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Sports Council**

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**T**HE OPENING OF THE International Badminton Federation's (IBF) Anaheim office is one example of how the L.A. Sports Council and the local community can work together to accomplish a goal.

The new bureau, located in the Orange County Sports Hall of Fame & Museum at Edison International Field, is the result of the relationship between the IBF, USA Badminton, the Sports Council, the Hall of Fame, the Anaheim Angels and Anaheim officials.

Badminton, an Olympic sport since 1992, is the first international sports federation to have an office in Southern California.

The idea to open an office in the U.S. was initiated more than two years ago. In 2001, the IBF decided to set up a series of continental branches around the world, including a Pan American office which would provide assistance to the badminton federations of North, South and Central America, and the Caribbean.

The IBF, whose international headquarters are based outside London, desired an office in the Americas to help promote the sport in those countries and to facilitate communications between the various regions and the IBF.

USA Badminton, aware of the fact that the Orange County Badminton Club (Orange, Calif.) is the largest badminton club in the U.S. and that Southern California boasts more players than any other region in the country, suggested to the IBF that Orange County be strongly considered as a possible site.

USA Badminton then asked Sports Council President David Simon if he could locate suitable office space for the IBF in Orange County. Simon sought the advice of Tim Ryan, general manager of the Arrowhead Pond and a longtime Sports Council board member.

Ryan eventually introduced Simon to Jim Ruth, who was at the time Anaheim's city manager. Ruth suggested the idea of using the Hall of Fame, pending approval by both the Anaheim Angels and City of Anaheim.

In 2003, both the Angels and the City of Anaheim finally approved the deal and construction began. During the entire process, the Sports Council helped the various parties negotiate terms.

"This is a great example of how different pieces of the sports world cooperate to make something happen," said Simon.

Kevin Uhlich, Angels senior vice president of business operations and a Sports Council board member, and Ed Munson, president of the Hall of Fame and vice president of special events for the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, were instrumental in making this a reality.

The Los Angeles Sports Council is a private, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to bid for and host major sporting events in the Greater Los Angeles area. For further information, visit [www.lasports.org](http://www.lasports.org).

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