

# S.Korea shortens baseball games to help save environment

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Some 100,000 South Koreans gather at the Jamsil stadium in Seoul in 2006. South Korea will speed up its baseball games and install energy-saving equipment at major parks as part of a "green sports" plan to cut emissions, officials said Friday.

South Korea will speed up its baseball games and install energy-saving equipment at major parks as part of a "green sports" plan to cut emissions, officials said Friday.

Rules to shorten the duration of professional games will also make them more appealing to spectators, a baseball official said.

When the new season starts next month, a pitcher will have a maximum 12 seconds to throw the ball after the batter is ready.

If he breaches the time limit, a warning will be given the first time and each subsequent warning will be counted as a ball.

The park cleaning break after the fifth inning will be scrapped and replaced by short cleaning intervals in the third, fifth and seventh innings.

"Of course it will cut [energy costs](#) by shortening the duration of the game, but since the game will be more speedy, it will also make it much more interesting," Kim Yu-Jin, the manager and spokesman for the project, told AFP.

Solar-powered facilities will be installed in major stadiums and some lights will be replaced with energy-saving LEDs. Electric cars will be used to transport pitchers from the bullpen to the mound.

Seoul's Jamsil Stadium, one of seven pro-baseball venues nationwide, consumes more than 3,000 kilowatts during a night game while a household uses an average of 500 kilowatts a month, the Korea Times reported.

Baseball was introduced to Korea by US missionaries in the early 20th century. [Baseball](#) and football are now South Korea's top sports.

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