

**2017 Centennial Lakes Little League**  
**Letter Regarding National League Teams**

2/17/2017

As many of you know our National League teams are the highest level of participation we offer in Little League baseball. Our teams rarely compete against each other, in fact competing much more against other associations throughout the Twin Cities. These teams need to be competitive with the level of play throughout the metro area.

The past few years we have seen our participation numbers decrease dramatically for a number of reasons. With diminishing participation comes a reduction in the number of kids that can participate at the National League level. This year, after tryouts were conducted, the National League coaches recommended reducing the number of National League teams to two, and our Little League Board has approved their recommendation.

To add a little color to the subject, in 2014 we had 82 players tryout for four teams of 12, which is 48 roster spots. With every year we have seen registration for the National League teams diminish as shown below:

<b>Year</b>	<b># of players at National League tryouts</b>
2014	82
2015	74
2016	54
2017	47

Today we are approaching half as many kids as just several years ago. CLLL is committed to providing a competitive environment for every player to match his or her skill level. For this reason we also have the American and International Leagues. This year's American League team count will remain at four.

Sincerely,

Centennial Lakes Little League