

# Prophecy: Apocalypse Rulebook

## The Authority Games Supplement

Original Rules by Exile

Basic Rules Taken from Prophecy

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# What is Live Action Roleplaying?

Live Action Roleplaying, or LARP as it is often called, is a form of art, recreation, and social gathering all rolled into one. LARP events are often referred to as Games, and may take place at an outdoor or indoor location, and could last a few hours or an entire weekend.

The chosen physical location will represent a Setting, and a number of people known as Cast populate the setting with characters ranging from monks to brigands to ghosts to wild beasts. Cast members will usually play several different Characters during an event. The actions of the Cast are guided by a number of interconnected Plots, which are written and directed by the Apocalypse Staff.

A Player will create a single Character, with personality, desires, goals, motives, skills, etc., using this rulebook. The Player will then portray that Character, and interact within the world of the Setting. So while Cast Characters (sometimes called Non-Player Characters or NPCs) must for the most part follow a pre-written Plot, as directed by the Staff, the Player Characters (or PCs) are free to do what they will within the confines of the Rules. A good way to think about it is that the Game is like a sweeping epic novel, in which the Players are the main characters, while the Cast and Staff provide the opposing forces, setting, and side characters.

The Game revolves around “real” actions. What this means is that when you choose to do something you must actually do it. You can never “say” you are doing something and have it happen for you. You must actually do it. If you say, “I climb up this wall”, all it means is that your character has just said that, which will get you some odd looks, but won’t save you from your enemies.

There should be no need for you to ask other players out-of-game questions, such as “Do I recognize you?” or “What do I see?” These questions should be avoided. There may be a few cases where you will need to ask another player to clarify a situation, but these should be rare.

You can do anything that you are capable of accomplishing without breaking the rules, endangering another player or yourself, disrupting the flow of game, calling a Hold, or damaging other people’s property. There are some things you just can’t do, even if “realistically” your character could do them.

The reasons for this are to avoid situations like the following:

Player A: “Okay, I set the hut on fire. You guys must be roasting in there by now, come on out!”

Player B: “Actually, I broke down the back wall and climbed up that tree.”

This sort of thing confuses the continuity of the game. Examples of things you cannot “say” you are doing include: cutting off limbs, breaking down doors, violation of another’s person, and burning items.

There are also some real-life actions we would ask you to refrain from for your own safety, and the safety of others. This information can be found in the Rules and Policies section of the Rule Book.

## What to Expect

Prophecy: Apocalypse is a game designed to get you right into the action and hopefully keep you on your toes throughout the event. Each Apocalypse game is a one-shot that puts the players into an end-of-the-world type setting. Your primary goal is to live through the weekend, but you will have other tasks to accomplish based on the setting. Each one-shot game will have slightly customized rules, based on the rules found in this rulebook, which will govern situations and skills unique to that setting.

# Rules and Policies

## Safety Rules

*These are the most important rules in this book.  
Follow them above all others, and at all times.*

### Running at Night

The single greatest safety risk you face in live role-playing is NOT combat. It is running at night over rough terrain, risking falling and bashing your brains out on a rock. Prophecy: Apocalypse plot is written to avoid such situations, but to totally forbid running at night would stifle too much of the action. HOWEVER, always use extreme caution when running. Try to avoid pursuing other players at night. We realize that running is sometimes the only option in the face overwhelming odds. Please, exercise common sense and be careful.

### Combat Force

When fighting with padded weapons, you must always pull your blows so as not to strike too hard. No blow should cause real pain. If you are struck by a blow that you think is too forceful, say “Excessive Force” or “Check your swing.” The hit DOES NOT COUNT! Everyone is different, so you will have to adjust to your opponent’s level of comfort. Blows that some players would hardly notice are quite unpleasant for others. No one should feel uncomfortable about calling “Excessive Force.” It doesn’t mean you are a wimp. You are actually helping the game by keeping things under control. If you feel a player is abusing this rule, smile, make nice, and inform the staff.

### Combat Targets

Do not strike the head or groin. Hits to the hands do not count. Blocking melee weapon blows with your hands is not allowed.

### Weapon Safety

All weapons must be inspected by the staff before an event. For guidelines on weapon construction, consult the “Combat” section of the Rule Book.

### Blocking Doors

Blocking or holding a door with your body or furniture is not allowed. Do not try to physically force doors open.

### Fire

No flames are allowed at any time.

### Light

Any flashlight may be used by affixing a colored filter, diffuser or gel lens so as to dim the light and not blind those around you. Small LED type lights of any color are allowed as well as chemical glow sticks. White lights are not allowed. Never shine a flashlight or directed-beam LED light directly at somebody's face during combat.

### Drugs, Alcohol, Real Weapons

These are NEVER allowed. You will be instantly “disinvited” if you are found with these. This includes coming to an event “under the influence.” You may bring a pocketknife or similar tool for utilitarian purposes.

## **Physical Contact**

No physical contact is allowed in game without the other player's permission. No direct physical contact is allowed in combat AT ALL, and you should avoid getting within arm's length, unless using a fist-sized packet.

## **No Unsafe Stunts or Climbing**

Please do not climb trees or buildings, or jump out of windows.

## **Carrying Other People**

There may be many instances during the course of the event when your character will want to lift or carry another character. We strongly encourage you to "roleplay" this action, rather than actually picking up and carrying the other person. Take them by the arm and say, "I carry you," at which point the person you are carrying should get up and move with you, slowly, as if you are carrying them. Both of you should move no faster than a slow walk while you are roleplaying this action. We would rather see roleplaying of this sort than have someone get hurt by picking up another person, or being dropped by another person.

You may actually pick up a close friend and carry them, IF, and only if, you ask them "May I really carry you?" and they agree. In this case, you may move as quickly as you see fit. Again, we discourage this type of realism in the game for safety reasons. Other competitive players may see your action as a challenge and want to outdo you, only to hurt themselves or others in the process. The person to be carried may NEVER insist on actually being carried, nor can they make you carry them if you do not wish. They must always agree to roleplay the action if that is what you desire. Remember...the policy of Prophecy: Apocalypse is no physical contact; so be sure to ask the other person before taking them by the arm, to avoid possible miscommunication.

## **CAUTION!**

When you see a safety problem, call "Caution." This is used for things such as someone about to back over a rock or into a tree. The caution creates a sort of mini-"Hold" (see below) during which you should be ignored by others, as should the person at risk.

## **CLARIFY!**

When you did not hear or do not understand a spell or in-game effect, call "Clarify." The person should explain what has happened or answer your question. This also creates a mini-"Hold" (see below) during which others should ignore both you and the person answering you.

## **HOLD!**

In the case of MAJOR safety problems, injuries, or the like, call "Hold." ALL action stops within line of sight, and should start again only when the problem is resolved and a "Play On" has been called. Do not call Holds for in-game reasons (like someone not noticing the spell you hit them with). Do not hesitate to call Holds when you think it might be needed, such as for real-life injuries. We would rather be safe than sorry!

# **Policies**

## **Do Not Use Obscenities**

Swearing is poor roleplaying, and upsetting to some people. We know that people slip, especially in a modern game environment, but please do your best, especially as regards the more heinous vulgarities. If you feel the need for colorful language, practice using suitable in-game phrases. Substitute profanities such as "gorram" and "frack" can be used. Yes, they're "borrowed". So what?

## **Do Not Cheat**

This should go without saying. The game is nothing if the players are not honorable – no matter how despicable their characters may be!

### **Do Not Insult Others Out-of-Game**

In-game insults are fine, of course, but we should all respect one another out-of-game. Unpleasant, out-of-game personal remarks, slurs on sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation are not acceptable. Treat members of the opposite sex with courtesy and respect. No one should be made uncomfortable out-of-game by what other people are saying at a Prophecy: Apocalypse event. If you feel another player is violating this policy, please contact a member of the Staff as soon as possible.

### **Do Not Litter**

Everything you bring to the camp should either leave with you or be placed in a suitable trash receptacle.

### **Smoke in Designated Areas ONLY**

The Staff understands that you may wish to smoke during the course of the event. However, there are many other players who do not want to smoke with you. Please be courteous to them and smoke only in the designated areas. Take your cigarette butts with you and deposit them in the trash. Do not throw cigarette butts on the ground! If we find that this is happening, smoking may be permanently banned from the game.

### **Roleplay!**

Prophecy: Apocalypse is about roleplaying. Roleplaying is vital to maintaining the atmosphere we're all here to enjoy. Not everyone likes to roleplay every minute of a game, but NO ONE likes to be trying to roleplay while someone else is blatantly out-of-character nearby. Being out-of-character while others are roleplaying is rude, and will not be tolerated. Certain areas of the game are "roleplaying zones". It is REQUIRED that you stay in character in these places. Blatantly breaking character could have dire consequences!

### **Stay In Control**

Blatantly losing control of your actions or emotions (whether during combat or because you are unhappy with the outcome of an encounter) leads to dangerous situations and out-of-game offensiveness. If you feel like this is happening, just step back from the situation for a moment to settle down and remember it is just a game. You may certainly roleplay that your character has lost control, but even in that situation you must always keep safety first.

### **No Spectators**

Live Action Roleplaying is NOT a spectator sport. Spectators, be they friends, significant others, etc. are NOT WELCOME! They make people uncomfortable and disrupt play. Everyone is welcome to play Prophecy: Apocalypse, and the Staff will find Cast roles suitable for those who are only interested in watching or roleplaying. But every person on the game site must be in-game and in-character.

### **“Disinvitation”**

The Prophecy: Apocalypse game is run by its Staff solely for their enjoyment, and that of the players. Everyone who attends a Prophecy: Apocalypse event, be they staff or player, does so by invitation. The invitation is an open one – anyone is welcome!

However, if you are not fun to play with, because you are abusive, cheat, are discourteous, etc., then you will be issued a “disinvitation.” This will usually (but not always) be preceded by a warning. Prophecy: Apocalypse is about fun, and we are not interested in wasting time with people who cause problems.

# Character Creation

Creating a character for Prophecy: Apocalypse involves several steps. You will have the opportunity to make many choices that will shape a unique and individualized character.

The steps to create a Character are:

## Select a Race

In most Prophecy: Apocalypse games, you will play a human. However, certain games may allow you to play a character of another race. The details of those races, including the special powers that they have, will appear in those game supplements.

### Humans

Humans are the dominant race of the planet Earth, who can call upon diverse backgrounds, determination, and sheer bloody-mindedness in order to survive the Apocalypse.

#### Basic Attributes

**Life:** 2

**Focus:** 1

**Free Points:** 6

## Spend Free Points

You begin with a certain number of Free Points based upon your Race. You can expend these Free Points to increase either your Life or your Focus. It costs 1 Free Point to increase your Life or your Focus by 1 Point. You may not reduce your Focus and Life attributes below the starting values to gain Free Points.

**Life Points** represent the amount of physical damage you can sustain.

**Focus Points** represent the amount of energy and concentration you can devote to specific tasks and skills.

Please keep in mind that it is unlikely you will find the means to increase your Life or Focus statistics beyond your starting scores, and most characters will find that they always need more Focus!

## Focus Cycles

Some skills require great attention and focus and call on our training, expertise, mental acuity or physical strength beyond the norm. They leave the individual a bit drained afterwards, and only time can restore that energy and will. We call this Focus. A player's Focus Points are restored every 6 hours at 12 am, 6 am, 12 pm, 6 pm each day.

## Choose a Background

For this particular game, Backgrounds explain how a your character came to be a contestant in the Authority Games. Each Background will provide a special benefit to the player who chooses it. Players cannot choose more than one Background.

## Choose Skills

You will begin the game with 50 Skill Points. These Skill Points can be spent on any of the skills listed in this book. You can earn another 5 Skill Points by submitting your character history via email by the deadline, August 14, 2009.

## Choose a Name

You may be tempted to take the name of a well-known character from a popular book or movie. We heartily suggest that you avoid this. Many other players have read those same books and seen those same movies. To encounter a character with a well-known name may interrupt their In Game mindset and take them out-of-game.

## Assemble a Costume

This event will be set in the modern world. Anything you would find in the modern setting is acceptable with a few restrictions; No profane pictures, sayings or logos are allowed. The minimum legal limits of modesty must be observed.

## Write a Character History (Optional)

You will gain 5 additional Skill Points by writing and submitting a history of your character to the Prophecy: Apocalypse Staff. Histories must be emailed to the Staff. While there are no real requirements for character histories, we will evaluate them subjectively for detail and content. Any histories we find to be lame and devoid of useful detail will be returned for revision/embellishment. Histories must be in two weeks prior to the start of the game to be eligible for the 5 point bonus.

Your character history should contain personal information about your character's exploits prior to the start of the event. This might include information on your background, your family, your childhood, your enemies, what brought you to town, etc. This information will remain confidential with the Staff, but may be used for Plot purposes.

Please do not include anything in your character history that will give you an unfair advantage in game. You may not write that you are some sort of supernatural creature with additional abilities beyond your starting skills. You may not write that you are the CEO of a major corporation or the president of the United States. You may have had wealth once, but lost it, or had it stolen. The point is that you cannot begin the game with an advantage over other players because of your character history.

Character Histories are subject to approval by the Prophecy: Apocalypse Staff, in order to ensure consistency in the game and setting. Please take the setting of the game into account when writing your history.

## An Example

We include here an example to illustrate the steps outlined above. Let's say John needs to make up a character to play in the Authority Games. He has read through the rules and has a pretty good feel for the type of character he wants to play. He would like his character to be a washed-up rock star, hoping to use the spectacle of the game to restart his career. John sits down with the Apocalypse rule book.

First, John must choose a Race. He must play a Human, so he starts off with 2 Life Points, 1 Focus Point, and Six Free Points.

Now, John must decide how to spend his Free Points. He decides to use 2 of his Free Points to increase his Life to 4, and then spend the remaining 5 Free Points to increase his Focus Points to 6.

John looks through the Backgrounds and chooses Celebrity, which he feels is the most appropriate choice for his aging rock star. John notes that the Celebrity's special power allows him to fully Renew his own Focus Points twice during the event.

John will now choose skills. John has 50 Skill Points to start with. He chooses:

Administer Drugs:	5 SP
Inspiration:	16 SP
Luck:	7 SP

Mass Confidence:	6 SP
Melee Weapon:	6 SP
Remember this Moment:	8 SP
Extra Stuff:	2 SP

This uses up all of John's Skill Points. John notes that the Inspiration skill has a Dedicated Focus Point Cost of all, which means that his Focus Points can only be used to power Inspiration skills (such as Mass Confidence and Remember this Moment). He also notes that his Mass Confidence skill requires the expenditure of 4 Focus Points each time it is used, which means he can use it once per Focus Cycle.

John would really like to get the We Need This Now skill, but he has no SP left. However, if he writes a Character History and submits it electronically, he will get an additional 5 SP, giving him enough to buy We Need This Now with 1 SP left over.

John decides to choose an appropriate name for a stalwart mountain man such as himself. He settles on the name, "Zed Rock," and is ready to go.

## Backgrounds

Please choose one of the Backgrounds from the list below. These backgrounds will help you define how your character came to be a participant in the Authority Games and will provide you with some special benefits in game.

### Celebrity

You are famous! You live your life in the public eye, either because you have some kind of actual talent, or because you've been on so many reality TV shows that people just recognize you. You are used to the frenzied life of a star, from late night parties and binges to tussling with the paparazzi. Compared to being airlifted by your personal bodyguards off the rooftop of Manhattan's hottest club, the Authority Games can seem kind of tame.

**Special:** Twice per event, you may spend a moment to collect yourself. This can be whatever you think is appropriate for your character, from personal grooming to yoga exercise. After 1 minute, you may Renew All of your Focus. You can only affect yourself and you must be conscious to do this.

### Coerced

Someone wants you to play. It could be because of your unique skills. It could be blackmail. It could be the only way to save your family or to pay off your gambling debts. Whatever the case, you don't want to be here, but you don't have any choice. Be warned that choosing this Background means that you *must* write a character history explaining who is coercing you and why. Also be warned that these people are probably watching you all the time.

**Special:** Whoever coerced you has given you an advantage at the start of the game. You don't know why they're doing this, because you're pretty sure they want you dead. They will help you up to three times during the game. This help is at their discretion, not yours. You may receive an item, information, or something else. Obviously, strings will be attached.

### Convict

You have been convicted of a major crime and have been sentenced to prison. However, your local government has seen fit to commute your sentence, in return for your willing participation in the Authority Games. If you survive the games, you will be granted a full pardon, in addition to any other rewards you and your team earn.

Please note: You committing an actual crime in your character history is not mandatory for this Background. You could be a convict for any number of reasons, including violating curfew or annoying a corporate official.

**Special:** Your time in prison has made you hard and has honed your fighting ability. Once per Focus Cycle, you may throw a fist-sized packet to deliver either the Knockout or Three Damage effect.

### **Lottery Winner**

In a world where resources are scarce, most people have to resort to the lottery system to have any hope of getting anything at all. You are one of those people who somehow wins all the time—or frequently enough to have a pretty good life.

Congratulations, you have won the privilege to represent Team USA in the Authority Games!

**Special:** Whenever you participate in anything where success is determined by random chance, you get one extra try. For example: If you are doing surgery on someone, or having surgery done to you, you get ONE free draw if necessary. This also works for games of chance. In many cases, NPCs will alert you to times when you can learn this skill. You may also purchase the “Luck” skill at half cost (4 points).

### **Professional Athlete**

You have dedicated your life to the pursuit of physical perfection in your sport of choice. This gives you an edge in the Authority Games because you are familiar with the conditioning and hardship of competitive sports.

**Special:** Twice during the game, you can dig deep and find the strength to go on, giving yourself (and only yourself) the Heal Full effect. You must be conscious to use this ability.

### **Volunteer**

For whatever reason, when the call went out for contestants, you were among the first people to sign up. You could have done this out of patriotic duty and altruism, or because you have some secret, ulterior motive that you are hiding from the selection committee.

**Special:** You are rewarded for your loyalty! Your local government has fitted your tracking band with a stimulant delivery system. You may deliver the Heal Half effect by touch to yourself or someone else a total of five times during the event. If you are unconscious and about to go Critical, the system will automatically expend one of its charges to prevent you from going Critical.

## **Skills**

Skills are purchased using Skill Points. Each player starts with 50 Skill Points to spend when creating a character. Submitting a character history can increase this number. Each skill is listed by name and by category.

You may see the cost in SP displayed like this: 6/9/12. In this case, 6 would be the cost of the 1<sup>st</sup> level of the skill, 9 would be the cost of the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, and 12 would be the cost of the 3<sup>rd</sup> level. Unless noted in the description of the skill, skill levels must be purchased in progression (i.e. you cannot purchase level II without having purchased level I).

Following the name of the skill are several important values that indicate the following characteristics:

\*: An asterisk following the skill name indicates the skill may be purchased multiple times.

**SP:** This indicates the cost in Skill Points to purchase the skill.

**FP:** This indicates the cost in Focus Points to make one use of this skill. If this is not listed, Focus is not required to use the skill. Remember that you get a number of Focus Points equal to your Focus Point statistic each Focus Cycle of the game.

**DFP:** This indicates the cost in Dedicated Focus Points to make use of the skill. It represents that the skill is always “turned on,” thus the Focus used to power it is permanently expended and may not be used for any other purpose.

For example, if a character has a Focus Point statistic of 4, and buys Warcraft, which is 2 DFP, then the character only receives 2 Focus Points per Focus cycle.

See the Appendix for a concise chart of skills and costs as listed in this book.

## Inspiration Skills

### Inspiration

SP: 16; DFP: ALL

This skill allows you to purchase the other Inspiration skills. By force of personality, charisma, or performing skill, you are able to inspire people to new heights. In this world turned upside down, this may be the edge humanity needs to survive. All Inspiration Skills require a one minute performance or speech of some sort. It could be a musical instrument, a stirring victory speech, or singing for example.

When you take this skill, you devote all of your Focus to Inspiration skills. Because of this, you may not spend Focus on any non-inspirational skills (such as Chemistry or Dodge), or use skills that require Devoted Focus Points (such as Armor Repair or Backstab).

### Confidence

SP: 2; FP: 1

Prerequisite: Inspiration

You can instill a sense of fearlessness and determination in a person, to the point that they can even shrug off a wound. After a one minute performance of any kind, you may grant one person who has witnessed your performance one temporary armor point. This armor point is the first to go away, and you may not have more than 1 temporary armor point at a time. State "I grant you 1 temporary armor point."

### Mass Confidence

SP: 6; FP: 4

Prerequisite: Inspiration

Your ability to inspire reaches its pinnacle, and you are able to inspire a whole room full of people, granting them 1 temporary armor point. This armor point is the first to go away, and you may not have more than 1 temporary armor point at a time. State "Area of Effect I grant all humans attending to my performance 1 temporary armor point." You also gain the effect.

### Read the Crowd

SP: 10; FP: 3

Prerequisite: Inspiration

You've been performing for a while, and you've learned to read the crowd. Your intuitive senses are so sharp you know to zig when the other person zags. You may only use this ability on yourself and it may only be used in battle. After observing an enemy (watching, fighting, etc) for one minute, state "I Bestow one Dodge upon myself." You must spend an additional minute each time you use this skill, even if fighting the same enemy. If combat ends before you've used the dodge, it is wasted.

### Remember This Moment

SP: 8; FP 6

Prerequisite: Inspiration

People remember a good performance. In your case, it's sometimes so good it actually lifts their morale and refreshes their spirit. After a one minute performance of any kind, you may bestow three people the

ability to Renew 3 Focus to themselves once. State "I Bestow Renew 3 to Self," three times. You may target yourself with one of the Bestows.

### **Warrior's Motivation**

SP: 8; FP: 2

Prerequisite: Inspiration

When the chips are down and the battle lines are crumbling, sometimes one good strike can make all the difference. And sometimes, all it takes is a little motivation to get someone to make that strike. After a one minute performance of any kind, you can give someone one use of the Strike of Migh skill (3 damage by weapon). State "I Bestow one Strike of Might."

### **We Need This Now!**

SP: 4; FP: 2

Prerequisite: Inspiration

Focus, concentration, efficiency. Your performance can keep people on task and avoiding distractions. You may use this skill while a surgeon is using their skills to increase their speed. After one minute of motivation while they are working, state "Forsooth, this Surgery takes only ½ the time to complete."

## Technical Skills

### **Ammunition Reloading**

SP; 10 DFP; 1

This skill allows a player to reload spent ammunition. To do this, you must have a spent round for each round you're reloading, the appropriate chemical propellant/gunpowder and reloading tools. You must roleplay the manufacture of ammo. This takes 1 minute for every 10 rounds produced. You can bring your own reloading tool physreps and we encourage you to do so, or you may find reloading equipment In Game. Additional equipment may be found which can increase your efficiency. All Nerf types of ammo must be reloaded in this way.

**Note on Actionball ammo and Spring Guns:** Spring guns from Adventurers' Outlet are considered "black powder" muzzle loading weapons. Because of this, the ammo does not need to be reloaded, and can be picked up and reused, but you must have gunpowder with you, and you must roleplay using it while reloading the weapon.

## Fighting Skills

### **Battlethirst**

SP: 6 FP: 0

Characters with Battlethirst can fight on after wounds that would render them unconscious, if their enthusiasm for the fray is sufficient. They may, when reduced to zero HP, cry "Battlethirst!" The character may now continue to fight until they are reduced to a negative HP total equal to their full HP attribute. When this happens, or at the end of the battle, the character will immediately fall into a Critical state.

See the "Death & Dying" section of the Rule Book for more information on becoming Critical.

### **Bow Block**

SP: 8 FP: 0

Characters with Bow Block may use their Bow to physically block other weapon blows. If you do not have this skill, and you use your Bow to block a weapon blow, the Bow will be break. Note that this skill does not allow you to call the "Parry" effect. To block attacks with a bow in one hand and a weapon in the other requires the Two Weapons skill.

## **Desperation**

SP: 2 FP: 1

Characters with Desperation can, when the need is great, expend a Focus Point to wield weapons that they have no real skill with. Once activated, the talent lasts for one “battle” or “adventure,” the end of the Focus Cycle, or up to 30 minutes, whichever comes first. No other fighting skills may be employed when using a weapon in Desperation. Cannot be used for Firearms II unless the player has the Firearms I skill.

## **Maim**

SP: 7 FP: 1

Characters with Maim may use their melee (not missile or thrown) weapons to deliver the “Maim” effect. The character must have a weapon of his or her own with which to attack, must announce “Maim”, and must successfully strike his or her opponent. The effect must be called BEFORE the blow is made! Maim must strike a limb to be effective, and represents a debilitating magical blow. If you call “Maim” and fail to land a blow successfully or strike your opponent’s torso, weapon, or shield, your opponent will take no effect, but your Focus will have been expended.

## **Parry**

SP: 7 FP: 1

This skill allows a player to call “Parry” when struck by a special melee attack such as Maim or Strike of Might, thus negating the attack. Parry cannot be used against missile attacks of any kind.

## **Strike of Might**

SP: 7 FP: 1

Characters with Strike of Might may use their melee (not missile or thrown) weapons to deliver the “3 Damage” effect. The skill represents a well-placed strike that does more damage. The character must have a weapon of his or her own with which to attack, must announce “3 Damage”, and must successfully strike his or her opponent. If you call “3 Damage” and fail to land a blow successfully, or strike your opponent’s weapon or shield, your opponent will suffer no damage but your Focus will have been expended.

## **Sucker Punch**

SP: 5 FP: 2

This skill simulates brawling with one’s fists. Characters with Sucker Punch may throw a fist-sized seed packet at a foe and call the “Knockout” effect. The beanbag must strike your opponent’s torso, and must be thrown from within an arm’s length for the “punch” to be effective. Your opponent may block the beanbag with a shield, a weapon, or hands. If it is blocked, fails to hit the torso, or misses entirely, the Effect fails and the Focus Point is wasted. A word of caution; this skill may have reduced effectiveness against certain opponents.

## **Two Weapons**

SP: 12 FP: 0

Characters with the Two Weapons skill may use two hand-held weapons (not including Crossbows) at one time. You must have the skill required to use each of the weapons individually. One weapon may be no longer than 42”, the other may be no longer than 30”.

## **Warcraft**

SP: 14 DFP: 2

Characters with Warcraft are so proficient in the use of weapons that they routinely make attacks that others would have to use luck and great concentration to achieve. The character may call ONE Maim or Strike of Might against EACH opponent they face, provided they have already purchased the Maim and/or Strike of Might skill. Characters with Warcraft may not use the skill multiple times against the same opponent when that opponent is a creature that regenerates or repairs itself in some other way. During large battles, when cast members “recycle” (leave play and return as a “different” creature), then Warcraft can be used against these “new” opponents.

# Information and General Skills

## **Extra Stuff\***

SP: 1 FP: 0

When the world ends, sometimes survival comes down to having stuff. Ammo, Chemicals, Tech devices, these things can save the day. And what's better than having stuff? Having a little Extra Stuff! For each purchase of this skill, you will be given a very small amount of IG items. It may be a round or two of ammo, or an extra stim pack. It won't be enough to save the day, but it might help.

\*\*Note: This skill is a place to put those two or three extra skill points you have no other use for, after you've purchased all of the skills you want for your character. It's not recommended that you invest heavily in this skill.

## **Literacy**

SP: 0 FP: 0

This skill allows a character to read and write the English. It is assumed that all characters are literate unless stated otherwise by the player.

## **Rumors**

SP: 2 FP: 0

This skill provides a character with a random number of tidbits of useful, or not-so-useful information at the start of the event. This information represents rumors that the character has overheard prior to the game. You cannot specify that you are seeking rumors on a particular topic, you just get what you happen to get.

## **Luck\***

SP: 7, FP: 0

This skill allows a character to recover when bleeding out once per event. When the 'lucky' character passes through the requisite 5 minute time period in the 'unstable' state, rather than going to 'critical' they recover 1 life point and remain 'unconscious' for 5 minutes before returning to consciousness with 1 life point. The luck skill may also have other hidden benefits in game.

# Medical Skills

## **Administer Drugs**

SP: 5 FP: 0

This skill allows an individual to give injectable drugs and medicines to a patient. Some meds can be made by chemists while others may be found in game. Injector physreps must be utilized and can only be found IG.

## **Bandage I**

SP: 5 FP: 0

This skill simulates basic first-aid practices, and allows a character to deliver the Heal Half effect OR the Restore Limb effect after roleplaying bandaging for 1 uninterrupted minute. An actual bandage must be used, and may not be removed for at least one half hour. (Bandagers must supply their own bandages). You and the person you are bandaging must be stationary while using this skill!

Successful completion of the Bandage I skill can achieve one of the following results per use (your choice):

- You may bring a wounded person to half hitpoints (rounded up) with the Heal Half effect. You may achieve this result on yourself if you are conscious and have the use of both arms. You may bring an Unstable character to consciousness with Half HP with this use of the skill. State 'Heal Half' when finished.

- You may restore function to one Maimed limb with the Restore Limb effect. You may achieve this result on yourself if you are conscious and have the use of both arms. State 'Restore Limb' when finished.

**Example:** Molly McKee has 5 Life Points. She has taken 4 points of damage and currently has only 1 Hit Point remaining. Molly's right leg and left arm were also Maimed. She crawls to Cooter Hatfield and asks for aid. Cooter spends a minute bandaging her up, and announces "Heal Half".

Molly is now at 3 HP, but her leg and arm remain Maimed. Bandage I can be used one time for each limb that has been maimed. Note that additional applications of the Heal Half effect while Molly is at 3 hit points will have no further effect.

## **Bandage II**

SP: 10 FP: 2

Bandage I is a prerequisite for this skill. Bandage II simulates advanced first-aid practices. The skill allows the Bandager to deliver the Heal Full effect to one individual by roleplaying bandaging for 1 uninterrupted minute. The Heal Full effect will bring an Unstable character to full consciousness immediately, will heal all Maimed limbs that a character has suffered, and will restore the character's Hit Points to their full maximum all at the same time. "Heal Full" will not reverse other effects including Knockout, Sleep, Critical, or Slay. An actual bandage must be used, and may be removed when the character is fully healed. (Bandagers must supply their own bandages). You and the person you are bandaging must be stationary while using this skill!

**Example:** Molly has 7 Life Points, but she has taken 6 points of damage and currently has only 1 Hit Points remaining. Molly's right leg and left arm were also Maimed. She crawls over to Dr. Liz Tanner and begs for aid. Dr. Tanner spends one minute bandaging her up, and announces "Heal Full". Molly is now at 7 HP and one of her Maimed limbs (Dr. Tanner's choice) is fully functional! The Bandage I skill would need to be used to restore the other maimed limb.

## **Diagnose**

SP: 4 DFP: 1

This skill allows a character to Diagnose another character's condition. The character may examine someone and then quietly ask any of the following (out-of-game) questions:

1. "Diagnose – How many HP have you lost?"
2. "Diagnose – What Effect are you suffering?"
3. "Diagnose – What symptoms of Affliction do you show?"
4. "Diagnose – How long have you been Dead (or Critical, or Unconscious, or Unstable)?"
5. "Diagnose – What type of Weapon or Effect killed you?"

## **Surgeon I, II, III**

SP: 8/12/16 DFP: 1

The "Surgery" skill simulates knowledge of basic surgical techniques, such as amputation, bone setting, suturing, etc. These techniques are very specific, and do not imply knowledge in medical areas other than surgery. A character that starts the game with this skill will be given a set of black and white marbles that represent the efficacy of their skill. You must provide your own safe prop for the Surgery Kit, containing medical implements you deem appropriate. If you lose your marbles, or forget your props, you may not use the skill!

When performing surgery, you must roleplay surgical techniques for the duration of the action. (administering, anesthetic, cutting, stitching, etc.). Then either the surgeon or the patient will draw randomly from the marbles. White indicates success; black indicates failure. Purchasing additional levels of "Surgery" allows you to redraw a marble for each level, increasing your chances of success.

This skill may not be used while within line of sight of combat! You and the person you are treating must be stationary while using this skill!

The skill works as follows:

- The surgeon and patient must be out of the line of sight of combat, **or** at least 100 yards away from combat.
- The surgeon must roleplay actual surgery for minimum 5 minutes, utilizing the surgical kit props he/she provides. At the end of roleplaying, the player draws a marble from the surgeon's bag. If a black marble is drawn, the patient dies, and no further action by the surgeon is required. If a white marble is drawn, state "Revive, Coma 30 minutes". All wounds and maimed limbs are healed and the player is in a medically induced coma. At this point, the surgeon must use a StimPack to revive the patient fully. Once this is done, the player will get up at Full Life Points. If no StimPack is used, the player will remain in coma for 30 minutes, then get up at full life points.

Life Support: A surgeon that continuously operates on a character in the Critical state may use their skill to keep that person alive until other help arrives. In this case, the countdown for a Critical character will stop as long as the surgeon continues to roleplay medical treatment. Note: the count does not start over—it stops where it left off. If the surgeon stops treatment, the count will resume from that position.

## Stealth Skills

### Backstab I-II

SP: 4/8 DFP:1 (for Backstab I only)

This skill allows the character with an edged weapon to do additional points of damage in a single attack from behind. Each opponent can only be Backstabbed once per combat. Each purchase increases the damage bonus by +1. Backstab cannot be stacked with any other enhancement except those applied directly to weapons. The attacker must come from behind, and must strike the opponent in the back stating "#Damage", otherwise, the attack does normal damage. The character must attempt to be stealthy when backstabbing; "drive-by" backstabs at a run in the heat of battle are bad form and *do not count*. Backstabs cannot be parried or dodged.

### Dodge

SP: 8 FP: 2

This skill allows the player to Dodge any called melee attack such as Maim or Strike of Might or missile weapons such as arrows, bolts or thrown weapons. Dodge cannot be used against bullets or stealth skills like Backstab or Waylay.

### Disarm Traps

SP: 5 FP; 1

This skill allows a player to attempt to disarm a trap. You must actually disarm the trap yourself, and if it is set off, you will be affected. This skill does not guarantee success! A character without this skill automatically sets off traps if she or he messes with them.

### Evade Trap

SP: 5 FP: 1

This skill allows a character to say "Evade Trap" when damaged or otherwise affected by a trap. This indicates the character's nimbleness in getting out of the way and avoiding the effect or damage.

## **Set Trap**

SP: 5 FP: 1

This skill allows the player to set a trap. The player must provide his/her own traps at check-in for approval. It requires a minimum of 5 minutes of roleplaying to set a trap.

\*A word on popper traps: 1 Focus Point must be spent for each 5 poppers set. Scattering an indeterminate amount of poppers around the floor is not allowed.

## **Flee**

SP: 6 FP: 1

This skill represents great swiftness, or a gift for cowardly flight. To use the skill, a character must be actively running full speed away from an enemy. The character must announce "I Flee". The character may then call "Dodge" versus ANY melee (hand-held) weapon attacks that come from behind. It is assumed that he or she has managed to pull just far enough ahead to dodge the blow. Missile or packet attacks cannot be dodged, nor can melee attacks that come from the front or side. Thus, if an enemy is fast enough to pull ahead and attack you from the front, this skill will do you no good. Once activated, this skill lasts until you stop running or use any other skill. Note: running at night is discouraged! Characters that use the Flee skill at night should be not be chased at high rates of speed. The pace should be limited to a brisk walk at night.

## **Pick Locks**

SP: 5 FP: 0

This skill allows a character to attempt to pick an actual physical lock. It must really be picked OOG (these locks are very simple and usually require only a sturdy unbent paperclip to pick). The player must provide his/her own lockpicks, which may be simple paperclips, or an actual set of lockpicking tools. At no time are any pass keys or skeleton keys to be brought into game by players.

## **Waylay**

SP: 12 FP: 0

This skill allows use of the "Knockout" effect delivered by weapon. You must be fully behind your target and the blow must land on the upper back. Any blunt weapon may be used. The pommel of a weapon may *not* be used. Call "Knockout" when using this skill. The character must attempt to be stealthy when performing a waylay attack; "drive-by" waylays at a run in the heat of battle are bad form and do not count. \*Note that there may be other ways to deliver the Knockout effect other than this skill, and those methods may not have the same limitations.

\*A word of caution; this skill may have reduced effectiveness against certain opponents.

# **Weapon Skills**

*\*See the "Combat" section of the Rule Book for Weapon Construction guidelines\**

## **Archery**

SP: 10 FP: 0

This skill allows the use of either Bow or Crossbow. A Bow is a boffer weapon made to resemble a bow, with thrusting tips at either end and a 24" ribbon tied to the center. Arrows consist of birdseed packets. To fire an arrow, the archer holds the packet and "draws" the ribbon on the bow through two fingers. Then the archer aims bow, throws the packet, and calls "1 Damage!"

Normal arrows are white. Arrows must be kept in a pouch and more than one may not be held ready at a time. Normal arrows may be retrieved and fired again. You may not use your Bow to block weapon blows without the Bow Block skill. If you do so, even accidentally, you must take the hit. If one or both arms are incapacitated, you may not fire a Bow. The Bow itself may not be used offensively as a melee weapon.

A Crossbow is an actual crossbow that fires an all-foam “bolt” at low to moderate velocity. Such bolts do a single point of damage, and no call is required. A crossbow bolt may be retrieved and used again. A Player may not use a Crossbow to block a weapon attack, and opponents should avoid aiming attacks at the crossbow itself. Two hands must be used to aim and fire any Crossbow. If one or both arms are incapacitated, you may not fire a Crossbow.

### **Firearm I, II**

SP: 10/20 FP: 0

This skill allows for the use of Nerf and Actionball weapons which fire one of the following projectiles: Nerf Microdarts, Nerf Ballistic Balls, or .60 caliber soft foam Actionballs from Adventurers’ Outlet. All firearms and ammunition types do 3 points of damage per round. Only shots that hit a legal target area will count. Please aim carefully.

Level I allows the use of a single shot or double barrel weapon.

Level II allows the use of Level I guns, plus any multi-shot repeater, such as the Nerf Maverick, Long Shot or Recon..

You may start game with a maximum of 3 rounds of ammunition only, regardless of how many guns you’re carrying. You must provide your own weapons and starting ammo. More ammunition must be found or reloaded IG.

### **Melee Weapon**

SP: 6 FP: 0

This skill allows use of any boffer melee weapon. Weapons over 42” in length must be wielded using two hands at all times, and cannot be used with the two weapon skill, or with a shield or buckler.

### **Shield I, II**

SP: 8/16 FP: 0

Level I allows use of a shield up to 18” in any dimension.

Level II allows use of a shield no larger than 24” x 30”.

*Shield I is not a prerequisite for Shield II.* The levels are simply to differentiate between sizes of shield. Shields should look appropriate to the modern period.

***A shield will not stop a bullet!!*** If a bullet hits your shield, the shield arm is Maimed and the shield is broken, requiring repair by someone with the Armor Repair skill.

### **Thrown Weapon**

SP: 10 FP: 0

This skill allows use of a thrown weapon no more than 8” in length. A thrown weapon must strike the targeted individual in a legal target area, and does 1 point of damage. There is no limit to the amount of throwing weapons that may be carried.

## **Combat**

All combat is conducted using padded weapons and safe foam projectiles. These may be hand-held (clubs, machetes, etc.) or thrown weapons (daggers, rocks etc.). All melee blows, arrows, bolts and thrown weapons do 1 point of damage UNLESS your opponent calls an effect when striking you (such as “Maim” or “3 Damage”). Thus, if you are struck with a “Maim,” it will not cause any actual damage, only the Maim effect itself. All Firearms do 3 points of damage.

All Damage effects are subtracted from your Armor Points and then your Life Points. If your Life Points are ever reduced to zero or less, you become Unstable (see the Death and Dying rules below).

At Prophecy we follow the "lightest touch" rule. If you feel the weapon make contact with your person, you take the blow. Please make an effort to check your swings.

All weapons will be evaluated at check-in for safety and appropriateness.

You may not take Cast weapon physreps (melee or firearm). You may temporarily disarm an NPC, if you wish. For example taking someone's gun away from them before you awaken and question them.

***NOTE: We do not require eye protection be worn but it's not a bad idea to wear safety glasses or goggles during combat, due to the increased amount of flying projectiles we anticipate in this game.***

## Weapon Construction

- If you have never constructed weapons for a LARP before, or require additional help, we advise you to contact the Prophecy Staff prior to the event for additional assistance.
- Weapons should be securely constructed and not rattle. You should not be able to feel the edges of the pipe through the thrusting tip. Weapons (especially long ones) should not be "whippy".
- Weapons are constructed using 5/8" wall pipe insulation, 1/2" x 3/4" diameter CPVC pipe, open cell foam, and duct tape.
- Weapon cores made of .505 or .602 kite rod are also allowed. If using such materials, be careful to sand and cover the ends so as to minimize the possibility of tear-through.

Weapons made of non-standard materials will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Be aware that you may not be able to use a non-standard weapon should you bring one to an event, so be prepared with a back up.

**Please remember this is a modern-age game. Weapons should look like something one could acquire and use in modern day. Batons, bats, clubs, fire axes, machetes, staves, sickles, pipe wrenches, forester's axes, etc. Simple swords are okay, since they are readily available on the internet. Try to avoid anything too blatantly medieval or fantasy in look and style, unless it is character-appropriate and supported by your character history.**

### Weapon Sizes

Weapon Type	Length
Bow	Between 30" and 50" (center grip)
Melee Weapons	Between 12" and 72"
Shield I	No larger than 18" in the largest dimension.
Shield II	No larger than 24" x 30"
Thrown Weapon	No larger than 8"

### Melee Weapons

- Cut a length of 3/4" diameter CPVC pipe to a length 4" shorter than the desired end length. File down the cut ends to ensure there are no sharp edges. Cap both ends of the pipe with duct tape.
- Cut a length of 5/8" wall pipe insulation of an appropriate length to cover the pipe and extend at least 1" beyond the thrusting tip, while leaving whatever grip area exposed. Use duct tape to secure the foam in place at the grip. In the case of a staff with a center grip, you should use thin-walled pipe insulation to cover the grip area, for added safety.
- Pack the 1" deep hole at the tip(s) of the weapon with a small piece of rolled up pipe foam or open-cell foam, and secure it in place with a small amount of duct tape.

- Take a 2” cube of open-cell foam and attach it securely to the tip(s) of your weapon. You can trim the sides of the open-cell foam to a more cylindrical shape to match your weapon, but the end should remain blunt.
- If your weapon has a single thrusting tip, add a “pommel” to the other end. Cut a short length of pipe foam that will attach to the end of the grip, and extend 1” beyond. Pack the resulting 1” deep hole with a rolled up piece of pipe foam or open-cell foam, and secure in place with duct tape.
- Use foam to create any cross-guards, axe-heads, etc. on your weapon. You may not add any projections that might entangle or trap another player’s weapon in combat.
- Cover the entire weapon with duct tape. The tape should be applied length-wise along the weapon, and overlap slightly, so that all foam is covered. Do not loop or spiral the tape around the weapon.
- Poke several holes in the thrusting tip(s) of the weapon with a small knife, so that the foam will not become compacted when used.
- You may use soft leather, rope, cloth, or tennis racket grip to cover the exposed grip area of a melee weapon (but not on a thrown weapon).

## **Shields**

Shields must have all edges covered with pipe insulation and padding. There should not be any sharp projections on the shield surface that might injure another player or damage weapons. You may not include any projections or cut-outs that might entangle or trap another player’s weapon in combat. Shields should look modern. For example, a Shield I could be a buckler made from a small street sign or hubcap, while a Shield II could be made from a larger street sign, scrap lumber, OR a riot shield made of Plexiglas or ballistic plastic/nylon composite.

## **Thrown Weapons**

Thrown Weapons are constructed ONLY of foam and duct tape. No pipe should be used, and they may not be weighted. You may create thrown weapons to resemble small bladed weapons, or any other potentially lethal item (rocks, bottles). Your thrown weapons may not have any points small enough that they might harm someone’s eye. You may never throw shields or any weapon with a pipe core at an opponent.

## **Bows**

Bows are constructed as per Melee Weapons. CPVC may be heated using very hot water or a stove or gas burner and bent carefully to create a proper “Bow” shape. The Bow may be entirely padded, or may have a center grip. Both ends of the Bow should be finished as if they were the thrusting tips of Melee weapons. Arrows should be constructed as per regular packets (see below) but with a 1/2” to 1” wide, 24” long streamer attached to the packet.

## **Crossbows**

Crossbows may be plastic toy crossbows, painted an appropriate neutral color. Crossbow bolts should be made entirely of foam and must be covered in neutral colored duct tape. Prophecy also allows certain hand-made crossbows constructed of wood and bungee cord. Please contact the Prophecy Staff for information and guidelines should you wish to construct your own Crossbow

## **Guns**

Firearms can be one of the following:

- Any Nerf type toy gun that fires Nerf Streamline Darts, Nerf Microdarts or Nerf Ballistic Balls.
- Single Shot spring guns from Adventurers’ Outlet that fire the soft foam actionballs.

An effort should be made to give the weapon an IG appearance with paint, in the case of Nerf guns. Some performance modification will be allowed, though no added pneumatic systems, CO<sup>2</sup>, etc will be allowed.

A safety test will be conducted at check-in as follows: A staff member will take your gun, load it and shoot you with it. Then the staff member will shoot a staff volunteer of his/her own choosing. If either you or the volunteer feel excessive pain as a result (an involuntary “OWW” will tip us off), the weapon fails.

Firearms physreps should never be used to block melee blows or projectiles.

Flashlights and laser sights are not allowed on weapons!

**No home-made firearm ammunition is allowed!**

### **Packet Construction**

Packets should be constructed by placing a spoonful of birdseed in the center of a 4-5" square of white fabric, then securing the fabric with string or twine. The finished packet should have some "give" and not be so tightly packed that it would be painful when thrown at an opponent. Do not use rubber bands to secure your packets, as they may be harmful to wildlife should you lose them on the site. Do not fill your packets with anything other than birdseed. The birdseed should not contain any large or sharp seeds, such as sunflower seeds.

For arrow packets, follow the instructions above and then affix a 24" length of white ribbon to the packet, to make a "tail".

Fist-sized packets used for the Sucker Punch skill should be made in the same manner as regular packets, above, except fist-sized. Alternately, Fist packets can be sewn like a pillow, should you so desire, but should not be too tightly packed in any event.

## **What Counts?**

At Prophecy we follow the "lightest touch" rule. If you feel the weapon make contact with your person, you take the blow. Please make an effort to check your swings. Judging when you have been hit by a foe is solely your responsibility, but you **MUST** at all times do so in as fair and scrupulous a manner as possible.

### **Do Not Count:**

1. Any weapon blow that lands on the same body part as the immediately previous strike. This is called "machine gunning". Before legally scoring another blow on the same part of the body, a foe must strike at another body part, or parry a blow.
2. A weapon blow that strikes only cloth or a dangling pouch, and passes through without contacting your body.
3. A weapon blow that is too hard. Be sure to announce "excessive force."
4. A weapon blow that overcomes your parry by force.
5. A weapon blow that strikes the head, groin, or hands.

NOTE: Blocking weapons and projectiles with your hands is not allowed.

### **Do Count:**

1. Weapon blows that strike capes, backpacks, sheathed weapons and the like, IF they would have hit you had the item not been there.
2. Weapon blows that are very light.
3. Weapon blows that glance off your weapon and then hit you.

## **Aim Carefully!**

We are not requiring eye protection due to the low velocity of Nerf and Actionball guns. But it is the inherent responsibility of the shooter to check their aim and know their target. Accidents happen, we know. However, if we find somebody is repeatedly shooting in a haphazard and unsafe fashion, we reserve the right to revoke that person's gun privileges at the very least.

## **Weapon Tethers**

Weapon Tethers are not allowed!

## Armor

Standard armor comes in two basic types:

- Light Armor is non-reinforced or studded leather or any home made armor not made of metal. For this purpose, any plastic/kydex “SCA-type” armor will not be considered heavy plate, but will be actually what it is, Plastic. All of these are worth 1 point of protection
- Heavy Armor is chain mail, scale mail, OR leather reinforced with metal strips, scales or plates OR a ballistic vest such as are worn by military or police. Any of these are worth 2 points of protection
- Armor must be brought to check-in for evaluation of protection points.

These point totals assume coverage of the torso. You must be wearing the physrep to gain the Armor Points.

You may only wear one suit of armor at a time.

Armor is damaged in combat and must be repaired by someone with the Armor Repair skill.

## Helmets

A helmet can negate Knockout attacks as follows:

- Any open faced helmet such as an army helmet, hardhat, or open faced motorcycle helmet will protect against Waylay only.
- Any helmet with full face protection, such as a football helmet, full face motorcycle helmet or military/police helmet with face shield, will protect against Waylay or Sucker Punch.

You must be wearing the helmet, obviously! Helmets must be brought to check-in for evaluation.

## Non-Combatants

There may be players at an event that for one reason or another cannot take part in combat with boffer weapons. These people are considered Non-Combatants, and will wear a prominent orange or yellow armband. At night they will wear a yellow glow-stick. Do not attack these players with weapons!

If you wish to strike someone down who is a non-combatant, simply go up to them, point your weapon at them within five feet, and state, “I strike you down.” The non-combatant will fall Unstable. Non-combatants cannot wield weapons themselves, although they may use other game skills.

## Searching and Being Searched

Once you have defeated an enemy, you may wish to go through their clothing and belongings looking for loot. If you wish to search them, you should state, “I search you.” The person being searched has three options at this point:

- The person being searched can simply hand over ALL in-game items they are carrying.
- The person being searched can ask the searcher to “describe the search”, and turn over game items in the locations the searcher indicates he or she is searching.
- The person being searched can say, “go ahead,” which means they are giving you permission to ACTUALLY SEARCH THEM. When searching, please avoid all taboo areas. You may not hide game items there either. If you do not feel comfortable physically searching someone who has given you permission, let them know and they may ask that you describe your search or must simply hand over any items.

You never have to search or be searched physically, if you do not want to!

# Death and Dying

During a Prophecy: Apocalypse game you are likely to experience and encounter various states of existence. These states of existence, and other matters relating to them, are described below.

## Unconscious

If rendered unconscious due to a specific effect such as Knockout, you will fall to the ground with your eyes closed, and you will be unable to take any action or perceive anything that occurs. You will remain Unconscious for 5 minutes at which time you will be able to wake up and act normally. The “Awaken” effect is the only effect that will revive someone in an Unconscious state before the 5 minutes elapses.

## Unstable

Each point of damage subtracts from any Armor Points, and then from Life Points. If a blow reduces you to zero LP or lower, you are Unstable. You will fall to the ground with your eyes closed and be unable to take any action or perceive anything that occurs. It is acceptable and encouraged for you to take a few steps to stumble out of the way of battle, if necessary, to avoid being stepped upon! You will remain Unstable for 5 minutes at which time you will become Critical, unless you are given any “Heal” effect.

## Critical

If you remain Unstable for 5 minutes, are deliberately struck in the chest by a weapon while in the Unstable state, or if you are struck with the “Critical” effect, you are Critical. You will fall to the ground with your eyes closed and be unable to take any action or perceive anything that occurs. It is acceptable and encouraged for you to take a few steps to stumble out of the way of battle, if necessary, to avoid being stepped upon! You will remain Critical for up to 20 minutes, at which point you will be Dead, unless you are given surgery successfully, which gives the “Heal Full” effect, within that time. You may choose not to wait the full 20 minutes and become Dead at any time after 5 minutes of being Critical. Note that “Heal Half” and “Heal Full” effects WILL NOT work on a character in a Critical state. All players have the ability to strike an Unconscious or Unstable individual in the torso and deliver the “Critical” effect, provided they have a weapon of some kind.

## Dead

If you remain Critical for 20 minutes, or you are struck with the “Slay” effect, you are Dead. You will fall to the ground with your eyes closed and will be unable to take any action or perceive anything that occurs. It is acceptable and encouraged for you to take a few steps to stumble out of the way of battle, if necessary, to avoid being stepped upon! You must remain for at least 5 minutes, to allow for searching of your body, last rites, etc. Any time after you have completed the required 5 minutes, you will be dead, report to Ops.

# Powers

Powers are any special abilities provided by a skill, chemical compound, or device. Depending upon the genre of the Prophecy: Apocalypse game ,they can also come from psychic powers, mysterious artifacts, alien devices, and bizarre, extra-planar entities. All Powers are represented by one or more In Game effects (see below).

## Duration

Sometimes an Effect will have a duration stated after the effect. In this case it lasts for the stated duration. Otherwise, all effects will last for 5 minutes or until the next changing of the Focus Cycle, whichever comes first. Note that some effects are instantaneous and/or permanent.

# Types of Delivery

You will encounter Effects created in the following methods:

## By Packet

An opponent may call an effect and then throw a birdseed beanbag “packet” at you. Unless otherwise specified, these represent bolts of power. You are affected if a packet strikes you on any part of your body, clothing, gear, or weapons. Please try to avoid throwing packets at other people’s heads! Think of these types of packet attacks as a sort of field that envelops your entire body, even if it only touches your shield or clothes.

## By Fist-sized Packet

An opponent may call an effect and throw a fist-sized Packet at you. You are affected if the attacker was within arm’s reach, and the packet strikes your torso. This attack represents a punch of some kind.

## By Weapon

Some entities may call certain effects and then strike you with a weapon. The effect must be called BEFORE the blow is made! You are affected if the attacking weapon strikes you, as per a normal weapon blow (see the “Combat” section of the Rule Book). You will not take any additional damage from the weapon blow, only the effect itself. In other words, if someone says “Maim” and strikes your leg with a sword, the leg will be Maimed, but you will not take any additional damage. You may “Dodge” or “Parry” an effect delivered by weapon.

## By Area Effect

Some entities may say “<Incant> Area Effect <Effect>.” This affects EVERYONE within the sound of the caster’s voice, regardless of whether they can see the caster. Covering your ears so that you cannot hear will not stop the magic, and is considered cheating! If you are so far away that you hear only a garbled cry and cannot make out what the caster is saying, you are not affected. Another type of Area Effect may be called “to the room.” In this case, all individuals in the room where the effect is called will be affected. “To the room” cannot be called outdoors.

## By Voice

Some entities may use voice targeted effects. The entity will clearly target you by verbally identifying you in some fashion, followed by the effect delivered. For example, "You with the football helmet and Met's shirt, Pain!" or 'You who just sang 'Stairway to Heaven', Critical!"

## By <Trait>

Some entities may call certain effects "to <trait>". You take the effect if you have the trait. Traits may be based on in game race, skills, background, afflictions, or other attributes you may acquire in game. For example, you may hear the call 'Area Effect Heal One to Human'. You would be affected if you are currently a human in game. These can be delivered by weapon, packet, voice or area effect. Only take the effect if you possess the trait called.

# Effects

The following list describes the common effects you may encounter during a Prophecy: Apocalypse game.

**Afflict you with <Affliction>:** You have received the indicated affliction. This has no immediate effect. At your earliest convenience, you must travel to the Wall of Woe. This will be a pre-determined place in game that contains listings of possible afflictions you may encounter, with descriptions of the effects of each and the required Cures. Read the description of your Affliction. If it is a progressive Affliction there may be postings for Day 1, Day 2, etc, in which case you should only read the appropriate one. Most Afflictions will have a Cure or Cures. Your character will not know what Cure is needed, but you as a player must read

these so that if the Cure is applied to you in game, you will know that it has worked. Unless your character already knew what the Cure was before being Afflicted, you cannot use it on yourself or others until you learn about it in game. Afflictions may include horrible wasting diseases, madness, amnesia, parasitic infestations, allergies, or addictions. An Affliction will last until cured.

**# <Attribute>**: Indicates non-normal damage (See # Damage effect) Examples may include Acid, Fire, Electricity, Force, etc. Unlike normal damage, this affects you if it strikes your shield or weapon.

**Awaken**: Will remove the Knockout effect.

**Bestow**: Bestow grants you the use of one ability. You may only have one effect bestowed at a time. If you receive a second bestow effect before you have used the first, you must choose which one to lose. All Bestow effects end when the Focus Cycle changes.

**Coma**: This effect represents a deep coma. This effect is most often seen after surgery. This is not a simple unconsciousness, and cannot be cured by the Awaken Effect. It lasts for 30 minutes. This effect is cured by a stimpack, which makes you instantly alert.

**Critical**: You immediately fall into a Critical state (see the “Death & Dying section of the Rule Book for more information on being Critical). If you do not receive the Revive effect within 20 minutes, you will be Dead. Heal Half and Heal Full have no effect on a critical person. If this blow is delivered “by Weapon” it must strike the torso to take effect

**# Crushing**: Indicates extra-powerful damage that will still do half-damage (round down) even if parried or blocked with a shield. Thus a strike that causes “4 Crushing” will do 4 points of damage if it strikes your body, and 2 points of damage if it strikes your shield or weapon, or if you use the Parry skill against it.

**# Damage**: Indicates normal damage, which cannot penetrate a shield, and has no effect on a weapon. Thus a packet that causes “5 Damage” will not do anything if it strikes a shield, but will cause five points of physical damage if it hits you.

**Disarm**: Your weapon falls from your hand. You must carefully throw it five feet away, not drop it at your feet.

**Heal Half**: Heals a person to ½ their normal maximum hit points, rounded up. If the person is unconscious from damage it will instantly return them to consciousness. Note that this will not work on a Critical or Dead characters, nor does it have any effect on people who are suffering from the Knockout effect.

**Heal Full**: Heals a person to their normal maximum hit points. If the person is unconscious from damage it will instantly return them to consciousness. Note that this will not work on a Critical or Dead characters, nor does it have any effect on people who are suffering from the Knockout effect.

**Knockout**: You are unconscious, but do not lose any Hit Points. You will awaken after five minutes. This is cured instantly by the Awaken Effect.

**Maim**: You lose the use of the target arm or leg. If no target is specified, you may choose which limb suffers the effect. If delivered by weapon, this will not have any effect if it strikes your torso. The Maim is permanent until you receive a Heal Full (which fixes all your limbs), or Restore Limb (which fixes one).

**Pain**: You suffer excruciating pain for 10 seconds. You must fall to the ground in agony, whimpering, crying, or screaming (unless physically unable to do so). You may still defend yourself with weapons.

**Renew #**: Restores the specified number of Focus Points. If no number is specified, you regain all Focus Points as if the Focus Cycle had changed.

**Restore limb:** Removes the Maim effect from one limb.

**Revive:** This effect cures the Critical effect, and leaves you with ½ life and all limbs cured. If surgery produced the revive, you also suffer the Coma effect.

**Shock:** If struck with this effect, you must fall to a fully prone position and twitch/shake for 5 seconds. You will then suffer 1 minute of the Weakness effect.

**Slay:** You are Dead (see the “Death & Dying” section of the Rule Book for more information on being Dead). If delivered by weapon, this will only affect you if you are hit in the torso. If delivered by packet it will affect you if it strikes anywhere, including your shield or weapon.

**Trip:** You fall to the ground. Either your chest or your back must touch the ground before you can get up again! If you are unable to fall due to physical limitations, or if the ground is unsuitably muddy or rocky, you are excused from actually falling, but you must roleplay being unbalanced and unable to do anything for a similar length of time.

**Weakness:** You will do one less point of damage with all weapons and skills (thus most people will be unable to fight effectively at all), and you will be unable to run, for 5 minutes. You should roleplay feebleness and lassitude.

## Defensive Effects

Defensive effects are called when you are struck by an attack.

**Dodge:** The blow or effect misses because you have moved out of the way and avoided it.

**No Effect:** The particular blow or spell did nothing and never will. For example, if you are not an undead creature and you were hit with a “Slay Undead” effect, you would announce “No Effect”, because it will never work.

**Parry:** Effects delivered “By Weapon” or normal weapon blows are negated. This call indicates that the weapon strike did not land, and thus did not cause the desired effect and/or damage. You may only use this on blows affecting yourself.

**Resist:** The particular blow or spell was ineffective, but it was an effort warding it off, and another one might succeed.

**Temporary Armor:** This grants you one temporary armor point, which stacks with normal armor. It is the first point lost to damage, and may not be repaired. You may only have one temporary armor point active at a time.

# Items

A character may encounter items of many sorts during the course of the Prophecy game. Some will have in game significance, others will help with skills, and yet others may be completely meaningless. The following information will help you to make sense of the items you might find during the course of the Prophecy game.

## Types of Items

### Numbered Items

These are items that have value or meaning in game. A small set of numbers or letters upon them identifies the item.

They may sometimes include descriptive text to convey additional information. There are several categories of Numbered Items, indicated by the first letter of the tag number.

**B** items are Books that may be used for research and/or to teach skills cures, etc. A Book without a “B” tag must simply be read to learn whatever it contains.

**L & K** items are Locks and Keys. Key “K536” will fit Lock “L536”.

**M** items include all other tagged items that may have in game use or value, including mechanical lock picks, tools, etc. These may have additional notes, such as “Food”.

### Game Items

These are items that have value in game, but are so common that they do not have tags. This includes in-game money and un-tagged documents. Un-tagged weapons and seed packets (for arrows, punches ) are considered game items, but may not be stolen.

### Unmarked Items

Any item without some kind of tag or number that is not considered a game item may not be stolen or moved out of line of sight from where you found it. This includes items that are used simply for atmosphere or costuming, as well as the props other player’s characters have brought for decoration, etc. Please be careful with them!

### Registered Items

Some items must be returned to the Prophecy Staff between events so that the physrep remains safe and so that the Staff knows who currently possesses the item. You must turn in items at the end of the event if the item tag reads “REGISTERED”.

### Components

Components are the materials used by Chemists, Technicians, Armorers to create, enhance or repair in-game Items at Prophecy: Apocalypse. Components include chemicals, drugs, certain species of flora and fauna (represented by plastic flowers and animals), gears, wires, and a multitude of other items. All components will be marked with a small tag containing an identification number. Certain crafts can create items that themselves are components; for example a chemist may create gun powder that is used by a Reloader to make ammo.

Components may be acquired in game in various ways. You may find components being sold, or you may obtain them on adventures, or you may find them in the woods.

Components with torn item tags are considered spent and useless. Components used in-game may be deposited in the designated used-component repository without tearing the tag, or the tag may be torn, to indicate that they have been used.

**Chemical Vials** Chemical products are always kept in clear 35mm film canisters representing sealed glass alchemical vials. Opening an alchemical vial represents breaking a seal. If you open a vial, the contents will deteriorate within five minutes. If you read the tag within a vial, then you have consumed or applied the contents as appropriate, and are subject to their full effects. The target of a powder (which must be thrown) or a dust (which usually evokes an area effect) must be chosen before reading the tag, and cannot be changed based upon what one learns from the tag.

Chemical products include drugs and medicines, ointments, powders, and other products. Some powders may contain a packet, which must be thrown at, and hit, a target in order to exert their effect. Such powders are highly unstable; if a powder is not thrown within thirty seconds after opening, it will detonate and exert its effect upon the wielder. While not everything that is found in a chemical vial will exert an effect, in general, drugs are to be injected or ingested, oils to be spread on body parts or items,

## Out-of-Game

### Yellow Markings

Yellow is the color of “out-of-game” (OOG) in Prophecy: Apocalypse. Out-of-game objects are simply not there in game and should be ignored. Objects tied with a yellow band are not there. An area marked off by yellow rope is also out-of game and may not be entered. Please refrain from wearing yellow arm-bands or headbands as part of your costume.

### Yellow Hands

A Yellow Hand indicates a building you just cannot get into. The building is still there, in game, but may not be entered. This may indicate a strong vault door that just cannot be thwarted, or a collapsed entry that cannot be safely negotiated. Generally this is used for rooms with delicate props that require the presence of a cast member to monitor.

### Yellow Cards

A Yellow Card is a piece of yellow paper containing information and instructions. It is used to describe effects that cannot be represented physically. For example, you may enter a room and find a stretch of floor covered in green plastic, with a yellow card on it stating “This floor is covered in green goo. If you step onto it you will suffer the Trap effect”.

## Traps and Physical Challenges

### Traps

There are a wide variety of traps to be encountered in Prophecy. Sometimes it may take a moment to determine the effect of the trap and to establish what has happened. Please try not to break the flow of play by standing there saying “Huh, what?” Roleplay pain or surprise while looking for the yellow card or waiting for the called effect. Anyone can find a trap, but only those with the Disarm Traps skill may attempt to remove them (see the “Stealth Skills” section of the Rulebook). You may not “trigger” a trap or magical ward at a distance by throwing things at it, etc. If you do so and the trap goes off, you take the effect.

### **Popper Traps**

These traps consist of a mousetrap, popping balloon, or explosive popper or cracker of some kind. Remember that you cannot move the poppers without the Disarm Trap skill. These always do 2 points of damage

### **Buzzer Traps**

These traps consist of just a trigger. If the buzzer goes off, the trap did 4 points of damage to the person who set it off!

### **Falling Item Traps**

These traps consist of boffer rocks or other items that may fall on you. 6 points of Crushing Damage.

### **Building and Setting Traps**

If you wish to build and set such a trap with the Set Trap skill, all parts must be evaluated by Staff before Game On. All falling or swinging parts that may contact a target individual must be made entirely of foam and have no solid core.

### **Pits and Chasms**

When the floor or ground is black (i.e. covered in black plastic or cloth) it indicates a deep pit. You must cross it by jumping, using stepping stones or a bridge, or by some applicable skill. Stepping-stones are generally brown or grey wood, carpet or cardboard. If any part of your body touches the black floor, you have fallen in. You may scream some last words, but then you are dead, and must report to Ops.

## **Post Event Letters**

The Prophecy Staff finds that Post Event Letters are one of the best ways to gain feedback about the game. Post Event Letters come in many forms—some are submitted “in character”, and detail the exploits of the event from the character’s point of view. Others are written completely out of character, and give a play-by-play with constructive criticism or positive feedback along the way

# **Player Information**

A number of miscellaneous topics related to playing Prophecy: Apocalypse will be covered in this section, including what sorts of things you will need to bring with you, and out-of-game details regarding how events will be run. Specific information on the Event Site, including Site Rules and Directions, will be provided separately.

## **What to Expect**

### **Registration**

All players must register for Prophecy Events in advance. Since there are only a certain number of player spots available, the Staff must know ahead of time who is coming. You may register in advance and pay at the door; if you then fail to show up, however, you will no longer be allowed to register without payment.

### **Arrival**

When you arrive at the Camp, you will receive information on where to park, what cabins are available for Players to stay in, and where to unload your stuff. Please try to unpack your car and return it to the parking area as quickly as possible so that the in-game areas will be cleared of vehicles in time to start the game.

### **Late Arrivals and Early Departures**

If you arrive late (after 9PM), please go to Operations and a Staff person will take care of your Check-In. Be advised that there may be some delay, depending on what else is going on at the time. If you know that

you will be arriving late or leaving early, please let the Staff know in advance so that they can make arrangements and take it into account when scheduling plots. If you arrive after the start of game on Friday night, you will NOT be able to drive your car up to your cabin to unload!!! Likewise, if you are leaving early, you will have to carry your things from your cabin to your car on foot. NO CARS will be allowed in the game area during the event, except in emergency situations.

### **Check-In**

Once you have unloaded your car and parked it in the lot, you can check in. At Check-In you will receive your Character Card, and information and items acquired via the skills Rumors and Extra Stuff. Please bring your weapons to Check-In for safety inspection, and any armor for evaluation. It is not required that you wear your costume for check in.

### **Opening Meeting**

There will be an opening, out-of-game meeting prior to the start of the event. All players must attend. If you arrive too late, you must come to OPS to receive any announcements and instructions. The time and location for this meeting may vary, but will be posted at Check-In. Game will begin directly or soon after the opening meeting, so you should come prepared and in costume.

### **Hours of Play**

Hours of play may vary for each Apocalypse game. Generally, Prophecy hours of play are approximately 10 PM Friday to 2 AM Saturday, 10 AM Saturday to 2 AM Sunday, and 10 AM to 12 Noon Sunday. Plots may run past 2 AM on Saturday and Sunday if they are going slower than expected. Certain roleplaying encounters may be scheduled for after the "All Clear" on occasion, but advance warning will be given to the players involved in this case. Roleplaying may continue among players at any hour, but the Staff encourages you to get a good night's rest so that you can fully participate in the next day's carnage.

### **Closing Meeting**

The end of game will be announced on Sunday morning. We'll break for some rest and have brunch, followed by the closing meeting and cleanup.

### **Cleanup**

There will be a sign-up sheet for Cleanup at Check-Out, if you wish to help out you will receive our undying love and gratitude. Please, we beg you, try to help us a bit with this. We'll be at least as tired as you are.

# Skill Costs

## **Inspirational Skills:**

Inspiration: SP: 16 DFP: ALL  
Confidence: SP 2 FP 1  
Mass Confidence: SP 6 FP 4  
Read the Crowd: SP: 10 FP: 3  
Remember this Moment: SP: 8 FP 6  
Warriors Motivation: SP: 8 FP: 2  
We Need This Now!: SP: 4 FP: 2

## **Fighting Skills**

Battlethirst SP: 6 FP: 0  
Bow Block SP: 8 FP: 0  
Desperation SP: 2 FP: 1  
Maim SP: 7 FP: 1  
Parry SP: 7 FP: 1  
Strike of Might SP: 7 FP: 1  
Sucker Punch SP: 5 FP: 1  
Two Weapons SP: 12 FP: 0  
Warcraft SP: 14 DFP: 2

## **Information and General Skills**

Extra Stuff SP: 1 FP: 0  
Literacy: SP 0 FP: 0  
Rumors SP: 2 FP: 0  
Luck SP: 7, FP: 0

## **Medical Skills**

Administer Drugs: SP: 5 FP: 0  
Bandage I SP: 5 FP: 0  
Bandage II SP: 10 FP: 1  
Diagnose SP: 4 DFP: 1  
Surgeon I-III SP: 8/12/16 DFP: 1

## **Stealth Skills**

Backstab I-II SP: 4/8 DFP: 1  
Disarm Traps SP: 5 FP: 1  
Dodge SP: 8 FP: 1  
Evade Trap SP: 5 FP: 1  
Set Trap: SP: 5 FP: 1  
Flee SP: 6 FP: 1  
Pick Locks SP: 5 FP: 0  
Waylay SP: 12 FP: 0

## **Weapon Skills**

Archery: SP 10 FP: 0  
Firearm I, II: SP 10/20 FP: 0  
Melee Weapon: SP: 6 FP: 0  
Shield I-II SP: 8/16 FP: 0  
Thrown Weapon SP: 10 FP

\*: Indicates multiple purchases allowed.

**SP:** Skill Points to purchase the skill. If there are multiple numbers, the additional numbers are the skill points required to purchase higher levels. 6/9/12 would therefore mean 6 SP for the first level, 9 SP for the second, and 12 for the 3rd.

**FP:** Focus required for one use of this skill. You get a number of Focus equal to your Focus Points statistic (see front of sheet) each

Mana Cycle in game.

**DFP:** Dedicated Focus Points. These Focus Points are considered permanently spent and can not be used for other skills. The skill then has no per-use Focus cost.

**I, II, ...:** Purchasing Level II of a skill always requires that you purchase Level I, and so forth.