FOUNDING FATHERS

Frequently Asked Questions by Rick Heli, December 29, 2016

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The Issues

Q. Does a new President get to see all 4 Issues at once or only one at a time One at a time

Q. When the President delegates an Issue to the Vice President, does the President also receive any resulting Popularity gains or losses? Yes (the buck stops at his desk)

Q. If the Requirements for a revealed Issue are not met and it has a Hand of Time icon, is the Hand of Time event triggered? Yes

Q. What if the President is unable to convince anyone to accept a particular Office, perhaps because of a difficult to resolve Issue? In this situation only, the President has two possibilities: (a) choose the Ignored option, or assign the Office to a Statesman in his own faction (even if the Statesman is of the wrong party and/or already has an Office, in violation of the usual rules if necessary).

Q. What if there are two responsible Officers for an Issue and one wants to solve it, but the other does not? May the first add Influence to make up the difference and solve it anyway? No, both Officers must agree to solve it.

Q. What if there are insufficient Statesmen to assign all the offices? In that case each Statesmen other than the President is eligible to hold two offices. Once each has two, if there are still vacant offices, each may have three, and so on.

Q. In the scenarios some Statesman begin with Popularity at the side of the card. If such a Statesman later loses Popularity, can these starting Popularity cubes be the ones removed? Yes

Q. What if Popularity would go below the starting amount? Indicate using the black Unpopularity cubes.

Q. Can the President appoint one Statesman General and then give this Office to another Statesman in the same term? No, the President only appoints a General once per term, except when the Office is vacated during the term.

Q. Does repeal of a Tariff reverse its effect on Revenue as with other taxes? Yes

Q. Does passing an Emergency Bonds trigger a roll on The Outrage Table or worsen it for other taxes? No

Q. May Expose a Spy be played on one's own Statesman to remove an Officer and thereby avoid Popularity losses from an issue? The card may be played on oneself, but this requires having a second Statesman who also holds a Partisan Office. Note that once a Statesman has spent Influence on behalf of an Issue, or if no Influence was required, once the Congressional vote has started, he is the responsible Officer and takes any Popularity gains or losses from that Issue, not his replacement.

The Election

Q. What if Andrew Jackson or William Henry Harrison runs for election before his state (Tennessee, Ohio) has been admitted? Treat the Carolinas as the home state for Jackson, Virginia for Harrison.

Q. What if a party does not have enough Statesmen to run a team for the election? Treat the election as if Single Party Dominance were in effect, for the other party.

Q. What if both parties lack sufficient Statesmen to run for the election? The game ends at the start of The Election. Score points as if the game had ended in Civil War.

Q. In a Single Party Dominance election, in what order do Presidential candidates choose their Vice Presidential nominees? In reverse Popularity order, i.e. lowest Popularity first (resolving ties by Age as usual).

Q. What are the options for a candidate from a disconnected area, e.g. John C. Frémont in California, when there are no more vacancies in his starting region? He may place in any vacant state in any other region, including the original one. From there he must continue placing only in adjacent states in that region until blocked, at which point he may only place if there is a third disconnected area having a vacancy.

Q. For the Free Soil Party card, can you give more detail about how to resolve the Carolinas vote? The card is representing the fact that in 1848 North Carolina voted one way and South Carolina the other. Thus, after the 12th Amendment half the Carolinas votes go to the other side. Before the 12th Amendment or in the case of Single Party Dominance, choose candidates other than those present to receive half the votes.

The People

Q. Is a change to party leader immediate or only possible in The People phase? Immediate. When resolving an Issue, award (or deduct) Popularity first and then apply the rest of the Issue instructions.

Q. Is it permitted to show other players your held Action cards? Yes

Q. What happens to the Theory of Judicial Review card after it is played? Recommend you store it with the Resolved Issues.

Q. For purposes of the Duel card, when is a player's turn? The player's Round during The People Phase

Q. When in the Duel Statesmen are removed from the game do both score their Popularity cubes in the normal way? Yes

Q. What happens if Lewis Cass or Hannibal Hamlin are drawn, but because of Issue results their states can never come into the Union? Remove the card from play and draw a replacement.

Q. The Action Cards Theory of Nullification Applied, Hartford Convention and Secession have two options for play. Must the requirements to play each of these cards be satisfied to play either option or just the first one? Just the first one.

Victory Conditions

Q. What if the game ends in a tie? For a longish game like this, a shared victory is the best way to characterize such a result. But if you really need a winner, for example in a tournament situation, apply the following priorities to the tied players: (1) most combined Ability on Statesmen; (2) youngest average age; (3) youngest individual Statesman in play.

Offices & Statesmen Expansion

Q. In the Solitaire Variant, when not President and the responsible officer has more than one option for an Issue, e.g. "Napoleon Seeks Help", which does the Opponent choose? The one that maximizes its Public Support gains, failing that, its IP gains and then the earlier option. If resolution requires multiple officers and some are with the player and some with the Opponent, the Opponent only resolves its preferred option; if the player does not comply, the Opponent fails the Issue instead.

ADVICE

Running out of small Popularity cubes.

This probably means that a lot of Statesmen are holding exactly four Popularity. If this is the case, another way to represent four small white cubes is to take one large white cube (worth 5) and one black cube (worth -1). This should free up a supply of smaller cubes.

Handling the Action card drafting order.

With five or six players it can be difficult to remember the order, so each player should add their victory points to the popularity cube total on their Statesmen. Then record this amount by placing one of their disks to the side of the number on the Victory Points track (on the side to avoid confusing it with the Victory Points disk). These disks now give the drafting order, from lowest to highest. In the case of ties, break by examining the Votes in Congress track and stack the disks so that the player choosing earlier is on top. Take back the disks after card drafting is complete to avoid confusing them with the Victory Points disks.

Convenient way to tabulate the Electoral Vote.

As each side's votes are counted, use its cubes to temporarily record its vote total on the Revenue track.

CORRECTIONS (only needed if game purchased before 1/25/15 and not using the upgrade kit)

- The responsible Officer for **state admissions** is now the Secretary of State rather than the President.
- In **Scenario C,** change all mentions of William H. Crawford to William Seward. Crawford is not available for this scenario.
- The **Alabama** state admission Issue requires the Indian Removal Act.
- The **Minnesota** and **Wisconsin** state admission Issues **do not** require the Indian Removal Act.
- The **Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin** and **Minnesota** state Admission Issues require "NW Indian War resolved".
- The Requirement portion of the **Financial Panic** Issue should read "Required: National Bank inactive and Specie Circular".
- Add to the "Failed/Ignored" portion of the **Create National Bank** and **De-funding Bank of the USA** issues the instruction "Place in next deck."

Upgrade kit link: https://www.thegamecrafter.com/games/founding-fathers-upgrade-kit