

Press release

Wiesbaden

8 October 2026

Banking meets volleyball: Aareal Bank and VC Wiesbaden start a strategic partnership

Aareal Bank and VC Wiesbaden Spielbetriebs GmbH (VCW), a member of Germany's national volleyball league, are launching an innovative new partnership that goes far beyond conventional sports sponsorship. As a partner of the strategic initiative **"Home for Female Professionals"**, Aareal Bank will in future champion all-round support for women and girls who aim high – both on and off the volleyball court.

The focus will be on joint projects relating to careers guidance, development of talent and balancing professional sports with education and work. In addition, the two partners want to develop new formats for dialogue and exchange to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between the worlds of business and competitive sport. Joint social initiatives will also demonstrate the partners' community engagement in the city of Wiesbaden and the Rhine-Main region.

In another important step, players from VCW's 1st and 2nd Bundesliga women's teams will be linked up with employees of Aareal Bank, to provide insights into career paths, enable personal growth and allow both sides to learn from each other. The new cooperation builds on the common ground shared by VCW and Aareal Bank, which the partners have summed up as: **"Local Roots. Female Power. Next-Level Talents."**

Dr Christian Ricken, Chairman of the Management Board of Aareal Bank, said: "As an international property lender, we feel we have a special connection with our home region. That's why it's important to us to actively cultivate relationships in the fields of business, education, culture and sport. The partnership with VC Wiesbaden opens up exciting opportunities for both sides. Attracting and supporting young female talent is a crucial component of our HR work. We can gain a lot by taking inspiration from other fields such as competitive sports and learning from each other."

Thomas Utsch, honorary Managing Director of VC Wiesbaden Spielbetriebs GmbH, said: "This partnership is a prime example of the strategy we are pursuing with "Home for Female Professionals". We're not just looking for sponsors, we're looking for partners who share our conviction that sporting excellence and personal development go hand in hand. By working with Aareal Bank, we hope to open up prospects for young women – on the court, in their career and as they go through life."

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Benedikt Frank, Managing Director for Sport at VCW, added: "Our responsibility doesn't end with sports training. We want to provide all-round support for our talent and equip them with the tools they need for their future. With Aareal Bank, we've found a partner who places as much emphasis on fostering talent, training and personal development as we do – which will have a big impact on our female players and on women's volleyball in general."

Contacts for the media:

Aareal Bank

Thomas Rutzki

Phone: +49 611 348 2947

Mobile: +49 170 543 1458

thomas.rutzki@aareal-bank.com

VC Wiesbaden Spielbetriebs GmbH

Michaela Luhmann-Utsch

Phone: +49 172 657 7747

michaela.luhmann-utsch@vc-wiesbaden.de

About Aareal Bank

Aareal Bank AG, headquartered in Wiesbaden, is a leading international property specialist. The Bank uses its expertise to identify trends, challenges and opportunities at an early stage and to exploit them for the benefit of its stakeholders. It provides financing, banking services and payment solutions for the property sector and related industries, and is present across three continents: Europe, North America and Asia. Aareal Bank's business strategy focuses on sustainable business success, with environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects forming an integral part of this strategy.

Aareal Bank comprises the business segments Structured Property Financing and Banking & Digital Solutions. The Structured Property Financing segment includes the property financing and refinancing activities. Here, the Bank supports its clients in making large-volume commercial property investments. The investment properties mostly comprise office buildings, hotels, shopping centres, logistics and residential property, as well as student apartments. In the Banking & Digital Solutions segment, Aareal Bank serves the needs of businesses from the housing, property management and energy industries as a digitalisation partner – combining extensive advisory services and product solutions with traditional corporate banking services and deposit-taking.

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About VC Wiesbaden

1. Volleyball-Club Wiesbaden e.V. was founded in 1977 and specialises in women's and girls' volleyball. The women's professional team has been in the 1st Bundesliga women's volleyball league continuously since 2004 and plays its home matches at the sports hall in Platz der Deutschen Einheit square, in the heart of the capital of the German state of Hesse.

VC Wiesbaden's greatest sporting achievements to date have been coming second in the German national championships (2009/2010 season), getting into the DVV cup final (2012/2013 and 2017/2018) and, at international level, getting into the semi-finals of the European CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup in 2024. Working with young talent to ensure their successful development is in VCW's DNA. The club currently has over 30 youth teams, which have won many titles in nationwide volleyball championships as well as beach volleyball in recent years. In recognition of this, VC Wiesbaden received the "Grünes Band" award for outstanding work in the field of youth talent development from the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) in 2016. In a recent highlight, three of VCW's four 'U' teams made it to the podium in German championships in 2025 – an extraordinary achievement.

VC Wiesbaden is the licensor for the independent organisation VC Wiesbaden Spielbetriebs GmbH, which manages the first and second division teams. The club is also a member of the Volleyball Bundesliga (www.volleyball-bundesliga.de) and the volleyball association of Hesse (Hessischer Volleyballverband) (www.hessen-volley.de). The first division team is sponsored by the 'platinum' partner ESWE Versorgung (www.eswe.com), a municipal utility provider.

With the strategic initiative "VCW@2030 – Home for Female Professionals", the club is pursuing a clear vision. VC Wiesbaden is aiming to become one of the leading talent incubators in German women's volleyball and to create an environment in which talented sportswomen can grow into strong personalities. The strategy focuses on sporting excellence, economic stability, professional structures and close links between professional and youth sport. The addition of 'Female Growth' to the sporting talent incubator will provide extra support to selected players in the form of modules on training, career development, social skills and regional networking, offering a comprehensive development platform for the best talent in women's volleyball.