



# REGION ROUNDTABLE

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# **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS AND EXPERIENCE**

*Dan Velte*

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# Strategic Priorities

## Access.

1

Evaluate all barriers of entry to the program

- Rules and regulations
- Financial hardship
- Underserved individuals and communities

## Experience.

2

Identify key factors that make a meaningful Little League experience

- Players
- Families
- Volunteers
- Communities
- We need your feedback

## Retention.

3

Strengthen resources and recognition for key groups and communities

- Coach training
- Volunteer training
- Philanthropy and social impact
- Storytelling and visibility

*Informed by Data and Insights*

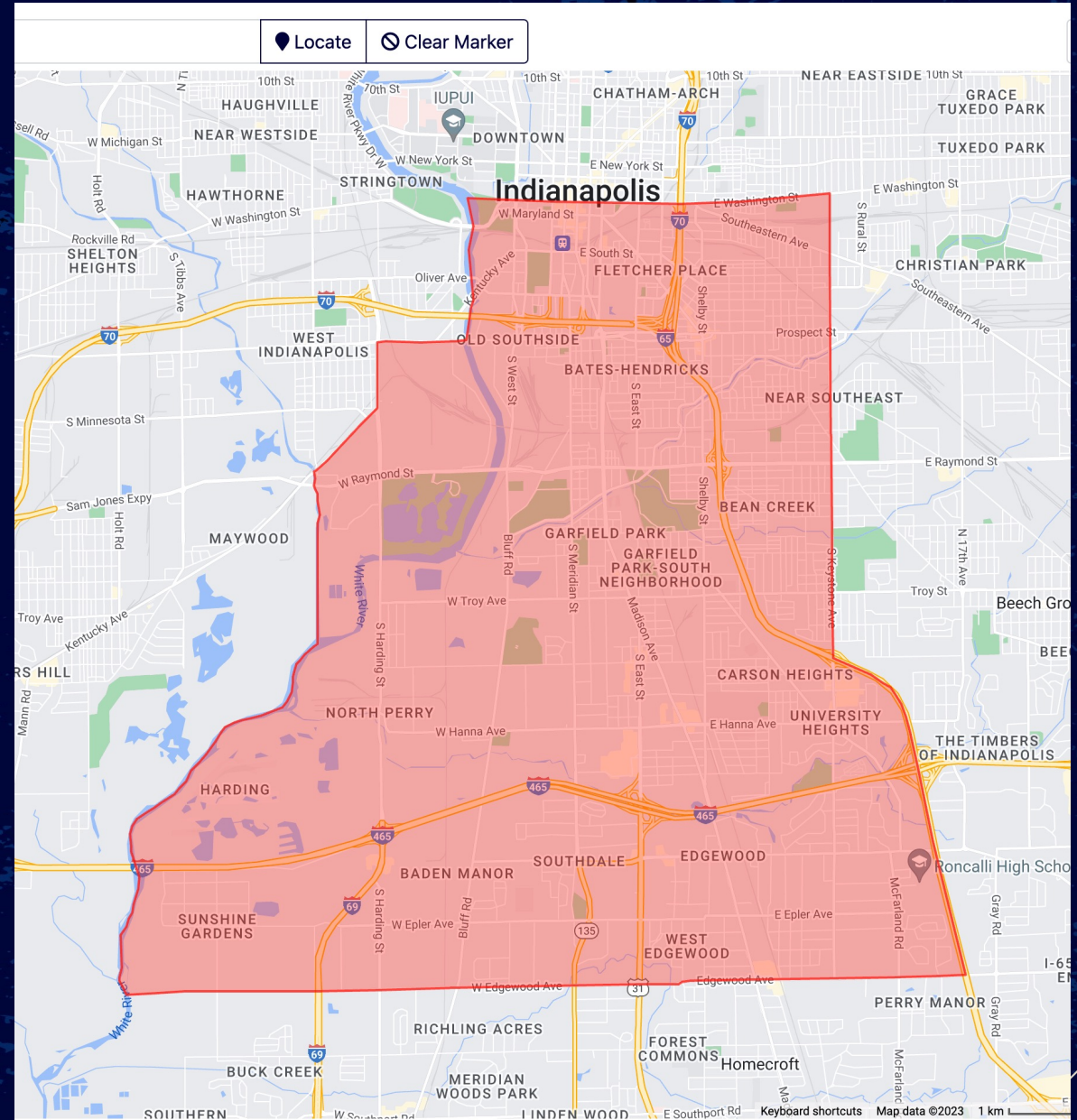


# Regulation II – League Boundaries

Reimagining the entry to our program:

Focus on Young Age Groups

- Regulation II – Players league age seven (7) and under may register in any Little League program without respect to any geography- related eligibility or school eligibility requirements.
- This change was made in response to volunteer support to update our current boundary structure.
- League boundaries will still apply for all players league age 8-16 if they participate in a league for the first time



# Understanding the Why

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- Congress 2022: 67% of D.A.s voted to support a change to Regulation II to provide flexibility for participation based on boundaries.
- Staff gathered to discuss potential modifications to support the voting results from Congress.
- Potential changes reviewed with various advisory committees.
- Finalized the modification to Regulation II along with the framework to assist key volunteers with implementing this important change.



# Understanding the Why

## Change.



- D.A.s and Staff recognized that a change to Regulation II is needed, but league boundaries are still an important component to the Little League structure.

## Feedback.



- Parent feedback highlighted that convenience and choice, particularly for those with players ages 4-7, was an important factor in choosing to participate at a local league.

## Flexibility.



- Player and league flexibility continues to be a primary consideration for participation, chartering, and for decisions made by players, leagues, districts, and LLI.



## Understanding the Why

- Players ages 4-7 have provided an extreme number of waiver requests in recent years, and this change affords ease of administration for leagues, District Staff, and Little League International.
- Our society's definition and vision of "community" has evolved beyond geography and trend more towards inclusivity of common values, shared experiences, and various situations or circumstances.



# What is Changing to Regulation II?

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1. NOTE: This change to Regulation II does not go into effect until the 2025 season.
2. Players league age seven (7) and under may register in any Little League program without respect to geography-related eligibility or school eligibility requirements.
3. Players will have full eligibility in the program in which they are registered provided they have continuous and unbroken service within the specific league.





# League Boundaries & Players League Age 8-16 Under Regulation II

## LEAGUE BOUNDARIES:

- League Boundaries for local leagues and players league age 8-16 remain unchanged.
- Leagues must have a defined boundary as is indicated on the Data Center.

## PLAYERS League Age 8-16:

- Participation eligibility is based on residency, school enrollment, or uninterrupted participation since age 7.
- Players league age 8-16 not residing or attending school within the boundary of any league are required to work through the Charter Committee for participation waiver.
- Players league age 8-16 residing or attending school within the boundary of a league and wishing to play in another league must apply for a participation waiver through the Charter Committee waiver process.



# Implementation Goals

## Ease.



- Eliminate the residency/school enrollment boundary eligibility requirements for players ages 7 and under to reduce the barriers of entry for families in the youngest divisions of play.

## Share.



- Begin to implement a communications plan to create awareness about this policy change

## Prepare.

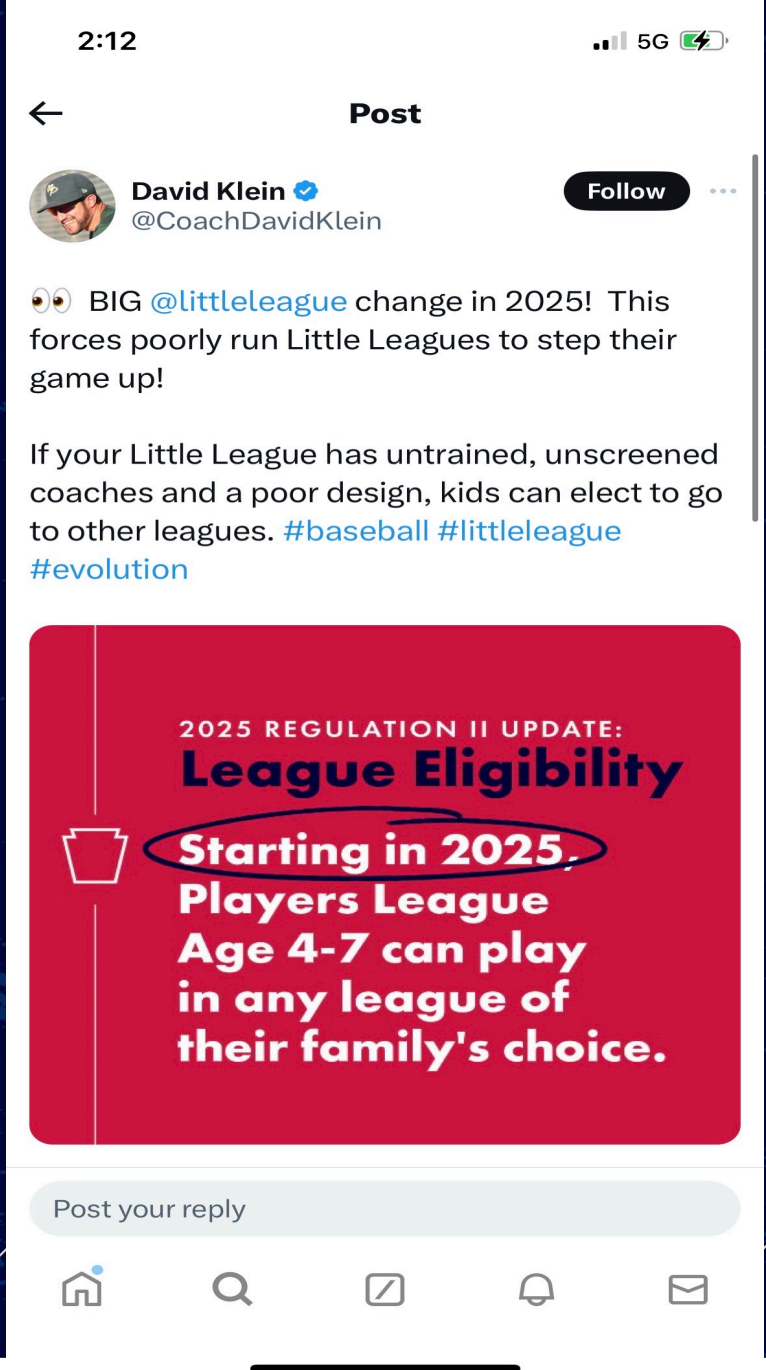


- Prepare Little League Staff to educate, answer questions, process and conduct administrative duties associated with changes to Regulation II.



# Moving Forward with Regulation II

- League choice in the youngest division will incentivize leagues to focus more on the youngest divisions of play.
- Leagues can promote younger divisions of play with inclusion of surrounding communities to bolster enrollment without a waiver.
- Coach education is a strategic focus area for Little League International.



# Moving Forward with Regulation II

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- Changes to Regulation II align with our Organizational Identity – our mission, vision, values, and purpose.
- Changes to Regulation II promote progress towards the organization's three strategic initiatives:
  - (1) Increase Access to the Program
  - (2) Expand Growth & Retention
  - (3) Improve the Experience of Participants
- We will work together to support our districts and local leagues through this change.

