# OPS-01: Formation & Governance

## The Founding Governance Package

*The governance decisions a founding group must settle once — before recruiting a member or facing real pressure.*

**BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT**

OPS-01 is the MAG Planning foundation course: it teaches a founding group to settle governance before it is tested — purpose and scope, legal structure, role authority and succession, decision-making models, SOP priorities, and membership governance. It is not legal advice, not member vetting (SEC-01), and not activation procedure (OPS-02).

**A founding decision made once is far cheaper than the same decision made for the first time during a crisis.**

A group of prepared individuals is not a governed MAG. Without named authority, criteria, and a documented process, a five-minute disagreement becomes the one that ends the group — usually when it can least afford it. Settling it in advance costs an afternoon; under pressure it costs the group.

*A group that has never decided who decides has already decided: whoever is loudest, or whoever is present.*

### KEY CONCEPTS

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| **Founding Governance Package** | The documents a MAG adopts as this course's capstone — purpose statement, role/succession chart, decision-tier charter, SOP set, and code of conduct. |
| **Devolution of Authority** | Pre-naming an alternate leader to hold decision authority when the primary is unavailable, adapted from continuity-of-government doctrine. |
| **Decision Tier** | Assigning a decision-making model — consensus, majority vote, or command authority — to a decision category, chosen deliberately rather than by default. |
| **Compartmentalization** | Limiting which members hold sensitive information — set as founding policy, monitored under SEC-05. |

### COURSE LESSONS

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| **01** | **Why Groups Fail Before They Start** | Authority vacuum, unbounded membership, undocumented decisions — the three failure patterns, and why they can't wait for a crisis. |
| **02** | **Purpose, Scope & Founding Criteria** | Drafting a purpose statement that constrains scope, setting founding criteria, and sizing the group before recruiting begins. |
| **03** | **Legal Structure & Formalization** | Unincorporated association vs. LLC vs. nonprofit, compared plainly — and the mutual aid agreement that matters regardless of wrapper. |
| **04** | **Role Structure & Authority** | Assigning roles across the six FFTP pillars, defining authority per role, and building succession so no single absence breaks the group. |
| **05** | **Decision-Making Frameworks** | Consensus, majority vote, and command authority — tiered by decision type, plus a pre-delegated emergency protocol for activation. |
| **06** | **SOP Development** | What belongs in an SOP vs. a charter vs. a field card, the pre-activation SOP priority list, and a house format for drafting them. |
| **07** | **Membership Governance & Conflict Resolution** | Phased trust, code of conduct, graduated discipline, and a documented removal process — policy handed to SEC-01 and SEC-05 for execution. |
| **08** | **Capstone: The Founding Governance Package** | A complete governance package — purpose, legal structure, role/succession chart, decision tiers, SOP set, and code of conduct — ready to adopt. |

### DOCTRINAL SOURCES

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| **FM 6-22** | Dept. of the Army (2015 ed.) | Leadership doctrine underlying this course's role and succession framework. |
| **Robert's Rules of Order** | Newly Revised (12th ed.) | Parliamentary procedure adapted for MAG decision-tiering and meetings. |
| **National Continuity Policy (FCD 1)** | Federal continuity doctrine | Source of the devolution-of-authority and layered-redundancy model this course scales down to MAG size. |
| **FEMA NIMS Doctrine** | Dept. of Homeland Security | Cross-references OPS-03's incident-command activation structure. |