

Education

## Bentley University snags French national team as World Cup training site after Babson deal stalls



Bentley is in and Babson is out as official French training grounds for FIFA.

MADDIE SCHROEDER



By Maya Shavit – Projects Reporter, Boston Business Journal

Mar 26, 2026

## Story Highlights



- Susan Fournier is stepping down as dean of Boston University's Questrom School of Business.
- The school rebranded in 2015 with \$50 million from retired retail CEO Allen Questrom.
- Fournier transformed the unnamed business school into a globally ranked institution over two decades.

Bentley University is replacing Babson College as the new official French FIFA team training grounds, according to university officials.

The Waltham-based Bentley confirmed it will host France's World Cup team, Les Bleus, on March 26 to the Boston Business Journal.

The announcement comes the same night that Kylian Mbappé and the French team play Brazil at Gillette Stadium.

“We are thrilled to provide a home away from home for the French national team during their stay in Massachusetts,” said E. LaBrent Chrite, Bentley’s president.

According to a Bentley spokesperson, the team toured the university earlier in the week and confirmed their plan to training there.

In January, the [French Football Federation announced that Babson University would be the site for official training](#) in Wellesley. In a video posted to the official FFF YouTube channel, Didier Deschamps, French national team manager, is seen touring Babson College, noting the adjustments needing to be made in the summer of 2026. Deschamps toured the Hartwell-Rogers Field and the locker room.

“We received an extremely warm welcome, and, above all, we believe that Bentley is the best option for the French national team for the World Cup,” said Didier Deschamps, the French team’s coach.

Babson College confirmed to the Journal that the discussions regarding the use of athletic facilities during the 2026 FIFA World Cup did not result in a finalized agreement despite the federation’s independent announcement.

“While exploratory conversations took place, a formal arrangement was not reached between the parties,” said a spokesperson for Babson. “We have deep respect for FIFA and the French Football Federation, and we wish the team every success this summer.”

The [French team will stay at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston](#) for the duration of the World Cup.

Les Bleus is one of the favorites for the World Cup and has won two World Cup tournaments, in 1998, when France hosted the World Cup, and in 2018.