

South Korea's 2026 World Baseball Classic Run and Olympic Diplomacy Effort

South Korean Sports · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In the 2026 World Baseball Classic, which of these teams was South Korea grouped with in the first round?

- A) USA, Dominican Republic, Mexico
- B) Japan, Taiwan, Australia**
- C) Cuba, Puerto Rico, Canada
- D) Italy, Netherlands, Germany

2. Which of the following initiatives has the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee been involved in to expand South Korea's sports diplomacy?

- A) Organizing a global esports tournament focused on international rivalries.
- B) Holding meetings with international sports figures during the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics.**
- C) Establishing a new professional basketball league exclusively for Asian teams.
- D) Sponsoring a professional cycling race across Europe.

3. South Korea and North Korea have previously discussed a joint bid to host which Olympic Games?

- A) 2024 Paris Summer Olympics
- B) 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics
- C) 2032 Summer Olympics**
- D) 2030 Winter Olympics

4. What is a notable recent effort by South Korea to strengthen its sports diplomacy capabilities by training senior-level talent?

- A) The establishment of a professional esports academy.
- B) The 'Global Sports Leadership Program' by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.**
- C) A nationwide initiative to promote traditional Korean martial arts abroad.
- D) The creation of an international sports film festival.

5. In the 2026 World Baseball Classic, South Korea's roster includes foreign players of Korean descent. Which of these players, known for his MLB success, joined Team Korea?

- A) Shohei Ohtani
- B) Yu Darvish
- C) Jahmai Jones**
- D) Mike Trout

6. The South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively promotes friendship and national reputation through various sports initiatives. Which of the following is mentioned as part of their sports public diplomacy efforts?

- A) Hosting an international synchronized swimming competition.
- B) Organizing the Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo Championship.**
- C) Sponsoring a global marathon series.
- D) Establishing a professional women's golf tour.

7. Historically, inter-Korean sports cooperation has been used as a tool for diplomacy. In which international sporting event did North and South Korea field a unified women's ice hockey team for the first time?

- A) 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics**
- B) 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics
- C) 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics
- D) 1991 World Table Tennis Championships

8. The South Korean national baseball team is ranked in the World Baseball Classic. As of March 2026, what was its ranking according to MLB.com power rankings?

- A) 3rd
- B) 5th
- C) 7th**
- D) 11th

9. What is a key aspect of the Japan-South Korea baseball rivalry that has seen some evolution, particularly with the recent popularity of Japanese players in South Korea?

- A) The historical animosity has remained unchanged, limiting cultural exchange.
- B) Younger generations in South Korea tend to view Japanese athletes more as foreign competitors rather than historical rivals.**
- C) South Korean fans exclusively support their national team and show no interest in Japanese players.
- D) Political tensions have completely halted any baseball interactions between the two nations.

10. South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism aims to strengthen sports diplomacy by training senior-level talent. What is the name of this program?

- A) International Sports Ambassador Program
- B) Global Sports Leadership Program**
- C) Olympic Diplomacy Initiative
- D) Future Sports Leaders Academy

11. When North Korean women's soccer team Naegohyang visited South Korea in May 2026 for an AFC match, it marked the first visit by North Korean athletes in how many years?

- A) Four years
- B) Seven years**
- C) Ten years
- D) Twelve years

12. Which of the following historical sporting events co-hosted by South Korea and Japan aimed to foster bilateral relations, though its long-term impact on reconciliation is debated?

- A) 2002 FIFA World Cup**
- B) 1988 Seoul Olympics
- C) 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics
- D) 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics

13. South Korea's pursuit of hosting major international events, such as the 2030 Busan World Expo, is framed as a way to achieve what, in addition to economic benefits?

- A) Solely focus on showcasing traditional Korean culture.
- B) Solidify the nation's status as a 'Global Pivotal State' and enhance international influence.**
- C) Reduce its reliance on international aid entirely.
- D) Isolate itself from regional political disputes.

14. The Korean Sport & Olympic Committee aims to build a stronger sports culture. Who is the current president of the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee (as of recent reports)?

- A) Lee Kee-heung
- B) Ryu Seung-min**
- C) Chung Mong-gyu
- D) Kim Jong-un

15. In the 2026 World Baseball Classic, what was the prize money secured by South Korea for advancing to the quarterfinals?

- A) \$750,000
- B) \$1 million
- C) \$1.75 million**
- D) \$2.7 million