

East Asia Sports Pulse: K-League Expansion, NPB's Minor League Shuffle, and More

East Asian Sports · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. In 2027, the K League 1 in South Korea is set to expand its number of participating clubs from 12 to what number?

- A) 13
- B) 14**
- C) 15
- D) 16

2. Which Japanese professional baseball league recently underwent a realignment of its farm league structure into three geographical divisions (East, Central, and West) starting in the 2026 season?

- A) Major League Baseball (MLB)
- B) Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB)**
- C) Korean Baseball Organization (KBO)
- D) Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL)

3. What significant development occurred in the Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) in Taiwan with the addition of the TSG Hawks in 2024, increasing the total number of teams to six?

- A) The league reduced its foreign player quota.
- B) A new stadium, the Taipei Dome, was inaugurated.**
- C) The league introduced a salary cap.
- D) Match-fixing scandals led to team suspensions.

4. South Korea has seen a notable rise in female sports fans, particularly in which sport, where women now constitute over 55% of the fanbase?

- A) Baseball
- B) Basketball
- C) Football (Soccer)**
- D) Volleyball

5. China's gaming industry has seen significant overseas sales. In 2024, Chinese independently developed games generated approximately how much in overseas sales?

- A) \$8.56 billion
- B) \$18.56 billion**
- C) \$28.56 billion
- D) \$38.56 billion

6. Which of these sports has been selected as a strategic event by South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism for dedicated development funding between 2025-2026, alongside archery, badminton, shooting, and fencing?

- A) Judo
- B) Taekwondo
- C) Swimming**
- D) Short-track speedskating

7. In 2025, the K League 1 in South Korea introduced rule changes including a concussion substitution rule and a new rule regarding players of foreign nationality who have spent significant time developing in South Korea. What is this rule commonly referred to as?

- A) The 'Asian Quota' Rule
- B) The 'Homegrown Foreign Player' Rule**
- C) The 'Expat Integration' Rule
- D) The 'Talent Development' Rule

8. Japan's Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) minor leagues expanded for the first time in 65 years prior to the 2024 season with the acceptance of which two independent teams?

- A) Yokohama DeNA BayStars and Hanshin Tigers
- B) Yomiuri Giants and Chunichi Dragons
- C) Hayate 223 and Albirex BC**
- D) Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks and Orix Buffaloes

9. The Taipei Dome, inaugurated in late 2023, has significantly boosted attendance for Taiwan's professional baseball league. Which league is this?

- A) Japan Professional Baseball (JPB)
- B) Korea Baseball Organization (KBO)
- C) Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL)**
- D) Major League Baseball (MLB)

10. China's esports industry revenue reached approximately how much in 2025, solidifying its position as the world's largest esports market?

- A) 19.331 billion yuan
- B) 29.331 billion yuan**
- C) 39.331 billion yuan
- D) 49.331 billion yuan