See details and exclusions - National Game: Baseball and American Culture, Paperback by Rossi, John P., B See all 2 brand new listings. QtyÂ John Rossi teaches American history at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has also written No Golden Age: Baseball from the End of World War II to the First Expansion, 1960. Country of Publication. United States. Learn about the American and National baseball leagues in this article from HowStuffWorks.Â Baseball's popularity spread, with teams that toured the country and paid players. The first league was the National Association of Baseball Players, formed in 1871 and disbanded in 1875 because of poor leadership, inadequate rules and related problems. William Hulbert, a Chicago businessman and team executive, enlisted Albert Spalding, a star pitcher with the dominant team, the Boston Red Stockings, to help form a new league with businessmen rather than players running the show. They formed the National League, with eight teams. How did the National League fare at first â€“ and how did the Baseball has been considered America's pastime for over a century and today remains one of the biggest sports in the country. Baseball is played at a number of amateur levels, from Little League to High School to College, and professional leagues range from the lowest Minor Leagues to Major League Baseball.Â Major League Baseball is divided into two leagues: the American League and the National League, each of which is further divided into three divisions: East, Central, and West. The two leagues are also distinguished in that the American League uses the designated hitter rule where the pitcher does not hit and run bases with another player, the designated hitter, substituting; the National League does not use this rule. Here's a run-down of all the teams