

# WELCOME TO THE TS30

# IDEA OF THE GAME

Spaceship Unity is a cooperative game with a storyline that unfolds over multiple episodes. Players will work together to complete missions and explore the narrative. Even though the focus of the game isn't on winning or losing, your performance will have consequences in how the story unfolds, so do your best!

You are fresh recruits into the Interplanetary Alliance (IPA) and have been assigned to serve in the TS30 Spaceship Training Simulator. The TS30 uses your own living space as the playing field. Normal everyday objects are transformed into your spaceship's systems and you are the crew members responsible for operating them. Fortunately, each system has a help menu that explains these actions in detail. However, when executing these actions, you will only have a limited number of attempts or a strict time limit.

## **QUICK-START RULES**

Spaceship Unity lets you experience a story in a whole new way. Some mechanics may be new to you or your gaming group. To provide a quick and easy introduction to this fresh gaming experience, *Episode 0* comes with quick-start rules. Simply follow the Setup section to the right, and then you can begin with the first chapter straight away. Hint boxes on the game material will explain everything important to you, when- and wherever you need it.

# WHAT YOU NEED FOR THIS EPISODE

In addition to the material in the booklet, you will need certain everyday items for your spaceship systems. The back of each System card specifies items you will need for that particular system. Here is a summary of all the necessary items for *Episode 0*: **3 books**, **1 tea towel** or small hand towel, **3 pairs of socks**, **3 different items of winter clothing**, **3 smartphones** (you can get by with 1 if necessary), **1 vacuum cleaner** with a cord (otherwise an extension cord or any other similar substitute that is at least 10 feet long), **paper and pen**, and **1 table** (if necessary, the floor will suffice). If you are missing any of these items, you can replace up to 2 systems (for example, the vacuum cleaner and the 3 pairs of socks) with **Backup System cards** (see setup).

# IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE CREW

- » Since Spaceship Unity is about a shared experience and story, don't worry if you fail a chapter or get rules mixed up. When in doubt, do what is the most fun!
- » If the game directs you to do something that would harm a person or damage an item in the living space: Don't do it!
- » On your spaceship, things can get quite hectic and loud. If you have **sensitive neighbors**, time your game to start so you're done before it's too late at night.
- » In the **rush caused by an Action Chapter**, there may be times when you need to run. Make sure you wear something on your feet that will prevent you from slipping.

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#### Credits

Game Design: Ulrich Blum & Jens Merkl Illustrations: Eric Hibbeler, Ross Taylor Graphic Design: Daniel Müller, Jens Merkl Editing: Beth Erikson, Ronja Lauterbach Translation: Ralph Anderson Realization: Stefan Stadler, Jens Merkl

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# SETUP

First, take out the sheets in the middle of this booklet (gray background). Cut out the game material as described there. The back side of the (small) Story cards and (large) System cards are shown below. Please avoid looking at the front side of any of these cards!



The Story cards are the engine for the game that drive the story and determine the actions you must take to advance the story.

1 LOGBOOK

Place the **Logbook** and a pen within easy reach.

LOGBOOK		
101		
101		

You will receive a detailed explanation for it at the end of the first Chapter.

Place the game booklet and the Story cards in a central location with a table to serve as your ship's bridge where you gather information. Then you will need to distribute System cards to other areas in your living space to serve as additional areas in the ship.

## **7 SYSTEM CARDS**

Place each **System card** facedown in a suitable location in the playing area. The host will determine which parts of their home may be used for this purpose. Place the items listed on the back of each System card next to them. For this Episode, you only have Systems that use moving objects. You may distribute them anywhere in the playing area apart from the bridge, which should only have the game booklet and Story cards. If you don't have the items for a System, place a Backup System card next to it. Only read the front of the Backup Systems for how they work if needed, otherwise set them aside.

Place each System card, as shown here with the back side face up, next to the named items (here, for example, next to the vacuum cleaner).



The System cards are help menus for inexperienced crew members that explain how the respective System is operated.

#### You are ready to begin!

Episodes for *Spaceship Unity* consist of several Chapters: timed ACTION CHAPTERS and untimed CHALLENGE CHAPTERS. On the next page you will begin with an ACTION CHAPTER. Always read the gray **hint boxes** first as they provide further rules and details.

#### Now turn the page!

### SAND TIMER

Fold the **Sand timer marker** as shown. You will also need a 90 second **timer** (for 3/4 players) or a 120 second timer (for 2 players). You can use your smartphone as a timer. If possible, set it so that the screen won't turn off.



VIDEO

The TS30 will occasionally ask you to video record actions so the training activities can be more clearly evaluated. Have a smartphone ready for these **VIDED CHECKS**.

I'm a **hint box** and part of the quick-start rules. Read these boxes in numerical order....

Hint boxes provide information the moment you need it (for example, rules).

# THE EXPERIMENT

**CHAPTER ICON:** Place the Story card deck with the matching icon (Star) nearby.

Place the **Sand timer marker** on the **START** space on the Life Support track. Now read the two large text boxes, before you start the Action Chapter.

# **ACTION CHAPTER**

Planet Earth, headquarters for the Interplanetary Alliance (IPA), day 3 of our basic training. The mood is despondent. The training sessions for the last two days were, shall we say, moderately successful. Our trainer enters the room in an excessively good mood.

"A wonderful good morning, valued IPA recruits. I'm sure you can't wait to embark on another exciting adventure even though it's only with the TS30 training simulator. But as you've already experienced yourself, the TS30 simulation is in no way inferior to the real thing. You should have seen your faces when you managed to blow up your ship even though the programming doesn't really allow for that. The horror and sheer terror... just delightful. And don't give a thought about the second training session in which you started a war. Now, before you enter the simulator today, please repeat the following five times: The core mission of the IPA is to maintain Galactic Peace."

We mumble the phrase apathetically to ourselves as we enter the simulator as our trainer eagerly continues.

2

"Excellent! Moving on now to the mission briefing, we have received a distress call from Akethari Station Drakrrghak. The technology research there is well-known for the development of efficient weapon systems. However, their current research is focused on a highly experimental energy system. An IPA observation team is already on site. According to their report, the system is promising, but still too unstable for actual use. Of course, that didn't stop the Akethari from conducting their initial field tests. The word 'recalcitrant' appears quite frequently in the report.... Unsurprisingly to everyone, there has been a major incident. Therefore, HQ is sending you to the station on IPA Spaceship Rookie to help. However, I must warn you the Akethari are an overly proud civilization. The distress call came from our IPA team, not the Akethari themselves. We don't know if they will even accept your help. Be convincing and don't waste time. Good luck!"

#### **ACTION CHAPTER**

Action chapters are played under time pressure. You must complete them before you run out of time. As an **exception**, skip the timer for now! There will be a Story card later that will prompt you to start it. This is part of the Quick-Start Rules.

**RULES** 

Keep the following points in mind when you reveal your first Story card:

- » Read the card's story text out loud and in full. Then perform all the Actions.
- » How you play together is entirely up to you. There are no fixed roles or responsibilities. Discuss what to do and find your own solutions. It's usually a good idea to split up. However, always let the other players know when you've completed an Action. For example: "Jump Drive Charged."

#### **VIDEO CHECK**

To check your performance during the training situation, the TS30 will occasionally ask you to video record Actions (on your smartphone). All Actions within the dashed box are part of the VIDED CHECK. The check is only passed if you or another player made a video for the successful performance of these Actions.

You are now ready to play your first Chapter. Reveal Story card 🚺 .







# WE CAN DO THIS

## **CHALLENGE CHAPTER**

All quiet for the moment, but the sensor data doesn't bode well. The experimental energy system seems to be out of control. It's pumping unbelievable amounts of energy into the station's power grid, which is now severely overheated. All shutdown protocols have failed, and any system booted up could instantly explode. Luckily, the Akethari seem to have noticed as well. Almost all the station's systems have been shut down. Unfortunately, the Com-System was one of them so we've lost contact with the Akethari and our IPA team on the station. Since there's still no trace of any help from the other civilizations, we're completely on our own now. It almost seems like our trainers intended this training mission to end in a flaming inferno as well.

Well, this means we'll have to respond calmly, skillfully, and intelligently. Somehow, we must shut this system down. If it pumps any more energy into the station's power grid, the whole place could blow up in our face at any moment....

This is your first Challenge Chapter. The same rules apply as for Action Chapters with the following 3 changes:

RULES

#### CHALLENGE CHAPTER

#### 1) There is no time pressure.

The Sand timer marker is placed on the START space control on the Life Support track. However, don't start the timer or advance the sand timer marker at the beginning of the Chapter. Instead, you must always advance the marker 1 space whenever you suffer a failure for a PURPLE ACTION – in other words, if you didn't successfully perform the Action.

#### 2) Purple Actions

These differ from the green and red Actions in that they are more difficult and they can fail. You don't just have to do it; you must achieve a specific goal. Each **PURPLE ACTION** describes exactly what the goal is and when the Action fails. There are no practice attempts. Each try counts.

A **PURPLE ACTION** isn't finished until you have successfully completed it. You can incur multiple failures for the same Action. After each failure, including each failed repetition, you must advance the Sand timer marker 1 space and repeat the Action.

#### 3) Failure in the Challenge Chapter

Attention: A failure does not end the whole Chapter! You can only fail a Chapter when the marker is on the last Life Support space before the  $\mathbf{X}$  and you then fail again. Then you must read the card indicated  $\mathbf{X}$  at the bottom of the current Story card, as usual.

#### VIDEO CHECK WITH MULTIPLE ACTIONS

A VIDED CHECK can also contain several Actions. All Actions listed within the dashed box must be successfully completed in the video to be considered passed.

# **LIFE SUPPORT**

01





03



You can see when the **CHALLENGE CHAPTER** fails on the Life Support track. In this case the number of spaces doesn't indicate how many times you are allowed to restart the timer, but rather how many total **PURPLE ACTION** failures you are allowed for the Chapter.

Com-System

MIMIN

Thermal Scanner

Laser

Optical Scanner



# RISK OF EXPLOSION

## **ACTION CHAPTER**

The situation remains tense. The station's power grid is still crackling with excess energy. We must prevent further explosions, and most urgently, explosions in critical systems. Our plan is as follows: We've divided the station into 3 sectors for each civilization to monitor: one for the Jindoo, one for the Tasmarag, and one for us. Wherever there's a rapid energy spike, we need to disrupt the power grid with targeted laser fire. Hopefully this will prevent larger explosions, and afterwards, we may have to plug some holes with force fields. As long as the Akethari on the station remain calm and don't rush to power up any systems, the plan should work. Unfortunately, we still haven't been able to communicate with the Akethari. Hopefully they understand what we've planned and....

#### \*ba-B00M\*

#### \*EEEEkoooooffffff\*

#### \*whoommmffff\*

...Nope, they didn't understand at all. A series of explosions have occurred in the Jindoo's sector. Note to self: never develop a plan that depends on a cautious approach by the Akethari.... No time to dally, let's get to work!

## **RULES**

#### VIDEO CHECK

There will be a VIDED CHECK during this Chapter. Don't forget you must record **all** Actions in the Video Check box for the check to be successful...

#### **ACTION CHAPTER**

This is an Action Chapter just like Chapter 1. Don't forget:

1) Keep a close eye on the timer! It must be started again before the timer runs out!

2) Advance the Sand timer marker 1 space, when you start the timer again.

3) You may exchange items, if an action does not work with the selected item.

4) The Chapter has failed when the marker is on the last space and the time runs out, (Space 04 for this Chapter).

#### Are you ready for Action?

Start the timer, advance the Sand timer marker to space 01, and reveal the first Story card.



# **THE REMOVABLE PART BEGINS HERE:**

# For an overview & explanation please turn the page ...



# **OVERVIEW REMOVABLE PART**

24 Story cards (small)

7 System cards (big)

2 Backup system cards (big)

1 Logbook & 1 Sand timer marker

On the removable pages you will find all the game components that you will need for *Episode 0*.

Cut everything out (along the dotted lines), sort the **Story cards** by the symbols on their backs and in descending order by their card numbers (the "1" is at the top of each pile). Place the **System cards** within easy reach. You will only need the Backup system cards if you are missing something for a system. Get the **Logbook** ready and fold the **sand timer marker** as described.













#### 7 5 B Stop the timer! The scanners are no longer reporting any abnormalities. We've threatened the Tasmarag in a language We look at each other in disbelief. Have we actually com-Crap! Explosion after explosion is tearing the station they'll understand: pleted a training mission without blowing everything up? apart. We await the explosive end of our mission. But then "The penalty for failure to provide assistance will Ok, fine. The Akethari Station does look a bit battered. another ship appears and hails us: "IPA Spaceship Rookie, be significantly higher than the value of your cargo." But the damage was necessary in order to save it. this is IPA Spaceship Miracle. We've extended our shield Suddenly they seem very motivated and the to protect you from the debris. We'll take over from here. The Akethari report, "IPA ship Rookie, we couldn't have station is stabilized in quick order. Relax, watch, and learn." done it without your help. How lucky we are to have the Are we sure everything is ok now? **IPA."** Epic music swells as the IPA logo appears on the The Miracle's going to fix the remaining glitches in the screen. We roll our eyes. Now that was laying it on a bit We'd better scan again .... power grid and complete the mission for us-what's our thick. A true Akethari would have threatened immediate retrainer up to? In our previous training sessions, we were tribution for the damage done. But it's understandable the Thermal Scanner mercilessly allowed to fail. Why have they suddenly brou-PERFORM SCAN IPA wants to look good at least in their training simulations. ght in the Miracle to provide a comfy safety net? "We are seen by most as an annoying but necessary evil to maintain the Galactic Peace" probably wouldn't be a good Optical Scanner advertising slogan for the IPA. :: End of Chapter :: PERFORM SCAN :: End of Chapter :: <u>X</u> > Z ke entry ir **CO1** "Unbelievable! You've managed everything "I see you got a little help, but you don't need without needing any help. It doesn't get "Yes, I see. You've made acquaintance with the to be ashamed of it. Your performance is any better than that. What an improvement Miracle. And more than once it seems. But never still fantastic. With recruits like you, I see compared to your first two days. You can be mind. A successful mission is a successful a bright future for the IPA. Feel free to be proud of yourselves. If you continue like this, mission. I'm sure you did your best to help save the proud of yourselves!" you'll go down in the history books. Other station. And that's great! With recruits like you, the recruits will follow your example." IPA looks forward to a bright future!" We're a little confused. Of course, it's always Well, if he says so.... nice to hear praise like that. But it seems a bit What is the man talking about? Or better: What is Naturally, we gladly accept the effusive praise. over the top to us. Without some obvious help he on? Let's be honest: we failed miserably. If we But we're still not quite sure whether we were from the training session's programming, we weren't in a simulator, our lifeless bodies would now really that good or whether the training session would have failed miserably. Why are we being be floating in the freezing cold of space. Why are we wasn't just a little bit easier than in the last two let off the hook so lightly? There's something being treated with kid gloves? Strange.... days. Anyway, we're still going to celebrate our here that's a bit suspicious.... success....

Continue reading in the Debriefing

Continue reading in the Debriefing

Continue reading in the Debriefing



























1

DEBRIEFING

You are now in **DEBRIEFING**. Your performance will be evaluated now. Just follow the arrows and read the boxes and the corresponding Story cards one by one. Only read the cards you are asked to read.

## DEBRIEFING

Our instructor is in even a better mood now than before the training.

"Recruits! It was a pleasure watching you! I'm thrilled! The IPA needs people like you! But let's get to a more detailed analysis of your performance."





Still in a disgustingly good mood, the instructor turns back to us:

#### "Okay! I have a huge surprise for you. Are you ready?"

We nod halfheartedly. What's going on here?

## "Due to your extraordinary performance, your training is complete! Tomorrow you'll embark on your first mission on the IPA Spaceship Unity! Isn't that exciting?"

The instructor grins insanely wide and jumps excitedly from one leg to the other. We look decidedly less than excited. We're more confused. Of course, it's exciting. After all, we signed up with the IPA to experience wild adventures in space. But we're being sent on real missions after only 3 days of training. Is the staff shortage at the IPA really that desparate? And is that the reason why our evaluations went so absurdly well today?

Ultimately, our questions are moot. We signed a 5-year contract with the IPA before the training started so we can't weasel our way out. And if the IPA thinks 3 days of training is enough, who knows, maybe they're right.

On the plus side: we're getting our own ship – the Unity – tomorrow! And then we take off into the infinite, cold, deadly emptiness of space. What could possibly go wrong? But hey, these are worries for tomorrow. **Today we celebrate!** 

The instructor interrupts us for a moment:

"Oh yes, one more thing before you go and celebrate: You've chosen extremely interesting solutions for some situations. We'd very much like to add your videos of these moments to the IPA's database so that other recruits can benefit from them."

An irritated murmur fills the room, some of us roll our eyes. Is he being serious right now? The instructor looks a tiny bit insecure for a split second before excitedly continuing:

"Of course, this means your legacy will live on forever even though your career has only just begun... and might be ever so brief. Isn't that wonderful?"

Share your recordings with us on social media and help us spread the word about Spaceship Unity and the Interplanetary Alliance. You can find more information on how to do that on the next pages. We appreciate your support!



Continue with Episode 1....



# FACE ACADEMY

I AM A RECRUIT OF THE INTERPLANETARY ALLIANCE AND I AM OFFICIALLY Authorized to FLY a spaceship. #Jointheipa @Pegasusspielena

This and only this is what you should reply if someone (or something) in the depth of space should ever ask you who you are and what you are doing with this piece of junk – pardon – charming spaceship. It is also your mission to share this information with other recruits.

# WILL YOU HELP US?

- If you'd like to support us, please post the **passphrase** (see above) including **#JoinThelPA** and **@PegasusspieleNA** together with a video you took during *Episode 0* on Twitter or Facebook, so everyone can see what Spaceship Unity is all about.
- Follow Pegasus Spiele NA on Facebook and Twitter, so you don't miss out on any exciting news or new games.







# **DID EVERYONE ENJOY THE TRAINING MISSION?**



Then look forward to even more space madness this fall

Spaceship Unity Season 1.1

## **AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2022!**

# HERE'S WHAT AWAITS YOU:

Experience an epic sci-fi story in 5 episodes (approx. 90 pages) and including 300 story cards. The game contains five episodes with several chapters that contains branching content based on your performance in the missions.



**Get to know Spaceship Unity inside out** – you'll be able to operate the jump drive and other systems in your sleep sooner than you think, and without the need to read.

- **Stay tuned for even more systems using more of your living space!** You've been introduced to the first 7 systems, but there's a total of 39! You might turn your exhaust fan into a jet engine, or the blinds might serve as protective shields. Those and many more await you!
- **System malfunctions and injuries** will create unforeseen and fun challenges. Repair broken systems so they can be used again, perhaps while suffering from the flu, paranoia, or other ailments.
- **Secure Galactic Peace.** Grow with your responsibilities and forge an inseparable crew that will be the pride of the IPA, or perhaps of the entire galaxy.... One can hope!

**COMPONENTS:** 5 Episodes (each with its own Story book and numerous Story cards), 56 Injury and Malfunction cards, 2 Sand timers, 7 Markers, 1 Logbook pad, 1 Rulebook

## Additional Information at: join-ipa.com

# SPACESHIP UNITY

Episode 0 is the fully playable, spoiler-free teaser for the action-packed game Spaceship Unity by Jens Merkl and Urlch Blum

The Milky Way. A vast galaxy in a distant future. It is a time of upheaval and conflicts between the great space-faring civilizations. Join the fight to preserve the Galactic Peace – the Interplanetary Alliance IPA and the spaceship Unity need you!

Today is the third day of your training as fresh and bright recruits, and your instructor is already awaiting you in the training simulator TS30 for your next session. Do you have what it takes to keep the Galactic Peace and become the pride of the IPA?

Turn your apartment into a spaceship with **Spaceship Unity** – a TV series captured in a game!

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