

Campaign Rules for Curse of the Crimson Throne.

This document has turned out much longer than anticipated. I apologize for that and I hope you'll read through the whole thing. Please post any questions or comments you might have. These come from previous campaign issues, but that doesn't mean we'll have those issues. Still, it's better to be prepared... **Text that appears in this color was for the PF Beta ruleset and are still in effect. Changes in these sections are likely and open for discussion.**

A. Character Creation Notes

- 1. PCs should be created using a 33 point "Point Buy" system.** The point cost for different stat scores is shown on page 16 of the PF Final book or at <http://paizo.com/pathfinderRPG/prd/gettingStarted.html>. Only one ability score can be above 16 after applying racial and age modifiers. And that score cannot exceed 18, in any case. I chose 33 points to allow for a 17, two 15s, and three 12s. Races that modify the stats will allow slight differences in the spread from PC to PC. And of course, a single 18 could be chosen instead of 17.
- 2. Hit points are maximum at first level and (die size - 2) for all subsequent levels.** For example, a rogue with 6 levels would have 6 (max) + 4*5 = 26 hit points, plus any gained through other means.
- 3. No level training will be required when a PC gains a level.** In order to take any prestige class that the party may learn about will require that the interested PC develop the background needed to qualify for the prestige class. In other words, "fluff".
- 4. Death does not cause a level loss.** Instead, it causes a special "negative level" that works similar to a normal negative level: -1 to all rolls and the lost of hit points equal to one HD (not an average roll, but the maximum value). This can be devastating for a class with a small HD, so if you're going to play one of those classes, take proper precautions! This special negative level cannot be removed by any means other than the creature advancing to the next XP goal. For example, a 5th level PC dies and *raise dead* is used to bring them back. They are a 5th level character with one special negative level. When they earn enough XP (as a 5th level character) to gain 6th level, the negative level goes away. Only one special negative level can go away at each advancement point (in case a PC dies multiple times before attaining the next level). *Clarification: the restoration and greater restoration spells will not cure one of these special negative levels.*
- ~~5. Death magic (such as slay living or disintegrate) is curable with spells like raise dead and reincarnation. (The normal raise dead spell doesn't allow this.)~~
- 6. Anything in the Bestiary is not known to the PCs** except information for those creatures that the PCs would have experience with: standard mounts (not hippogriffs and unicorns, for example), familiars, animal companions (for rangers and druids), and creatures that can be summoned using a PC's spells.

7. **Be aware that any item given in the Core Book(s) is subject to weight, price, or other changes.** And expect variations in the actual use of some items, as I don't like using everything stock from the Core Book. A player that wants to take a prestige class should carefully consider the prerequisites and contact me to work out a way for the PC to somehow become aware of the PrC in an in-game manner.
8. ~~The PF Beta Web Enhancement is fair game for additional spells and magic items. I have to read through it myself and if I see something really out of whack, I'll either discuss it with the group to determine how to rebalance the item or ban it altogether. Typically the second option won't be used unless the first one fails. :)~~
9. **A PC who dies and whose player doesn't want to bring that character back** will restart the campaign at one level less than the PC who died and will mysteriously inherit all negative levels the fallen PC had except for one. (Basically, a negative level is traded for a real level loss.) The new PC may create new stat scores, if desired. Players have a choice regarding equipping their new PC. They can take all carried gear of the fallen PC, or all of the fallen PC's carried gear disappears and the new PC comes in with the equivalent value in gear. No single item in the new equipment can be more expensive than the most costly item in the fallen PCs gear. (In other words, creating a new PC will not allow a lot of little magical items to suddenly appear as a larger, more powerful single item.) For the purposes of this paragraph, the value of an item is what the PCs think the item is worth based on the established values from the DMG. If a PC is unknowingly carrying an artifact and chooses not to keep that equipment, they miss out on that item.
10. **New player characters brought into a game by a new player will have their XP set to the party average,** possibly rounded up or down slightly if it will make the math easier for me. :) Since I track the XP for the group, then have separate columns for individuals who are not at the same level, keeping multiple PCs at the same XP reduces my record-keeping slightly.
11. **Lawful Good paladins choose the code they will live by.** Careful choices of the code can ameliorate some of the moral issues of dealing with paladins. For example, a paladin who believes that evil must be destroyed at all costs and that goblins are inherently evil, may strike dead a goblin who surrenders! To allow evil to survive would be blasphemy for such a paladin. A team consisting of cleric and paladin who worship the same deity/ethos could be quite powerful. Note that any such code of honor may come back to bite the paladin in the butt (imagine a local ruler who the paladin determines is evil!). My definition of "lawful" is the one in the book, which says "strict adherence to a code" and "legitimate authority" and not necessarily the law of the land.
12. **When a PC levels up, they gain all benefits immediately that are not tied to Intelligence or Wisdom.** Any ability that is tied to Intelligence or Wisdom requires 8 hours of rest during which time the character is reflecting on past events. This includes spellcasting abilities, the monk's AC bonus, the number of

uses of a class ability based on Int or Wis, and so on. After such reflection, those abilities are available. This 8 hours of rest overlaps with the 8 hours of rest that may be required for a spellcaster to prepare spells.

B. Class Ability Clarifications

1. Barbarians

- (a) Add a Blindsight/Blindsight (Ex) rage power. The barbarian must have both low-light vision and darkvision (either through racial trait or rage powers). When this power is first selected it provides blindsense out to 10 feet. If selected again, it provides blindsight to 10 feet. The pattern continues as shown in the following progression: blindsense 20', blindsight 20', blindsense 30', blindsight 30', blindsense 40', blindsight 40'.
- (b) Knockback (Ex) does not require the barbarian to move 10 feet to perform the bull rush maneuver. (The ability doesn't specifically say this, so I'm including it here.)
- (c) The No Escape (Ex) rage power allows the barbarian to choose her path including the use of Acrobatics, Mobility, or other abilities.

2. Bard

- (a) Inspire Greatness (Su) specifies that targets receive two additional **d10s** worth of hit points. For this campaign, the 75% rule is used and these two dice always result in +15 hit points.

3. Cleric

- (a) Artifice Domain: Dancing Weapons (Su) lasts for a number of rounds equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ your cleric level (not 4 rounds as stated in the Core Book).
- (b) Sun Domain: Nimbus of Light (Su) specifies that spells with the darkness descriptor brought into the nimbus are dispelled; if the nimbus is moved to overlap a darkness effect, the darkness is NOT automatically dispelled.

4. Monk

- (a) Flurry of Blows: The rules state that for the purposes of FoB attacks, the monk's class level becomes their base attack bonus. That means that Power Attack would apply to all of the FoB attacks. Also note that with unarmed strikes the monk has no off-hand weapon, so they receive full Str bonus to damage for each attack. While the text states that unarmed attacks have no off-hand weapon penalty, I am ruling that monk weapons receive the same treatment (no off-hand weapon penalty) until such time as it seems to be overpowered. :)

5. Paladin

- (a) Smite Evil (Su) does not bypass DR but it still does double damage against particular creature types. Being able to do double damage *and* bypass DR is too strong an ability IMO. Also add the follow clause to the end of the Smite Evil description:

By declaring a foe the target of his Smite, the Paladin is making a vow before his deity. If at any point the Paladin turns aside from his assault on the Smite target -- that is, if he has the opportunity to attack the target or to move into attack range of the target and chooses not to do so in order to perform some other standard (or longer) action or take no action at all -- he no longer gains the benefit of Smite Evil on that target until he spends another swift action and another daily use of Smite Evil to reaffirm his vow.

6. Multiclassing Notes

- (a) Note that alignment shouldn't prevent you from building the multiclass character that you want. If you want a Druid/Paladin or a Barbarian/Monk, you'd better have a good back story as to how that would happen but I don't like the idea of alignment along the Law/Chaos axis of being a hindrance to building the PC you want. However, I still plan to keep Good and Evil quite clearly delineated!

C. Clarifications of Existing Spells

1. **Objects under the effect of a targeted spell** that are then broken or otherwise rendered unable to perform their normal function cause the magical effect to terminate. For example, an arrow with a *light* spell on it works until it hits a creature (rendering it unusable) or until it is destroyed (such as after rolling the 50% chance for a bow shot that misses). The same applies to a stick with *darkness* cast on it, then broken into pieces; all pieces lose the *darkness* effect. For the examples of *light* and *darkness*, I suggest using rocks. And not limestone rocks. ;)
2. **I'm going to research the spells *wall of fire* (area spell) and *blade barrier* (effect spell)** to see how they should work in relation to the combat grid system. Area spells should originate at a grid intersection and Effect spells occupy squares. This can cause some confusion when spells must be placed on the grid.
3. **Reaching through a *blade barrier* deals ½ normal damage** unless a Reflex save is successful, in which case no damage is dealt. Evasion and similar abilities do still apply. There are probably other spells which will follow this same precedent.
4. **The *Wall of Force* spell blocks sound attacks** so it seems reasonable that it should also increase the Perception (Sound) skill check DCs for noises occurring on the other side of the *wall*. I am increasing the DC by +20 (the modifier for intervening stone walls is +15).
5. **The *Message* spell has a verbal component** but unlike other spells which must be cast in a "strong voice", this spell can be cast by muttering under your breath. It is still affected by *silence* and the like.
6. **The *Control Winds* spell can only disperse an *Acid Fog* spell effect**, not shape it or corral it or anything else.

7. **Lesser Restoration requires 3 rounds to cast**, *Restoration* requires 1 minute, and *Greater Restoration* requires 10 minutes. (The PF Final has different casting times.)
8. **Item creation feats allow metamagic'd spells to be stored within them.** The "spell level" as described in the item creation feats is understood to mean the base spell level and any increase required by the metamagic feat, but this applies only to the required caster level and the spell cost. It does NOT apply to the spell's save DC or spell resistance rolls, if any. (This is already implied by the existing rules, but some discussion on the Paizo forums indicates that it's not clear to some people. That now won't include us!)
9. **Nondetection does not protect against see invisible or true seeing.** The reason for this is that *see invisible* affects only the recipient of the spell and the *nondetection* spell only applies when the warded creature is targeted. The *true seeing* spell trumps *nondetection* by virtue of the fact that it's a much higher level spell.
10. **Wall spells work as described here unless the spell description says otherwise.** Basically any attempt to create a wall such that it encloses, bisects, or otherwise hinders or damages the creature being targeted allows the target a Reflex save against the spell's DC or against the DC the spell would have if it allowed a save. This applies to trying encase a creature in stone, iron, ice, or a similar spell or using *stone shape* to form leg irons or manacles.
11. **Enchantment spells are limited based on the level of the spell.** A 1st-level spell is weak, and should be limited in what it can do. *Charm person* is NOT *dominate person*, nor is it even *suggestion*, even though that may be how some want to use it. These latter two spells have much more powerful uses and those uses should be reserved for those spells. If someone wants to command a charmed person, they should use the *Intimidate* skill; if they want to deceive a charmed person, they should use the *Bluff* skill; if they want secret information, they should use the *Diplomacy* skill.
12. **Deathwatch** is an *emanation* spell (meaning it doesn't go through walls or around corners) and requires the recipient to be able to see the target creatures to determine their status (meaning line of sight and line of effect are required and creatures using *Stealth* to avoid detection may not be detected by this spell).
13. **Spells with a descriptor are spells of that type when cast.** For example, a spell with a *Good* descriptor is a spell of that type just as a spell with an *Earth* descriptor is a spell of that type. This can affect the ability of certain classes to use such spells. Note that casting a *Good* spell is a "good" act while casting an *Evil* spell is an "evil" act and may affect a creature's alignment.
14. **The spells *color spray* and *rainbow pattern*** both work in total darkness and against creatures with darkvision. There is some interpretation involved as the spells don't specifically say they produce light. In addition, the *color spray* spell implies that the colors are what causes the spell effect and those using darkvision wouldn't be able to see the colors. I believe that's reading too much

into the spell description: it does what it says and biology (or physics!) be damned!

15. **Spells that say they are *centered on the spellcaster* are to be centered on a grid intersection.** For alternating sizes starting at Medium and going up, the creature may choose which grid intersection that they occupy should be used, including intersections around the edge of their space as well.
16. **Spells that say they *extend 10 from the spellcaster* don't make sense for spellcasters who size is larger than the spell area.** So such spells are collectively reworded to mean *extend 10 from the outside edge of the spellcaster's space* instead.

D. Modifications of Existing Spells

1. (This one we need to talk about.)

The *Silence* spell now has three variations.

- (b) **The *Lesser Silence* spell is a 1st level spell** that allows a Will save for every creature within the area of effect on every round that they are exposed to it. A successful check means no further checks need be made. This applies whether the spell is targeting a creature or an object and the saves begin when the creature is first exposed to it (which may be when the spell is cast or when the creature enters a *Silence'd* area).
 - (c) **The *Silence* spell is a 2nd level spell** and still allows a creature who is targeted a Will save **and** creatures entering the area still receive a Will save, but only when they are first exposed to the effect and not every round.
 - (d) **The *Greater Silence* spell is a 3rd level spell** and does not allow a Will save unless the spell is targeted at a specific creature or at an item in the creature's possession, and only that creature receives the Will save.
 - (e) Lastly, note that the *Silence* family of spells are emanations and only work within line of sight.
2. **(I think the PF Beta already deals with this, but I need to find it and record the source page.)** The *Haste* spell and similar effects can double a creature's crawl speed, but attacks of opportunity still apply. A normal creature can use a move action to move 5 feet while prone as a "crawl", so when *Haste'd* they could move 10 feet. A rogue with the Rogue Crawl special ability normally moves half their speed while prone, so being *Haste'd* will double that to their normal movement distance. Note that a prone creature provokes attacks of opportunity from all creatures who threaten any square that the creature crawls through.
 3. **The *charm person* family of spells grant an additional save with a bonus when a target's (apparent) ally is attacked by the spellcaster or one of his (apparent) allies.** Basically, I find it ludicrous that a *charmed* individual will consider someone who attacks his friends "in the best possible way". While this doesn't completely nerf the spell it does represent better the power of such a low-

level spell (it would still be useful in non-combat situations and could be useful in combat if the *charmed* creature is not aware of attacks against its allies, perhaps through blindness or being in a different locale). More discussion on what *charm person* can accomplish is here: <http://paizo.com/paizo/messageboards/paizoPublishing/pathfinder/pathfinderRPG/rules/charmPersonFeedbackHelpRulesDefinition>

4. **The *hideous laughter* spell allows an additional save on the second round and succeeding rounds with a cumulative +1 bonus per round.** In addition, a creature that fails its save may still take a single move action each round and is not *required* to remain prone (standing up from prone is a move action that provokes).
5. **Gaseous form provides a +20 circumstance bonus on Escape Artist checks** such as those used for escaping a grapple or squeezing through narrow spaces.

E. Clarifications of Existing Rules

1. Standard Rule: A creature is **disabled** at 0 hit points and can take only non-strenuous standard actions (or they take 1 hit point of damage). A creature dies when their negative hit point total reaches their Constitution score. Until then, creatures with negative hit points are **dying**. A creature whose hit points reach their negative Constitution score is **dead**.

Modified Rule: Because combat rounds are happening simultaneously, a creature reduced to or below their negative Constitution score is not actually dead until their next turn comes up in the initiative order. Allies therefore have that round to return the creature to an amount that qualifies as **dying** (or higher) to prevent their death and the associated special negative level (see above).

2. Standard Rule: The rules state that **invisible** creatures can be found by feeling around with your hands in up to two adjacent squares, but it's a standard action so unless you've got a quickened spell prepared or some other way to make an attack, it doesn't do the individual any good.

Modified Rule: I am modifying this rule slightly to make it easier to locate the *invisible* creature. Instead of only being able to check two squares, any creature can check all of the squares that it threatens (think of a creature swinging its arms in a circle). This is still a standard action, so no attacks can be made at the same time, although the *invisible* creature's location can be pinpointed. So a Medium-size creature can probe 8 squares and a Large-size creature can probe 32 squares (12+20, assuming 10 foot reach).

Also, a creature with Improved Unarmed Strike can probe the area to locate the *invisible* creature and attack into a space that they believe contains the creature. This attack can deal lethal or non-lethal damage, but cannot be done with a weapon (even a monk special weapon). Since only one such attack can be made, the search of the surrounding area must start at a given position and make a full 360° sweep. The attack must be made as the sweep is being performed, although regardless of the success, the sweep can then continue.

The goal here is to give a little oomph to the monk and to make invisibility less difficult for very large creatures. (I don't think it makes any sense that a dragon with 15 foot reach can only search two squares!)

3. Standard Rule: The mechanics for the **trip** maneuver say that creatures with multiple legs receive bonuses on the trip DC.

Modified Rule: I'm also adding a bonus for extremely heavy creatures as well. For every doubling of your "maximum load" rating that the defender's weight exceeds, the DC is increased by +2. For example, if your Strength gives you a maximum load of 450 pounds, a creature weighing 900# would receive a +2 on the DC. If the defender weighed 1800# it would receive another +2. At 3600# pounds it receives another +2. Very weak creatures will not be able to trip very heavy creatures. But that's as it should be. :) Note that feats or abilities that allow a creature to substitute some other ability (such as Dexterity) would calculate the weight limit using the alternate ability score instead of using Strength. The idea being that someone who is so good as to be able to use Dexterity should be similarly good even against a heavy opponent.

4. The **Total Defense** action is a standard action and cannot be combined with an attack. Because *Fighting Defensively* and Combat Expertise require declaring an attack, they cannot be used with *Total Defense*.
5. When **Fighting Defensively**, Combat Expertise can be used since Combat Expertise requires declaring an attack and *Fighting Defensively* allows an attack to be made. However, because Combat Expertise requires an attack, the creature using it may wish to declare that they are attacking an empty space so that they receive the AC benefit for the duration of the round.
6. **Round-by-round combat mode** will continue for one round following the (apparent) lack of any opponents. If players want to drop out of combat mode earlier than that in order to speed things up, they can say so. I'm merely saying this in advance because it can affect spells that have durations measured in rounds instead of minutes and combat is measured in rounds while non-combat time is measured in minutes.
7. **Grappling is a Combat maneuver that may prevent spells from being cast.** The clarification is as follows (see the PFRPG Core Rulebook, pp 184, 200-201, 206, 567-568). Note that PF defines *grappling* as the one who initiated the grappling maneuver and *grappled* as the one targeted by the grappler.
 - (a) You can't cast a spell with a somatic component while pinned unless you cast it using *still spell*. Being grappled does not prevent casting somatic spells as you still have one hand free.
 - (b) You can't cast a spell with a material component while pinned (error on pg 206), but you can while grappled or grappling (see #4, below) if you have the component in hand (or succeed on a grapple check to fetch it from your spell pouch).

- (c) You can't cast a spell with a verbal component while pinned unless you cast it using *silent spell*.
 - (d) You can't cast a spell while grappling unless you have the *greater grappling* feat or the spell casting takes less time than a standard action.
 - (e) If none of the above prevent you from casting a spell, you still must make a Concentration check to succeed or the spell is lost.
8. **The *pearl of power* restores the same spell slot used to hold the prepared spell.** It isn't clear from the item's description, especially when compared with the language used in the *ring of spell storing*, but a 1st level *pearl of power* restores a single spell as prepared in a 1st level spell slot. So a *magic missile* that was maximized cannot be restored by a 1st level *pearl* but requires a 4th level *pearl* instead (as the maximize feat bumps the required spell slot to 4th level). The *pearl* cannot even bring the *magic missile* back as a 1st level spell slot unless it was prepared in such a slot to begin with.
9. In the Combat section is a subsection on Free Actions that states, "*In general, speaking is a free action that you can perform even when it isn't your turn. Speaking more than a few sentences is generally beyond the limit of a free action.*" In addition, the section on Actions In Combat states, "*Free actions consume a very small amount of time and effort. You can perform one or more free actions while taking another action normally. However, there are reasonable limits on what you can really do for free, as decided by the GM.*" This says to me that speaking can **generally** be done when it's not your turn. This can include shouting an instruction to someone else or announcing what you see. As all actions in a round are happening simultaneously, replies to questions cannot occur until the creature being questioned takes their action. (Note that delaying is not an action; readying is.)

F. Rule Changes

1. **Paladin's Smite Evil does not bypass DR** but it still does double damage against particular creature types. Being able to do double damage *and* bypass DR is too strong an ability IMO. Also add the follow clause to the end of the Smite Evil description:

However, by declaring a foe the target of his Smite, the Paladin is making a vow before his deity. If at any point the Paladin turns aside from his assault on the Smite target -- that is, if he has the opportunity to attack the target or to move into attack range of the target and chooses not to do so in order to perform some other standard (or longer) action or take no action at all -- he no longer gains the benefit of Smite Evil on that target until he spends another swift action and another daily use of Smite Evil to reaffirm his vow.
2. **Clearly contradictory weapon enhancements are banned.** For example, a flaming/frost sword is not possible, nor is a holy/unholy weapon. By the RAW they are legal (apparently), but they just don't make sense to me. You can

certainly create a flaming/shocking weapon though, as fire and electricity are not opposites.

3. **Weapons with energy effects are not command word activated** but are free actions to activate and deactivate. Free actions can only be taken on your turn though, so an attack of opportunity may or may not have the benefit of a weapon's energy effect depending on whether that energy effect is already on. In addition, dropped weapons will remain on unless the wielder turns them off first (not specified in RAW). Anyone who picks up the weapon could take energy damage as they are not yet the wielder when they touch the weapon (not specified in RAW). Weapons that are wielded will not do energy damage except on successful hits and the energy effects will not affect the wielder or their gear (RAW doesn't specify gear); unattended weapons with the energy effect active may or may not cause damage (not specified in RAW) based on the whim of the GM. It will always be in the most cinematic and negative way possible for the PCs! ;) (This is a hint that weapon energy effects should be turned off when not in use.)
4. **Characters may not use aligned items without penalty unless their own alignment matches.** For example, a lawful or neutral creature who holds a chaotic weapon (or has a chaotic weapon in their possession) gains a negative level that may not be removed in any way and always treats the weapon as though they were non-proficient with it should they decide to wield it. Additional requirements or penalties (for those items that have them) will overlap (not stack) with this negative level.
5. **New feat: Improved Combat Casting.** This feat allows a spellcaster who fails their concentration check when casting defensively to roll again and use the better of the two results. It has **Combat Casting** as a prerequisite.
6. **The PF Final rules say that ability damage doesn't actually modify the ability score but acts like it does.** The goal is that 3 points of ability damage acts like a -1 penalty on everything related to that score, whereas creatures with an odd-numbered score would've been penalized by -2. This is obviously intended to make the math easier when playing a paper & pencil game, but it's not needed in an online game that uses software to track the values. We are not using this rule in my online campaigns.
7. **The item creation rules disagree on the base DC for crafting items; the base DC in my campaign is always 10.** Note that caster level is not an explicit prerequisite when crafting some items (such as options) or a 1st level mage who wants to craft a *wand of magic missile* at 9th level!

G. Miscellaneous Other Stuff

1. For those who are trying to decide which, if any, Knowledge checks might be the most beneficial, **Knowledge (Local)** will be a good one. Then about equal parts of **History**, **Nature**, **Nobility**, and **Religion** after that.

2. Ruthless villains are just that: ruthless! If a player is disabled or down, possibly into negative hit points, a really nasty villain -- or one who doesn't have another target nearby -- may choose to attack the downed PC again, hoping to get them so far negative that a healer can't bring them back up to the **dying** range! I've only had this happen twice in all the time I've been DM'ing, but it was very emotional for the players so I wanted to make sure everyone knew it could happen and should plan accordingly.
3. Players are not omniscient and probably won't know or understand the motivations of the villains. Neither will the villains necessarily know the party's motivations. This means they may at times seem to do things that are odd. You are welcome to question it while in-character, but there won't be any out-of-character explanations for things that the party couldn't possibly know. At least, not until some kind of appropriate "wrap-up" can be given.
4. Spell targeting for area effect spells is done by the spellcaster choosing a square and then a **1d4** roll determines from which corner of the square the effect discharges/activates.
5. The magic item, **Druid's Vestment**, has a price of **3,750 gp** and a cost to manufacture of **1,375 gp** in the PF RPG Final rules. These campaign rules clarify that the price remains **3,750 gp** and the cost is **1,875 gp**.