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Cuba won't allow major leaguers who defected to play in 2017 WBC

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Cuba won't allow major leaguers who defected to the United States to represent their homeland in next year's World Baseball Classic, [according to Radio and Television Marti](#).

"Cuba will continue with our athletes. That's something we will keep as indissoluble principle ... our athletes who are within the Cuban sports system and within our National Series are going to continue to represent in the international events," said Antonio Becali, president of the country's National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation ([via Google Translate](#)).

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Cuba's decision means that MLB stars such as Jose Abreu, Yoenis Céspedes, Yasiel Puig and Aroldis Chapman, among other players, won't be allowed to participate with the national team, despite recent rapprochement between the U.S. and the island country, which hosted Puig in December on a goodwill tour.

Cuba's best finish in the WBC was a championship loss to Japan in the inaugural quadrennial tournament in 2006. Cuba was eliminated in the second round of the 2013 World Baseball Classic.