

# KKR vs PBKS IPL 2026: Playing 11 Announced as KKR Opt to Bat First



The exciting clash between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League 2026 season brought high anticipation among fans. Winning the toss, KKR captain chose to bat first, aiming to put early scoreboard pressure on PBKS in this crucial encounter.

## KKR Wins Toss and Chooses to Bat

After winning the toss, KKR made a strategic decision to bat first on what appeared to be a batting-friendly surface. With power hitters at the top, KKR looked confident in posting a competitive total. The pitch at Eden Gardens traditionally favors stroke play, and KKR aimed to capitalize on that advantage.

## KKR Playing 11

Kolkata Knight Riders fielded a strong and balanced XI featuring explosive batters and versatile all-rounders:

- Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk)
- Venkatesh Iyer
- Shreyas Iyer (c)
- Nitish Rana
- Rinku Singh
- Andre Russell
- Sunil Narine
- Mitchell Starc
- Varun Chakravathy
- Harshit Rana
- Suyash Sharma

KKR's lineup showcased depth in both batting and bowling, with players like Andre Russell and Sunil Narine providing all-round strength.

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## **PBKS Playing 11**

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, entered the match with a competitive squad ready to counter KKR's batting firepower:

- Shikhar Dhawan (c)
- Jonny Bairstow (wk)
- Liam Livingstone
- Jitesh Sharma
- Sam Curran
- Shahrukh Khan
- Harpreet Brar
- Rahul Chahar
- Kagiso Rabada
- Arshdeep Singh
- Harshal Patel

PBKS relied heavily on its pace attack led by Rabada and Arshdeep, along with the all-round abilities of Sam Curran and Livingstone.

## **Match Summary and Key Highlights**

KKR started aggressively after electing to bat, with their top order showing intent in the powerplay. However, early wickets slowed momentum slightly, keeping PBKS in the contest. The match, unfortunately, did not reach a proper conclusion, adding an unexpected twist to an otherwise thrilling fixture.

## Conclusion

The [KKR vs PBKS IPL 2026](#) match promised high-octane action with both teams showcasing strong playing elevens. KKR's decision to bat first reflected their confidence in their batting lineup, while PBKS aimed to leverage their bowling strength. Although the game didn't fully unfold as expected, fans were treated to glimpses of intense competition.