



The Professor's Minute

Welcome to the Pokémon League! A Pokémon League provides a nearby place for you to get together with other fans of both the Pokémon Trading Card Game and the Pokémon video games, and have some fun. Using your own cards and Pokémon video games, you can play, trade, and even earn cool prizes! The best part is that you can do all this with other Pokémon players who love collecting and playing just as much as you do.

JULY-AUGUST 2016

Latest News



Pokemon Leagues

See our list of Pokemon Leagues in our area. Feel free to visit them when you get the chance.



National Pokemon Championships

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Pokémon US National Championships, happening July 1-3 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.



World Pokemon Championships

August 19-21, 2016 - Pokémon TCG or Video Game World Champion! The three-day event will take place at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel.

League Spot Light...

Central Clemson League
League Owner - Heath Ward

The league meets at the Central Clemason Library located at 105 Commons Way, Central, SC 29630. They meet the second and fourth Monday of the month from 6p-8p. Check them out!

League Spot Light...

The Central League
League Owner Rudy!

The Central League is a great and up coming league. Located at Geek Out Games 1276 Eighteen Mile Rd, Central, SC 29630, near the Walmart in Central. The league is every Wednesday from 530p-8p. Check them out!



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Season And Tournament Schedule

Season List

Closure Season - July 1st - July 31st

Steam Season - August 1st - August 31st

Gear Season - September 1st - September 30th

Tournament List

July 16th - Easley League Challenge. Registration 9:30a till 10:30a.

Easley Library, Main Meeting Room, 304 Biltmore Rd, Easley, SC 29640.

August 20th - Easley League Challenge. Registration 9:30a till 10:30a.

Easley Library, Main Meeting Room, 304 Biltmore Rd, Easley, SC 29640.

August 27th - PCPL League Challenge - Planet Comics - 2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621, Registration at 1p.

Mythical Pokemon Download

July Download

You can get the Mythical Pokémon Shaymin via Nintendo Network with the same moves as when it debuted in Pokémon Diamond and Pokémon Pearl. Shaymin will arrive in its Land Form. Take the Pokémon to a family on Route 123 in your Pokémon Omega Ruby or Pokémon Alpha Sapphire game to receive the Gracidea flower, capable of changing Shaymin into Sky Form.

Download Shaymin via Nintendo Network beginning July 1, 2016, for your Pokémon Omega Ruby, Pokémon Alpha Sapphire, Pokémon X, or Pokémon Y game. The Pokémon will be available only until July 24, 2016, so don't miss this opportunity!

August Download

Visit participating GameStop stores to get a code that will unlock the Mythical Pokémon Arceus in your game! Arceus originally appeared in Pokémon Diamond and Pokémon Pearl. Arceus can become any Pokémon type while holding a corresponding Plate, which can be discovered in various locations across Hoenn in Pokémon Omega Ruby and Pokémon Alpha Sapphire.

The Mythical Pokémon Arceus will be available at participating GameStop stores starting August 1, 2016. Visit GameStop to pick up a code that will unlock Arceus in your Pokémon Omega Ruby, Pokémon Alpha Sapphire, Pokémon X, or Pokémon Y game. Be sure to redeem

Newsletter and Pokemon League Contact:

Jeff Crump, Professor, League Owner, Tournament Organizer

Phone: 864-324-2369 or Email: easleypokemongym@gmail.com

Website: www.easleypokemongym.tk



Pokemon League In Anderson

Pokemon League is a wonderful place to share your love of Pokemon with others. We have six Pokemon Leagues here in the Upstate. Anderson, SC has a league and the league is growing. The league is the Planet Comics Pokemon League at Planet Comics, 2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621. The league is referenced to as PCPL. The league meets Sundays from 2:30p-5:30p. The league is operated by Mr. Jeff and Ms. Penny from the Easley Pokemon League. PCPL plays both the TCG and VG Pokemon Games. PCPL also has just added a trade box much like the one at the Easley League. The league averages 12 players each week. Mostly younger players. We are proud of the way the league is growing and the venue in which the league is held. The venue is making more room in there play area. So we'll be able to grow comfortably. Please come out to PCPL on a Sunday afternoon for more Pokemon fun. We'll see you there.

How To Build A Pokemon Deck

When building your deck, you have three options for deck formats:

- unlimited format (almost any non-counterfeit card can be included)
- standard format (newer cards, tournament legal)
- expanded format (a wider range of cards, also tournament legal) your code in your game by November 30, 2016!

We ask that whenever possible you play with a tournament legal deck (standard or expanded), for a few reasons. These are the easiest cards to find, newer Pokémon cards are more powerful and can win more easily against older cards, and it encourages players to experiment with new strategies and Pokémon. Plus, if you decide to play in tournaments, your deck will be tested and ready to go! No matter what, tell your opponent what deck format you're using before you begin battling.

Sometimes it isn't possible to play with tournament legal deck, such as when you inherit cards from an older sibling and don't want to or can't buy new ones. Or perhaps you want to practice playing a world championship deck to see how all the cards work together. In these situations, please tell your opponent before the match that your deck is not tournament legal. He or she can decide to not play against that deck.

Basic Deck Building Rules



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How To Build A Pokemon Deck - Continued

1. A deck must have exactly 60 cards.
2. There must be at least one basic Pokémon.
3. There can be no more than four cards with the same name (except basic energy cards or specific cards that have limits on how many can be in a deck, like Ace Spec cards).

Additional Rules for Building a Standard Format Deck (2015-2016 season)

1. Cards must exist in the standard or expanded sets, plus any new ones that are released. Expanded format adds to this list by including all sets from Black and White on. Please see league leaders for help; it is a bit confusing!

NOTE: There are older cards that are still legal because they were reprinted in a legal set. This can also get confusing. Search the Internet for "pokegym legal reprint" to find a full list or ask us.

2. You may use older cards if they have been reprinted in one of the above sets. Use the newest wording on the card when playing. For example, an old Potion card says it heals 20 damage. The reprint says to heal 30 damage. If you use an old Potion in your deck you still get to heal 30 damage.

3. You may not have any foreign language cards in your deck.

4. If you sleeve your deck, you must sleeve your deck completely with identical sleeves. Note that only clear or solid colour sleeves or official Pokémon sleeves with solid coloured edges are legal sleeves for Premier tournaments, with the exception of Pre-releases.

5. Using lots of proxy cards is not preferred (a few to test out a new idea is fine or for keeping very expensive cards safe at home while you play at league). Nor are any cards marked "not legal for tournament play," like World Championship cards. Counterfeit cards are never allowed at any Pokémon event, leagues, or tournaments. To learn how to detect fakes, visit www.pokegym.net for a great tutorial or ask your League Owner. If the price for a single booster pack is less than \$3, it's probably fake.

Basic Deck Building Advice

1. Start with the 20/20/20 Rule [20 Pokémon, 20 Energy, 20 Trainer item/supporter/stadium]. After you test out the deck against a few different ones, you can tweak it. Usually players end up removing some Energy and

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Steam Siege Prerelease



Steam Siege, and the Japanese equivalent Fever-Burst Fighter - Cruel Traitor, are the twelfth and eleventh expansions of the English XY Series and the Japanese XY Era, respectively, and the fourth of XY BREAK. The set continues to

feature Mega Evolution as powerful Pokémon-EX and marks the début of the Steam Pokémon Volcanion in the TCG. It was released in Japan on June 17, 2016, and will be released August 3, 2016 in English. Steam Siege contains over 114 cards, while Fever-Burst Fighter - Cruel Traitor have 59 cards per set.

The expansion reintroduces dual-type cards to the TCG, a mechanic last seen in the Triumphant expansion of the HeartGold & SoulSilver Series. It also features Magearna ahead of its appearance in the Generation VII core games.

Steam Siege has 6 new Pokémon-EX, including 2 Mega Evolution Pokémon, 7 new Pokémon BREAK cards, and 8 dual-type Pokémon cards.

Steam Siege Pre-release

July 23rd - Planet Comics - 2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621, Registration at 1p. Preregister at <http://www.planetcomics.net/catalog/pokemon/5483>. Preregistration is \$30, day of the pre-release will be \$35.

July 30th - Planet Comics - 2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621, Registration at 1p. Preregister at <http://www.planetcomics.net/catalog/pokemon/5483>. Preregistration is \$30, day of the pre-release will be \$35

When you come to the pre-release you will get

One pre release box containing...

- 1 22-card Evolution pack featuring key cards from current and prior sets
- 4 XY—Steam Siege booster packs
- 1 of 4 alternate-art promo cards
- 1 deck-building tip sheet

Each player gets 1 Pre-release box, and allow 20–30 minutes for deck building.

You will build a 40 card deck and play in a three round tournament. During the tournament, games are played with 4 Prize cards rather than the usual 6. Basic Energy cards included

At the conclusion of the tournament, each player receives 3 additional booster packs as a participation prize.



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About League Challenges

League Challenge tournaments are designed to provide players with small, entry-level events on a local scale. These events are a great way to get your feet wet in the world of Premier Events. The league challenge is the perfect venue for new players to get tournament experience.

In the Pokémon Trading Card Game League Challenge tournaments, players in each of the three recognized age divisions can work toward earning Championship Points, potentially earning an invitation to the World Championships!

The Pokémon TCG League Challenge tournaments in North America will be taking place all year long, usually at the end of each League season. To find times and locations of League Challenge events in our area, check out our Facebook page, website, newsletters or our calendars.

TCG League Challenge events

League Challenge events will typically be held once per season at select League locations all year long. There is a registration period, afterwards players play in Swiss rounds to determine the winner of the tournament. These tournaments usually last most of the day. Some league challenges have a lunch break.

Are there any requirements for attendance?

Be sure to check the tournament listings for details. Some League Challenges will offer priority to existing League members, and some may have other special rules or promotions. Players need to bring their own legal 60-card deck, counters, condition markers, player ID, and prepare a deck list for registration.

What is the entry fee?

Most of our League Challenges in our area are free of charge. Some League Challenges attended in other areas may charge a fee. All players will be required to pay a fee, if charged. Usually for the TCG and VG tournaments. See the tournament listings for details.

What are the prizes?

Prizes are awarded to the top players in each of three age divisions. Players must have a Pokémon Trainer Club account with a Player ID attached, and must have opted in to the Play! Pokémon program in order to earn points and prizes. All participants will receive 1 Play! Point just for playing, and the top four players in each age division will win a special promo card.

- 1st Place - A Pokémon TCG 1st Place promo card
- 2nd Place - A Pokémon TCG 2nd Place promo card
- 3rd Place - A Pokémon TCG 3rd Place promo card
- 4th Place - A Pokémon TCG 4th Place promo card

For more information please see our league leaders or find details at www.pokemon.com.

How To Build A Deck - Continued

Pokémon cards to make room for more Trainers. Tournament decks usually have at least 30 Trainer cards.

2. Successful decks usually stick with two Pokémon types (e.g. fire, metal) plus colourless. A streamlined deck lets you get the right kind of energy you need to power up your Pokémon. Make sure that not all your Pokémon have weakness to the same type.

3. It's better to have multiple copies of the same Pokémon than 20 different Pokémon, especially if you have evolution chains. That way, you increase your chances of drawing the cards you need when you need them. For example, if you like Emboar (a Stage 2 Pokémon), it's a good idea to have 4 Tepig (Basic Pokémon), 3-4 Pignite (Stage 1 Pokémon), and 3-4 Emboar in your deck so you have a better chance of drawing the card you need when you want to evolve it. If you don't have the Basic from which your Stage 2 evolves, you can't ever play the Stage 2. Of course, you will need the Stage 1 Pokémon also. Be sure to have at least 10 Basic Pokémon; only Basic Pokémon can start on the field. Remember you can't have more than four of any type of card except for basic Energy cards.

4. To make a coherent deck, look for cards that work well together. For example, if you have a Pokémon with an attack that requires you to discard energy, include Trainer cards that let you retrieve Energy cards from your discard pile. There are also combinations of Pokémon that can help each other. Look to see if one Pokémon has an Ability that can help another.

Please see League Owner or League Leaders, or any of our experienced players for help. We know this can be confusing when you get started. We promise, it gets easier and more fun!

Original article done by Rebecca Cartwright, League Owner of Ace Trainers League Fremont, NC League...

Leagues Supported By The Following...

Geek Out Games	Planet Comics
1276 Eighteen Mile Rd, Central, SC 29630	2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621
Pokemon TCG Merchandise	Comics, Games, Pokemon TCG Merchandise