



# High Marshall

2-6 player, Ortus Regni variant



*The offices of the Shires are the start of a more formal secular organization in the early kingdoms of England. Evolving slowly, but surely, from ancient traditional Anglo-Saxon tribal leadership organization into the great royal and bureaucratic titles that we recognize today.*

The Normal Earl Card rules of Ortus Regni and the normal victory conditions apply.

The Great Earls of the kingdom are able to ensure that their own men are placed in the great and high offices of the land.

In this variant Earls may place, as an Action, on their turn a **Vassal** card into an available shire office. That card remains in its *new office*. That Earl may then take advantage of this office for their own ends in combat.

There are 3 different shire offices on the mat:

## High Marshall

The top officer, the Marshall has an attached Knight army card.

## Shire Reeve

The second most powerful officer, the Reeve has an attached Infantry army card.

## Alderman (x2)

The two Aldermen have no other resources beyond their own *entourages*.

Vassals in offices are **not** Vassal Lords. They **cannot** participate in Political Struggles. And they cannot be Ransomed when captured in battle.

But once in place Vassal office holders can be used in Battle, repeatedly much like Vassal Lords. They can be viewed as Vassal Lords *without* Castles of their own, hence not true Lords.

An Earl can field their office holder into battle when they wish. The High Marshall is fielded **with** his Knight card, the Reeve is fielded **with** his Infantry card. The Vassal office holder is also in the battle, and that Vassal sends 1 damage and can receive 1 damage, as normal; *with their entourages and squires*.

The Knight or Infantry card that accompanies its office holder is **replenished** for each new battle! It does not permanently die when assigned 1 damage in any given battle.

An office holding Vassal – whether High Marshall, Shire Reeve, or Aldermen – can be removed in the following ways:

- ♦ You can **Treachery** another Earl's office holding Vassal! Following the normal rules of politics. Note, office holders are not Vassal Lords and cannot themselves participate in Political Struggles.

- ♦ When the **Battle Card Result** goes against an Earl, and they also fielded one or more office holders, all their Vassal office holders are **killed**. You cannot pay a Ransom to save an office holder.

You **cannot** specifically target an office holder controlled by another Earl when attacking. They are not properties, castles, or Fiefs. They are more akin to the King card or a Mercenary on the table.

Note that while the **Aldermen** have no attached Army card they are still almost as good as a Vassal Lord in combat, because you will probably get to use them several times in battle. And they can be gained *without* having to place a Castle down first. Note also, that if you **Treachery** assassinate another Earl's office holder, you will not also be able to seize that office immediately yourself, since placing a Vassal into it would be a second action. This means that you might have just opened up a nice office for another Earl to seize for free!

