GENERAL

age of sigmar generals handbook

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

For every player who has ever stood on a tabletop battlefield, the **Age of Sigmar Generals Handbook** is more than just a rulebook – it's a strategic compass that turns raw dice rolls into calculated tactics. Whether you're a seasoned veteran of the Mortal Realms or a newcomer eager to master the art of command, this guide offers a deep dive into the mechanics, lore, and battlefield strategies that define the Age of Sigmar experience. In this article we'll explore the handbook's structure, highlight its most useful sections, and give you practical tips for applying its teachings to your campaigns.

What is the Age of Sigmar Generals Handbook?

The Age of Sigmar Generals Handbook is an official companion volume that expands upon the core rules of the Age of Sigmar tabletop wargame. Published by Games Workshop, it focuses on the role of the general in a unit, offering detailed rules for command, morale, and special abilities. The book is designed to give players a comprehensive understanding of how to lead their armies, manage their forces, and exploit the unique strengths of each faction.

Key Features

- Command and Control Rules: Detailed guidelines on how generals influence their units, including command radius, command points, and the effects of command tokens.
- Morale and Resolve: In-depth coverage of morale tests, resolve points, and how to keep your troops fighting even when the odds are against them.
- Special Abilities: A catalog of general-specific abilities, such as unique spells, battlefield tactics, and leadership bonuses.
- Faction Profiles: Summaries of each faction's generals, highlighting their unique strengths and how they can be leveraged strategically.
- Strategic Advice: Tips on army composition, deployment, and battlefield positioning to maximize the effectiveness of your general.

Why the Generals Handbook Matters for Players

Age of Sigmar is a game that thrives on tactical depth. While the core rulebook lays the foundation, the Generals Handbook fills in the gaps that often leave players uncertain about how best to wield their commanders. By offering clear explanations and practical examples, the handbook helps players:

1. Make Informed Decisions: Understand how each general's abilities interact with your army's composition.
2. Optimize Morale: Learn how to keep units in the fight and avoid costly morale failures.
3. Enhance Storytelling: Use the lore and background of your generals to add narrative depth to your games.
4. Improve Competitive Play: Gain a competitive edge by mastering advanced command tactics used by top-tier players.

Deep Dive: Command and Control Mechanics

Command is the heartbeat of any Age of Sigmar army. The Generals Handbook breaks down the command system into three core components: command radius, command points, and command tokens.

Command Radius

Each general has a fixed command radius that determines how far their influence reaches. Units within this radius can benefit from the general's bonuses. Understanding how to position your general to cover the most critical units can be the difference between victory and defeat.

Command Points

Command points are earned each turn and can be spent to activate special abilities or to mitigate morale penalties. The handbook provides a clear table of how many command points a general earns based on their level and the number of units they command.

Command Tokens

Command tokens act as a buffer against morale failures. Players can spend these tokens to automatically pass morale checks for units that would otherwise crumble. The Generals Handbook explains the optimal timing for using these tokens, ensuring you preserve them for the most critical moments.

Morale and Resolve: Keeping Your Forces in the Fight

Morale is a pivotal aspect of Age of Sigmar gameplay. The Generals Handbook dedicates a substantial portion to explaining how morale works, how resolve points function, and how generals can influence these factors.

Morale Tests

Every time a unit takes damage, suffers a significant loss, or is forced to retreat, it must pass a morale test. The handbook details the thresholds for different levels of damage, providing a quick reference for players.

Resolve Points

Resolve points are a resource that generals can spend to keep units from breaking. The book outlines the rules for earning and spending resolve points, and offers strategic advice on when to expend them.

Keeping Units from Breaking

The handbook emphasizes the importance of maintaining a cohesive army. By strategically positioning your general and using command tokens and resolve points effectively, you can keep your units fighting even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Faction Profiles: Unlocking the Power of Your General

One of the most exciting sections of the Generals Handbook is the faction profiles. Each profile includes:

- General's Background: A brief narrative that ties the general into the larger lore of Age of Sigmar.
- Special Abilities: A list of unique powers available to the general.
- Strategic Recommendations: Suggested army compositions and deployment tactics that maximize the general's strengths.

Below are quick summaries for three popular factions:

Stormcast Eternals

Stormcast Eternals are the shining defenders of the Mortal Realms. Their generals wield powerful aetheric energy and can grant massive bonuses to nearby units. The handbook advises focusing on strong, durable units that can

take advantage of the Stormcast's defensive bonuses.

Chaos Warriors

Chaos Warriors thrive on unpredictability. Their generals can unleash devastating psychic powers that can turn the tide of battle. The handbook suggests building a balanced army with both melee and ranged units to capitalize on Chaos's versatility.

Nighthaunt

The Nighthaunt are the ghostly remnants of a doomed kingdom. Their generals can manipulate the battlefield with spectral abilities, allowing them to control enemy movement. The handbook recommends using the Nighthaunt's mobility to outflank opponents.

Strategic Advice: From the Field to the Table

Beyond the mechanics, the Generals Handbook offers a treasure trove of strategic advice. These tips can be applied to both casual play and competitive tournaments.

Army Composition

Choosing the right mix of units is essential. The handbook suggests pairing high-damage units with sturdy support units to maintain a balanced force that can adapt to changing battlefield conditions.

Deployment

Deployment determines the initial positioning of your units. The Generals Handbook recommends deploying your general in a central location to maximize command radius coverage while keeping them safe from early aggression.

Movement and Positioning

Effective movement can set the stage for a decisive attack. The handbook advises using the general's mobility to reposition units, create flanks, and exploit enemy weaknesses.

Battlefield Control

Control over key terrain and objectives is often the key to victory. The handbook explains how generals can influence the battlefield by controlling objectives and using special abilities to block enemy advances.

Using the Generals Handbook in Competitive Play

Competitive players often look for any edge that can tip the scales. The Generals Handbook provides advanced tactics that can be used to outmaneuver opponents in high-stakes matches.

Optimizing Command Points

In competitive play, every command point matters. The handbook offers a detailed breakdown of when to spend points on special abilities versus when to save them for morale checks.

Psychic Warfare

For factions with psychic powers, the handbook includes strategies for maximizing psychic attacks while minimizing the risk of psychic backlash.

Psychological Warfare

Beyond the physical battlefield, the handbook encourages players to use narrative elements and psychological tactics to unsettle opponents, such as emphasizing the lore of your general's backstory.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced players can fall into pitfalls. The Generals Handbook outlines frequent errors and offers solutions.

Overcommitting to a Single Unit

Relying too heavily on one powerful unit can leave you vulnerable. The handbook advises diversifying your army to mitigate risk.

Ignoring Morale

Failing to manage morale can lead to early defeats. The handbook stresses the importance of keeping morale high through strategic use of command tokens and resolve points.

Neglecting Terrain

Terrain can be a powerful ally. The handbook recommends using terrain to block enemy movement and to provide cover for your units.

How to Integrate the Handbook into Your Play Routine

To truly benefit from the Generals Handbook, it's essential to incorporate its teachings into your regular play routine.

Pre-Game Preparation

Before each match, review the relevant sections of the handbook that pertain to your chosen faction. Take notes on key abilities and strategic recommendations.

During the Game

Keep the handbook open for quick reference during crucial moments. Use it to confirm rules, resolve disputes, and double-check your calculations.

Post-Game Analysis

After each match, revisit the handbook to analyze what worked and what didn't. Identify areas where you can improve your command and control tactics.

Conclusion

The **Age of Sigmar Generals Handbook** is an indispensable resource for anyone looking to elevate their gameplay. By mastering its command, morale, and strategic sections, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how to lead your army to victory. Whether you're a casual gamer seeking to improve your tactics or a competitive player aiming for the top ranks, the handbook's comprehensive guidance will help you turn the tide of battle in your favor. Embrace the power of your general, apply the lessons from the handbook, and let your armies dominate the Mortal Realms.

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