



System-Neutral Open RPG License

We, the Interest Group Pen-&-Paper Roleplaying Game Publishers - consisting of Heinrich Tüffers Verlag, Manifest Games, Redaktion Phantastik, System Matters Verlag, Uhrwerk Verlag, Ulisses Spiele and the Verlag für Fantasy & Science Fiction-Spiele GbR - have noticed the announcement of Wizard of the Coast LCC (WotC) regarding the change of the existing Open Gaming License (OGL).^(1,2)

These planned changes will affect a large part of the German and international pen & paper industry and have an impact on the entire value chain of creators and publishers. In response, Paizo Inc. has announced that it will develop a system-neutral and open rules license for roleplaying games called Open RPG Creative License (ORC).⁽³⁾

It is important for pen & paper roleplaying publishers and the roleplaying community to develop a new open, perpetual and irrevocable rules system license for roleplaying games in parallel with the continuation and development of their own closed systems. The Open RPG Creative License (ORC) helps strengthen the pen & paper roleplaying community. Publishers have the choice to use and produce free and open systems as well as their own systems, or have a portfolio of both.

Paizo Inc. is working on the development of a new rules license, the Open RPG Creative License (ORC) within the framework of a new foundation/non-profit organization yet to be established. To ensure that the ORC also complies with European and German law, a legal evaluation is necessary. The development of a German translation of an ORC may also depend on this. Ulisses Spiele is working closely with Paizo Inc. and Azora Law to ensure that the ORC is also compatible with German law. The Interest Group Pen & Paper Roleplay Publishers welcomes this and is intensively involved in the discussions with other international publishers concerned

Our common aspiration is to shape a sustainable pen & paper roleplaying landscape. This includes the promotion of entertainment and creativity, the development of business models, a common representation of interests and ultimately the connection between people through pen & paper role-playing games.

This community of interest has been meeting for joint discussions since spring 2021. In 2022, we successfully conducted the online survey 'Pen & Paper Roleplay' with more than 7,500 participants as part of a market study.

Independently of our support of the ORC, we will carry out the foundation of a pen & paper role-playing association in the next few months, consisting of the members of this community of interest.

To contact the Pen & Paper Roleplaying Game Publishers Interest Group, please contact:
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(1) <https://www.dndbeyond.com/posts/1423-an-update-on-the-open-game-license-ogl>

(2) <https://www.dndbeyond.com/posts/1428-a-working-conversation-about-the-open-game-license>

(3) <https://paizo.com/community/blog/v5748dvo6si7v?Paizo-Announces-SystemNeutral-Open-RPG-License>