



## South Korea World Cup 2026 Squad: Son Heung-min Leads Taegeuk Warriors

### Description

The [South Korea World Cup 2026 squad](#) is a familiar kind of Taegeuk Warriors mix: one global star in Son Heung-min, one elite defender in Kim Min-jae, a creative midfield outlet in Lee Kang-in, and enough K League and Europe-based depth for Hong Myung-bo to build a disciplined tournament side.

FIFA's squad note frames this as Korea Republic's 12th World Cup finals appearance, and Son's fourth. That matters across Asia, including for Singapore viewers who have watched him become the region's most recognisable footballer over the last decade.

All squads remain provisional until FIFA confirms the final submitted lists on 2 June 2026. As of 31 May 2026, this is the official 26-player Korea Republic group being prepared for Group A.

### The Full South Korea Squad

- Goalkeepers: Song Bumkeun, Jo Hyeonwoo, Kim Seung-gyu.
- Defenders: Jens Castrop, Lee Hanbeom, Park Jinseob, Lee Kihyuk, Kim Minjae, Kim Moonhwan, Kim Taehyeon, Lee Taeseok, Seol Youngwoo, Cho Yumin.
- Midfielders: Lee Donggyeong, Hwang Heechan, Yang Hyunjun, Hwang Inbeom, Lee Jaesung, Kim Jingyu, Eom Jisung, Bae Junho, Lee Kangin, Paik Seunggho.
- Forwards: Cho Guesung, Son Heungmin, Oh Hyeongyu.

### Hong Myung-bo's Core Idea

Hong's Korea will not need to pretend to be a possession side. The squad is better suited to compact defending, quick transitions and moments of quality from Son, Lee Kang-in and Hwang Heechan. That is a practical tournament identity, especially in a group where Mexico will have home-region energy and the Czech Republic can test Korea physically.



Lee Kang-in supplies Korea Republic's creative spark. Photo: [Werner100359 / CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons](#).

The recall of Lee Kihyuk adds a useful defensive story. He is not the biggest international name in the squad, but his selection gives Hong another player who can help cover awkward spaces when Korea are forced to defend for long periods.

## The Key Players

Son is still the emotional centre of the team. His pace may not be the whole story anymore, but his finishing, movement and leadership remain the qualities that can turn a tight game. For Singapore fans watching late, Korea games often come down to whether Son gets one clean transition chance.

Kim Min-jae is just as important at the other end. Korea cannot afford loose defensive spacing in this group, and Kim is the centre-back who can win duels, step out early and stop counter-attacks before they become desperate recovery runs.



Kim Min-jae anchors Korea Republic's defence. Photo: [Mohammad Moussa / CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons](#).

Lee Kang-in is the creative hinge. He gives Korea a left-footed passer who can slow the game down, deliver from set pieces and find Son or Cho Guesung before defenders are set. If Korea are to make the last 16, Lee's decision-making in transition will matter as much as Son's finishing.

## Fixtures And What To Watch

Korea Republic open against Czechia at Estadio Guadalajara on 11 June, then face Mexico at the same stadium on 18 June before closing against South Africa at Estadio Monterrey on 24 June. The Mexico game is the obvious pressure point. If Korea can leave Guadalajara with points from the first two matches, the South Africa fixture becomes a genuine qualification chance rather than a rescue mission.

For the wider tournament frame, compare this squad with LBRD's guides to [England](#), [Spain](#) and [Argentina](#). Korea are not built like those favourites, but they have the spine and counter-attacking threat to make Group A uncomfortable.

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