

DCC Lankhmar Free RPG Day Optional Rules

by Michael Curtis (1st draft)

DCC Lankhmar is designed to be 100% compatible with the *Dungeon Crawl Classics RPG*. The 2016 Free RPG Day adventure “The Madhouse Meet” can be played using standard DCC RPG DCC RPG characters and the rules. However, groups wishing to experience a “literary style” DCC Lankhmar adventure, one that strives to emulate the stories of Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser, can use the following rule options. These options will be further elaborated on in the forthcoming DCC Lankhmar boxed set.

Fleeting Luck

Adventurers in Nehwon often wonder if they are merely the playthings of the gods. Luck flows fast and furious in DCC Lankhmar, allowing the PCs to pull off stunning victories only to run afoul of the whims of the gods a moment later. To replicate this, DCC Lankhmar uses *fleeting Luck*.

Fleeting Luck is a form of temporary Luck that act as normal Luck points, but can be lost at any moment. PCs are encouraged to spend fleeting Luck early and often, as they never know when it will vanish.

- Each PC begins the game with 1 point of fleeting Luck. We recommend the judge use some form of marker such as glass beads, poker chips, coins, or similar tokens to track fleeting Luck. Fleeting Luck is awarded to a PC each time the character achieves a critical success (usually rolling a natural 20 on an action die), role-plays in a manner that invokes the world of Nehwon and the stories of Fritz Leiber, performs cool (or foolish) actions, or when the judge deems the PC deserves recognition. Adventures may also stipulate when the PCs receive fleeting Luck points.
- There is no limit to the amount of fleeting Luck a PC may have at any time. A PC’s fleeting Luck total is added to his Luck ability score when making Luck checks (e.g. a PC with a Luck score of 11 and three points of fleeting Luck has an effective Luck score of 14).
- Fleeting Luck can be spent to modify a PC’s die roll as normal Luck does or it can be spent to aid another PC on a 1:1 basis. Any PC can spend his fleeting Luck to aid another and multiple PCs can assist a single party member if desired.
- Thieves roll their Luck die whenever they spend fleeting Luck to aid themselves. The sole exception to this rule is when using Luck as Healing (see below).

Fleeting Luck vanishes whenever a critical failure occurs, usually in the form of a natural “1” on an action die. Fleeting Luck is not lost if the “1” result does not result in failure, such as when rolling to determine initiative score or when attempting to roll under one’s Luck score when making a Luck check.

Whenever a PC rolls a critical failure, **ALL** the PCs lose their fleeting Luck. Every player returns all fleeting Luck tokens to the judge and they must start earning fleeting Luck anew.

Judge's Advice: You should award a point of fleeting Luck anytime an opportunity presents itself. The more fleeting Luck you give out, the more the players will spend it, resulting in the types of hijinks and escapades that Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser would applaud. Encourage the players to nominate each other as deserving a point of fleeting Luck whenever they deem another's actions as worthy of reward.

Luck as Healing

The cleric class does not exist on Nehwon in "literary style" DCC Lankhmar games. While there are many with the title of priest, none of them can call directly on their god to produce divine magical effects. The following rule system is to be used in DCC Lankhmar campaigns where the cleric class is unavailable to the players.

Using Luck to Heal Wounds

A PC can take a momentary break during a combat to catch their breath, examine their injuries, and otherwise rouse themselves to keep fighting. By taking a round to inspect their wounds, the character perceives he isn't as badly injured as he first believed and can dive back into battle partially restored.

A PC wishing to catch their breath can perform no other action that round aside from inspecting his injuries. He can still move up to his Speed while catching his breath. A PC who spends the round checking his injuries can spend 1 Luck point (permanent or fleeting) and regain a number of hit points equal to a roll of his class Hit Die plus Stamina modifier (minimum 1 hp). An unconscious or dying PC cannot spend the round catching his breath and can only be revived with the aid of an ally.

Only a single Luck point may be spent when examining his injuries during a fight; spending multiple Luck points has no effect and thief and halfling class abilities allowing them the benefit of multiple Luck points with a single expenditure do not apply in this case. However, a PC can spend additional Luck points above the initial point to add to his hit die roll as normal when determining the number of hp regained.

A PC can only inspect his wounds once during any given combat, but may do so whenever he'd normally have an action during the combat round. PCs that do not catch their breath and heal during a battle must wait to recuperate after the fight has ended.

Obviously, an injured PC can never regain hit points greater than his maximum hit point total either through inspecting their wounds or by recuperating as described below.

Rousing Dying Characters

When a PC is reduced to zero or less hit points, he is incapacitated and begins dying. He cannot spend Luck points to regain hit points, but an ally can save his life by staunching his wounds. Another PC can stabilize the dying character as his action for the round. A stabilized PC is considered to have zero hit points and unconscious.

Once the battle is ended, the unconscious PC can spend 1 Luck point to regain a single hit point and become conscious. He can then recuperate as described below if he has not already recuperated that day. If he has already utilized his recuperation, he remains at 1 hit point but regains health by natural healing and possibly magical or herbal potions is available.

Recuperating

A PC can take time after combat has ended to properly dress his wounds, rest, drink a restorative, and otherwise regain his stamina and health. This is called recuperating.

It takes 1d3 turns to recuperate. Should anything interrupt this period, the PC regains no lost hit points and must start anew. Once this time elapses, the PC spends 1 Luck point (permanent or fleeting) and regains hit points equal to a roll of his class hit die + Stamina modifier + level. If the PC is receiving treatment from another with the Healer benison, he also adds the healer's level to the total number of regained hit points.

A PC can recuperate once per level per day. After he has utilized his daily recuperation, he must have a full night's rest before he can again recuperate from his injuries.

Restoratives

Injured characters can sometimes consume strong spirits or herbal concoctions as part of the recuperating process. These draughts increase the amount of hit points recovered. More information on restoratives can be found in the DCC Lankhmar boxed set. In "The Madhouse Meet" adventure, one area hold Eevamarensee Emerald wine. If this spirit is consumed while recuperating, the PCs regain hit points equal to their maximum hit die total + Stamina modifier + level. A Warrior, for example, would heal 12 + Stamina modifier + level hit points.

Spell Stipulations

Mercurial magic works somewhat differently in Nehwon. Wizards learn unique methods of working their magic, often employing ritual tools, substances, movements, etc. to invoke a spell's power. These are called spell stipulations.

Any wizard unable to utilize or perform his normal spell stipulation when casting a spell requiring them suffers a -1d penalty to their spellcheck. Spell stipulations are noted on the wizard character sheets under "Mercurial Effects & Notes" and are usually written as "Caster must [spell stipulation]."