Setup:

Choose layout, high council in center. Randomly place planets, add resources as indicated on planets Decide on Movement Method, and whether Ship-Blocking Rule will be utilized. Each player gets:

1 Player Board, 8 [+7] ships, 4x2nd [+ 4x3rd + 3x4th] ship markers, 30 [+6] Population Cubes (PopC),

6 action cards [or 6 Faction action cards], dice, voting / move tokens, 1 random turn order card,

[1 Faction Board], [1 Faction Player Aid], [1 Faction research marker]

5 CP, 1 Axinium, 0 Phasium, 1 EM Shield (put on Battle Carrier blueprint)

Each player to place on their Home Planet (HP): 3 PopC, 1 Dark Raider, 1 [+1] Battle Carrier.

[In Reverse Player Order, place on one hex adjacent to HP: 1 PopC, 1 Dark Raider.]

Create separate shuffled stacks of Politics, CR 1, CR2, and CR3 Cards [Add Expansion Cards to shuffled stacks]

[Create stack of facedown shuffled Combat Cards, CR Combat Cards]

[Solo: Scenario may call for a specific faction or setup rules. Requires use of Standard map.]

Stages in Each Turn:

I. Upkeep.

Return all PopC from market [Solo: Only when all 6 spaces are in use] Home Planet gets 2 PopC (+1 if researched Expert Cloning) [Planets with a Clone Factory get +1 PopC]

Players who researched Basic Repairs remove 1 damage from each ship

[Players who researched Advanced Repairs remove additional 1 damage from each ship]

Income and Taxes – Based on planets with your population (not needing majority)

Each CP Planet: +5/+10 CP (Without/With Research into CP Mining)

Each Axinium Planet: +1/+2 Axinium (Without/With Research into Axinium Refinery)

Each Phasium Planet: +1/+2 Phasium (Without/With Research into Phasium Refinery)

Without Advanced Politics: To receive each Axinium or Phasium, must pay 1 CP in Taxes You can only take resources can pay taxes on

II. Council Stage

Remove existing Resolution political cards from game

Reveal 3 (2 in 2P game) Political Cards, place in A,B,C Slot. **Bid for political card** to determine which takes effect **[Solo:** Pay for Political Card in use. A = **0** CP, B = (2 x Turn #) CP, C = (3 x Turn #) CP. -1CP with Corrupt Politics]

Law: Permanent until cancelled

Resolution: Stays in effect until next turn in Council Stage

Executive Decisions: Resolved immediately, then removed from game

Political card with highest vote gets played; unselected cards are removed from game

[Apply Effects of Corrupt Politics, then Visionary Politics]

Vice-Chancellor selects 2 Bonus Actions (3 in a 2P game **[Solo:** None**]**), Chancellor declares which 0-1 will be used **Bid for Playing Order**, with the Chancellor to break ties

Ties for Player Order cannot be broken in favour of the current Chancellor

Redistribute Turn Order cards now to establish new Chancellor / Vice-Chancellor

[Choose turn order instead of automatic Highest to Lowest]

[Solo: First Round, you get Turn Order #6. Pay 10 CP to advance 1 Turn Order (repeat as desired)]

[Solo: Subsequent rounds, maintain turn order, or pay 10 CP to advance 1 Turn Order (repeat as desired)]

[Receive Combat Cards (CC) based on number of players and turn order – discard down to 6 CC]

[Solo: Receive CC based on turn order cards from a 6P game]

2P: 1/1 CC - 3P: 1/2/2 CC - 4P: 1/1/2/2 CC - 5P: 1/1/2/2/3 CC - 6P: 1/1/2/2/3/3 CC

- III. Action Stage (2 Standard Action with Reaction, +1 Action (with Master Politics), +1 Bonus Action)
 - First Action Card Mandatory
 Choose 1 action card facedown, simultaneous reveal
 In Turn Order, perform Primary (Top) action Mandatory
 In Turn Order, may perform 1 Reaction (Bottom) action on a card with no PopC Optional
 Pay 1 PopC (from your HP [Sirius may use Any Planet]) when Reacting to your own card
 Pay 2 PopC (from your HP [Sirius may use Any Planet]) when Reacting to another player's card
 If researched Expert Politics, Reactions cost 1 PopC Less
 [Solo: Only may react to your own Action]
 If researched Basic Politics, return Action Card to hand (1st Action Only)
 - 2. Second Action Mandatory:
 - Choose Action, Simultaneous Reveal, Perform Action, Optionally Perform Reaction (with Payment) **3. Third Action** – *Optional* – but only if researched **Master Politics**:
 - Choose Action, Simultaneous Reveal, Perform Action. No reaction possible on 3rd action
 Bonus Action Optional but only possible if Bonus Action was chosen in Stage II:
 - Action chosen in Stage II as the Bonus Action is now played out. No reaction possible on Bonus Action If Action is "Move", there will be an additional Conquest Stage

Actions:

Research (Once)

Learn 1 [2 with Master Research] Technology – Place 1 PopC from supply on this tech, pay cost in CP

-1 CP for each Tech of similar type, and -1 CP for each Tech of similar colour (Cumulative)

-1 CP if having researched Basic Research (Military, Civilian, Transport)

[No Discounts applicable on Second Technology Researching with Master Research] Bank (Once)

From the supply, take 4 CP (8 CP with Advanced Banking) [12 CP with Expert Banking] Build Ship (Any number of ships)

Pay CP cost of any ships to be built (Cost written on blueprint)

Ship to be built and located at your Home Planet [Or any planet with a Spaceport]

Buy Upgrades (Any number)

Pay CP cost of any parts to be purchased (Cost written on main board)

Can only upgrade to Researched Technology (Canon 2-5, Drive 2-3, Shield 1-3, All Rockets) Upgrades are placed immediately, maximum 1 drive per ship

Ship upgrades can be rearranged between blueprints anytime (outside of Conquest stage)

Rockets may be placed on any planet where you have population majority (Max limit 2 per planet) **Mining** (Once)

Add 4 resources (8 with Advanced Mining) [12 with Expert Mining] on planets with your population Resources can be spread across planets, obeying maximums (indicated on planets)

Trade (Once)

Place **1 PopC from Supply** on leftmost unused space on Market (Spaces = Number of Players) May perform up to 4 exchanges [7-8 for Arctic Dominion Faction]

Without Advanced Trading: Can Buy or Sell. Use number in White

With **Advanced Trading**: Can Buy, Sell, or perform both. Use number in Red

Top line is Buy (CP you Pay to Receive Resources)

Bottom line is Sell (Resources you Sell to Receive CP)

[With **Master Trading**, can trade **CP** for VP, maximum 5 VP]

[With Expert Trading, use leftmost space of market. Does not need to use cubes.]

Faction Specific Cards

See Player Aid for rules on how to apply these factions

One-Time-Use cards are removed from game permanently

IV. Fire WMD Stage

Rockets (WMDs) are purchased as Upgrades to a populated Planet, by the player with the largest population All WMDs are fired simultaneously. WMDs launched from destroyed planets still impact others Player with highest population on planet controls WMDs

Flip fired WMDs to reverse (grey side) to indicate status

1. Assign Targets:

In **Reverse Turn Order (RTO)**, assign targets Each WMD has a max range of 6 hexes, can fire once, and cannot be fired against Home Planets [Home Planets may be targeted, except by Gravitron Rockets] [Solo: Any rocket may target your Home Planet] A planet can be a target to multiple WMDs

2. Distance Check:

Roll 1 die per WMD. +1 to result if researched **Radar** [or +2 to result if researched **Target Scanner**]. Resulting number must be greater than distance to target (ties are fails)

3. Damage Check:

Roll number of dice for each rocket, with 5 or 6 being a hit

Hypersonic (Blue): Roll 5 dice, destroy 1 resource on target per hit

Biochemical (Green): Roll 3 dice, destroy 1 population on target per hit

Graviton (Red): Roll 2 dice, destroy target Planet, with its Resources, Population, and Rockets if hit [Damage modified by having researched Strategic Bombers, SDS, ASDS, or Interceptors]

V. Conquest Stage (Stage is repeated Twice, 3 Times if "Move" was Bonus Action selected)

1. Mount Population – Optional

Can transfer population from planet onto ship in same hex

War Cruiser can hold 1 Population

Battle Cruiser can hold 3 Population

If Researched Civilian Ships, can move population between planets where population exists

- 2. Move Ships Optional (See Movement Variants/Options for Alternate Movement Methods)
 - In RTO, each player moves All Ships 1 Hex
 - In RTO, each player moves all ships with 2+ Movement capability 1 additional hex
 - In RTO, each player moves all ships with 3+ Movement capability 1 additional hex
 - [In RTO, each player moves all ships with Hyperspace Drive to any hex]
 - [Solo: Move all your ships in any order]
 - See Movement Variants/Options for Ship-Blocking Rule
- 3. Uncloak Optional

If cloaked in hex with visible enemy ships, ships may uncloak

Players with **Radar** may force ships [without **Advanced Cloaking**] in same hex [Solo: All Hexes] to uncloak [Players with **Advanced Cloaking** may uncloak their ships]

All ships belong to a player in the same hex must be of same state (Cloaked or uncloaked)

Last Conquest of Last Turn: All Ships have Radar and are thus uncloaked [Solo: No Automatic Uncloak]
Player Combat – Mandatory

[Solo: All Combat is vs Centaurian Resistance, and only for 1 turn**]** Multiple visible players on a hex will battle until only 1 visible player remains on that hex If multiple hexes result in combat, Chancellor determines order of hex resolution

In each hex, repeat the following until either one player or no ships remain in conflict hex

- i) [Players with **Advanced Tactics** may sacrifice a Dark Raider in combat hex]
- ii) [In RTO, combating players may place 1 Combat Card (CC) face-down in front of them]
- iii) [Reveal CC, apply in CC Numerical order, Turn Order if tied
- CC only affects ships, population, players involved in the combat, for only 1 combat round]
- iv) Simultaneously Roll Dice equal to number of damage symbol of all canons on each ship Each 5 or 6 is a hit. Apply Technology [and CC] Modifiers to Hits
- v) In RTO, assign damage to opponent ships. Apply Technology [and CC] Modifiers to Assignment [Solo: NPC Targets (in order):
 - a. Ship with Highest Weapon Strength, then, if tied
 - b. Least Damage to Destroy, then
 - c. Carrying Most Population, then
 - d. War Cruisers, then Fighters, then Battle Carrier, then Dark Raiders, lastly
 - e. Random]
- vi) Simultaneously apply damage. Apply Shield, Technology [and CC] Modifiers to Damage Ships with damage greater than shield value are destroyed
 - In event of Technology [and/or CC] conflicts, resolve effects and/or damage in RTO
- vii) [All used CC from current Combat Round are discarded]

Victor gets VP (see ship blueprints) for all opponents' ships destroyed, regardless of who destroyed them [All players involved in combat hex with **Advanced Research** may utilize that technology, regardless of victor]

5. Centurion Resistance Combat – Mandatory

If CR is in the hex with ships after player combat, another battle occurs

Reveal top card in corresponding CR deck – reveals Firepower, Shields of CR.

Player to the Left controls the CR (Attack, Damage Assignment) **[Solo:** if decision required, favour NPC**]** Combat as per Player Combat. **[**CR Player draws 2 CR CC, choose 1 CC for 1st combat round, discard other CC**]** If Player Wins:

CR Ship removed from game.

Player to keep CR Card for VP, or discard out of Conquest for Bonus [Both with **Quantum Reflection**] If Centaurian Wins:

Remove all damage from CR Ship, place CR Card on bottom of corresponding CR Deck

[Solo: If No Winner after 1 Round:

All Destroyed CR Ships are removed from combat

- All CR cards are placed on bottom of CR Deck Player receives no CR cards]
- 6. Deploy Population Optional

Any number of PopC can be deposited on planet where the ship still resides

For Single Planets, or players with Landing Manoeuvers: Success, PopC deployed

For Planets with Moons: Roll 1 Die per PopC deploying. 1-3: Remain on ship. 4-6: Deploy to planet.

[Players may now utilize **Commandos** and **Expert Research**]

VI. Solo: NPC Action Stage

NPC Takes its turn, according to rules as governed by the scenario.

Scoring / End Of Game

The survivor of a battle wins VP equal to that of destroyed enemy ships, regardless of who destroyed them The player with the most PopC on a planet gets the VP indicated on that planet In case of tie, the tied players split the VP of the planet, round down Each player gets 2 VP for each hex containing at least 1 of their ships Player with ships in High Council gets 5 additional VPs Unused Centaurian Resistance Cards are scored Holder of Chancellor Card gets 5 VP Holder of Vice-Chancellor Card gets 3 VP Holder of High Council Senator gets 1 VP [Players with Fringe Politics gain 3VP per Law] [If Fringe Science has been researched, all players gain 1VP per technology they researched] [Players with Technological Singularity score 1VP for every 10 CP worth of technology]

Bidding Process

Take **CP** Marker (and Vote Token, when applicable) and hold in closed hand. Once all players vote, simultaneously reveal. Any player voting with 0 or 2+ Vote Tokens is invalid Pay **CP** equal to **CP** Marker(s). This includes any invalid bids Vote Tokens count as 1, as does each **CP**. Highest total wins. Tie are broken by Chancellor's decision

Movement Variants / Options:

Simultaneous Movement

Each player places # of tokens equal to ship's drive capacity, facedown on each ship's blueprint Tokens indicate direction to move, matching tile directions. Blank for no movement All Ships move simultaneously

Reverse Turn Order

Players move their ships in Reverse Turn Order Each player moves all their ships maximum distance [Ships with **Hyperspace Drive** move anywhere after all other players have moved]

Drive Power Movement

In Reverse Turn Order (RTO), each player moves All Ships 1 Hex In RTO, each player moves all ships with 2+ Movement capability 1 additional hex In RTO, each player moves all ships with 3+ Movement capability 1 additional hex In RTO, each player moves all ships with **Hyperspace Drive** to any hex

Ship-Blocking Rule (Reverse Turn Order or Drive Power Movement)

Occurs when ships belonging to 2+ Players end a movement step in the same hex. **Cloaked ships** are unaffected. Ships with largest movement capability can move out of hex.

Each ship of that largest movement capability stops one ship of lower movement from leaving hex

Official Variants:

Long Game:

Use a Long Game setup Play for 9 turns Starting resources: **2 CP per player Basic Research** Technology is not available

Combat Intensive Game:

Use a Minimal setup Play for 5 turns Starting resources: **10 CP per player** Each player chooses 3 Starting **Technologies** (totaling 20 CP or less, may not include **Basic Research**) Each player starts with 2 Battle Carriers

Short / Simplified Game:

Do not use movement tokens in Conquest – Execute all movement in reverse turn order Do not pay taxes Play 3 Actions per turn – no Reactions Set a time limit and Number of Turns. If time limit reached, call Last Turn – Current turn, or following

Official Banking, Mining, Trade Variants Variant

When performing a Banking action

Without Advanced Banking (choose):

- 1. Take 3 CP
- 2. Roll 1 Die = CP Gained

With Advanced Banking, gain 7 CP + (choose)

- 1. 3 CP + 1 Die Roll of CP (7 + 3 + 1 Die = CP Gained)
- 2. 2 Dice Rolled of CP (7 + 2 Dice = CP Gained)

When performing a Mining action, distribute resources as follows:

Without Advanced Mining (choose):

- 3. Distribute 3 resources
- 4. Roll 1 Die, distribute that many resources

With Advanced Mining, distribute 7 resources + (choose)

- 3. Add 3 to a Die Roll (7 + 3 + 1 Die = Resources Distributed)
- 4. Use 2 Dice Rolled (7 + 2 Dice = Resources Distributed)

Expansion Standard Game:

Play for 5 turns

Each player acquires 5 techs, maximum total of 19 CP (no discount), maximum 13 CP per tech Starting resources as per player aid

Expansion Extended Game:

Play for 6 turns

Each player acquires 3 techs, maximum total of 12 CP (no discount), maximum 13 CP per tech Starting resources as per player aid

Shortened, Simplified Rules

[Expansion Rules identified with Square Brackets]

