

BIC holds annual coordination meeting with government entities ahead of 2026 F1 events

Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', today hosted a coordination meeting with Government Ministries and Agencies ahead of the Kingdom's upcoming events in the 2026 FIA Formula 1 World Championship.

The meeting, held at The Four Seasons Bahrain Bay, reviewed all preparations for Formula 1 Pre-Season Testing, taking place at BIC across six days from 11 to 13 February and from 18 to 20 February, and the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, scheduled for 10 to 12 April as the fourth round of the new F1 season.

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa chaired the coordination meeting. Also in attendance were BIC Corporate Services Director Beshara Abdulla Beshara and other members of the circuit's top management.

Shaikh Salman discussed all the latest arrangements ahead of pre-season testing and the



grand prix weekend, as well as the necessary coordinated efforts to ensure their smooth success.

Shaikh Salman spoke of BIC's keenness to work closely with ministries and government institutions as the Kingdom gets ready for the largest and

most-anticipated annual events in the region, which attracts record crowds each year with fans coming from all over the world.

Shaikh Salman thanked the officials who were present at the coordination meeting and praised their respective bodies

for their efforts and continuous support.

Also during the meeting, Beshara gave a presentation on both upcoming F1 events, detailing the most prominent activities, the organisational plan for hosting, and the procedures for receiving the participating

stakeholders, officials, teams, and fans coming into Bahrain from overseas.

Beshara further explained the requirements for the efficient and orderly passage of fans to and from BIC for both pre-season testing and the grand prix weekend. Beshara also gave a detailed overview of the new plans that are to be implemented for this year's F1 events.

F1 pre-season testing will be the first chance for fans to wit-

ness the next generation of F1 cars in action ahead of the 2026 campaign. It will be the sixth consecutive year that Sakhir has been selected as the venue for the tests.

For more information on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 and Pre-Season Testing 2026, or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline at +973-17450000, or follow the circuit on social media.

Chelsea appoint Rosenior as manager

Chelsea officially confirm the appointment of the 41-year-old English manager

● Rosenior leaves Strasbourg for role

● Has only three years' managerial experience

● Chelsea's fourth permanent boss since 2022

AFP | Strasbourg

Liam Rosenior was confirmed yesterday as Chelsea's new head coach on a six-and-a-half-year deal, saying the opportunity to succeed Enzo Maresca at Stamford Bridge was too good to turn down.

The 41-year-old Strasbourg boss told a press conference earlier in the day at the Ligue 1 club that he had "verbally agreed" on the move.

Chelsea officially announced that Rosenior, who will take charge of his first match in the FA Cup at the weekend, had signed a deal until 2032.

"I am extremely humbled and honoured to be appointed head coach of Chelsea Football Club," he said in a statement on the Premier League team's website.

"This is a club with a unique spirit and a proud history of winning trophies."

"My job is to protect that identity and create a team that reflects these values in every game we play as we continue winning trophies."

Rosenior has just three years'



Strasbourg's British head coach Liam Rosenior reacts after a match (file photo)

experience as a manager, with Hull City and French club Strasbourg, and has never coached in the Premier League.

But he had been widely touted as the frontrunner to succeed Maresca since the Italian left Chelsea last week.

Strasbourg are part of the Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital-owned BlueCo multi-club ownership group that also controls Chelsea.

Rosenior is Chelsea's fourth permanent managerial appointment since BlueCo took control of the club previously owned by Roman Abramovich in 2022.

The club said the English-

man had shown "he can build teams with a clear way of playing while setting the highest standards with players on and off the pitch".

"While there will continue to be a focus on player development, the club's expectations and ambitions remain high," Chelsea added.

Rosenior said he had wanted to announce the news himself in Strasbourg because of his deep feelings for the French club.

The former defender, whose father, Leroy Rosenior, was also a player and a manager, told reporters the chance to manage Chelsea was "an opportunity I

cannot turn down".

'World-class club'

"I'm so excited about the future. I cannot lie. My whole life I've worked to be a coach," he said.

"To be presented with this opportunity to manage a world-class football club is something I've always dreamed of."

"With that is a mixed emotion of sadness of what I'm leaving behind."

Chelsea interim manager Calum McFarlane told reporters that he would remain in charge for Wednesday's Premier League match against Fulham.

McFarlane said he had spoken briefly to the club's new boss.

"He's obviously really excited about taking the role," he said. "It's a brief conversation, so my understanding is he's going to be at Cobham (Chelsea's training ground) later on today."

Rosenior played in the Premier League and the second-tier Championship in England. His clubs included Fulham, Reading and Hull.

He had a variety of coaching roles at Derby, which included 12 matches as caretaker manager at the start of the 2022/23 season.

Later in 2022 Rosenior took over as manager of Championship team Hull.

He was sacked after 18 months and in July 2024 was appointed by Strasbourg, who he guided to seventh place in Ligue 1 last season.

McFarlane said Rosenior's teams played "aggressive, front-foot football" and that his appointment would inspire Eng-

lish managers.

Since the formation of the Premier League in 1992, not a single English manager has won the title.

"I'm sure all young English coaches from an academy background will be in some way, regardless of who you support, rooting for Liam," said McFarlane.

"So it is really inspirational for young academy English coaches."

Maresca left Chelsea abruptly on New Year's Day following a deterioration in his relationship with club bosses, just months after winning the UEFA Conference League and Club World Cup.

Chelsea are fifth in the Premier League, 17 points behind Arsenal, with just one win in their past eight league games.



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LIAM ROSENIOR

Liam Rosenior's appointment is seen as a major milestone for English managers; notably, no Englishman has ever won the Premier League title since the competition was founded back in 1992