



# Player Guide

## WHAT IS PANDEMIC SURVIVAL?

Pandemic Survival is a competitive *Pandemic* event where teams of 2 players compete to be the first team to complete the game's win condition or the sole surviving team after all other teams have lost. During this unique experience, every team will face the same starting situation: identical roles, starting board state, and the player deck pre-stacked in a specific order as set by the scenario. Your team's strategy will be what determines your victory or defeat!

Since 2015, players from around the world have competed in Pandemic Survival tournaments from the local level to an international championship. A Survival season starts with Regional tournaments, with the winners of each Regional advancing to Nationals, after which each participating country will declare a champion to send to the World Championship.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

### To find an official Regional event:

- Ask your local game store or local convention if they are hosting a Pandemic Survival Regional event.
- Check the events calendar for the current season of Pandemic Survival at [zmangames.com/events](http://zmangames.com/events).
- Check the events calendar on the Pandemic and Z-Man Games Facebook pages.

### To compete in a Regional event:

- You must register in teams of exactly 2 players. You will work together—but against other teams—to win the game or outlast the competition.
- Each team must bring 1 copy of the Pandemic System game to use at the event (e.g., *Reign of Cthulhu*, the game in use for the 2020 season).

## STRUCTURE OF TOURNAMENT PLAY

Games of Pandemic Survival follow the rules of that year's Pandemic System game, adjusted for tournament play to create a level playing field.

Every team will face the same preset scenario, administered by the Game Master, who controls the Infection deck (or game equivalent) and directs players to draw Player cards. Judges will oversee the tournament to ensure that the rules are being followed and coordinate with the Game Master.

The structure of a turn in Pandemic Survival is as follows:

- 1. Do 4 Actions:** The current player has 1 minutes and 15 seconds to do their actions (except for the first turn, when you will have a full 2 minutes). The Game Master will announce a 15-second warning and when the timer runs out. **You may talk and discuss strategy during this step only.**
- 2. Draw Player Cards:** After time has run out, the Game Master will instruct you to draw the next two Player cards. In the rare event that a Player deck is out of order, causing you to draw the incorrect cards, the Judge takes the Player deck to the Game Master, who compares the order against the scenario and puts the deck in the correct order and returns it to your play area.

If you need to discard Player cards or resolve an outbreak (or game equivalent) during this step, you should inform your Judge, who signals the Game Master not to proceed to the next step until all players have finished resolving discarded cards or outbreaks. **You cannot discuss strategy or communicate during this step, except to decide which card(s) to discard down to handsize.**

- 3. Infect Cities:** The Game Master draws Threat cards based on the current infection rate (or equivalent), announcing them one at a time. If an outbreak occurs during this step, you should alert your Judge, who signals the Game Master not to proceed to the next step until all players have finished resolving outbreaks. **You cannot discuss strategy or communicate during this step.**

The game continues, alternating player turns, until there is a winning team.

### PENALTIES

During the game, Judges are responsible for answering rules questions, dealing with infractions, and administering their teams. If a Judge is unsure about a ruling, they consult with the Game Master, who makes the final ruling. The Game Master is responsible for keeping time, announcing the steps of each turn, and running the communal Threat deck.

Failure to follow the Survival rules, rules of conduct, or the core rules of *Pandemic* will result in a warning from your Judge or Game Master. A team that accumulates 3 warnings will be disqualified. Instances of willful cheating may result in immediate disqualification, at the Judge's or Game Master's discretion. Instances of unsporting conduct will also result in warnings or disqualification, at the Judge's or Game Master's discretion.

For details, refer to the Pandemic Survival Floor Rules, available at [zmangames.com](http://zmangames.com).

### WINNING A TOURNAMENT

The winning team is either (1) the first team to win the game, or (2) the last team standing.

The win condition will depend on the Pandemic System game in use for the current season. For example, in the *Pandemic* base game you'll have to find all four cures, while in *Reign of Cthulhu* you'll have to close all four gates. Refer to the current season's rules document (available on [zmangames.com](http://zmangames.com)) for specific tournament rules and win conditions.

A tie can occur in one of two ways: (1) multiple teams achieve the win condition during the same turn, or (2) the last surviving teams lose during the same turn.\* In either situation, a series of tiebreakers will be consulted to determine a winner, as listed in that season's tournament rules document.

\*Teams are eliminated on a card-draw-by-card-draw basis. For example, if two teams are eliminated by the same draw, tiebreakers determine their ranking. However, if the two teams are eliminated in the same Infect step (or Pandemic System game equivalent) but from different cards, whoever "survived longer" retains the higher ranking.

### PRIZES

#### Regionals

Every team receives a participation prize. The winning team wins a spot in the National Championship. The winning team should fill out the digital form provided by the Game Master, allowing your Pandemic Survival contact to email you with details about Nationals.

#### Nationals

Every team receives a participation prize. The winning team wins a spot in the World Championship, including round-trip airfare to the World Championship site and paid hotel. The winning team should fill out the digital form provided by the Game Master, allowing your Pandemic Survival contact to email you with details about Worlds.

### Worlds

Every team receives a participation prize. The World Champion team wins the grand prize, to be determined each tournament season depending on the setting of that year's Pandemic System game. See this year's season page at [zmangames.com](http://zmangames.com) for details.

### FAQ

#### **What about Event cards like One Quiet Night? How do those work in a game of Survival?**

Any Event card that has an influence on the Infection, Summoning, or other Threat deck will not be used in Pandemic Survival scenarios. Since only one Infection deck is used in a Survival game, it would be impossible to resolve such events.

#### **Can I bring notes or things to take notes during the event?**

Yes. Each player is allowed one blank sheet of letter size (8.5"x11") paper to take notes during a game. Notes will be collected at the end of the event.

#### **If I have already PARTICIPATED in a Pandemic Survival Regional event this year, can I sign up for another Regional event?**

Yes, absolutely! If you have participated in but not won a Regional event, you may sign up for other future Regional events.

#### **If I have already WON a Pandemic Survival Regional event this year, can I sign up for another Regional event?**

No. Players who have already won a Regional event are not eligible to participate in future Regional events, as they have already won a spot at the National Championship.

#### **What if I was a JUDGE or GAME MASTER for an event?**

Judges and Game Masters can participate in a different Pandemic Survival event as players if they would like to do so.

#### **If I can't participate in the National Championship in my home country, can I attend a National Championship in another country?**

No. Players that have qualified for a National Championship can attend only the National Championship of the country where they are a resident.

#### **If my teammate from Regionals suddenly gets sick right before the National event, can I bring a substitute partner?**

If your original teammate from Regionals cannot compete due to an emergency, you are allowed to bring a substitute. Your substitute must follow all of the normal requirements (e.g., a resident of the country you're competing in, of legal age in that country) and must be able to gain access to the venue (e.g., entry fee, ticket, convention badge, transportation) where Nationals is hosted.

#### **If I win my National Championship with a substitute teammate, who competes at the World Championship with me?**

If you win at the National level with a substitute teammate, your original teammate from Regionals (not the substitute you won your National tournament with) must accompany you to the World Championship.