

THE GREAT TASMANIAN
ESCALATION
TO WAR '26



For the first time the Tasmanian Middle-earth Strategy Battle Game Community is proud to present our first statewide Escalation League.

The event will be played over six months from March 2026 through to the end of August 2026, start at 145 point armies and escalating by 150pts each month.

Although this will be a Competitive league with an ongoing placings ladder, the emphasis of your games should always be fun, welcoming to new players, and in the spirit of the game.

HOW TO PLAY:

The League is open to anyone in Tasmania. To sign up, head to tasmebsg.com.au/escalation and fill out the form.

- Each month you will need to play at least one game of MESBG using the points level as indicated in the Phases of War section. After your game submit your results on the website.
- You may submit multiple game results a month, and we will accept only your best result for the ladder.
- Lists must be made using the three current Army Lists books, plus the two Legacy supplements available on the Warhammer Community website.
- You choose your models from the same Army List (e.g. *Breaking of the Fellowship*, *Barad-dur*, etc.) every game. You will have an opportunity to switch this List choice *once* during the mid-season (See *Rallied Forces* below).
- There are additional Tournament Points up for grabs for players who have played a different opponent each month, or played a game somewhere in the State other than where they live. See the next page for full Tournament Scoring rules.
- Games played on Virtual Tabletop are accepted.
- Scenarios are chosen from the 2025 Matched Play Guide. Roll up three Scenario choices - you may veto one choice, and your opponent may veto one choice. Play the Scenario that remains.

THE PHASES OF WAR:

The League will be divided into three phases, each with their own unique rules.

Rising War Phase	Points
March	145
April	300

Rallied Forces Phase	Points
May	450
June	600
July	750

The Final Phase	Points
August	900

Rising War:

- You **may** Promote one of your Warriors to a Hero of Fortitude for free, even if you are already taking a Hero model. Their stats for M/W/F become 1/1/1, and they may lead a Warband of up to 12 Followers for this game only. This does not increase their stats if they are already 1/1/1, and cannot be a model with the *Monster* keyword. You may switch which Warrior is Promoted between games. The Warrior does not continue to be a Hero outside of the Rising War phase.
- During the Rising War phase you **may not** take a unit that has the *Siege Engine*, *War Beast*, or *Chariot* keyword.
- You **may** ignore any Army List rules that define mandatory Generals.

Rallied Forces:

- At the start of **one** of the games in the Rallied Forces phase you may elect to switch which Army List you are using to assemble your forces.
- The new Army List you choose **must** contain a Hero unit that you include in a game *before* and the game *after* you switch Lists.

For example, Marcus is using the Azog's Hunters list and included Bolg in his 450 point game. In June he decides to switch to the Army of Gundabad to assemble his forces for the 600 point game, and he must include Bolg in this list. He may not switch Army lists again this League.

The Final Phase:

- This final game is worth double TPs.

SCORING:

We will be using Major and Minor Victory rules to allocate Tournament Points.

If a player achieves double or more Victory Points than their opponent, and scores at least 6 Victory Points, they will achieve a Major Victory whilst their opponent will receive a Major Loss.

If a player wins their game, but doesn't score double or more Victory Points than their opponent, or does not score more than 6 Victory Points, they will earn a Minor Victory whilst their opponent will receive a Minor Loss.

Result	Tournament Points
Major Victory	6 TP
Minor Victory	5 TP
Draw	2 TP
Minor Loss	1 TP
Major Loss	0 TP

The winner will be the player at the end of the League who has the most Tournament Points.

TIEBREAKING:

The first Tiebreak will be Victory Point difference, followed by total number of Victory Points scored across all the player's games, followed by the number of enemy General models each player has killed across all games.

BONUS POINTS:

There are bonus Tournament Points up for grabs.

- Score 1 Bonus TP per month if your army is painted (3 colours + basing as standard).
- Score 1 Bonus TP per month if you played an opponent that lives in a different part of the State to you and you played face-to-face, not online. Both players will receive this bonus point. *(Use common sense for this, but as a guide 'different part of the state' is more than an hour's drive from where your live.)*
- Score 1 Bonus TP at the end of the month if you recorded two or more games.
- Score 3 Bonus TP at the end of the League if you record a game against at least six different opponents over the course of the League.

FINDING A GAME:

- You can ask on **MESBG Tas Chat** group on Facebook Messenger.
- You can ask on the **Tasmanian Middle Earth SBG Community** on Facebook.
- You can attend one our recurring game nights in Hobart or Launceston.
- If you are struggling to find a game you can email the TO Marcus Bendall at; marcus.bendall@gmail.com and he will do his best to help you find an opponent.

FAQ:

Why start at 145 points?

There are some very powerful units at 150 points, and some powerful duos at 75 points each. 145 is our attempt to mitigate some of those options without forcing minimum models.

Will some of these games be broken?

Probably - but we're trying our best. The most broken games will be early on so at least they'll be mercifully quick.

Can I get the bonus TPs for a painted army if I am playing my games on Virtual Tabletop?

Assembling and painting is a big part of the hobby and should be rewarded. If you have the same models that you use on a VTT game assembled and painted then you can receive the painted points.

Do I have to use the same models every month?

The new edition doesn't lend itself to true escalation very well, so you must just use the same Army List (i.e. Thorin's Company, Harad) month-to-month.

Will the scoring system change?

This is the first year and if we determine that the points system is not working we reserve the right to change it.