



# 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.*

January - February 2019



## January League Promo

January Promo card for this season will be the Metagross #95. 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



## February League Promo

February 2019 Promo card for this season will be the Steven's Resolve Trainer Card #145. 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

## Pokemon Sun & Moon Team Up Prerelease

Sun & Moon- Team Up is the upcoming expansion to the series. The set will have six TAG TEAM Pokémon-GX, six more Pokémon-GX, four Prism Star cards, and more than 25 Trainer cards. Hoopa-GX, Cobalion-GX, Incineroar-GX and Lycanroc-GX will be in the set. This set will also introduce a new Tag Team game mechanic. The mechanic pairs two Pokémon on a single card to deliver extremely powerful attacks. However, if your Tag Team Pokémon-GX card gets knocked out, your opponent takes three prizes, offering a high-risk-high-reward mechanic. The Tag Team cards include Eevee & Snorlax-GX, Latias & Latios-GX, Gengar & Mimikyu-GX, Celebi & Venusaur-GX, Magikarp & Wailord-GX, and Pikachu & Zekrom-GX.

The Team Up set is scheduled to release on February 1. Elite Trainer Boxes will also be made available.

Sun & Moon - Team Up Pre-release Tournaments are being scheduled for:

### Greenville

Red Barn 2333 N. Pleasantburg Dr  
Greenville, SC 29609  
(864) 412-7887  
Cost \$30

January 19th - 1p (20 Spots)  
January 22nd - 6p (20 Spots)  
January 26th - 1p (20 Spots)  
January 27th - 330p (10 Spots)

### Anderson

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

January 19th - 2p  
January 20th - 2p  
January 27th - 2p  
January 28th - 2p

Be sure to reserve your spot for these pre-release. With this new game mechanic I'm sure spots for this prerelease will go fast.





## Pokemon Event Central

### January 2019

- 5 - League Challenge - Standard - Greenville, Red Barn
- 19 - Prerelease- Greenville - Red Barn
- 19 - Prelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 20- Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 22- Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 26- Prerelease - Greenville - Red Barn
- 26 - Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics
- 27 - Prerelease - Anderson - Planet Comics

### February 2019

- 2 - League Challenge - Expanded - Greenville - Red Barn

### March 2019

- 2 - League Challenge - Standard - Greenville - Red Barn

### April 2019

- 6 - League Challenge - Expanded - Greenville - Red Barn

## Pokemon Video Game - Get Rare Berries

Starting early January of 2019, Pokémon fans will be able to take part in a Berry exciting event (see what we did there?). Players of Pokémon Ultra Sun, Pokémon Ultra Moon, Pokémon Sun, and Pokémon Moon will have the opportunity to get a Mystery Gift containing a selection of special Berries that have previously been unavailable in the games. The Mystery Gift contains an Enigma Berry, a Micle Berry, a Custap Berry, a Jaboca Berry, and a Rowap Berry. Each of these rare Berries has useful effects when held by a Pokémon, but you may not want to use any right away. By traveling to Poké Pelago in your game, you can plant the Berries to grow more of them. With proper maintenance, your supply of these handy items will never run dry.

Competitive players will be pleased to learn that these Berries can be used in Pokémon Global Link Rating Battles and Online Competitions (unless the regulations state otherwise). They can also be used for the 2019 Video Game Championship Series from the Moon Series onward.

This Berry distribution runs from January 7, 2019 (8:00 p.m. PST), to September 2, 2019 (4:59 p.m. PST), so don't miss out on adding these valuable items to your game!

To get your Berries via Nintendo Network:

1. Select Mystery Gift on the main menu.
2. Select Receive Gift.
3. Select Get via Internet, then Yes, and then Yes again to connect to the internet.
4. Watch as you receive your Berries.
5. Speak to the delivery person in any Pokémon Center to add the Berries to your inventory.
6. Be sure to save your game!

Wireless internet access is required for online features.



## Deck Lab - Basic Deck Building

Welcome back to Deck Lab. We now will continue the card breakdown of Pokemon Deck Building.

### Energy Card Breakdown

#### Basic Energy

Basic Energy cards are just that, basic. They have no pros or cons but instead are fuel for whatever type deck you decide to run. The typical Basic Energy card count ranges between 8 to 14, with faster decks using Trainer cards or Pokémon card abilities to get the Energy out faster.

There's nothing wrong with running multiple types of Energy, but the more types that are run, the harder it may become to get the Energy you need at the right time. Remember, regardless of type, only one Energy card can be attached per turn unless another card lets you attach more.

#### Special Energy

Special Energy cards pay for Energy costs just like Basic Energy, but they may provide more than one Energy at a time, provide a perk like more damage, heal damage, and more! They essentially enhance your Pokémon cards in some way.

Unlike Basic Energy, Special Energy cards are limited to the usual four copy limit. This means that if you want to run Double Colorless Energy and Rainbow Energy, you're limited to four of each card. Many cards are designed around removing Special Energy or punishing your opponent for using it. Some Trainer cards outright remove it from your Pokémon, some Pokémon attacks can discard it, and some Pokémon cards are outright immune to attacks from anything with Special Energy attached. Considering that only one Energy card can be attached per turn, attaching Special Energy is a strategic play that may enhance your deck and help it be competitive, but there's a risk that must be considered.

#### Basic Tips to Get You Started:

**KEEP YOUR CARDS ORGANIZED!** I can't emphasize this enough! Not only does it make it easier to put your deck together, but you'll have an easier time finding good card combinations and cards that support your deck's strategy. Use only one or two types of Pokémon (such as all psychic or fire and fighting). Having too many types of Pokémon makes it difficult to get the type of energy you need. Colorless Pokémon can be used in almost any deck since they can use any type of energy.

#### The 20/20/20 Formula:

Beginner players may want to start with a 20/20/20 deck. This deck will contain 20 Pokémon cards (You can use the Pokémon TCG Pyramid Formula), 20 Trainer cards (such as items, supporters, stadiums, and Pokémon tool cards), and 20 Energy cards.

As you improve at the game, you may want to deviate from this formula based on how your deck performs.

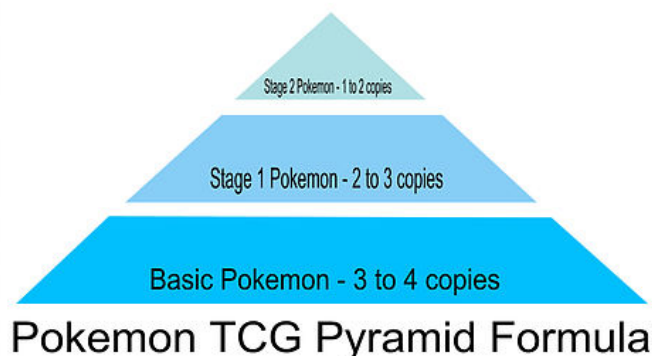
#### The Pyramid Formula:

If you want to include Stage 1 or Stage 2 evolved Pokémon in your deck, try to have at least one more of its pre-evolution.



## Deck Lab - Deck Building Basic - Continued

For example, the number of cards you include may look like this: (If using the Rare Candy Item Card you may skip the Stage One Pokémon.)



### Additional Rules for Building a Standard Format Deck

1. Cards must exist in the following sets:

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.

2. Expanded format adds to this list by including all Black & White Sets, XY Sets, plus the McDonald's Sets.. Please see us for help; it is a bit confusing!

3. 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.

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

5. If you sleeve your deck, you must sleeve your deck completely with identical sleeves. Note that only clear or solid color sleeves or official Pokémon sleeves with solid colored edges are legal sleeves for Premier tournaments, with the exception of Prereleases.

6. Using a deck full of proxy cards is not preferred (<10 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 future Deck Labs 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. (The only exception would be card packs found at the Dollar Tree store.

## New Pokemon League

Gotta catch 'em all – this is the legendary line which brought Pokémon to the homes of many children across the globe. Every Saturday, starting at 5p Platform 42 in Greer will be our newest Pokemon League.

Every Saturday battle it out with your fellow Pokémon lovers as you display your skills at casual play, card trading, deck building, learning how to play and most importantly, fun all round. The Platform 42 Pokemon League is located at Platform 42 104 Middleton Way, Suite 3, Greer, South Carolina 29650-1302. Bo Finley is the Pokemon League's owner. Please visit this newest Pokemon League.

There are several leagues here in Upstate, SC. They are located at:

- Captain Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library 304 Biltmore Road Easley, South Carolina 29640 (864) 850-7077 - Every Thursday: 5:30pm 8:30pm
- Central/Clemson Library 105 Commons Way Central, SC 29630 (864) 850-7077 Second and Fourth Monday 6:00pm 8:00pm
- PCPL Planet Comics 2704 N. Main St Anderson, SC 29621 (864) 261-3578 Every Sunday 230p - 530p, Monday 5p - 8p, Friday 6p - 10p
- Boardwalk 1175 Woods Crossing Rd. Suite #6 Greenville, SC 29607 (864) 2976924 Casual Play tournaments Every Saturday 5p Sign Ups Start at 5p, Events will start at 6p
- Da Zoo 1003 Gentry Memorial Hwy Easley, South Carolina (864) 810-7735 Every Tuesday from 6p Until
- RBPL Red Barn Pokemon League 2333 N. Pleasantburg Dr Suite A, Greenville, SC 29609 (864) 412-7887 - Every Tuesday 6p - 8p
- Empire Games 118 N McDuffie St, Anderson, SC 29621 (864) 328-9418 - Saturday 2p 6p.

## Monthly Easley Pokemon League Events

Do you play Smash Brothers? We hold monthly Smash Brother Tournaments on the first Thursday of every month around 630p during league time. The entry into the tournament is free and held in the Children's meeting room. The event is hosted by Professor Jacob.



The Professor's Challenge Fun Tournament is played on the second Thursday of every month. There are usually a unique challenge that players prepare to enter into the tournament. Entry into this tournament is free. These tournaments are hosted by Professor Jim. Occasionally prizes are awarded to the winner.

## 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.

January 12th and February (TBA) will be the next Pokemon Go Community Day. Be sure to check the Pokemon League monthly calendar and our website for more information on these exciting events.





## Rules for the Pokémon VGC 2019 Season

During this year's Pokémon World Championships, rules for the Pokémon 2019 Video Game Championship format was announced! These rules will replace the current VGC 2018 rules from September 4th.

Unlike previous seasons, in the 2019 season there won't be a single format played throughout the year, but instead we will have a different format for each of the season series:

- Sun Series: 4/9/18 – 7/1/19
- Moon Series: 8/1/19 – 1/4/19
- Ultra Series: 2/4/19 – Worlds 2019

All formats follow the GS Cup set of rules, which allows for all Pokémon from the National Dex to be used, except for Mythical Pokémon. This means a lot of powerful legendary Pokémon will now enter the scene. These Pokémon haven't been allowed since 2016, which will give the newer players a chance to play around these powerhouses and take the most out of them with support Pokémon such as Incineroar, Hitmontop, Smeargle, Crobat and Amoonguss.

For those who played in 2016, the news comes with the introduction of powerful new Pokémon such as the Tapus, Solgaleo, Lunala and the Necrozma forms, as well as the nerf of a lot of the common Pokémon from 2016 such as Dark Void Smeargle, Mega Kangaskhan and Mega Salamence. The "rotating" format, with Z-moves and Mega Stones banned during some parts of the year will also bring a challenge to both new and old players, meaning they must adapt to a new metagame much more often than before.

### Ruleset Overview

- All matches are to be played as Double Battles in Pokémon Ultra Sun & Ultra Moon.
- All Pokémon must have the black clover icon, meaning they must be caught or hatched in •Sun, Moon, Ultra Sun or Ultra Moon, or obtained from an event distribution in these games.
- For all series formats, GS Cup rules apply, meaning only two restricted Pokémon can be used per team: Mewtwo, Lugia, Ho-oh, Groudon, Kyogre, Rayquaza, Dialga, Palkia, Giratina, Reshiram, Zekrom, Kyurem, Xerneas, Yveltal, Zygarde, Solgaleo, Lunala, Necrozma
- Mythical Pokémon are banned.
- The "your timer" system has been changed, with the maximum player time increased from 5 minutes to 7 minutes.

Sun Series (September 4th 2018 to January 7th 2019)

In addition to the GS cup rules, these restrictions are unique to the Sun Series.

- Z-crystals are banned
- Mega stones are banned
- Red Orb and Blue Orb are banned
- Rayquaza can't learn Dragon Ascent

Moon Series (January 8th 2019 to April 1st 2019)

In addition to the GS cup rules, these restrictions are unique to the Moon Series.

- Z-crystals are allowed (except Ultraneozium Z)

## Rules for the Pokémon VGC 2019 Season - Continued

- Mega stones are banned
- Red Orb and Blue Orb are banned
- Rayquaza can't learn Dragon Ascent

Ultra Series (April 2nd 2019 to June 23 2019)

In addition to the GS cup rules, these restrictions are unique to the Ultra Series.

- Z-crystals are allowed
- Mega stones are allowed
- Red Orb and Blue Orb are allowed

Pokemon Video Game tournaments are being planned for 2019. We will announce tournament details as they approach.

## 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.*

**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 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

*Plaform 42*  
104 Middleton Way, Suite 3  
Greer, SC 29651

*Pokemon TCG Merchandise*

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.