



THE PROFESSOR'S MINUTE

Pokémon League is a fun and accessible way for Pokémon fans to get together and have some fun! League events are open to all Pokémon TCG and video game players regardless of experience level or skill. 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.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018



September League Promo

September 2018 Promo card for this season will be the Buzzwole #77. Be sure to get a new score sheet at the beginning of each month and update your score sheet often. Check in with the league leader table to ensure you are getting your play points



October League Promo

October 2018 Promo card for this season will be the Guzlord #80. Be sure to get a new score sheet at the beginning of each month and update your score sheet often. Check in with the league leader table to ensure you are getting your play points

The name of our eighth English Sun & Moon set will be Lost Thunder! It will release in America and Europe on November 2nd.



The set will feature Lugia-GX, Blacephalon-GX, Zeraora-GX, Tyranitar-GX, Ditto Prism Star, and Celebi Prism Star. Its set description reads, "Travel to the forested hills, where the fragrance of incense from ancient shrines and the sparks of high-voltage Pokémon fill the air!"

Lost Thunder will be based on Japan's SM8 Explosive Impact, which will release on September 7th — the set will feature Johto and is confirmed to include Lugia-GX and Blacephalon-GX. Lost Thunder will also be based on SM7a Thunderclap Spark, which released on July 6th and included Zeraora-GX and Ditto Prism Star.

Lost Thunder Prerelease tournaments have been scheduled for our area. They are as follows:

Greenville - The Red Barn 2333 N Pleasantburg Dr Suite A, Greenville, SC 29609. Cost \$30. You may reserve your spot at the store or call (864) 412-7887.

Anderson - Planet Comics 2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621 - Cost \$25 (plus tax) - (864) 261-3578

October 20th, 2018 - 1p
October 23rd, 2018 - 5p
October 27th, 2018 - 1p

October 20th, 2018 - 2p
October 21st, 2018 - 2p
October 27th, 2018 - 2p
October 28th, 2018 - 2p

You can also RSVP at our website at www.easleypokemongym.gq, on our Pokémon Tournament Central page.

Pokemon League Halloween Party

Halloween is coming...We are planning our Halloween Parties at several Pokémon Leagues in Easley and Greenville. The Red Barn Halloween Party will be on October 23rd, 2018 at 6p. The Easley Pokémon League Halloween party will be on October 25th, 2018 at 530p. We are looking to recruit players and families to help make these parties a success. These will be potluck parties. Please let Professor Jeff if you can bring something to the party. We are looking for Halloween treats of all kinds, cupcakes, candy, drinks and other Halloween related items. There will be a Pokémon related Halloween costume contest. We hope to have some cool prizes for the winners. Check our website at www.easleypokemongym.gq for more information.



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Pokemon Tournament Central

September

- 1 - League Challenge - Standard Greenville - Red Barn
- 15 - League Challenge - Standard Easley - Easley Library

October

- 6 - League Challenge - Expanded Greenville - Red Barn
- 20 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 20 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 21 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 23 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 27 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 27 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 28 - Lost Thunder Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics

November

- 3 - League Challenge - Standard Greenville - Red Barn
- 10 - Operation Pikaclus Charity Tournament - Unlimited - Greenville
- 17 - League Challenge - Standard - Greenville

December

- 1 - League Challenge - Expanded Greenville - Red Barn
- 15 - League Challenge - Expanded Easley - Easley Library

Pokemon GO Community Day

What is Pokémon Go's Community Day event?

Designed to get players out and playing at a certain time, each limited-time event will offer featured Pokémon with a unique and exclusive move that will spawn for three hours, alongside a resource bonus - such as double XP, Stardust or Lure Modules - as incentives to get out there and playing.



September 22, 2018 and October 21, 2018 will be the next Pokémon Go Community Day. Be sure to check the Pokémon League monthly calendar and our website for more information on these exciting events.

The Red Shed Coffee Shop

COFFEE...COFFEE...COFFEE....

The Red Shed Coffee Shop is now open at the Captain Hampton Memorial Library in Easley. Be sure to get to league early and get to the shop for a great cup of coffee, food, snacks, or a drink. Be sure when you see Lee or Blake, tell them your with the Pokémon League and thank them for their support of the Pokémon League.

Deck Lab - Basic Deck Building

All Pokémon decks must follow these basic rules:

- The deck must contain exactly 60 cards. No more, no less.
- The deck must contain at least one Basic Pokémon.
- Except for Basic Energy Cards, you can only have up to four cards with the same name.

Deck Breakdown

There are several types of Pokémon cards, with each having its own abilities, strengths, and weaknesses. Some can be played right away, others once a turn, and some need several turns to charge up for awesome effects.

The Pokémon Trading Card Game can be split into three different card types:

Pokémon cards, which are the individual Pokémon you use to battle with.

Trainer cards, which are the tools and utility cards you use to help your deck work and flow. Energy cards, which power up your Pokémon cards' attacks.

Pokémon's typing become important because it may increase or decrease damage.

Often given them an advantage over certain types while having a weakness to others.

There are just thirteen types in the Pokémon Trading Card game, with many Pokémon falling under a broader type rather than a smaller type like Ice or Bug. The types are:

- Colorless (Covers Normal and Flying types)
- Darkness (Dark)
- Dragon
- Fairy
- Fighting (Which covers the Ground and Rock types)
- Fire
- Grass (Which covers Bug)
- Lightning (Electric)
- Psychic (Which covers Poison and Ghost)
- Metal (Steel)
- Water (Which covers Ice)

Almost all Pokémon cards have a weakness that lets certain types take double damage from another. So a Firetype takes double damage from Water, for example. A Pokémon deck can have Pokémon with multiple weakness.

Many Pokémon cards also have a resistance, which means they take less damage, typically twenty less, than normal from a certain type. Weakness and resistance are important pieces of strategy and help with your matchups to other Pokémon Decks.

A Breakdown Of Pokemon

Basic Pokémon Cards

Basic Pokémon cards are the easiest, often simplest kind of Pokémon cards, and the only type that every deck needs. Just because something's a basic Pokémon doesn't



Deck Lab - Deck Building Basic - Continued

mean it's bad. Because these are the Pokémon that require the least support and are the easiest to get into play, often Basic Pokémon cards are the foundation for entire decks because the player can get them out quickly and start racking up damage. Furthermore, Basic Pokémon can be played immediately onto your bench during your turn. You can play as many basics as you want as long as you stay within the usual five Pokémon bench limit. As a whole, basic Pokémon cards are popular, simple to use, and a good starting point for a deck.

Stage One Pokémon Cards

Stage One Pokémon cards are evolved Pokémon that often have a few edges over their previous evolutions. These improvements can include more attacks, stronger attacks, more HP, a smaller retreat cost, a useful ability, and more! At any time during your turn, before you attack, if you have the evolved Pokémon in your hand you can place it on top of the basic to evolve, if it has been out more than one turn.

Stage Two Pokémon Cards

These cards can have large HP totals, more or better attacks, and incredible abilities, making them the raw power an entire deck can be dedicated around. Looking at each Pokémon card's ability is an important factor when deciding whether to find space in your 60card deck. Some abilities can even be used multiple times during a game, or provide a constant effect for your side of the field. (Sometimes, Pokémon in each stage may have an ability.) It usually takes at least two turns just to get a Stage Two onto the field, more than enough time for your opponent to KO a previous evolution or disrupt your hand to make it even harder to evolve. (Using a Trainer Card such as Rare Candy, you can evolve from Basic to a Stage 2 and can eliminate Stage 1 from your deck. Allowing you to increase your chances to evolve your Pokémon faster.) You'll have needed to place the Basic Pokémon down first, have the Stage One in your hand one turn, then the Stage Two in your hand the next just to get it into play. With all the work needed, these cards are the definition of high effort, high reward. Stage Two cards are extremely powerful, but the amount of support they need may make them unfit for a deck. If you have certain trainer cards in hand you can sometimes get to a Stage 2 Pokémon rather quickly.

In the November-December 2018 newsletter we will continue to talk about Basic Deck building. We will cover other types of Pokémon cards such as EX, Mega Ex, BREAK, GX Pokémon, and Prism Star cards. If you have any questions please see Professor Jeff or any other League Leaders.

September-October Legendary Distribution

Two Legendary Pokémon will be distributed during the months of September and October 2018. They will be for September - Latios and Latias and for October Reshiram and Zekrom. These usually are codes distributed through Game Stop codes or even codes from Target. We will announce the events as they approach.

Pokemon Switch Games

Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee share a lot with Pokémon Go, they utilize Pokémon Go's Pokémon capture mechanics, meaning you throw Poké Balls at wild Pokémon to catch them rather than battling them. You can also connect the Let's Go games to Pokémon Go via a Bluetooth connection, and you can transfer Pokémon from Pokémon Go into Let's Go (though not the other way around). Pokémon appear in the overworld before you can initiate capturing them, and you can send gifts to Pokémon Go from Let's Go as well.

However, the Let's Go games are Pokémon RPGs, and you explore the Kanto region just as you would in Red and Blue. While you can't battle wild Pokémon, you can battle NPCs and other players, and those battles use the turn-based system of the main Pokémon games. You get experience points both from catching Pokémon as well as battling other trainers, though the leveling system hasn't been finalized yet.

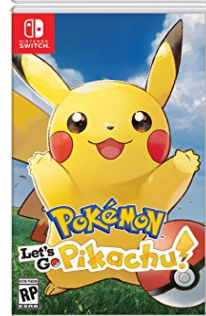
Pokémon Go is not required to play the Let's Go games. When catching Pokémon in docked mode, you do have to use motion controls to throw Poké Balls. In handheld mode, motion-control aiming (using the gyroscope) is required, but you use the Joy-Con's buttons to actually throw the ball.

The first 150 Pokémon as well as their Alolan forms from Sun and Moon would appear in Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee.

Mew will be available in the Let's Go games via the Poké Ball Plus controller. Every Poké Ball Plus will come with a Mew already stored on the device, and this is the only way to get Mew in the Let's Go games-- you won't be able to transfer Mew from Pokémon Go to Let's Go.

Your starter Pikachu or Eevee cannot evolve in the Let's Go games. However, other Pikachu or Eevee you catch or transfer can be evolved. Only Jolteon, Flareon, and Vaporeon are available out of Eevee's eight current evolutions.

Pokémon Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee release on Nintendo Switch on November 16. Releasing alongside them (but sold separately) is the Poké Ball Plus controller, which is a Joy-Con-like peripheral you can use when catching Pokémon.



PLAY! POKÉMON

See our website at www.easleypokemongym.gq for information on all of the Pokémon in our area.



New Pokemon League - Empire Games Pokemon League - Anderson

Starting in September 2018 a new Pokemon League has been created in Anderson, SC at Empire Games. The Empire Games Pokemon League will meet on Saturday's from 2p-6p. Entry into this Pokemon League is Free. Empire Games is located at 118 N McDuffie St, Anderson, SC 29621. Stop by the store or call (864) 328-9418.

When attending this Pokemon League if you play three different opponents, you will receive a prize.

We look forward to working with this new and exciting Pokemon League.

More information on our website at www.easleypokemongym.gq.

Pokemon 2019 Set Rotation and Ban Card List

The 2019 season started on July 9, 2018, so players can get an early start on working toward the 2019 Pokémon World Championships. However, the rotation will not occur until August 28, 2018.

The Standard format for the 2019 season will consist of the following expansions:

- Sun & Moon and any expansions released afterward
- Black Star Promo cards numbered SM01 and up

Cards from the following products are also legal:

- Shining Legends
- Sun & Moon Trainer Kit—Lycanroc & Alolan Raichu
- McDonald's Collection 2017

New expansions become legal for tournament play on the third Friday of the month they are released.

Banned Pokemon Card List

Adjustments will be made to the Expanded format following the release of the Sun & Moon--Celestial Storm expansion released for August 3, 2018. Effective August 17, four cards will be added to the banned list for the Expanded format:

- Ghetsis (Black & White--Plasma Freeze, 101/116 and 115/116)
- Hex Maniac (XY--Ancient Origins, 75/98 and 75a/98)
- Puzzle of Time (XY--BREAKpoint, 109/122)
- Wally (XY--Roaring Skies, 94/108 and 107/108; Generations, RC27/RC32)

No changes are announced to the Standard format at this time.

"The overall goal of the Expanded format is to have a fun environment where players can enjoy using a wide variety of strategies. Ghetsis and Hex Maniac were identified as cards that stifle creativity and prevent several kinds of strategies from being viable. These cards also have the potential to make a major negative impact on an opponent

Pokemon 2019 Set Rotation and Ban Card List

before they get a chance to take their first turn, which can lead to a frustrating experience. Wally enables a combo with Trevenant that creates similar problems, so it falls into this category as well. Without these cards in the environment, hopefully gameplay will become more enjoyable."

"Puzzle of Time is a flexible card that can be used in a wide variety of strategies. Its usage rate is quite high in popular decks, and it enables a lot of powerful combos. Removing this card from the environment will affect how many decks are constructed, which will hopefully make the Expanded format feel fresh and different."

Tournament results will continue to be analyzed to maintain a healthy play environment. In particular, the Expanded format will be aggressively monitored because there are so many cards and potential combinations available to use.

Multiple sources used for this article...www.pokemon.com and <https://sites.google.com/site/virginiapokemon/home/announcements01131213/expandedbanlistchanges-1>

Leagues Supported By The Following...

The Red Shed Coffee Shop is now open at the Captain Hampton Memorial Library in Easley. Get to the shop for a great cup of coffee, snacks, or a drink. Located inside the Library.

Boardwalk
1175 Woods Crossing Rd, Greenville, SC
29607
(864) 297-6924

Boardwalk offers a large selection of games and has a great selection of Pokemon TCG and related products.

Da Zoo Games
1003 Gentry Memorial Hwy. Easley, SC
29640
(864) 553-0190

Games for the entire family. Pokemon singles and other Pokemon products available.

The Red Barn
2333 N. Pleasantburg
Dr, Greenville, SC 29609
(864) 412-7887

The Red Barn located across from Home Depot on N. Pleasantburg Dr carries a great selection of Pokemon, Magic the Gathering, War Hammer, Jewelry and Art. Coffee and snacks as well. Safe and clean. Very family friendly.

Planet Comics
2704 N Main St, Anderson, SC 29621
Comics, Games, Pokemon Singles and TCG Merchandise

EMPIRE GAMES
118 N McDuffie St, Anderson, SC 29621
Phone: (864) 328-9418

We provide a well lit, well stocked, clean environment to enjoy your favorite tabletop games with your friends!

The Pickens County Library system, Captain Hampton Memorial Library staff, we thank you for all that you do and have done for the league over the years. Heath we really appreciate all your efforts and hard work in our league. May we continue to find more Pokemon adventures into the future.