



Play! Pokémon Championship Series

Pokémon TCG: *Sword & Shield*

League Cup

February 21 through May 14

SWORD & SHIELD



About League Cups

Congratulations on being selected to host a Pokémon League Cup!

Your League has earned the chance to host this event due to your strong Prerelease and League Challenge history, along with your accurate and consistent League reports.

This exciting event series is a great way to offer your players a chance to earn Championship Points, which will help them along the path to qualifying for larger, more prestigious tournaments, such as the Pokémon World Championships!

NOTE

Improper operation or reporting of a League Cup may result in the tournament being invalidated, the forfeiture of all Championship Points, and the removal of the ability to run subsequent League Cups. We therefore ask that you read through this document carefully and be forthcoming with any difficulties you experience while operating your tournament so our customer service team can assist if necessary.

Running a League Cup

To run a League Cup, please ensure that your Organizer has downloaded the most recent version of our Tournament Operations Manager (TOM) software. Please note that a computer with a 64-bit operating system is required to run this software. The software is incompatible with 32-bit operating systems.

Operational Criteria

- 🕒 Use of TOM is required. It is not permitted to use third-party tournament software, or to run this tournament by hand. Failure to conduct the entirety of your tournament in the TOM interface, or to use the correct format, may result in your League Cup being invalidated. Due to this requirement, the option to upload the results of your tournament using the Manual Report tool is not available.
- 🕒 League Cups must be run in the 'TCG One Day Championship' format.
- 🕒 You must ensure that deck lists are collected from each participant—this is a requirement for all events that award Championship Points.
- 🕒 League Cups must feature a single-elimination top cut. For more information about top cuts, please refer to the Tournament Operation Procedures manual found in the Rules & Resources section of [the official Pokémon website](#).

- 🕒 As Organizer, you may choose single game or Best of Three (Bo3) for Swiss rounds. The single-elimination top cut must be run as Bo3.
- 🕒 League Cups must be run until completion. Ending an event early by submitting rounds with false information, such as three rounds of all matches ending in ties, will result in the tournament being invalidated.
- 🕒 Although staff members may assist in the League Cup, the Organizer must be present. Organizers must never share their Pokémon Trainer Club account and must always be present at their Play! Pokémon tournaments. Using and/or sharing Pokémon Trainer Club accounts and Organizer access may result in removal from the Professor Program.

For further information regarding the use of your Pokémon Trainer Club account, please refer to [the official Pokémon website Terms of Use](#).

Prizing

- 🕒 Prizes will be added automatically to your regular League order and will ship alongside your League promo cards.

NOTE

Should shipping be delayed and you decide to host your League Cup before receiving your prizes, please make arrangements to distribute the prize support to your players at your cost.

- 🕒 Each player should receive one promo card (while supplies last), and the champion of each age division should receive a Champion playmat. Each volunteer should receive one STAFF promo card (while supplies last).
- 🕒 TOM is designed to calculate pairings based on registered participants. If there are lower numbers in one age division, the tournament may be converted into an Age-Modified tournament, in which players from different age divisions will play together. This is not an error. If this happens, please award prizes to the winner of each age division appropriately (one Junior, one Senior, and one Masters Division champion).

NOTE

Promo cards intended for use at Play! Pokémon events must be distributed as directed wherever possible. Such promotional material may not be sold by any Organizer, or by the store hosting the event, in any capacity.

Starting 30 days after the event at which these cards were intended to be distributed, the remainder may be used in conjunction with additional Play! Pokémon events at the Organizer's discretion. Otherwise, they must be destroyed.

Reporting

- 🔗 Should you experience an upload error, please submit a customer support ticket using the [Customer Support portal](#). Our customer support team will endeavor to solve any problems that would prevent you from uploading an accurate tournament report.
- 🔗 Please be aware that League Cups should not count as League sessions, and we do not consider players at these events to be eligible for inclusion on your League roster unless they have attended a League session. Please bear this in mind when reporting attendance at your League each Season, and be mindful to include only those players who have participated in a League session during that month.

Further Advice

Venue Limitations

Please plan your League Cup with attendance, time, and space limitations in mind. If your venue has a maximum capacity, please inform your players of this and plan accordingly.

Judges

Because League Cups form part of the Play! Pokémon Championship Series, we strongly recommend that you seek help from Pokémon Professors who hold the TCG Judge certification to help players get the best experience possible at your events.

A judge presence will help to ensure that the TCG Rules are adhered to, that card ruling queries are resolved as well as possible, and, if multiple judges are present, that players do not have to wait for an extended period of time before receiving attention.

Please feel free to make use of the [Organized Play forum](#) to help source judges for your events.

Resources

Program Documents

[Play! Pokémon General Event Rules](#)

[Play! Pokémon TCG Rules and Formats](#)

[Sanctioning Regulations](#)

[Tournament Operation Procedures](#)

Tutorials

The below tutorials can be found by following [this link](#).

- 🕒 Professor Program Tutorial
- 🕒 Pokémon Trainer Club Account Creation Tutorial

Tournament Operations Manager

[Windows Operating System Download](#)

[Macintosh Operating System Download](#)

Retail Liaison Contacts

Europe & South Africa

You may contact the Europe-based retail team by contacting retailereurope@pokemon.com.

United States & Canada

You may contact the US-based retail team by completing [this form](#).