



MONTE-CARLO
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER



Monaco Basketball Association: Building a Great Monegasque Women's Basketball Club

Press Release – Monaco, September 10, 2026 – In 2025, Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer strengthened its partnership with the Monaco Basket Association (MBA), which had been launched a year earlier, with a bold goal: to see the first team reach the top tier of the French league, Ligue Féminine 1, within three seasons. This long-term project aims to provide the Principality of Monaco with a top-tier women's basketball team and to promote women's athletic achievement. After a successful first season in LF2—which served as a first step—the MBA restructured and strengthened its roster, while the SBM reaffirmed its commitment, inspiring other Monegasque partner companies to follow suit. This highly anticipated 2026–2027 season was presented to the press this morning.

The MBA's first team is expanding, with its sights set on Ligue Féminine 1 in two seasons

For this new season, the MBA is accelerating its transformation to reach its ultimate goal—Ligue Féminine 1—within two seasons, by streamlining its coaching staff and strengthening its first team.

On the court, four new players, recruited from the league's top clubs, are joining Monaco: Lelia Lesueur, Emily Prugnières, Stepha M'Baye, and Carolina Rodrigues.

With their experience and talent, they round out a team that already includes six key players from the MBA: Maud Sterviniou, Julie Tetart, Ilona Hattab, Anouk Brun, Philippine Delpech, and Sarah-Yvanna Keboum.

Maud Sterviniou becomes the captain this season, succeeding Lysa Millavet.

To lead this new team to the highest level, Emmanuel Body—a top coach in the league who joined the MBA this summer—has taken the helm. He is assisted by two assistant coaches, Bertrand Delage and Ali Traoré, who earned 117 caps for the French national team during his career.

The team will also be able to count on the expertise of Thibaud Pinson, the strength and conditioning coach, who has been with the team for the past few seasons.

These are all major additions, recommended by a newly created recruitment team led by Éric Elena and Stéphane Valeri, with input from valuable sports advisors and staff members.

On the staff side, two new positions have been created: Lysa Millavet, the former captain, has been named the team's general manager, while Elise Cammas has taken over as athletic director.

Finally, the MBA has created an Elite U18 team this year. This was a requirement of Ligue Féminine 1, which the club wanted to implement as soon as possible in order to provide the first team with a reserve squad, develop tomorrow's elite players, and ensure a steady stream of new talent.

Shared Values of Commitment and Women's Performance

This press conference also served as an opportunity to highlight the shared values that unite Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer and the Monaco Basket Association. Founded in 2009 by Eric and Martine Eléna, the MBA is now a leading force in women's sports in the Principality of Monaco. With more than 150 registered players and 13 teams, the club introduces young girls to basketball and helps promote women's sports in Monaco.

"We are connected to the MBA through our shared values of commitment and collective excellence, as well as our Monegasque identity, and we support the advancement of women's performance", mentioned Stéphane Valeri, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer, on that occasion.

Through its financial and logistical support—including making the Group's sports facilities available to the players for the past two years—Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer has made a long-term commitment to helping this new organization achieve the goal of reaching the Boulangère Wonderligue (Women's League 1) by 2028.

Because the greatest victories are achieved as a team, Stéphane Valeri has rallied a group of Monegasque partner companies (six this year, compared to three last year), on which the MBA will also be able to count this season.

A Decisive Season

With this new direction for the club, the 2026–2027 season promises to be exciting on the field and will be pivotal for the future. The two co-presidents shared their visions with the press this morning:

For Eric Elena: *"We're approaching this season with determination, high standards, and confidence, driven by the desire to continue growing and to build the Monaco Basket Association of the future. Today, we want to build on our progress and firmly establish the Monaco Basket Association among the leading clubs in French women's basketball."*

For Stéphane Valeri: *"After last season's learning curve in the LF2 and with the new, excellent team we've put together—building on the experience we gained last year—we're not ruling out the possibility of achieving our dreams as early as this season."*

Let's head to the court, where 13 French league games will be played this season at home, at the Gymnase de l'Annonciade or the Salle Gaston Medecin.

We hope to see many of you in the stands during our home games.
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[Download photos from the press conference](#)

[Download the press kit, which includes the team roster and the game schedule](#)

About the Monaco Basketball Association

Founded on November 25, 2009, under the leadership of its current president, Éric Elena, the MONACO BASKET ASSOCIATION opened its doors to competitive and recreational basketball in the Principality. Since its first official game on September 8, 2010, the MBA has continued to grow and climb the ranks of the sport. The women's team, which started at the departmental pre-elite level, quickly advanced to the regional championship and then to Nationale 3. The year 2017, an exceptional one for the club, was capped off with a French Championship title and a French Cup trophy. The MBA's flagship team finally advanced to the Women's National 1 league. The year 2025 marks the return of the MBA's first team to Women's League 2 (a level already reached in 2022). The goal for the coming seasons: to reach the highest level of women's basketball in France. Behind the first team—the true driving force of the MBA—the entire club is on the move. The various teams are growing every year and offer young girls the opportunity to play basketball starting at age 5, then in the U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18 age groups. The Monaco Basket Association has more than 150 registered members across nine teams, ranging from the basketball academy to the first team, all supervised by qualified coaches and dynamic leaders.

About the Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer Group

Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer embodies a new art of living, unique in the world, that celebrates beauty, fine dining, and well-being. Its resort offers the ultimate luxury of gaming in its casinos, "haute couture" experiences within its iconic luxury hotels and their Diamond Suites, a culinary scene firmly rooted in the present that combines Michelin-starred restaurants, international concepts, and in-house creations, as well as a first-rate artistic and cultural program. The Resort also offers a remarkable array of activities centered on sports and wellness, shopping, and nightlife. And because the new Monte-Carlo lifestyle must evolve toward increasingly ethical and responsible luxury, Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer has been committed since 2007 to a proactive policy regarding energy transition, resource consumption and waste management, local cuisine, and the preservation of natural heritage. As the leading private employer in the Principality of Monaco, the Group launched its fourth ethics charter in 2023 to uphold its values of integrity and responsibility in the conduct of its business.

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