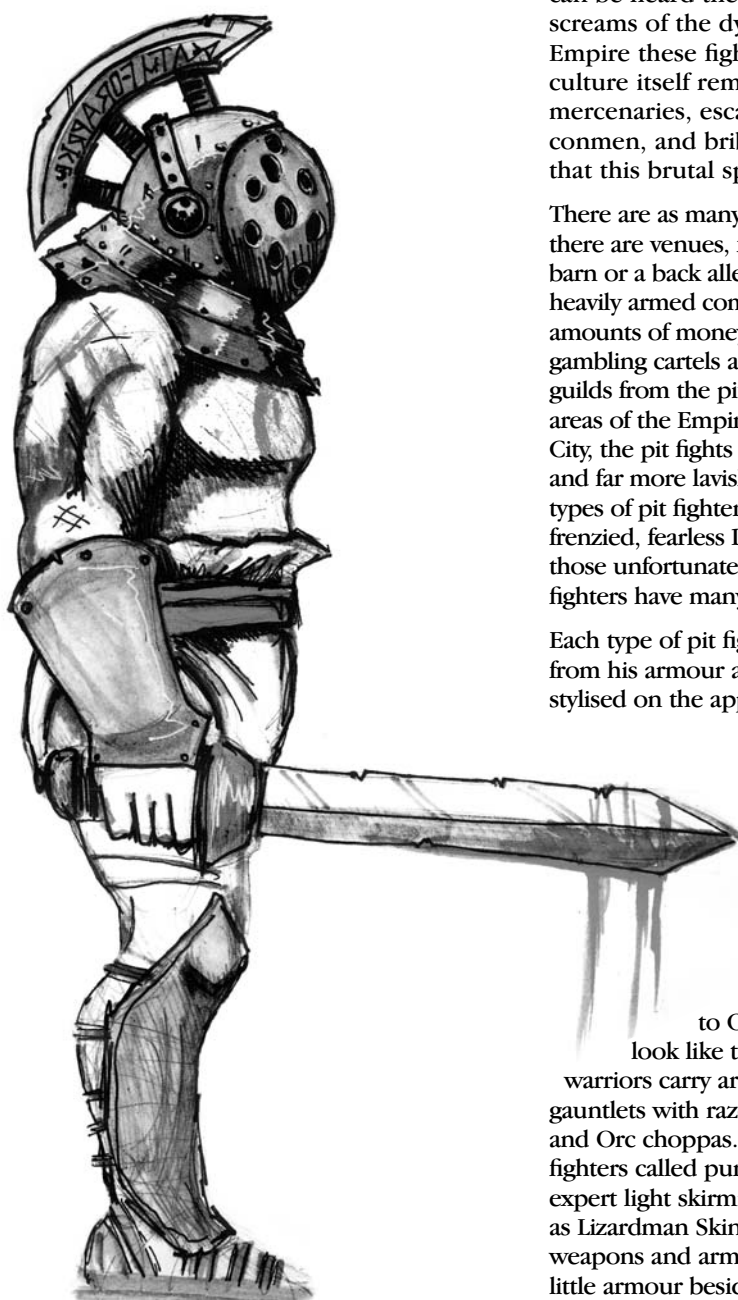


# Pit Fighters

*The Pit Fighter warband was first featured in Town Cryer 14. Since then we have playtested and updated the rules exhaustively. We even got the Fanatic miniature designer Mark Bedford to sculpt a complete Pit Fighter warband to accompany this article. So, those who are about to die we salute you!*



All across the Empire there are gladiatorial fighting pits where tough warriors are forced to take up arms against each other in brutal hand-to-hand fighting, often to the death, for the bloodthirsty pleasures of the baying crowd. From the vicious pits of Cutthroat's Haven to the Black Pits on the outskirts of the ruined city of Mordheim, there can be heard the clash of steel and the screams of the dying. In most regions of the Empire these fights are outlawed, but the culture itself remains a haven for ex-mercenaries, escaped convicts and itinerant conmen, and bribes to local officials ensures that this brutal sport continues unabated.

There are as many different types of pit fight as there are venues, from small fistfights in an old barn or a back alley, to huge conflicts with many heavily armed combatants. There are vast amounts of money to be made by the illegal gambling cartels and on the sly by the merchant guilds from the pit fights. In the more lawless areas of the Empire, such as around the Cursed City, the pit fights are bigger, more widespread and far more lavish. There are many different types of pit fighter: huge and brutish Ogres; frenzied, fearless Dwarf Troll Slayers and even those unfortunate humans who are sold as pit fighters have many different fighting styles.

Each type of pit fighter is easily recognisable from his armour and weapons which are heavily stylised on the appearance of the Empire's many

foes. Close combat specialists wear heavy plates of armour across their shoulders, thick iron gauntlets and heavy greaves. They also wear heavy horned helmets that caricature warriors of Chaos, helmets with fake tusks and leering faces akin

to Orcs or skull-faced helmets that look like the Undead. The weapons these

warriors carry are invariably heavy flails, gauntlets with razor-sharp iron claws like Ghouls and Orc choppas. There are also specialist pit fighters called pursuers that are based upon the expert light skirmish troops of other races such as Lizardman Skinks or Witch Elves, and their weapons and armour reflect this. They wear very little armour besides a stylised helm and often

By Scribes of ill repute and twisted rumour Gert Joris  
& Stephanus Harburgh

carry two light swords, a spear and net or several javelins. Unlike the heavy pit fighters, these warriors harry their foes with hit and run attacks, using speed and agility over brute strength.

The most feared and respected type of pit fighter is the Pit King – a veteran fighter of many bouts, a heavily scarred killing machine with muscles like iron. Pit Kings are often dressed in heavy armour reminiscent of Empire heroes of old, adorned with a laurel wreath which is the symbol of his status. These dynamic warriors have access to many weapons, often favouring great axes and swords which they wield with consummate skill.

The vast majority of fighters are slaves who work for the so-called 'circuit' and they have to go through rigorous training before they are let loose in the bloody world of the fighting pits as they are considered an expensive investment by their owners. They strive to survive long enough to earn their freedom by paying off their owners with a large cut of the winnings. Most successful pit fighters live for the sport (and, of course, often die for it also!) because they know of little else.

Enough pit fighters either earn their freedom or, as is more often the case, escape and form bands of fugitives on the run from their former owners. These bands of outcasts make ideal warbands for hire to those shady characters who wish to explore the ruins of Mordheim. The warriors in a pit fighter warband are very dangerous adversaries indeed even for the most rugged, experienced of mercenaries for they are entirely ruthless and offer no quarter.

Pit fighters are especially adept at fighting in close quarters with little room to manoeuvre such as the cluttered streets and ruined houses of Mordheim and this makes them much-feared opponents amongst the denizens and warbands of the Cursed City.

**Appearance:** Pit Fighters are grizzled veteran warriors covered with many scars of battle, they are armed with special pit weapons and Armour, their bodies well developed and muscular. They wear little clothing and only partial armour known as Pit Armour.



### Choice of Warriors

A Pit Fighter Warband must include a minimum of 3 models. You have 500 Gold Crowns that you can use to recruit your initial Warband. The maximum number of warriors in the Warband is 15, though some buildings in the Warband's encampment may increase this.

**Pit King:** Each Pit Fighter Warband must have one Pit King: no more, no less!

**Pit Fighter Troll Slayer:** Your Warband may include a single Pit Fighter Troll Slayer.

**Pit Fighter Veterans:** Your Warband may include up to two Veterans.

**Ogre Pit Fighter:** Your Warband may include a single Ogre Pit Fighter.

**Pursuers:** Your Warband may include up to seven Pursuers.

**Pit Fighters:** Your Warband may include any number of Pit Fighters.

### Starting Experience

A **Pit King** starts with 20 experience.

**Pit Fighter Veterans** start with 8 experience.

A **Pit Fighter Troll Slayer** starts with 8 experience.

**Henchmen** start with 0 experience

### Weapons & Armour

Unlike other warbands that may choose which weapons and armour to equip their warriors with, Pit Fighters have to choose a specific fighting style which dictates their weapons and armour configuration. This is with the exception of Trollslayers and Ogres that may choose from a limited selection of equipment. The fighting style does not restrict Heroes from using items not on their list if they learn the appropriate skills.

Pit Fighters may choose to change their fighting style at any stage by either swapping with another warrior in the warband or by simply buying a new style (or the separate components). Pit Fighter warbands also differ from other warbands in that a Henchman group may contain a mix of several different fighting styles and does not have to equip all of its warriors in the same manner.

## Pit Fighter Equipment List

The following lists are used by Pit Fighter warbands to pick their weapons & armour:

### PIT FIGHTER EQUIPMENT LIST

#### Orc Style

Helmet/Dagger/  
Axe/Shield .....20gc

#### Undead Style

Helmet/Dagger/  
Spiked Gauntlet/Sword .....35gc

#### Empire Style

Helmet/Dagger/Double-handed Weapon/  
Light Armour .....45gc

#### Chaos Style

Helmet/Dagger/Flail/  
Shield/Light Armour .....50gc

### PURSUER EQUIPMENT LIST

#### Skink Style

Helmet/Dagger/Trident or Javelins/  
Net or Buckler .....25gc

#### Witch Elf Style

Helmet/Dagger/  
2 x Swords or Spear & Net .....30gc

### OGRE & SLAYER EQUIPMENT LIST

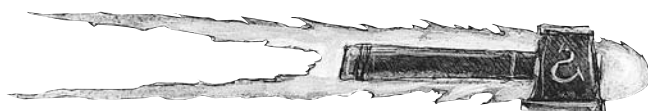
#### Hand-to-hand Combat Weapons

Dagger .....1st free/2 gc  
Mace ..... 3 gc  
Hammer ..... 3 gc  
Axe ..... .5 gc  
Dwarf Axe\* .....15 gc  
Sword ..... 10 gc  
Flail .....15 gc  
Spiked Gauntlet .....15 gc  
Gromril Weapon\* ..... 3 times the cost

*\*Only available to the Dwarf Trollslayer*

#### Armour

Helmet\* .....10 gc  
Light Armour\* .....20 gc



## Pit Fighter skill tables

	Combat	Shooting	Academic	Strength	Speed	Special
Pit King	✓			✓	✓	✓
Veteran	✓			✓	✓	✓
Troll Slayer	✓			✓		✓





# Heroes



## 1 Pit King

### 80 gold crowns to hire

The Pit King is the leader of the warband. He is a very renowned warrior; a spectacular fighter used to pleasing the baying crowd with his martial display and bloody triumphs. He has managed to buy or free enough fellow pit fighters to start a warband of his own. He's the smartest and toughest pit fighter around and will fight anybody who puts his position in danger. He is held in a mixture of awe and fear by his fellows and his loyalty to his men is undisputed.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Pit King	4	4	3	4	4	1	4	2	8

**Weapons/Armour:** A Pit King may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Pit Fighter Equipment list.

### SPECIAL RULES

**Leader:** Any models in the Warband within 6" of the King may use his Leadership instead of their own.

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.

## 0-1 Dwarf Troll Slayer

### 50 gold crowns to hire

Troll Slayers are members of the morbid Dwarf cult obsessed with seeking an honourable death in combat. Having committed some unforgivable crime or been dishonoured in some way, a Dwarf will forsake his home and wander off to die fighting the enemies of Dwarf kind. Troll Slayers are insanely dangerous individuals, psychopathic and violent. There are, however, few better fighters in the known world, so which place would be more fitting for them than the dangerous fighting pits then! Battling against the most hardened veterans and monsters in the Old World, it appears that they have truly found their vocation.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Troll Slayer	3	4	3	3	4	1	2	1	9

**Weapons/Armour:** A Troll Slayer may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Ogre & Slayer Equipment list. Slayers may never carry or use missile weapons or any form of armour.

### SPECIAL RULES

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.

**Hard to Kill:** Dwarfs are tough, resilient individuals who can only be taken out of

action on a roll of a 6 instead of 5-6 when rolling on the Injury chart. Treat a roll of 1-2 as knocked down, 3-5 as stunned, and 6 as out of action.

**Hard Head:** Dwarfs ignore the special rules for maces, clubs, etc. They are not easy to knock out!

**Hate Orcs and Goblins:** All Dwarfs hate Orcs and Goblins. See the psychology section of the Mordheim rules for details on the effects of *Hatred*.

**Grudgebearers:** Dwarfs hold an ancient grudge against Elves from the days when the two races fought for the supremacy of the Old World. If the Pit Fighters ever hire any kind of Elven Hired Sword, he will leave the Warband immediately, he refuses to fight alongside these pansy Elves!

**Death Wish:** Troll Slayers seek an honourable death in combat. They are completely immune to all psychology and never need to test if fighting alone.

## 0-2 Pit Veterans

### 35 gold crowns

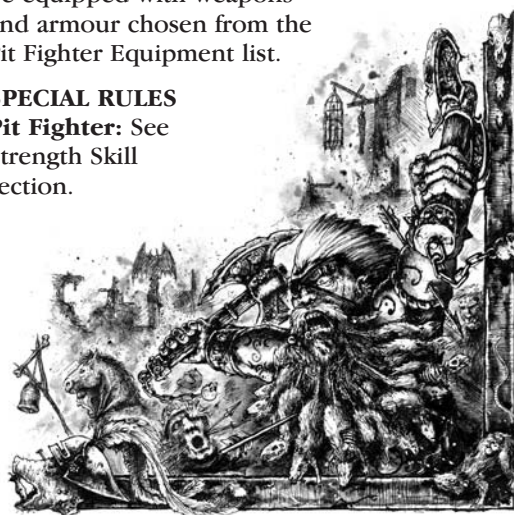
Pit fighter veterans are experienced fighters who carry out the orders of the Pit King with ruthless efficiency. These men ensure that the warband is held together with iron-hard discipline and always keep a watchful eye on the Pit King's back lest an over ambitious fellow pit fighter gets any ideas.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Pit King	4	4	3	4	3	1	4	1	7

**Weapons/Armour:** A Pit Fighter Veteran may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Pit Fighter Equipment list.

### SPECIAL RULES

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.



# Benchmen

## 0-1 Ogre Pit Fighter

165 gold crowns to hire

Ogres are large brutish creatures standing some ten feet tall, and all of it is bone and muscle. It is unsurprising then that they are one of the most brutal and feared of all pit fighters. These massive, savage fighters are often called upon to fight such fearsome beasts as captured Trolls in some of the most incredible bouts held at the pits.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Ogre	6	3	2	4	4	3	3	2	7

**Weapons/Armour:** An Ogre Pit Fighter may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Ogre & Slayer Equipment list.

### SPECIAL RULES

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.

**Fear:** Ogre Pit Fighters are large, threatening creatures that cause *Fear*. See the Psychology section for details.

**Large:** Ogre Pit Fighters are huge, lumbering creatures and therefore make tempting targets for archers. Any model may shoot at the Ogre Pit Fighter, even if he is not the closest target.

**Skills:** An Ogre Pit Fighter who becomes a Hero as a result of The Lad's Got Talent may choose from the Combat, Strength and Pit Fighter Special Skills.

**Slow Witted:** Although Ogres are capable of earning experience and bettering themselves, they are not the smartest creatures. Ogres only gain advances at half the rate of everyone else (ie, they must accrue twice as much experience as normal to get an advance).

## Pit Fighters

35 gold crowns to hire

Pit fighters are close combat specialists armed with a variety of weapons and armour. Usually they are fairly heavily armoured and equipped with sword and shield, although sometimes they will be skilled in the use of two-handed weapons.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Pit Fighter	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	1	7

**Weapons/Armour:** A Pit Fighter may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Pit Fighter Equipment list.

### SPECIAL RULES

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.

## 0-7 Pursuers

25 gold crowns to hire

Pursuers are a special martial type of pit fighter often used for 'warm-up fights' before the main show. These men are usually lightly armed with spears, nets and javelins with which they harry their enemies in a hit and run style of warfare. This style of fighting dates back to ancient times in Tilea when gladiators, as they were known in the Tilean tongue, would fight in massive stone arenas to huge crowds of citizens baying for blood.

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Pursuer	4	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	7

**Weapons/Armour:** A Pit Fighter Pursuer may be equipped with weapons and armour chosen from the Pit Fighter Pursuer Equipment list.

### SPECIAL RULE

**Pit Fighter:** See Strength Skill section.

**Evade:** Pursuers are agile and athletic, well adept at avoiding the heavier Pit Fighters' charges. When an enemy charges a Pursuer he may choose to try and evade. On a successful Initiative test it is considered a failed charge and the normal rules apply.





### Hired Swords

Pit Fighters may hire all Hired Swords available except for the Elf Ranger, who feels working with such dirty and brutish individuals would just not do!

### Warband Special Rules

All Pit Fighters have the *Pit Fighter* skill as described in the Strength Skill List (+1 WS, +1 A when fighting in ruins, buildings and The Pit).

#### Free the Slaves!

Pit Fighters hate all slavers. The Pit Fighters will never sell their captured opponents to the slavers.

#### In the Pit!

Pit Fighters who capture an opponent may decide to let him fight in the infamous fighting pits of Cutthroat's Haven (use the rules that appeared earlier in this magazine).

The Pit Fighter warband may decide to send in one or more of their own fighters to fight the captive, if the Pit Fighter wins he gains +2 Experience, the warband gets all the captive's armour and weapons +50gc, if the Pit Fighter loses then roll to see whether he is dead or injured as normal (ignore all following results: Robbed, Captured, Hardened, Sold to the Pits and Survives against the Odds), he will not lose his armour or weapons, the captive will get the 50gc and the +2 Experience when he wins. If the captive wins, the audience decides whether he gains his freedom. Roll a D6 on a 4+ the audience raise their thumbs and he is free. A 1-3 means he remains the Pit Fighters captive and may be fielded in the pits after future games.

### Troll Slayer Special Skills List

Dwarf Slayers may use the following Skill table as well as any of the standard Skill tables available to Dwarfs.

**Ferocious Charge:** The Slayer may double his attacks on the turn that he charges. He will suffer a -1 to hit penalty on that turn.

**Monster Slayer:** The Slayer always wounds any opponent on a roll of 4+, regardless of Toughness, unless his own Strength (after all modifiers due to weapon bonuses, etc) would mean that a lower roll than this is needed.

**Berserker:** The Slayer may add +1 to his close combat to hit rolls during the turn which he charges. (may not be used with *Ferocious Charge*).

### Pit Fighter Weapons

#### Trident

**Cost:** 15 gold crowns

**Availability:** Rare 7 (Pit Fighters only)

The Trident as a Pit Fighter weapon originates in Tilea from the ancient days when gladiators, as the Tileans called them, would fight in the massive public arenas. This weapon is similar to a spear and has all of its advantages in length but it has three spear points, allowing an adept user to catch blades between them and turn them aside. Traditionally, the trident is a weapon that is combined with a net and used by a lightly armoured Pit Fighter against the more heavily armed Swordsmen.

Weapon	Range	Strength
Trident	Close Combat	As User

#### SPECIAL RULES

*Strike first, Parry*

#### Spiked Gauntlet

See P148 of Mordheim rulebook.

#### Javelins

**Cost:** 10 gold crowns

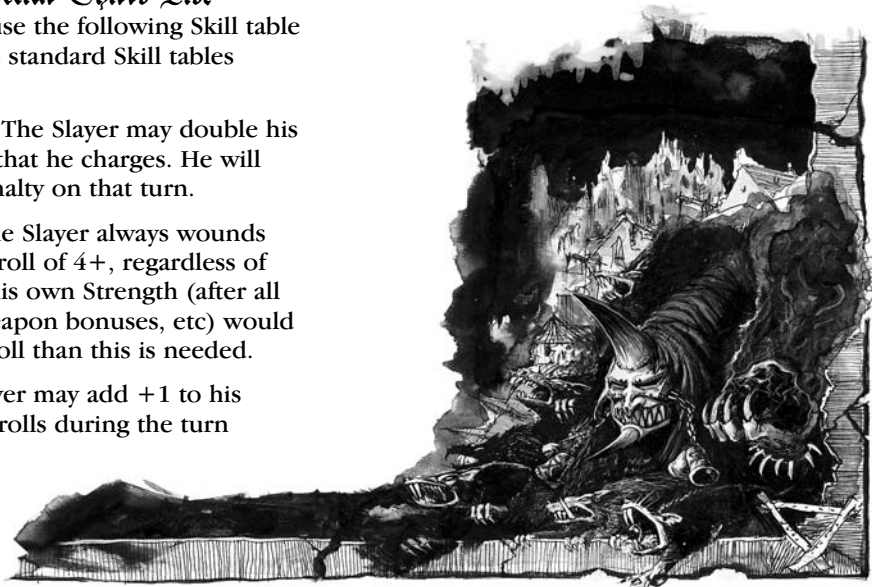
Weapon	Range	Strength
Javelin	10"	As User

#### SPECIAL RULES

**Thrown Weapon:** Does not suffer from to hit penalties for moving and shooting. May not be used in Close Combat.

#### Ogre maximum limits

Profile	M	WS	BS	S	T	W	I	A	Ld
Ogre	6	5	4	6	6	4	5	4	7



## Pit Fighters

### Special Skills:

Pit Fighter Heroes may use the following skill table instead of any of the standard skill tables available to them.

#### Pit Fighter Skills

**Bulging Biceps:** The Pit Fighter may ignore the entire 'heavy' weapons special rule penalty. The Strength bonus will now apply to all rounds in Close-Combat. So a Morning Star will give +1 Strength in all turns not only the first one.

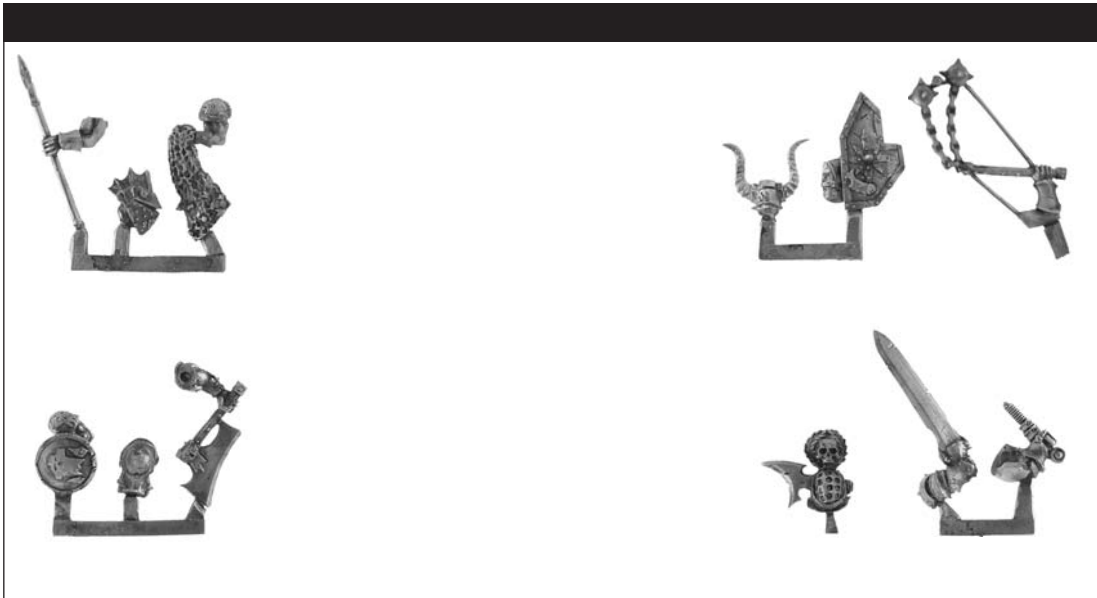
**Force of Will:** When the Pit Fighter loses his last wound and is taken Out-of-Action, he must roll a D6 equal or under his Toughness, each following round he has to roll again on his toughness but then with a -1 modifier for each subsequent round. If he succeeds he gets up and may continue to fight, when he gets taken Out-of-Action a second time he'll be removed as normal.

**Arms master:** The Pit Fighter may now ignore all 'difficult to use' rules for all weapons. This enables him to combine certain types of weapons, he can combine a Morning Star with buckler, or even a Morning Star with a Morning Star.

**Body Slam:** Instead of making a normal charge, the Pit Fighter may attempt to slam his opponent to the ground, he burrows his shoulder deep into his opponent's stomach. Instead of making his normal attacks the Pit fighter may make a single attack resolved as following: +1Str, +1 to Hit, no weapon bonuses or abilities. Critical hit on a 5+.

**Grizzled Veteran:** The Pit Fighter is used to fighting fearsome monsters and being cornered in the pit when there's no escape. He has been close to death so many times that he has made his peace and the thought of death no longer bothers him. The Pit Fighter is immune to all psychology.





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