

# Agenda and Principles

Players and the Grandfather have agendas and principles to follow. They help enable this game to be played in the manner it is intended and improve the play experience for everyone.

## Agenda

- Embrace the renegade's life
- Use your stress
- Imagine dangerous and exciting times and places
- Act now, plan later

### Embrace the renegade's life

You are a freedom fighter, there's no doubt about it. You fight for the freedom to use time as anyone sees fit. The powers that have authority over the web of time that keep it linear and without paradox are both cruel and petty. They are above any laws that anyone cares to think of, even breaking their own in the course of their xenophobia.

In the Spiral Politic - the vast expanse of this galaxy, this universe and even their incursions into the multiverses themselves, the oppressors must be resisted. The imposed theocracy of linear time and the brutal retro-genocides of entire species must be fought. The only reason you aren't fighting for the Enemy is because they are even more fanatically driven and prone to excesses than the Great Houses you also oppose.

You are caught between the oppressors that want linear time and the Enemy that just wants to destroy them utterly, trying to have some freedom, some time plurality. You want secular time, free of the fanatic theocrats and their anti-theists and all their brutal ways. No matter the [malevolence](#) you personally incur, a renegade to the old ways is what you'll always strive for.

### Use your stress

Your ability to [use stress](#) puts you ahead of any antagonist you're likely to come across in the Spiral Politic. Don't be afraid to use it whenever possible, only be wary when it approaches levels where you may incur some trauma. With stress you can cheat causality and retroactively solve problems. You will need to exploit that edge in order to hold your own in a vast and dangerous universe.

If you can no longer afford to [Push with your stress](#), remember you can always [Invoke the Spirits](#).

### Imagine dangerous and exciting times and places

Be curious about the times and places you find yourself in. Everyone has a story to tell and their own agendas. A medieval peasant with a knife can kill you as easily as a time travelling Dalek if you're not careful. Respect the danger of your surroundings and your place in it.

## Act now, plan later

Planning is the one aspect of the game you need never do in actual play in real time. Not only are your characters gung-ho and impetuous, often leaping first without looking, but they're also competent and will have foreseen circumstances you may not have as a player. [flashbacks](#) cover this as does various other planning moves such as getting [gear retrospectively](#), [communing with the spirits](#) or even having to resort to the untethered flashback.

Don't sit down with other players and work out exactly what you're going to do - you never need to. Work out roughly what you are going to do, then do it. Patch up the plot holes if you need to retrospectively. It's why you have [stress](#) after all.

## Principles

- Go into danger, fall in love with trouble
- Don't be a Logopolitan
- Take responsibility
- Don't talk yourself out of fun
- Volunteer when needed, listen when others do
- You are a family

## Go into danger, fall in love with trouble

You are an anti-establishment, anti-authoritarian renegade existing in a life's worth of time in the eternity of infinity. You are not a cage-farmed chicken or a cubicle worker on minimum wage. You are daring, bold, ambitious and willing to take on the monstrous powers because you actually know they're made of fallible members that really aren't much more impressive than you - individually, often less so. There are reasons why members of Faction Paradox are feared and respected - and it's not just because you can't predict their behaviour.

## Don't be a Logopolitan

Everything does not come down to numbers and [block transfer calculations](#). Don't play your character around the numbers that comprise them. You can choose any [approach](#) to use with any [move](#) but you should always choose the one that matches what your character is doing.

- Don't choose the approach with the highest number because you want to succeed
- Don't choose the approach with the lowest number because you want to fail and get XP
- **Always** choose the approach that best suits what the character wants to do with the move

## Take responsibility

You are as vital a component of the co-operative story you all all creating together as any other player, including the Grandfather. Likewise you have responsibilities for what occurs within the collective fiction. If you want something about your character to appear in the game, you must

actively pursue and agenda to have it appear. Your characters strengths and their weaknesses are all worthless unless they interact with the game you are playing and become more than just a note on your playbook.

You are also responsible for your behaviour and the enjoyment of the game by every other player as well. This means your participation effects the tone of the game, the style of play and what themes may occur. When you say something, know what you are saying, and mean what you say.

## Don't talk yourself out of fun

When committing to a plan, or a series of actions, go for what you think is fun. Trust in your character's competence to get things done no matter what you decide they do: there are multiple game mechanics to patch over any potential problems that occur. Not only that - you need to know that the Grandfather is a fan your characters, they're the main protagonists, so of course the script is on their side.

## Volunteer when needed, listen when others do

When the spotlight shifts in your direction, when the Grandfather or other players look to you expectantly, go for it. Do something cool or something flawed. Try or fail. Show something about your character, something new or something the other players have seen before. Do something that makes sense to you as you get involved in the game.

When attention passes on to others, give them space to shine. Don't rush in with advice and hints, or your ideas on how their actions may fit into your plans. Let them have their moment. Wait until attention is given back to you, or if you are asked by the other players.

## You are a family

For this game, you and your fellow players are a family and need to look after each other. Everyone needs to know they are a safe place so they can roleplay with enough freedom. When you start playing, discuss how you want safety tools to be used to make your gaming experience comfortable and listen to everyone else's contributions. Don't be afraid to revisit the tools every so often. Use them as often as you need to.

## Safety Tools

- **Lines & Veils** - These are used to setup the tone of the game you want to play and how willing everyone is to come close to taboo subjects. You discuss these at the start of the game, before you begin playing - but as with all tools it helps to revisit them every so often.
  - Lines are things in the game that won't be crossed into. You draw the line at these subjects. These are things that won't appear in the game at any time, they don't happen off-screen and are never alluded to or inferred. They aren't mentioned at all.
  - Veils are things that can happen off-screen and be alluded to - but will never be explicitly described or roleplayed. A veil is drawn over the scene and you skip to the next bit.
- **The X-Card** - This is used throughout the game, for every "nope!" you have.

- If it looks like a veil might be getting close to a line - X-Card it.
- If someone comes up with something in the game that no one thought of at the beginning to be a line or a veil - X-Card it.
- You should always explain why you're using the X-Card, it immediately takes effect and as much of the scene will be redone and reworded as is necessary or fade to black and skip to the next scene.

[rules](#), [agenda](#), [principles](#), [players](#)

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