* ally you control.”

### Out of Sight

D 81

Should read: “**Action:** Enemies engaged with you cannot attack you this phase.”

### O Elbereth! Gilthoniel!

D 132

Title should read: “A Elbereth! Gilthoniel!”

Should read: “**Response:** After a non-unique enemy attacks you...”

## Over Hill and Under Hill Saga Expansion

### Nori

OHUH 3

Should read: “**Response:** After you play a *Dwarf* character from your hand, reduce your threat by 1.”

### Thrór’s Map

OHUH 13

Should read: “**Travel Action:** Exhaust Thrór’s Map to choose a location in the staging area...”

### Troll Purse

OHUH 42

Should read: “If Troll Purse is discarded, add it to the staging area. If Troll Purse is unattached and in the staging area, attach it to a *Troll* enemy, if able.”

### Troll Key

OHUH 43

Should read: “If Troll Key is discarded, add it to the staging area. If Troll Key is unattached and in the staging area, attach it to a *Troll* enemy, if able.”

## On the Doorstep Saga Expansion

### Ravens of the Mountain

OtD 11

Should read: “**Action:** Exhaust a hero you control to shuffle the encounter deck and look at its top card...”

### Expert Treasure Hunter

OtD 17

Should read: “Attach to a hero. Limit 1 per hero.”

### Secret Entrance

OtD 45

Title should read: “Then, look at the top card of the encounter deck. If the looked at card is not...”

### Lost in the Dark 2B

OtD 68

Should read: “**When Revealed:** Reveal stage 3 and create a separate staging area for the first player using that stage. If there are no other players in the game, discard this stage and each card in its staging area. All other players advance to stage 4.”

## Heirs of Númenor Expansion


### A Watchful Peace

HoN 12

Should read: “**Response:** After a location worth no victory points leaves play as an explored location...”

### Master of Lore

HoN 16

Should read: “**Action:** Exhaust Master of Lore to name a card type. Lower the cost for you to play the next  card of that type by 1 until the end of the phase (to a minimum of 1).”

### Blocking Wargs

HoN 29

Should read: “Surge. **When Revealed:** Deal 1 damage to each character committed to the quest.”

Omit the parenthetical.

### The Power of Mordor

HoN 61

Should read: “...Reveal an equal number of cards from the encounter deck...”

Omit the word “Then”

## Against the Shadow Expansion

### Trained for War

AtS 36

Should read: “**Action:** Until the end of the phase, if the current quest does not have siege, it gains battle.”

### Counter-attack

AtS 106

Should read: “**When Revealed:** Each player must either return the location he controls...”

### The Ambush 1B

AtS 117

Should read: “At the beginning of the combat phase, each player must either turn each of his hidden cards faceup, or take 1 hidden card.”

### The Cross-roads

AtS 123

Should read: “The current quest card gains siege (and loses battle).”

### Impenetrable Fog

AtS 157

Should read: “**When Revealed:** The first player either places 3 progress tokens on To the Tower, or...”

## The Ring-maker Cycle

### Blue Mountain Trader

RM 6

Should read: “...Then, that player moves 1 resource from the resource pool of a hero he controls to the resource pool of a hero you control, or Blue Mountain Trader is discarded. (Limit once per round.)”



## Rule Clarification

This section contains the official rule clarifications and enhancements for *The Lord of the Rings: The Card Game*. Used in conjunction with the rulebook (found in the *The Lord of the Rings: The Card Game* core set), these clarifications and enhancements should enable a player to navigate through the most complex situations that can arise while playing the game.

### (1.00) The Golden Rule

The Golden Rule reads: "If the game text of a card contradicts the text of the rulebook, the text on the card takes precedence."

The Golden Rule applies when there is a *direct* contradiction between card text and rules text. If it is possible to observe both card text and the text of the rulebook, both are observed.

*Example: The rulebook (p. 15) reads: "Any progress tokens that would be placed on a quest card are instead placed on the active location." Legolas (CORE 5) has an effect that reads, "...place 2 progress tokens on the current quest." Legolas' effect would place 2 progress tokens on the quest; the core rule from page 15 instead places those tokens on the active location. Thus, the Legolas ability can successfully resolve, and the core rule can be observed, without creating a golden rule situation.*

*(If a card effect read, "place a progress token on the current quest, bypassing any active location," a direct contradiction between card text and rulebook would be created, and the golden rule would then take effect.)*

### (1.01) Encounter Keywords

Surge, Doomed, and Guarded keywords should be resolved any time the card on which they occur is revealed from the encounter deck, including during setup.

### (1.02) Simultaneous Effect Timing

If two or more conflicting effects would occur simultaneously, the first player decides the order in which the effects resolve.

*Example: Tom plays Sneak Attack (CORE 23) to put Beorn (CORE 31) into play during the combat phase. Sneak Effect has the condition, "At the end of the phase, if that ally is still in play, return it to your hand." During combat, Tom uses Beorn's triggered effect, which has the condition, "At the end of the phase in which you trigger this effect, shuffle Beorn back into your deck." At the end of the phase, a situation arises in which two conflicting effects are attempting to resolve simultaneously on Beorn. The first player determines which of the two effects resolves first. (The second effect no longer applies when Beorn leaves play.)*

### (1.03) Conflicting Effect Targeting

If an encounter or quest effect attempts to target a single player or card, and there are multiple eligible targets, the first player selects the target of the effect from among the eligible options.

*Example: The card Caught in a Web (CORE 80) has an effect that reads, "The player with the highest threat level attaches this card to one of his heroes." Tom and Kris are tied for the highest threat level when Caught in a Web is revealed, so the first player determines whether the card affects Tom or Kris.*

### (1.04) Damage and Multiple Defenders

If a player uses card effects to declare multiple defenders against a single enemy attack, the defending player must assign all damage from that attack to a single defending character.

### (1.05) Removing Progress Tokens from Quests

When a card effect removes progress tokens from a quest or quest card, the effect applies specifically to the quest card, and never to the active location.

### (1.06) Control of Non-objective Encounter Cards

Players do not gain control of encounter cards unless control of the card is explicitly granted by a card effect. When an encounter card (such as Caught in a Web, CORE 86) becomes an attachment and attaches to a character, that character's controller does not gain control of the attachment.

### (1.07) Control of Objective Cards

When a player claims an objective card, he gains control of that card unless otherwise directed by a card effect.

### (1.08) Responses per Trigger

If a response or forced response is triggered, the effect can only occur once per trigger.

*Example: Theodred (CORE 2) reads, "Response: After Theodred commits to a quest...." This effect can only be triggered once each time Theodred commits to a quest.*

### (1.09) Forced Responses

Forced responses resolve immediately when their specified prerequisite occurs, and before any response effects that also can be triggered off the same prerequisite.

*Example: Tower Gate (CORE 107) reads, "Forced: After travelling to Tower Gate...." If a player wishes to play a response such as Strength of Will (CORE 47) after the players travel to Tower Gate, he must wait until after the forced response resolves.*

### (1.10) Limitations on Actions

Actions are only limited by whether or not a player can pay the cost of the action, or by built in limitations on the card itself, such as "limit once per round."



*Example: Protector of Lorien (CORE 70) reads, "Action: Discard a card from your hand to..." This action may be triggered three times per phase, as long as the card's controller has cards in hand to discard.*

### **(1.11) Limitations on Attacks**

When a player is the active attacker during the combat phase, the game rules grant him the option to declare 1 attack against each enemy with which he is engaged. If, through card effects such as ranged, a player is able to declare attacks against enemies with which he is not engaged, **the game rules still only provide for a single attack against each of these enemies.**

**However, if a player makes an attack against an enemy by a card effect such as Quick Strike (CS 35) or Hands Upon the Bow (D 131), that is an extra attack and does not count against the limit of 1 attack.**

Characters are not limited as to how many times they can participate in attacks against the same enemy, provided each attack can be legally declared, and the character is ready and eligible to be declared as an attacker.

### **(1.12) Exhaustion and Attachments**

Attachments and the card to which they are attached exhaust and ready independent of one another.

*Example: Steward of Gondor (CORE 26) reads, "Action: Exhaust Steward of Gondor to..." Using this action only exhausts the Steward of Gondor card, not the hero to which it is attached. Additionally, exhausting the hero to which Steward of Gondor is attached does not exhaust the Steward of Gondor card.*

### **(1.13) Characters and Enemies**

"Character" refers to both hero and ally cards. Enemy cards are not considered characters.

### **(1.14) The word "cannot"**

If a card effect uses the word "cannot", then it is an absolute: that effect cannot be overridden by other effects.

### **(1.15) The word "then"**

If a card effect uses the word "then," then the preceding effect must resolve successfully for the subsequent dependent effect to resolve.

### **(1.16) The phrase "put into play"**

If a card effect uses the phrase "put into play," it means that the card enters play through a card effect instead of through the normal process of paying resources and playing the card from hand. "Put into play" effects are not considered to be playing the card, and will not trigger any effects that refer to a card being played. "Put into play" will, however, trigger any effects that occur when a card "enters play".

*Example: The quest Through the Caverns (CORE 124) has the text, "The players, as a group, cannot play more than one ally card each round." While this quest is active, a player can put an ally into play with Stand and Fight (CORE 51), even if an ally has already been played this round.*

### **(1.17) Unclaimed Objectives**

An unclaimed objective is one that is not currently claimed and under the control of a player. An unclaimed objective can be guarded or unguarded. A guarded objective is treated like an attachment if guarded by an enemy or location, and remains attached to that card until it leaves play, at which point it will return to the staging area. Any unclaimed objective in the staging area that is not attached to a card is considered to be unguarded. If an objective is claimed at one point, and then returns to the staging area, it regains the status of unclaimed.

### **(1.18) Explored Locations Leaving Play**

A location card is immediately discarded from play *any time* it has as many progress tokens as it has quest points, whether it is active or not.

### **(1.19) Card Effects during Setup**

"When Revealed" effects are resolved if the cards are revealed during setup. A player can trigger responses during setup, following the normal game rules. Players cannot take Actions during setup.

"When Revealed" effects that last "until the end of the phase" will last until the end of the first resource phase. Effects that last "until the end of the round", will last until the end of the first round.

### **(1.20) Engaged Enemies**

During the quest phase, engaged enemies do not count their threat for the staging area.

An enemy remains engaged with a player until it is defeated or until a card effect returns it to the staging area, engages it to another player, or removes it from play.

### **(1.21) Search Effects**

Whenever a player searches through a deck, that player shuffles the deck after searching it unless a card effect says otherwise. Players do not shuffle or change the order of a discard pile after searching it.



### (1.22) “When Revealed” Effects

A card is only considered to be revealed if the card or game effect causing the card to enter play specifically uses a form of the word “reveal”.

*Example: If the players use the Stage 3b “Don’t Leave the Path!” (CORE 121) quest card effect to search for a King Spider and put it into play, the “When Revealed” effect on the King Spider will not trigger, since the effect on “Don’t Leave the Path!” does not specifically use a form of the word “reveal.”*

### (1.23) Attachments

Any objective card that attaches to another card is treated as an attachment in addition to its other card types.

Any non-objective card that attaches to another card loses its original card type and gains the attachment card type.

The “Attach to...” rules text on an attachment is only a play restriction, and is not taken into account after the card is already attached.

### (1.24) Questing Successfully

Questing successfully and the physical placement of progress tokens are two separate game occurrences that happen in sequence during the Quest Resolution step. As soon as the players determine that the total committed Willpower is greater than the total Threat in the staging area, they are considered to have quested successfully. Any Forced or passive effects initiated by questing successfully resolve before physically placing progress tokens.

*Example: Tom has just successfully quested during stage 1B of The Hunt Begins (SoM 11), and he will be placing enough progress to advance to the next stage. However, he must first resolve the Forced effect (which resolves immediately upon the occurrence of “questing successfully”) before placing progress tokens on the quest.*

### (1.25) Collecting, Adding, Moving, and Gaining Resources

Collecting resources refers to both collecting resources during the resource phase and gaining resources through other card effects. An effect that prevents a hero from collecting resources prevents both methods of acquiring new resources.

**Adding a resource to a hero’s pool is the act of taking a resource from the token bank and placing it in that hero’s pool. Adding a resource always results in the total number of resources controlled by the players being increased.**

**Moving a resource is the act of taking a resource from one hero’s pool and placing it in another hero’s pool. This does not count as ‘adding’ a resource because it did not take a new resource from the token bank and the total number of resources controlled by the players did not increase.**

**Gaining a resource is a blanket term that includes collecting, adding and moving. Any time the number of resources in a hero’s pool is increased, that hero has gained one or more resources.**

### (1.26) The word “switch”

In order for a switch to occur, switched items must exist on both sides of the switch.

### (1.27) Bypass the active location

The only time an active location does not act as a buffer for progress to be placed on a quest is when card text specifically instructs the players to “bypass” the active location.

### (1.26) Enemy attacks outside of the combat phase

If an enemy attacks outside of the combat phase, it is still dealt a shadow card at the beginning of the attack. Then follow the 4 steps under Phase 6 “Combat” in the rules. Any shadow cards dealt to the attacking enemy are discarded after the attack resolves.

### (1.29) Victory Display

The victory display is a game area where victory points are tracked. Cards in the victory display are considered to be out of play, but are not considered to be a part of the encounter discard pile. Cards in the victory display are not considered “removed from game,” and some card effects may still interact with them.

### (1.30) “First Player” elimination

If the player with the first player token is eliminated, the first player token immediately passes clockwise to the next eligible player.

### (1.31) Self-referential effects

If a card refers to its own title in its text it should be read as referring only to that copy of the card. A card that refers to other copies of itself will use the language “any copy of...” or “another copy of...” or “a card with the title...”

### (1.32) Mid-Attack Control or Engagement Change

If a card involved in combat changes control, is returned to the staging area, or engages another player during the resolution of an attack, that attack still resolves with the card still participating from its new state.

### (1.33) Attacks by non-engaged enemies

When an enemy attacks a player, that player may declare 1 defender whether the enemy is engaged with him or not. Sentinel may also be used to defend against such attacks.



### (1.34) Two active locations

If a card effect causes two locations to be active at the same time, they are both considered to be the active location. However, when a card effect targets “the active location,” it does not target both active locations at the same time. The first player must choose which of the active locations the effect will target. Both active locations serve as buffers for the quest stage and when placing progress on the active location, the players may divide that progress among both active locations however they choose.

### (1.35) “Enters the staging area”

Enters the staging area is a term that applies to a card (enemy, location, objective, etc) that is placed in the staging area. This term applies whether the card in question has been revealed from the encounter deck, placed in the staging area from out of play, returned from the discard pile or from engaged with a player, or by other means.

### (1.36) Triggered abilities vs. Passive abilities

Triggered abilities are abilities on cards that have a bold trigger word such as **Action** or **Response**. These abilities are only applied when they are triggered. Passive abilities are abilities on cards that have an ongoing effect without a bold trigger word. Because passive abilities don’t have a trigger they are always active and cannot be “triggered”.

### (1.37) Timing of effect resolution

When resolving multiple effects with a shared condition, players should use this order of resolution: passive abilities first, **Forced** effects second, **Response** actions third. When determining the order of effect resolution among abilities within those categories, players should first resolve abilities that use the word “when” and then resolve abilities with the word “after”.

### (1.38) Control of attachments

When a player plays an attachment on a character controlled by another player, that character’s controller gains control of the attachment. When a player plays an attachment into the staging area, or on an enemy or location, that player retains control of that attachment.

### (1.39) Staging objective cards

When a player reveals an objective from the encounter deck, he adds it to the staging area unless that objective instructs the player to do something different.

### (1.40) The letter X

Unless specified by a card effect, or granted player choice, the letter “X” is equal to 0.

### (1.41) Attacks against a character

An attack made against a character works the same as an attack made against a player with one exception: undefended damage from an attack against a character must be assigned to that character.

*For example: Bilbo Baggins (OtD 1) has the most poison attached when Crazy Cob (OtD 29) is revealed from the encounter deck and its “When Revealed” effect triggers an attack against the character with the most poison attached. Even though the first player controls 3 other heroes, any undefended damage from this attack must be applied to Bilbo Baggins. Because Bilbo is already exhausted from committing to the quest, he cannot exhaust to defend himself and will be killed if the attack is undefended. Knowing this, the first player chooses to exhaust one of his ready characters, Bombur, to declare him as the defender for this attack. At this point, the attack resolves as normal and any damage from the attack is applied to Bombur.*

### (1.42) Additional attacks by an enemy

When an enemy makes an additional attack, discard all of its previously dealt shadow cards before dealing it a new shadow card.

### (1.43) Modifiers of variable quantities

The game state constantly checks and (if necessary) updates the count of any variable quantity that is being modified. Any time a new modifier is applied, the entire quantity is recalculated, considering all active modifiers.

A quantity cannot be reduced below zero: a card cannot have “negative” cost, stats, keywords, etc.





#### (1.44) “Must X or Y” vs “must either X or Y”

If a card instructs a player to perform one task or perform a second task using the structure “... must X or Y...” then the player must attempt to perform the first task, and performs the second task instead only if the first task cannot be performed.

If a card instead uses the structure “... must either X or Y...” then the player may choose which task to perform, although one of them must be performed in full, if able.

#### (1.45) “Reveal” vs “Reveal and add”

Any time encounter cards are “revealed” from the encounter deck, the players should follow the rules for staging as explained on page 14 of the rulebook and rule (1.39) of this document.

If a card effect uses the phrase “Reveal and add to the staging area”, it means the same as simply using the word “reveal”, and the above steps should still be followed (i.e. treachery cards should still be discarded after resolving its effects, unless otherwise indicated by the card’s text).

#### (1.46) “Next” player

If there is only one player in the game, there is no next player. Card effects that target the “next” player will not trigger if there is only one player in the game.



*For example: The shadow effect of Pathless Country (TBR 72) reads: “Shadow: After this attack, the attacking enemy engages the next player then makes an immediate attack.” If there is only one player in the game, there is no next player to engage. The word “then” indicates that the immediate attack is conditional on the attacking enemy engaging the next player, so the enemy will not make an immediate attack.*

#### (1.47) “Immune to player card effects”, expanded

Cards with the text “Immune to player card effects” ignore the effects of all player cards. This means that player card effects cannot directly influence or interact with a card that is immune to player card effects. Examples include dealing damage to an enemy, placing progress on a location, altering a card’s text or statistics, moving a card, engaging an enemy, traveling to a location, or discarding a card.

However, a card that is immune to player card effects can still be affected by normal framework effects such as placing progress from questing successfully, engaging an enemy during the encounter phase, or dealing damage through an attack made by a character.

*For example: Pippin’s (TBR 4) passive ability cannot increase the engagement cost of an enemy that is immune to player card effects, because that enemy will ignore Pippin’s effect. However, if you engage an enemy who is immune to player card effects and has an engagement cost higher than your threat, you may still use Pippin’s **Response** to draw a card, because this response is not affecting the enemy in any way.*

Additionally, cards that are immune to player card effects cannot be chosen as targets of player card effects. This means that any player card that uses a form of the words “target” or “choose” cannot choose a card that is immune to player card effects as its target. This includes the “attach to...” text of any player attachment. Player cards that do not use the word “target” or “choose” but force the player to choose a specific card cannot choose a card that is immune to player card effects.

*For example: Hands Upon the Bow (D 131) cannot be used to attack an enemy that is immune to player card effects, because it clearly indicates that the player must pick an enemy in the staging area to attack. This is different from Quick Strike (Core 35), which targets a character and allows them to perform a normal attack, which is a framework effect.*

#### (1.48) Discarding cards vs placing cards in the discard pile

When a character is destroyed, or an event card is played, it is placed in the discard pile. This is not the same as being “discarded.” Cards are only discarded when a card effect instructs a player to discard a card.



### **(1.49) Engaging enemies vs being engaged**

When a player engages an enemy, that enemy has also engaged him, and when an enemy engages a player, that player has also engaged that enemy. There is no difference between engaging an enemy and being engaged by an enemy. Effects that trigger “after an enemy engages you” will trigger at the same time as effects that trigger “after you engage an enemy.”

### **(1.50) “Considered to be engaged” vs actual engagement**

An enemy that does not leave the staging area but is considered to be engaged with a player does not actually engage that player, nor does that player engage it. In order for a player to engage an enemy, the enemy card must physically enter his play area.

*For example: Durin’s Bane (D 150) cannot leave the staging area and is considered to be engaged with two players. Player 1 has Mablung (RM 84) and wishes to trigger his **Response** effect, but he cannot because he has not actually engaged Durin’s Bane. Player 2 wishes to play Feint (CORE 34) to prevent Durin’s Bane from attacking him. He can, because Durin’s Bane is considered to be engaged with him.*

### **(1.51) Limitations on card effects**

When a card with a triggered effect has a limit on the number of times that effect can be triggered (i.e. “Once per round,” “Limit 3 times per phase,” etc.), the limit is specific to that card. However, if a card has a limit of “once per game,” that limitation is specific to the player who triggered it.

### **(1.52) “The defending player”**

When an enemy makes an attack against a player, or a character controlled by a player, that player is “the defending player” regardless of whose character is declared as a defender. Card effects, including shadow card effects, that target “the defending player” or “you” still target the player who the enemy is attacking even if another player declares one of his characters as a defender for that attack.

## **Expert Game**

This section elaborates upon the “expert game” variant that is introduced on page 27 of the Core Set rulebook.

When playing the “expert game” variant each player’s threat, wounds, and discard pile do not reset when setting up a new scenario.

To reset the other game elements at the beginning of a new “expert game” scenario, perform the following steps in order:

1) All non-hero cards in play and in hand are shuffled into their owner’s decks. All encounter cards are

returned to their encounter sets so they are available for the next scenario, if needed. This includes cards in players’ victory display.

2) All unspent resources are discarded from the heroes’ resource pools.

3) Each player draws a new starting hand per the regular setup rules of the game. A single mulligan may be taken by each player at this time.

4) A player cannot start a scenario with a threat level that is lower than the combined threat cost of his heroes. If a player’s threat is lower than the starting threat cost of his heroes, he must increase his threat to that value.

5) Follow all setup instructions for the new scenario.

Each scenario should be scored separately, and then all the scores added together at the end of the variant.

## **Scoring**

This section introduces an additional element to the scoring system presented on page 22 of the core rulebook. This revised scoring will be implemented at all FFG sanctioned organized play events, and should be used on the LOTR LCG Quest Log available at [FantasyFlightGames.com](http://FantasyFlightGames.com).

In addition to all elements currently used to score a game, players also add an additional 10 points to their “final group score” for each round of play that is taken to defeat a scenario. Players tally each round for their score at the end of the refresh phase.

A modified scoring sheet has been provided as the final page of this document. The tally of rounds can be tracked on the notes section of these sheets.



## Frequently Asked Questions

This section applies to material covered in previous sections, in the core rulebook, and in Adventure Pack inserts. It answers some of the most frequently asked questions that arise while playing *The Lord of the Rings: The Card Game*.

**Q:** If the players do not commit any characters to a quest, does the staging area still count its threat against them?

**A:** Yes, the threat in the staging area still counts against the players, who have a combined committed willpower of 0.

**Q:** Does a player commit his characters to a quest at once, or one character at a time? When can a player trigger responses to committing his characters to a quest?

**A:** A player commits all characters he wishes to commit to a quest at once. Responses to the characters committing (such as those on Aragorn and Theodred) can then be triggered in the order of that player's choice. After a player has committed his characters (and triggered any responses to those characters committing), the next player has the opportunity to commit his characters to the quest.



**Q:** Does the effect on Legolas (CORE 5) place progress tokens on an active location, if there is one?

**A:** Yes. Always place progress tokens on an active location instead of the quest, unless the ability specifically states to bypass any active location.

**Q:** When do “after this enemy attacks” Forced effects like those on Chieftan Ufthak (CORE 90) and Wargs (CORE 85) resolve?

**A:** These effects resolve immediately after step 4 of enemy attack resolution.

**Q:** Can a player have cards in his player deck from a sphere that doesn't match the sphere of one of his heroes?

**A:** There is nothing in the rules that disallows this, although a player will need to find clever card interactions to make use of such cards.

**Q:** Does Dungeon Jailer (CORE 101) shuffle guarded objectives back into the encounter deck?

**A:** Yes. Dungeon Jailer will shuffle any unclaimed objective, whether or not it is guarded.

**Q:** Can a player use a response effect like the one on Eleanor (CORE 8) during setup?

**A:** Yes. Responses can be triggered at any time they meet their specified prerequisite, including during setup.

**Q:** Do the Orc Guards generated by the effects of the Tower Gate location card and the Out of the Dungeons quest card have the **Orc** Trait?

**A:** No. Face down cards do not have traits unless the trait is gained through a card effect.

**Q:** When should Feint (CORE 34) be played?

**A:** This card should be played any time before resolving step 1 of the target enemy's attack during the combat phase. (Once the act of resolving an enemy's attack begins, it is too late to prevent it from attacking with Feint.)

**Q:** In what order is players' optional engagement handled?

**A:** The first player has the first opportunity to optionally engage an enemy, or pass. After that, each player, moving clockwise, has the option to engage one enemy. Once each player has had this opportunity, this step is complete.

**Q:** What happens to Banks of the Anduin (CORE 113) if it is drawn as a Shadow card?

**A:** It will be discarded from play at the end of the combat phase, like other Shadow cards. When a card is drawn as a Shadow card, only its Shadow text is considered to be active.



Q: If Wolf Rider (CORE 81) is drawn as a Shadow card, when is it returned to the top of the encounter deck?

A: "After combat" refers to the end of the combat phase, when Shadow cards normally leave play.

Q: If I cancel the Shadow effect on a card dealt to the Nazgûl of Dol Guldur (CORE 102), is the effect still considered to have resolved, making me discard a character?

A: No. Resolving an effect means that the effect triggered and resolved to the fullest extent possible. Canceling the effect will prevent the Nazgûl of Dol Guldur's ability from triggering, just as if the card had no Shadow effect to begin with.

Q: Does a player with the Dungeon Torch (CORE 109) raise his threat by 2 or 3 during the refresh phase?

A: Dungeon Torch's effect does not replace the regular 1 threat raise, but adds to it. So the player with the Dungeon Torch raises his threat by 3.

Q: If Legolas has a Blade of Gondolin (CORE 39) and destroys an enemy, can he trigger his response, finish off a quest card, and still place progress tokens on the next quest with the Blade of Gondolin's response?

A: Yes. Quest cards are immediately replaced as soon as players place enough progress on them, and this replacement does not interrupt the current round sequence. If the current quest card only needs 1 progress on it, then a player could also trigger the Blade's effect first, and then Legolas' in order to maximize the number of progress tokens placed. (There is no carry-over progress from an effect).

Q: How does a player resolve the situation in which a single hero has multiple copies of Caught in a Web (CORE 80) attached?

A: The player must pay for each copy of Caught in a Web before the hero can ready. Each copy of the card creates an independent condition that must be fulfilled before readying the attached hero, so if each condition is not fulfilled the hero cannot ready. End result, if a hero has two copies of Caught in a Web attached, the player will have to pay 4 resources from that hero's resource pool in order to ready the card.

Q: If players have placed progress tokens on a quest equal to its quest points, but a game effect prevents them from advancing, can they continue to place progress tokens on the quest?

A: Yes. There is no upper limit to how many progress tokens may be placed on a quest.

Q: Can characters with the ranged keyword participate in an attack declared through the card Quick Strike (CORE 35)?

A: No. There is no opportunity for other characters to join a Quick Strike attack. One character is exhausted to pay for the cost of Quick Strike, and the effect is that the exhausted character is immediately declared as an attacker against the target enemy. The card's resolution does not allow for a standard declaration step in which other characters can declare.

Q: Wilyador (SoM 64) cannot be healed of more than 5 wounds by a single effect, so how do I resolve the "when revealed" text on Return to Rhosgobel 3B (SoM 62)?

A: Heal 5 wounds from Wilyador for each Athelas objective card as its own separate action.

Q: Can Brand son of Bain (SoM 72) trigger his response if he participates in a ranged attack that defeats an enemy engaged with another player instead of declaring the attack himself?

A: Yes. Declaring an attack and participating in an attack are both subsets of attacking. In both cases Brand attacks and can trigger his response if the enemy is defeated.

Q: If a Sacked! (SoM 48) card is placed on a hero while that hero is questing is that hero removed from the quest?

A: No. Sacked! specifies only that the hero cannot commit to the quest, and the hero is already committed. However, the hero cannot commit to quests on future rounds while Sacked! is attached.

Q: If Eleanor (CORE 8) is used to cancel the "when revealed" effects of a treachery card, are any surge or doomed keywords on that card also canceled?

A: No. Eleanor only cancels the "when revealed" effects of the treachery card. Any surge or doomed keywords on the card resolve before the new (replacement) card is revealed.

Q: Is Against the Trolls (SoM 32) the final stage of Conflict at the Carrock?

A: Yes.

Q: What happens if Wandering Took (CORE 43) changes control between players during combat after being declared as a defender?

A: As nothing removes Wandering Took from the combat or from play, it remains declared as a defender against the attack. (The "defending player" does not change, even though control of the defending character has changed.)





**Q:** If a player is eliminated during the staging step of the quest phase, before all encounter cards are revealed, does the elimination reduce the number of cards that should be revealed for staging?

**A:** *The base number of cards to be revealed is determined at the beginning of the staging step, and does not change if a player is eliminated during staging.*

**Q:** If all of a player's heroes (except for the captured hero) are destroyed during the Escape from Dol Guldur scenario, is that player eliminated from the game?

**A:** *Yes, the player is eliminated, and the players (as a group) have lost.*

**Q:** When paying for a **Creature** with resources from Radagast's (SoM 59) pool, is a resource match required?

**A:** *No. Radagast's ability breaks the need for a resource match if the resources are coming only from his pool. (If combining his resources with resources from a hero's pool, the hero's sphere must match the sphere of the **Creature** being played.)*

**Q:** If I can't discard 3 resources from all of my heroes due to Bitter Wind (KD 56), do I have to partially fulfill the effect?

**A:** *Yes, players should resolve as much of any "discard" effect as they are able to.*

**Q:** If a player does not declare any defenders against an attack, is he still considered the defending player?

**A:** *Yes, the player an enemy is attacking is considered to be the defending player. Whether or not he declares defenders, and whether or not any other player declares defenders for him, does not change his status as the defending player for the attack.*

**Q:** If A Light in the Dark (CORE 52) is played mid-attack (e.g. after defender is declared), does the act of returning it to the staging area immediately end the attack because the enemy is no longer engaged with any player?

**A:** *No. A Light in the Dark does not cancel or stop an attack that is already in the process of resolution. The only step in which the enemy needs to be engaged with the attacked player is step 1 of the Combat phase. So, in order to prevent an attack, A Light in the Dark must be played on an engaged enemy prior to choosing to resolve its attack during step 1.*

**Q:** Can I use Son of Arnor (SoM 15) to engage The Watcher (DD 72), even though The Watcher reads "...cannot be optionally engaged"?

**A:** *Yes. The ability on Son of Arnor does not count as optionally engaging The Watcher. Optional engagement only occurs during step 1 of the Encounter phase.*

**Q:** If Caradhras (DD 15) is in my victory display when I complete stage 2 of The Redhorn Gate, will it become the active location even though it is not in play?

**A:** *Yes. You will remove Caradhras from your victory display and put it back into play as the active location. Cards in the victory display are not removed from the game and can still be referenced by effects. If players get too far ahead of themselves via card effects, they'll find a return journey is necessary!*

**Q:** If there are two copies of Pelennor Fields (MaO 10) in the staging area and I travel to one of them, do I still have to raise my threat by 3? What if I have the opportunity to travel and travel to neither of them?



*A: If a card is self-referential, it refers only to that copy of itself. So if you travel to one copy of the Pelennor Fields, the other copy will raise your threat by 3 because it only takes into account whether you traveled to that particular copy of the Pelennor Fields. So if you travel to neither copy, they both resolve and you must raise your threat by 6.*

**Q:** When an enemy makes an attack against me from the staging area, can I declare a defender?

*A: Yes. If an enemy attacks you, you can exhaust 1 character you control to declare it as a defender against that attack, whether that enemy is engaged with you or not.*

**Q:** What is the difference between “adding” a card to the staging area versus “placing” a card in the staging area?

*A: There is no difference between “adding” a card to the staging area versus “placing” a card in the staging area. These words are used interchangeably and mean the same thing in all instances.*

**Q:** Are attachments already in play discarded when Amon Lhaw (SoM 84) becomes the active location?

*A: No. Attachments only check play restrictions when entering play. Attachments already in play will stay attached.*

**Q:** When players have separate staging areas at stage 4 of Foundations of Stone, can there be multiple copies of unique cards in play?

*A: No. Players must still respect the rules for playing unique cards when they are split up. For example, if a player has Gandalf (CORE 73) in play, then no other player can play Gandalf.*



**Q:** How does the card Lost and Alone (DD 124) work? What if the hero gets attached to a Nameless Thing (DD 125) or was my last hero in play?

*A: You only put the lost hero back into play if you draw the hero, whether during the resource phase or through a card effect. If the hero is discarded or attached to a card like a Nameless Thing, then treat it like any other card. In the latter situation, the value of the hero would be null, since it has no printed cost. If your last hero gets shuffled into your deck you are not eliminated from the game; heroes are not considered to be killed unless they are in your discard pile. You will continue playing until you either draw the hero, are eliminated through other means, or the game ends.*

**Q:** When I play We Are Not Idle (D 129) and exhaust Bombur (OtD 5), do I get 2 resources?

*A: No. Bombur's ability only works with cards that count the number of Dwarf characters you control. If you choose to exhaust Bombur with We Are Not Idle, you are still only exhausting 1 Dwarf character and will therefore only receive 1 resource.*

**Q:** When I use the ability on Vilya (D 109) to play a card, do I still need a resource match?

*A: No. Playing a card at “no cost” is different from playing a card for “0 cost.” A 0 cost card still requires a resource match, however; playing a card at “no cost” removes the need for a resource match.*

**Q:** If an attachment gives a permanent stat bonus, does that bonus still apply when the attachment is exhausted?

*A: Yes. Exhausting an attachment does not negate any permanent bonus that attachment grants to the attached character.*


**Q:** If there is an active location with the text "Immune to player card effects" when Legolas participates in an attack that destroys an enemy, do I place 2 progress on the active location or the quest?

*A: No. When Legolas' ability would put progress on the current quest, if there is an active location, it puts progress on that location instead. If that location is immune to player card effects, it ignores Legolas' ability. Therefore, no progress would be placed on the active location or the current quest.*

**Q:** If an enemy does not attack or its attack is canceled, what happens to its shadow card(s)?

*A: At the end of the combat phase, discard each unresolved shadow card in play. (Do not resolve the effects on these shadow cards)*



Q: If a location is revealed after Treacherous Fog (CORE 118) was revealed during the same quest phase, does the revealed location get +1  from the "When Revealed" effect on Treacherous Fog?

A: Yes. The "When Revealed" effect on Treacherous Fog creates a lasting effect until the end of the phase that affects each location in the staging area. This is different from Driven by Shadow (CORE 92) which uses the language "currently in the staging area" when it is revealed and only affects enemies and locations in the staging area at the time it is revealed.

Q: Can I use Fortune or Fate (CORE 54) to put Beorn (OHUH 5) into play from a player's discard pile, even though he is immune to player card effects?

A: Yes. A hero's ability is only active while it is in play. Therefore, Beorn is not immune to player card effects (such as Fortune or Fate) while he is in the discard pile.

Q: If there is an unattached Ranger Spikes (HoN17) in the staging area when an enemy with the ambush keyword is revealed from the deck, what happens?

A: The Ranger Spikes will attach to that enemy, preventing the players from making the engagement checks for the ambush keyword.

Q: When Oin (OtD 4) gains the tactics resource icon from his ability, does that count as the "printed" tactics resource icon?

A: No. The "printed" resource icon always refers to the icon that appears in the Resource Icon space as identified on page 8 in the rulebook.

Q: If there are no characters with poison attached when Crazy Cob (OtD 29) is revealed from the encounter deck, does it still make an attack?

A: Yes. Since each character has 0 poison, the first player will choose which character Crazy Cob attacks.

Q: If I give control of one of my heroes to another player with Desperate Alliance (OtD 10) and my other heroes are killed, am I eliminated from the game?

A: No. A player is not eliminated from the game unless each of his heroes is killed. The hero chosen by Desperate Alliance is still in play and will return to your control at the end of the phase.

Q: If I play Expecting Mischief (OHUH 18) and it deals enough damage to the first enemy revealed to destroy it, do I still resolve any "when revealed" or keyword effects on that enemy?

A: No. The effect on Expecting Mischief resolves the same way as the effect on Thalin (Core 6).

Q: Is a shadow card effect considered an encounter card effect?

A: Yes. Cards that prevent characters from canceling encounter card effects also prevent players from canceling shadow card effects.

Q: If the effect on Dwarrowdelf Axe (KD 7) destroys an enemy, can I play Foe-hammer (OHUH 15)?

A: No. In order to play Foe-hammer, the attacking character must destroy the enemy. That means dealing enough damage to it with attack strength.







Q: Can you put Fili (OHUH 6) into play for free from your hand after you play Kili (OHUH 7)?

A: No. For either character's ability to work, the other character must enter play from your deck.

Q: After False Lead (SF 25) is revealed and its effect resolves, do the players continue staging?

A: No. The quest phase ends immediately and the players do not continue staging.

Q: What happens if an attacking enemy is destroyed before its attack resolves?

A: When resolving an enemy attack, the defending player should check the status of the attacking enemy at end of each step: is there still an attacking enemy? If yes, proceed to next step. If no, end the attack.

Q: When an enemy that has already made an attack engages a new player during the combat phase, does it make another attack?

A: Not unless it is directed to by card effect.

Q: While attempting to answer a Riddle in the scenario Dungeons Deep and Caverns Dim, when can players take actions?

A: Players can take actions after step 2, before step 3.

Q: While making a Burgle attempt in The Lonely Mountain scenario, when can players take actions?

A: Players can take actions after step 2, before step 3.

Q: Can I play an attachment on an enemy or location that is immune to player card effects?

A: No. Playing an attachment on a card is a form of targeting, and cards with "immune to player card effects" cannot be targeted by player cards.

Q: Can I use Quick Strike (Core 35) to declare an attack against an enemy that is immune to player card effects?

A: Yes. The effect of Quick Strike targets a character and allows that character to make an attack, therefore the chosen enemy's immunity does not factor.

Q: What counts as a "ranged" attack?

A: A ranged attack is an attack made by a character with the ranged keyword against an enemy engaged with another player.

Q: Can I use A Good Harvest (AtS 10) to play a 0 cost card without a resource match?

A: No. A Good Harvest only allows you to spend resources for the named sphere, a resource match is still needed to play cards with no resource cost.

Q: If a card is attached to Nameless Thing (D 125) as part of the resolution of its Forced effect, is that card's game text active?

A: No. Cards that are attached to Nameless Thing (or Elder Nameless Thing) as a result of triggering its Forced effect are considered attachments with no card title or game text. The only active part of the attached card is its cost.

Q: When an enemy makes an attack as part of its "when revealed" effect, is that enemy in the staging area?







A: No. Enemies are added to the staging after resolving their "when revealed" effects. An enemy that makes an attack as part of its "when revealed" effect, is not in the staging area or engaged with the defending player unless a card effect says it is.

Q: When playing with the A Journey to Rhosgobel Nightmare Deck, can Shot From the Sky (AJtR 7) and Noxious Supplies (AJtR 8) attach to Wilyador (SoM 64), even though he has the text, "No attachments"?

A: Yes. The Adventure Pack insert for A Journey to Rhosgobel defines "no attachments" as meaning that "players cannot play or move attachment cards onto Wilyador." Since players are not playing or moving these attachments (an encounter card effect is attaching them), they can be attached to Wilyador.

Q: If I engage more than one enemy with a higher engagement cost than my threat, will the second part of Sam Gamgee's (TBR 2) ability trigger more than once, even if I cannot ready him more than once?



*A: Yes. Because it does not use the word “then”, Sam’s bonus to ,  and  is not dependent on him readying. His readying effect and his bonus to ,  and  are two different effects that both have the trigger of engaging an enemy with a higher engagement cost than your threat.*

**Q:** If an enemy is put into play directly engaged with me, has that enemy “engaged” me for the purposes Forced effects or Responses that trigger from engaging an enemy?

*A: Yes. An enemy that enters play directly engaged with a player has engaged that player.*

**Q:** Can I use Dori (OHUH 9) to prevent damage from being assigned to Beorn (OHUH 5), even though Beorn is immune to player card effects?

*A: Yes. Dori’s **Response** targets the damage being assigned, not the character it is being assigned to, so Beorn’s immunity does not factor.*

**Q:** When playing The Blood of Gondor, if a card effect such as stage 1b of The Ambush (AtS 117) or Lying in Wait (AtS 129) turns each of my hidden cards faceup, and one of those cards forces me to take another hidden card, do I have to turn that card faceup as well?

*A: No. When you are instructed to turn each of your hidden cards faceup, only the hidden cards that are currently in front of you at that time are turned faceup; any hidden cards you are forced to take as part of that effect, such as from Evil Crow (AtS 122), remain facedown in front of you.*

**Q:** During the Setup for stage 1A of The Necromancer’s Tower (Core 123), should each objective have one encounter card attached to it, or two?

*A: One. When you reveal a Guarded objective, you must reveal the top card of the encounter deck and attach it to that objective, guarding it. The additional instruction on The Necromancer’s Tower to “... attach 1 encounter to each objective card” is there as a reminder, so that players know to attach 1 encounter card to each Guarded objective.*

**Q:** When an encounter card effects instructs me to search the encounter deck and discard pile for an enemy, reveal it, and add it to the staging area during a quest to which Thalin (CORE 6) is committed, does he still deal 1 damage to an enemy chosen from the discard pile?

*A: Yes. Enemies revealed from the encounter deck and discard pile by quest card and encounter card effects are still considered to have been revealed by the encounter deck.*

**Q:** If I have Light of Valinor (D 107) attached to a hero I control, can that hero commit to the quest while exhausted?

*A: No. Characters must be ready and able to exhaust in order to quest, attack, or defend. Card effects that allow a character to perform any of those actions without exhausting do not allow exhausted characters to perform those actions.*

**Q:** When an enemy with the text “cannot leave play” has damage equal to or in excess of its hit points, what happens?

*A: Nothing. The enemy cannot leave play, and therefore will continue to function as an enemy in play.*

**Q:** When I reveal the last card of the encounter deck, do I immediately reset the quest deck before resolving the staging of the revealed card?

*A: No. Resolve the staging of the revealed card, including any ‘When Revealed’ effects, before resetting the quest deck, if able. If you are unable to completely resolve the staging of the card because it instructs you to interact with the encounter deck in some manner, then reset the quest deck and finish resolving the effect.*

**Q:** If I am engaged with The Lord of the Dead (SoE 5) when I play Saruman (Vol 3), do I still have to raise each player’s threat for his Doomed 3?

*A: No. The moment Saruman enters play under your control, the passive effect on The Lord of the Dead causes you to treat his text box as blank, before the Doomed keyword can trigger.*

**Q:** If I use the **Response** effect on Saruman (Vol 3) to treat an encounter card guarding an objective as out of play, does that mean I can claim that objective because it is free of encounters?

*A: No. When a card is considered to be out of play, each card attached to it is also considered to be out of play. Because objectives with the Guarded keyword are attached to the enemy or location that is guarding it, if that enemy or location is considered to be out of play, the guarded objective is too.*

**Q:** How many keywords does The Balrog (RD 44) have?

*A: One. Indestructible is the only keyword on The Balrog.*



Scenario Name

Number of Players

Player Names	Final Threat Level	Threat Cost Of Each Dead Hero	Damage Tokens on Remaining Heroes	Player Subtotal
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	<input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>
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	<input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>

Notes

Number of Rounds: (tally)



Combined Player Subtotals

-  Victory Points Earned

+  10 Points per Round =  Final Group Score

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Number of Players

Player Names	Final Threat Level	Threat Cost Of Each Dead Hero	Damage Tokens on Remaining Heroes	Player Subtotal
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	<input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	+ <input type="text"/>	= <input type="text"/>

Notes

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Notes

Number of Rounds: (tally)



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-  Victory Points Earned

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