



Andoni Iraola's Liverpool era begins

Description

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Andoni Iraola in demand - Liverpool

Liverpool's search for Arne Slot's successor is over, with the club moving quickly. Andoni Iraola is expected on Merseyside to sign his contract. This completes a process driven by sporting director Richard Hughes, accelerated by urgency following Slot's departure.

Hughes leads appointment

[Liverpool reached](#) a verbal agreement with Iraola on Tuesday, clearing the final hurdle in that process which Slot's dismissal set in motion.

Iraola will arrive to complete formalities, with a club announcement expected shortly after. The 43-year-old Spaniard has been the leading candidate throughout. Hughes identified early as a strong fit for Liverpool's preferred tactical style and vision.

The appointment has Hughes's fingerprints all over it. The sporting director previously hired Iraola at Bournemouth in 2023. That move was transformative for the Cherries. When Hughes moved to Anfield the following year, Iraola remained a name to watch. Once Slot was removed, he quickly became the frontrunner.

Liverpool followed a structured process helped by the alignment between Hughes and Iraola. The talks which began earlier this week have progressed quickly.

Style and identity

Iraola is expected to bring several key figures with him. He wants Pablo de la Torre, Tommy Elphick, Shaun Cooper and Tom Webber to join his staff at Anfield. This group helped underpin

Bournemouth's rise under his leadership.

Liverpool have not yet approached individuals directly, with the club working to finalise negotiations before formalising staff decisions.

Liverpool's priority throughout this process has been clear – find a coach whose football aligns with the club's identity.

Iraola's Bournemouth side delivered exactly that; a high-energy, front-foot, aggressive style, producing one of the Premier League's stronger runs last season.

The Cherries went 18 games unbeaten in the second half of the 2025/26 campaign. They finished sixth and secured Europa League football. They also ended the season just three points behind Liverpool.

That form was no fluke, but the product of a clear tactical blueprint Liverpool believes will translate to a bigger stage.

From Bournemouth to Anfield

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The challenge awaiting Iraola is enormous. The transition from Bournemouth to Liverpool is a different scale of scrutiny. The expectations will be of another level entirely. The priority is he will be expected to make an immediate impact and hit the ground running.

At Bournemouth, a Friday press conference might draw four or five journalists. At Liverpool, he will face dozens, and that is before Champions League nights, global media cycles, and the relentless pressure of competing for titles.

This is not just a managerial appointment, it is a strategic alignment. Hughes and Iraola share a footballing philosophy built on structure and adaptability. Their past success at Bournemouth gives Liverpool confidence in a smooth transition.

The club's goal has been to recruit the individual who best suits their preferred playing style. Iraola is seen as that fit.

Liverpool turns the page

With the contract signing imminent, Liverpool will move quickly into phase two. This includes finalising coaching staff, ensuring alignment on summer transfers, preparing for pre-season, and communicating the club's direction to supporters hungry for clarity.

Liverpool's decision to move decisively for Iraola signals a commitment to continuity of style, modern coaching principles and long-term planning. The club believes his energy, tactical intelligence and proven ability to elevate players will translate to success at Anfield.

The expectations are bigger, but Liverpool are convinced they've found the right man, and today the next chapter begins.

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