



June 2025

Interview for the SheCOACH project

Greek basketball coach Frosso Drakaki: “Coaching is not about gender — it’s about knowledge, intelligence, and the ability to lead and inspire”.

Frosso Drakaki

Frosso Drakaki is a former Greek basketball player and current coach with a long-standing and impactful presence in women’s basketball. As of 2025, she has taken over as the head coach of the women’s basketball team of Olympiacos Piraeus.

As a player, she competed in the women’s teams of Pagrati, A.O. Proteas, Amyntas Ymittou, and Panionios Argous. Following the conclusion of her playing career, she transitioned into coaching with equal passion and dedication.

She holds a degree in Business Administration from the University of Piraeus and a Master’s in Human Resource Management from the Athens University of Economics and Business. She is also a graduate of the Basketball Coaching School of the General Secretariat of Sports and has been a member of the Hellenic Basketball Coaches Association since 2005.



Her coaching career began in 2006 with the youth academies of Amyntas Ymittou. In January 2008, she became the head coach of the club’s women’s team, a position she held until 2025. During her tenure, the team achieved several milestones:

- *Promotion from the B to A Division of the E.S.K.A. league (2009–10)*
- *Winning the Attica Cup twice (2015–16, 2017–18)*
- *Promotion to the A2 National Division (2017–18)*
- *Promotion to the A1 National Division (2023–24), with a playoff appearance in its debut season in the top tier*



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Beyond club-level coaching, Drakaki also led the Greek National U20 Women's Team and the Greek National Deaf Women's Team. With the latter, she achieved a 3rd place finish at the 2023 World Championship, a 5th place at the 2024 European Championship, and qualified for the Deaflympics Tokyo 2025.

In parallel with her coaching career, Drakaki also worked in the field of accounting and finance, eventually serving as Director of Financial Services at the Technical Chamber of Greece.

What challenges do women coaches face compared to their male counterparts?

Women coaches often encounter different challenges from their male peers, shaped by social and cultural factors, gender biases, stereotypes, and discrimination. These reflect the broader status of women in society. There's still a widespread belief that certain sports "belong" to men. But coaching is not about gender—it's about knowledge, intelligence, and the ability to lead and inspire. It's true that women coaches often have to work harder to prove their value, while the abilities of male coaches are often taken for granted. This is also evident in the unequal pay between male and female coaches.

Have you ever faced discrimination or bias as a female coach? How did you handle it?

Yes. In the past, while on the bench with male assistants, opposing coaches or referees would greet them instead of me, assuming I wasn't the head coach. There were also times during games when I was treated differently from my male colleagues —shown less respect— simply because of my gender. But that never discouraged me, because I believe what defines us is our personality and character, not our gender.

What steps can be taken to encourage more women to pursue coaching careers?

The more women we see in leadership roles —not just in coaching— the more stereotypes will break down, changing the male-dominated culture. Over time, this will lead to greater balance, where success is measured by results, not gender, and where more women will see coaching as a viable career path, just like any other profession. Also, female coaches are often underrepresented in the media compared to their male counterparts, and that needs to change.

What inspired you to become a basketball coach, and did gender play a role in your journey?

I became a coach by following my instincts and what I truly wanted. I took inspiration from coaches I had as a player—kept the elements I felt would help me grow, and rejected those that made me feel limited or frustrated. As a coach, my goal is to lead and support my players, helping them feel good, express their talent on the court, and enjoy the game.



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