

# Read Me First!



Welcome to the **Pokémon** TCG Kanto League cycle! We are very happy that you have elected to run this new league cycle. The Pokémon TCG League is a great way for players to get together in a casual setting and make new friends, tune decks, and earn cool prizes. *The contents of this document discuss the changes made since the Battle Frontier League cycle. Please read it carefully before your first league session.*

We've learned a lot from the feedback we received during the last series of league seasons and we're applying it to the Kanto League cycle. The eight seasons in this league cycle are each approximately six weeks long, with a week between each season. Each season players will have the opportunity to earn a Kanto-themed Gym badge, foil Basic Energy cards, and three Pokémon Organized Play 2-card promo boosters.

It is very important to Pokémon Organized Play that players understand the difference between league play and sanctioned tournament play. Leagues are casual play environments, whereas tournaments are a more competitive setting. Leagues reward players for playing games, win or lose. Tournaments reward players for winning. We are determined to provide events for players of all competition levels, from casual league settings to the highly competitive Championship series. *With this in mind, POP will not allow Pokémon TCG Leagues to be run as sanctioned tournaments.* Make it very clear to your players that matches played during your league will not earn them rating points. Any violation of this policy may result in the loss of league privileges.

## **Kit Contents:**

Every six weeks or so, new Kanto League materials become available. Any materials that are intended for players come in increments of 10. Your maximum kit order is determined by your estimated attendance if this is your first season, or your reported attendance if you've run any previous League seasons (i.e., if you report 17 players for the Pewter City season, you will receive materials for 20 players for the Cerulean City season). If you require more materials, please contact [leagues@pokemon-tcg.com](mailto:leagues@pokemon-tcg.com) to request additional support.

You will be able to order kits for each league season approximately two weeks before the start of that season. Previous season kits will also be available while supplies last in the event that you need support for new players that want to earn all of the league badges.

Lay out all of the league materials you received to familiarize yourself with them. This will make the rest of this document much easier to understand.

If this is your first Kanto season, you should have received the following items:

- 1 Pokémon TCG League window cling
- 1 Pokémon TCG League self-inking stamper
- 1 Pokémon TCG League generic advertising poster

Each season features items themed for that season. Some are intended as marketing materials and some are prizes for your players. These items are:

- 1 Season-specific Poster
- 1 Instruction letter
- Season-specific Gym Badges (1 per player)
- Season-specific Score Cards (1 per player)
- POP 2-card Promo Boosters (3 per player)
- Foil Basic Energy Card Redemption Flyers (1 per player)

Each season players will receive a new Score Card, which will be used to track the points that they've earned that season. For safety's sake, it is recommended that you hold on to each player's Score Card until they have earned their Badge for that season. For your convenience, we recommend using a 4" x 6" index card container. These are relatively inexpensive and can be obtained at any office supply store. Should a player decide to keep their Score Card, you should remind them that you may not be able to replace it if they lose it.

Pokémon Organized Play offers league kits to League Owners and Leaders at no cost, though the league materials do cost us money to produce. These kits are offered with the understanding that they will be used as directed. Leagues Owners and Leaders that are found to be misusing league kits will lose the ability to host future Pokémon events and may be suspended from Pokémon Organized Play entirely.

### **Scheduling and Advertising your League:**

Pokémon TCG Leagues must be run in a clean, safe, public location. While we prefer leagues to be run in a game store, we realize that it is not always possible. Libraries, schools, community centers, and malls all make great alternate locations. The most important thing to ask yourself when selecting a league location is, "Will my players feel comfortable playing here?"

It is important to make your league sessions accessible to as many players as possible. Picking appropriate dates and times is critical. Weekday evenings or weekends are ideal for running your League sessions. We recommend one 2-4 hour session per week. If another location in your area is also running a Pokémon TCG League, we suggest getting together with the League Owner or Leader to ensure that league sessions don't conflict. Remember, the idea is to provide a fun place for people to play, not to "compete" with other league locations. We encourage players to participate at more than one league location so that they can earn more rewards for playing the Pokémon TCG. You never know—working with other league locations in your area may even increase your attendance!

The posters and window cling that are provided should be placed in a manner that is visible to the general public. Be sure to write down the date and time of each league session so that your players know when to show up. If your league is held at a location that does not allow you to put up your poster or cling, you can find downloadable league flyer in the League Leader/Owner section of your My Pokémon account. We recommend making copies of this flyer and, with your location's permission, leaving them where potential league members can find them.

### **Player Registration:**

Player registration is fast and easy. When a player comes to your league for the first time, record his or her name, POP ID, and date of birth. A player roster can be found in the league downloads section of your My Pokémon account. If that player does not have an existing POP ID, assign him or her a POP ID card. If you do not have any POP ID cards to issue to new players, you can order them from your My Pokémon account. Each player then receives their Score Card for that season, and any previous Kanto seasons that you have materials for.

It is appropriate to charge players a small fee to participate in your league, if necessary. Whether you collect this fee on a weekly basis or up front is entirely up to you. This fee should go toward covering the cost of venue fees or any additional prize support that you want to provide for your league. Since fees will vary from location to location, we recommend informing players what their money is going toward to aid in heading off complaints.

Should you decide that you would like to participate in the Pokémon TCG League as a player, you may play in your own league. If you choose to do this, your League Leader responsibilities **must** take priority over your role as a player.

Once a player has been entered on your roster and has his or her Score Card, that player's ready to play!

### **League Play:**

The Pokémon TCG League is not run like a sanctioned tournament. Players are responsible for finding someone to play, not paired by the person running the event. There are no rounds like in a tournament. Players can play as many or as few matches as they want. Players may not play the same opponent twice in a row. Prizes are based on the number of points that a player earns, not the number of games he or she wins.

The Kanto seasons can be run using any deck format you choose, though players' decks must meet standard deck construction rules. It is a good idea to survey your players to determine their interest in formats before deciding. You should choose a format that is interesting to your players. If you have mostly new players, you should run your league using the Modified format, which allows decks to contain only cards from *EX Deoxys* and sets printed after that. For more information on different formats, check the Pokémon Organized Play Rules & Resources section of your My Pokémon account.

Players should be discouraged from working the system to earn additional points. If you feel that players are abusing the system, you may opt to not award them League points for their match.

### **Scoring:**

Players earn 20 points for winning a Pokémon TCG match or 10 points for losing a Pokémon TCG match. Points are tracked on each player's Score Card. Points are only accumulated for the current season and any additional points should not be added to the upcoming season's points. If you find that your players are having a hard time earning their prizes, you may want to consider holding a "double points" session to help them get caught up.

### **Awarding Prizes:**

There are three different prizes that players can earn each season:

#### **Pokémon Organized Play 2-Card Promo Boosters:**

Players have the opportunity to earn up to three POP 2-Card Promo Boosters. These cards are exclusive to Pokémon Organized Play and will only be available via tournaments, leagues, and various other POP programs for at least six months, after which they will be replaced with a new series of these cards.

Players can earn these boosters by playing Pokémon TCG matches. Players should receive a booster at 150 points, 300 points, and 450 points. Once a player earns enough points on his or her Score Card to reach the image of the PokéBall, that player earns a booster.

#### **Season-specific Gym Badge:**

Players can earn a different Gym Badge each season. To receive this badge, players must earn 600 points. Once a player earns enough points on his or her Score Card to reach the image of the Gym Badge, that player is to be given the appropriate badge.

#### **Foil Basic Energy Cards:**

Each player that completes both the Trainer Challenge and earns their Gym Badge should be given a foil Basic Energy redemption flyer. This flyer has a code, which can be entered for a player's My Pokémon account once you've reported their participation in a season. These league-exclusive promos will be shipped with Player Rewards, so make sure that your players have signed up for a My Pokémon account.

Five additional POP 2-card Promo Boosters have been included in your kit. These should be awarded to players as you see fit. These boosters can be handed out to the players that earn the most points, as door prizes, as sportsmanship awards, etc. Please ensure that these boosters are handed out in a fair manner.

## **Earning Previous Seasons' Prizes:**

As new players join your league, they should be given the opportunity to earn the Gym Badges and boosters from previous seasons. Additionally, any of your regular players who have not earned all of their prizes for previous seasons should be given the opportunity to earn them. Be sure that you keep previous seasons' supplies in a safe place so that they can be awarded to new players as they earn them.

Points earned during the current season are awarded to players on a one-for-one basis for each previous season, until that player earns his or her Gym Badge for that previous season. That player may also complete the Trainer Challenges from previous seasons to earn the foil Basic Energy cards for that season.

Any leftover Gym Badges or boosters that you have remaining from previous seasons should be earned on a first-come, first-served basis to players earning previous seasons' prizes. Gym Badges and Score Cards will be supplied when back-ordering kits, while supplies last.

**Additional POP 2-Card Promo boosters and foil Basic Energy redemption flyers will not be supplied when back-ordering kits.**

## **Reporting:**

Pokémon Organized Play is always looking at ways to improve our programs. To this end, we require a certain degree of reporting at the end of each season. The only mandatory information that we request is a POP ID, name, and date of birth for each player participating in your league, as well as which seasons these players have participated in. Collecting this information is beneficial to your league players, as they will earn additional prizes through the Player Rewards Program by participating in the league. Be sure you make it clear to your players that, though they are collecting POP IDs for playing in the Pokémon TCG League, league matches **do not** count toward their ranking or rating.

The optional information is designed to help us improve our programs. While we do not require you to fill out this information, we would appreciate hearing your feedback. The information provided during the Battle Frontier cycle was of great value to us as we planned the Kanto cycle.

Reporting is done online through the League box in your My Pokémon account. You cannot order league kits for a forthcoming season until you have reported the current season's results. This means that you need to report at least the mandatory portion of each season's results one week prior to the end of that season if you want to receive your kits in time for the start of the following league season. The maximum number of kits that you can order is based on the attendance that you report for the most recent season. To ensure that you have enough supplies for your league attendees, be sure that you accurately report the results of each season.

### **Ordering Future Seasons:**

The store for each new season will open two weeks before the start of that season. To ensure that you get your kits in time for the new season, be sure to order them as early as possible. Failure to report previous seasons' results may have adverse effects on your ability to order future seasons.

We are very excited about the Kanto seasons and know that, with your help, they will be very successful. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us at [leagues@pokemon-tcg.com](mailto:leagues@pokemon-tcg.com).

Thank you,

Pokémon Organized Play