

Playing for the Polish National Team

What the program is, what you need in order to be eligible, and how long that takes. Read the first section before anything else.

THIS IS INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

You would be playing for a **country**, not a club and not a summer league. Poland competes in tournaments sanctioned by the **WBSC**, the World Baseball Softball Confederation: the world governing body of the sport and the body that sanctions the **World Baseball Classic**.

That is where this program is headed. **The goal is to put Poland in a World Baseball Classic**, and the players who join now are the ones who take it there.

Player information · Polish National Baseball Team

SECTION 1

Citizenship, and why it has to start now

To play for Poland you must hold Polish citizenship. There is no way around it and no exception for heritage alone. It is the only genuine barrier between most players and a place on a squad, and it is the one thing you cannot do quickly once the summer is close.

TIMELINE

Straightforward cases move in a matter of weeks. **Cases that need documents traced through an archive take anywhere from 8 to 12**

months, sometimes longer. You will not know which one you are until you start.

That is why this section comes first. A player who begins in October is ready for the following summer. A player who begins in April is not.

Which route applies to you depends on which ancestor held Polish citizenship.

A parent holds Polish citizenship

You can go directly to your nearest Polish Consulate and obtain citizenship without major obstacles. This is the fastest route available.

Book a Consulate appointment.

A grandparent holds Polish citizenship

The easiest route here is a **joint application**: you and your parent apply together, as one filing, rather than your parent going first and you following afterwards. It is one process instead of two and it is considerably faster.

Book both Consulate appointments for the same day and tell them it is a joint application.

A great-grandparent, or further back

Harder, and this is where the longer timelines come from, but **you do not necessarily have to pay anyone**. Plenty of players work through it themselves. It comes down to how much of the paper trail still exists and how much archive digging it takes to find it. Start it yourself and bring in help only if you stall.

A citizenship lawyer or a service such as [Polaron](#) is worth it if the records are cold, not by default.

Where the line usually falls. A great-grandparent is workable. A **great-great** grandparent usually is not, because the law depends on citizenship passing down an unbroken chain and that chain is normally broken by then. One generation separates those two answers, so do not assume which side you are on. Tell us what you know and we will help you work it out before you spend anything.

WHERE WE CAN HELP

We have contacts within Polish baseball and have used them to move applications along for players in the past. Where there is something we can do, we will do it.

We will not promise it and you should not plan around it. Begin the process on the assumption that it is entirely on you, and treat any help we provide as time you gained rather than time you were counting on.

SECTION 2

What to do this month

1. Book an appointment at your nearest Polish Consulate.

Do this regardless of which route applies to you. Appointments are the bottleneck, and the queue is often months long on its own. Get into it while you work out the rest. Book online through [e-Konsulat](#).

2. Read the official process.

The Polish government publishes the process, with an example application at the bottom of the page: [Polish citizenship \(gov.pl\)](#).

3. Bring in help only if you stall.

A lawyer who handles Polish citizenship, or a service such as [Polaron](#), will trace and assemble records you cannot find. Worth the cost when the trail has gone cold. Not a first move.

4. Tell us where you are.

Even if the answer is that you have not started. It tells us which summer to plan you into, and lets us tell you whether anything on our side can help.

SECTION 3

The program, and where it is going

National-team baseball works differently from anything you have played in. There is no league and no regular season. Countries play each other in WBSC tournaments, every result counts toward the country's **world ranking**, and the ranking decides who gets to play for the biggest prizes. This is the road Poland is on:

○ **European Championships**

Where Poland plays every summer, at Senior, U23 and U18 level. Run by WBSC Europe. Win your pool and you are promoted to play the strongest nations on the continent.

○ **The WBSC world ranking**

Every one of those games earns ranking points for Poland. Climb far enough and the country is in the conversation for the events above it.

○ **World Baseball Classic qualifiers**

The tournament that decides which nations reach the Classic. This is the program's stated objective.

● **The World Baseball Classic**

The sport's world championship, played in major-league ballparks against major-league players. Poland has never been in one. That is the point.

Poland has climbed more than thirty places in the world rankings. The 2026 season is the evidence:

SQUAD 2026

Senior	Second place , European Championship B Pool.
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U23	European Championship in Paderborn, Germany.
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U18	Competed in A Pool after winning the 2025 European Championship. The first time in program history.
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That last line is the one worth reading twice. The U18s won their pool in 2025, earned promotion, and in 2026 played against the strongest countries in Europe for the first time since the program began. This is not a rebuilding project. It is a team that has started winning and is short of

one thing: players of Polish heritage who are good enough and did not know the program existed.

The program is managed by **John McLaren**, whose career spans three decades in Major League dugouts, including time as a big-league manager.

When you play for Poland you play **against countries**. In 2026 the Senior team's pool was Norway, Slovakia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Ireland. The U18s were drawn with Spain, Czechia, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Your name goes on a national roster, the anthem is played before the game, and the result goes on the country's record.

You do not need to speak Polish. You do not need to have been to Poland.

SECTION 4

Squads

SQUAD	WHO IT IS FOR
U18	High school and incoming college players. Reigning European Champions.
U23	College players and recent graduates.
Senior	The full national team. College, professional and former professional.

If your age makes you eligible for more than one squad, you can be considered for more than one. Players move between them in the same summer.

SECTION 5

When, and what it costs you

These are WBSC national-team tournaments, not a season: one event per squad, about a week long. They run in the back end of July, occasionally into the first week of August, in Europe. The window sits after a college season and before a fall program, so most players can do this without giving anything up. Exact dates and host cities are confirmed each season and we will give you them well before you need to book anything.

WE COVER

Hotels for the full tournament, meals, team kit, and ground transport once you have arrived.

YOU COVER

Your flight to wherever the tournament is being played.

The flight is the real expense and we would rather say so now than have you find out late. Everything from the airport onwards is on us.

NEXT STEP

A short call

Fifteen minutes. We establish whether you qualify, which squad fits, and what your summer would look like. If you have already started the citizenship process, bring what you know about your family line and we will get further in the call.

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Polish National Baseball Team · Polska Baseball

Supported by a US 501(c)(3). Tournament dates and host cities are confirmed each season.