

Irish ST Chain guideline
23.04.2008

1: RANK & ROLES

The following are the Approval levels of each rank of the ST chain. Approvals come from the lowest rank up, not the other way around; in order for High approval item to be allowed, it must come through a VST first.

TOP: National Storyteller (NST)

The NST's job is to appoint people who will develop the specific venues, create cross-venue plots and setting materials, and interaction with the global Camarilla community.

HIGH: Assistant National Storyteller (ANST)

The role of the ANST is to develop the national plot and setting of their specific venue, and where possible to help establish new chapters around the country. They are also responsible for dealing with the global Camarilla community in the context of their venue. For the purpose of approvals, Mid approvals for venue-specific items rests with the venue ANSTs.

MID: Regional Storyteller (RST)

The role of RST is to co-ordinate what happens between venues in a region. This covers the goings on of local mortal groups, keeping track of whether one supernatural faction's actions would draw the attention of other factions or mortals, and keeping tabs on the amount of supernatural energies consumed in a region (ie, vitae, essence etc). RSTs do not have approval for in venue items, and their Mid approval only applies within the confines of their Region.

The position of RST is elected from within the serving STs in a region by the STs.

LOW: Venue Storyteller (VST)

The role of VST is to run the ongoing games at a chapter level. There is one VST per venue per chapter.

2: REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

As Ireland is a small country, it is commonplace for communication between all levels of the ST chain to happen, both formally and informally. Proper communication should occur in the following fashion:

VST => ANST => NST

Or

VST => RST=> NST

Reports are a necessary part of communication.

VST reports should contain:

- * ST name & venue
- * Date & location
- * Brief summary of events
- * Major points of note – anything that may have repercussions, like character death, property damage or other events that may cause the world to take notice.
- * Approvals needed – anything that needs to go up the ST chain for approval, or even items that are low approval but are worth mentioning.
- * Misc other comments

RST reports should contain:

- * ST name & venue
- * Date & location
- * Brief summary of events in region
- * Major points of note – anything that may have repercussions, like character death, property damage or other events that may cause the world to take notice.
- * Approvals needed – anything that needs to go up the ST chain for approval, or even items that are low approval but are worth mentioning.
- * Misc other comments

ANST reports should contain:

- * ST name & venue
- * Date
- * Brief summary of events of note
- * Major points of note – anything that may have repercussions, like character death, property damage or other events that may cause the world to take notice.

- * Approvals needed – anything that needs to go up the ST chain for approval, or even items that are low approval but are worth mentioning.
- * Plot ideas, major points of discussion at global level that the ANST considers worth mentioning.
- * Misc other comments

RST and ANST Reports are due on the 15th of the Month. This is so a report can be sent to the MST's office around the 20th.

3: MORTALS

While the IC material suggests mortals are food or less, in truth most of the supernatural's laws of concealment are for their own benefit, not the mortals. Mortals should not be treated as cannon-fodder for mass destruction; in this day and age, a single murder will draw down a Garda investigation. No amount of PC stupidity will break the Masquerade, but it will bring all kinds of inconveniences and witchhunters to their door.

Creating a single mortal or small group is low level approval; having them be part of a larger group or culture requires higher approval.

Garda Síochána

Even in the World of Darkness, the Garda do not routinely carry guns. They are, however, more likely to use their batons, will have next to no compunction about giving someone “a dig to shut them up”, and tend to travel in numbers.

Using “unnamed Gardai” (ie getting asked for ID, getting pulled over for a traffic offence) in a scene is Low approval. Creating a Garda NPC requires the approval of the RST; this is to prevent multiple identical NPCs existing due to a lack of communication where a single one could exist.

A Garda investigation (ie, into a murder) is Mid Approval. This will involve no more than 4-5 Garda at any given time, with maybe 10 others involved in a peripheral manner (coroner etc)

A Garda Operation (ie, using the CAB, setting up a taskforce) is Top Approval. This will involve 10-20 full time Garda and 20-40 others involved in a peripheral manner.

Having a Garda “heavy gang” is Mid approval.

Creation of a new Garda unit is Top approval.

The death of any Garda, NPC or PC, requires the NST be notified; such an incident is still a national affair.

PC Membership, past or present, of the Garda Síochána is Mid approval. Membership of any of the elite units is Top.

Military

The use of the Irish Defence Forces is Top Approval. The sole exception is for escorting of security vans; any planned observation requires Mid approval to succeed.

Possession of any modern functional military equipment is Top Approval. Obtaining military surplus from the Irish Army (such as bolt action rifles and vehicles) requires Mid approval.

PC Membership, past or present, of the Irish Defence Forces is Mid approval. Membership of any of the elite units is Top.

Government

Affecting any part of the Oireachtas, either the Dail or Seanad, is Top approval. TD or Senator retainers are Top approval.

Affecting the President of Ireland or any of the Presidential staff is Top approval.

County councils, and local councillors are Mid approval to affect.

Extended manipulation of major civil servants is Top Approval. Extended manipulation of minor civil servants is Mid approval, but they can have no more than status 2 and politics 3. Immediate manipulation of civil servants of any rank is Low approval, but these actions cannot have long term major consequences (ie, one could be Dominated to lose some paperwork, but that wouldn't stop an investigation, merely delay it a month).

District courts, Circuit courts and their Judges are Low approval to affect. The Superior Courts (ie The High Court, the Central Criminal Court, The Special Criminal Court, The Court of Criminal Appeal and the Supreme Court) and their Judges are all Top approval. All Tribunals are Top approval to affect.

PC Membership, past or present, of local government is Mid approval. Past or present membership of the Oireachtas is Top approval.

PC Party membership is Low approval.

Infrastructure

Affecting any of the following for a short period (ie, up to 4 hours) is Mid Approval, and limited to infrastructure in the RSTs region. Total shutdown at a national level for any amount of time or total destruction requires Top Approval.

Any Irish Airport
Any Irish power station
Any Motorways or Dual Carriageways (any M or N roads)
The power grid
The sewer system
Public monuments and parks
Any other sites extensively controlled by the government.

Media

Manipulating the local media is Mid approval. This includes local papers and radio stations.

Manipulating the national media requires Top Approval, and appropriate statuses. This includes all of RTE, The Irish Times, The Irish Independent, The Examiner and other wholly Irish based media.

Manipulating the Sun, Star, Mirror and Daily Mail requires Top approval and requires the UK ST chain be notified.

Currently, there are three fictional newspapers in Ireland:

The Viking: a Dublin based Tabloid

The Torch: a national low-market scandal rag that has a reputation for wild exaggeration

The Irish Eye: a conservative broadsheet.

All three have been extensively influenced by the supernatural, and thus require Low approval to affect.

Industry

Apart from the Status and resources requirements, affecting any major company in Ireland requires Top Approval, be they an Irish multinational or global company.

Breaking into one of these firms requires Mid approval with Top notification; the presence of any elements such as advanced technology or supernatural artefacts requires the relevant approval levels per item.

Gangland

STs should avoid “serial killers” in Irish plots; the Media tends towards labelling such actions as “gangland killings”.

Having influence a small criminal operation is Mid approval. This would include a gang who robs poorly secured venues, running a small number of brothels, and trade in minor illegal items like cigarettes.

Running a sizeable criminal empire is Top approval. This would include being a Mob boss, organising bank robberies, and major drug importing.

Proper membership of the IRA or any other Paramilitary Group, or having an Ally or Retainer, who is a member, is Top approval; Being a low level member (ie, drug dealer or safe house operator) or having Contacts who are IRA members is Mid approval.

Bringing illegal items into the country requires Mid approval for small scale operations, such as small amounts of drugs or small arms. Top approval is required for large scale operations such as extensive drug operations, shipments of weapons or unusual imports such as vehicles. This is regardless of how it is done, be it supernaturally or normally.

Obtaining illegal firearms is Mid for double barred shotguns, old style rifles and handguns, and top for SMGs, Machine Guns, modern handguns, modern shotguns, assault rifles, and military level equipment.

Making homemade explosives is Low approval with Mid notification. Buying homemade explosives is Mid approval. Obtaining properly made explosives (ie C4, Dynamite) is Top approval. Using explosives is at ST discretion; however, destruction of property requires Mid level approval for conventional properties, such as homes or shops, and Top approval for any national monument, hospitals, schools, or other public sites. Players who use explosives will be subject to the investigation of the Gardai and should be warned repeatedly before using them.

Obtaining melee weapons is Low approval for cheap knock offs, household appliances or cutlery (ie, they have penalties to use). Properly made melee weapons are Mid approval.

PC membership, past or present, of any Gangland organisation is Mid approval. PC membership, past or present, of the IRA or any other paramilitary organisation in Ireland is Top approval.

Property

Buying Property in Ireland is Mid approval. Buying a prominent private site is Top approval. Buying a national monument is impossible.

4: HISTORICAL AND MYTHICAL FIGURES

The use of any historical or mythical figures from Ireland is Top approval; this is to prevent multiple and contradictory uses of the same figure, and also to limit the number of "Mortals who were really ...". This includes embodiments major rivers, hills, towns and the like, as many of these are both Gods and places.

5: PLACES OF POWER

Places of Power are important sites, such as Loci, Verges, Hallows, and Hollows. They are always rare and contested. To create a Place of Power related to the venue (ie a Locus for Forsaken) requires the approval of the relevant RST, so as there are not too many in one local by accident. To create a Place of Power unrelated to the venue (ie a Locus in Changeling) requires approval from the relevant ANST. Creating a place of power still requires the normal approval level as well (ie, a VST cannot create a level 5 Hallow with the approval of the RST)

6: THE SHADOW

The Shadow, while predominantly the domain of Forsaken, can be accessed by nearly all venues in one manner or another. Like the mortal world, it is possible for certain spirit NPCs to be cross-venue characters, rather than creating multiple identical spirits unnecessarily.

Rank 1-4 spirits is Low approval, but requires notifying the relevant RST. Rank 5 spirits are High Approval, but requires notifying the NST.

Any PCs who cross the Gauntlet repeatedly or frivolously should be mentioned to the RST; if they are active in the Shadow, it is likely they will have dealings with NPCs and may develop a reputation or do something that has cross venue repercussions, even if minor.

7: CROSS VENUE APPROVALS

No matter how dense the supernatural population is in Ireland, it is still an exceedingly small community. Using elements from another venue requires TOP approval from the relevant venue; ie, if you want to use a vampire antagonist in a venue other than Requiem, you need to get approval from the ANST Requiem.

8: WOD MATERIAL

The only exception to the Cross-venue approval rule is WOD-specific material. Any venue may use the supernatural antagonists presented at the normal approval level. The supernatural world does not solely consist of the creatures that make societies; in fact, more “uncivilised” creatures should exist than the ones that have a semblance of humanity. The maxim “Not every vampire is a Kindred, not every shapechanger is Uratha, not every magician is Awakened, and not every living corpse is Promethean” should be heeded. The less material straight out of the book, the less meta-gaming occurs.

Any non-venue creatures, like ghosts, cryptids, or mortal thaumaturges, that may have cross venue-applications, should be mentioned to the relevant RST.

9: A FINAL POINT

The games we run are about having fun and roleplaying, not who can amount the biggest toys or attack powers. STs should have no problem refusing players if the request is counter-productive to the flow of the game, or would disrupt another venue unnecessarily.

Similarly, having a mechanically more powerful character should not outweigh a well-conceived character; STs should use their judgement on whether a request is within the concept of the character or not.

The ST is the person who needs to run the game for all participants; while no player should feel excluded, at the same time no one player should be allowed dominate the game or the STs attention.