

# *Online Professor Cup - TCG - Player Handbook*

Hello Professors! It is my pleasure to welcome you all from regions all over the world to come together for this Professor Cup! You've worked hard and endured unprecedented global circumstances to arrive here, and now is your time to shine! There are some rules that differ from the normal TCG rules you're accustomed to, though, so please read ahead and get your deck ready for what is sure to be a fun day!

The ultimate goal of this tournament is to **HAVE FUN!**

## I am playing in the Online TCG Professor Cup. What is expected of me?

1. All players in the Cup agree to read this entire document in full and be familiar with all of the information in it.
2. All players are expected to make sure the name they wish to be known by IRL and PTCGO name are accurately entered into the RK9 Labs registration system. You have until the player meeting begins to make any amendments to this information by submitting a support ticket to [support.rk9labs.com](https://support.rk9labs.com). You will be held responsible for incorrect information that causes you to miss a match.
3. All Professors are responsible for finding their coziest pajamas (or similar attire) to compete in the Professor Cup. We're talking "Wages of Fluff"-level comfortable here, friends. Get cozy!
4. You are responsible for making sure your deck is legal for play in the Professor Cup format. If you have any questions about the format, or your deck, you can reach out to the organizer, Will Post, in the following ways:
  - a. Facebook: Will Post
  - b. Twitter: [@WillPostTweets](https://twitter.com/WillPostTweets)
  - c. Email: [willpostpkmn@gmail.com](mailto:willpostpkmn@gmail.com)
  - d. Discord: Tag in the Professor Discord or DM Will Post#6084
5. Join the [Pokemon Professor Chat](#) Discord server.
6. Respond to your opponent and tournament staff in a timely manner.

It's strongly encouraged that you run PTCGO in windowed mode if at all possible! This way you won't miss important messages in the Discord channels during the tournament. All communication will happen through Discord.

## TOURNAMENT/MATCH FORMAT

TCG Format – played on the Pokémon Trading Card Game Online

*Sun & Moon-Ultra Prism (SM5: UPR) onwards*

Limit 2 cards with the same name (excluding basic Energy)

Only common, uncommon, rare, and holo rare cards may be used.

Pokémon-GX, Pokémon V, and Pokémon VMAX may not be used.

Prism Star cards may not be used.

The following cards are banned in this format:

Beast Ring (FLI, 102)

Oranguru (UPR, 114)

Granbull (LOT, 138)

Aerodactyl (TEU, 130)

Reset Stamp (UNM, 206)

Check out the linked search on [pkmncards.com](http://pkmncards.com) to see all legal cards, excluding the ban list above. **Promo cards that are reprints of otherwise-legal cards are permitted for play in this tournament. (Example: Jirachi SM161, which is a reprint of Jirachi TEU 99)**



Matches will be best of one, Swiss Rounds. Each match will be given 30 minutes to play. Time will be called both in the audio channel [tcg-tournament-hall](#) and the text channel [#tcg-cup-lobby](#). When time is called, players may finish the turn in progress (generally known as turn zero) only. The turn is over in PTCGO when you see the green lights swirl around the other player's avatar.

## SCHEDULE

### Saturday, April 18 - Swiss Rounds

The round format for both tournaments will be 30-minute, single game.

Virtual Player Meeting: 1 PM UTC

Round 1 begins: 1:30 PM UTC

Swiss rounds expected to end by: 8:30 PM UTC

The virtual player meeting will be held in the Professor Discord, in the audio channel **tcg-tournament-hall** - text questions, comments, etc will be enabled in the channel **#tcg-cup-lobby**. Concerns and issues that require a judge to respond can be addressed in **#tcg-judge-calls**.

If you need help converting the time, I'd suggest checking out [worldtimebuddy.com](http://worldtimebuddy.com) and saving UTC and your local time zone to the clock view.

### Sunday April 19 – Top Cut Rounds

Once the tournaments are complete, the Top 4 from each will come together (virtually, of course!) to compete in a combined single-elimination top-cut. All information about the format for top cut is in the Professor forum. Play starts on Sunday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m. UTC!

***Any necessary changes to the tournament schedule will be reported in the #cup-announcements channel, so it is essential that all players pay close attention to that channel for updates from the organizer.***

## TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

### COMMUNICATION/ROUND START

- Check the pairings on RK9 Labs - your opponent's PTCGO screen name will be there!
- Add your opponent as a friend on PTCGO. If you are having challenges, communicate this to a judge in the **#tcg-judge-calls** channel.

- Challenge your opponent or accept a challenge from your opponent and play a game with them.
- It is recommended that the winner of the round take a screenshot of their win should proof be required.
- Pay attention to the communicated start time for the next round. This will be posted in the [#cup-announcements](#) channel.
- Remember to be in the [tcg-tournament-hall](#) voice channel to hear any announcements there as well!

## HOW TO TAKE A SCREENSHOT

- Windows OS: Check out this [CNET article](#) on how to take a screenshot, or just use your Snipping Tool while PTCGO is in Windowed mode!
- Mac OS: Check out this article from [Apple](#) on how to take a screenshot!

## MATCH ISSUES

- **JUDGE CALLS** - If you need a judge for any issues with your match, please tag [@judge](#) in the [#tcg-judge-calls](#) channel and a judge will message you directly to help resolve your issue. This may require screenshots of your match in progress or other information from you and your opponent. You should be prepared to provide screenshots upon request.
- **OPPONENT DOES NOT SHOW UP TO MATCH** - If you have not heard from your opponent within five minutes of the round pairings being posted, please notify a [@judge](#) in the [#tcg-judge-calls](#) channel. If the match still hasn't started within ten minutes, the player who did not show up to the match will receive a Game Loss for that round. If you are late to your match, your match can not resolve in a tie.
- **OPPONENT IS UNSURE WHEN HIDDEN FATES IS LEGAL** - Please tag [@Will Post](#) in the [#tcg-judge-calls](#) channel. Hopefully, he'll respond with the right answer!
- **OPPONENT IS PLAYING WITH AN ILLEGAL CARD** - Please screenshot the match in progress with the card in question and contact an Online Professor Cup judge in the [#tcg-judge-calls](#) channel. A judge will respond to you and you will submit your screenshot directly to them for review.

- **MATCH BECOMES DISCONNECTED**
  - Players may agree on a winner based on the current state of the game (for example, the player ahead on prizes may be determined as the winner). Both players must be in agreement.
  - Players may agree to intentionally draw. Both players must be in agreement.
  - Alternatively, if a match resolution can not be determined, players may choose to resolve a disconnected match via [Rock Paper Scissors Lizard Spock](#).
    - Connect to [www.rpsls.net](http://www.rpsls.net) and share the match URL with your opponent
    - Play!
    - Winner reports the win in RK9 Labs.
  - *Note: Repeated disconnections over the course of the tournament may be subject to review by tournament staff and additional penalties.*
- **TIME IS CALLED AND THE MATCH IS UNFINISHED** - When time is called, you will finish the turn in progress. The turn ends when the green lights appear around the opponent's avatar. If there is no clear winner at the end of that turn, the match is a tie.

## MATCH REPORTING

- In the event that there is a clear winner, the winner will report their match win in RK9 Labs.
- In the event of a tie, both players must report there has been a tie.
  - *Intentional draws are permitted in this tournament. Unintentional draws are also permitted. Taking the time to tastefully draw your opponent is permitted as well, so long as you maintain a lively game pace of play. See if you can achieve a Stunning Likeness!*
- **If there is a disagreement between players on the match result**, the winning player must submit a screenshot of their winning result to judge staff as soon as possible. Please tag [@judge](#) in the [#tcg-judge-calls](#) channel and send your screenshot to the responding judge.

## DROPPING

- If you need to drop from the tournament, enter your full name and Player ID in the [#tcg-drops-channel](#). (Please only enter the requested information to keep the channel clean.)

# Online TCG Professor Cup Penalty Guidelines

- **COMPLAINING PTCGO HAS INSUFFICIENTLY RANDOMIZED YOUR DECK** - See [this tweet](#) for an example of complaining about “PTCGO hands”. We’ve all seen them!
  - **Starting Penalty: Rotom’s Electric Mischief** - Rotom will be let loose in your PTCGO algorithm! Careful what you wish for!
- **NO SHOW/LATE** - You have not communicated with your opponent to play your match and it has been ten minutes since the organizer started the round.
  - **Starting Penalty: Game Loss**
- **NO SHOW/NO REPORT** - You are a no show to your round and you have not reported back to the tournament by the end of the round in which you were a no show.
  - **Starting Penalty: Disqualification**
- **DECKLIST ERROR/LEGAL DECK** - You are playing with a card that does not appear in your deck list, but your deck is otherwise legal. That card must be removed from the deck to continue play.
  - **Starting Penalty: Game Loss, with escalation on the 2nd offense.**
- **DECKLIST ERROR/ILLEGAL DECK** - You are playing with a card that is illegal for the Professor Cup format. This card must be removed from your deck to continue the tournament.
  - **Starting Penalty: Game Loss**
- **MATCH NOT REPORTED IN A TIMELY MANNER** - We expect matches to be played at a lively place and for Professors to know the importance of turning in the match slip. You have 5 minutes from when time is called to conclude the turn in progress and turn in your match result.
  - **Starting Penalty: Double Game Loss**

**This is a Professor Cup! All Professors are expected to adhere to the Spirit of the Game and the Professor Core Values. Any action found to be in violation of these can result in being removed from the tournament.**

**\*\*Should a situation arise that is not covered by our Player Rules detailed above, the Judges will handle on a case-by-case basis.\*\***