

THE WINNING DESTINATION

Hamilton County Sports Authority Nation's First To Officiating Partnership

A chance meeting at an Indiana Fever game has turned into a new relationship driving sportsmanship and respect to game officials across Hamilton County. The end result could make Hamilton County a leader in officials retention, recruitment as well as improve the treatment of officials in youth sports.

The Hamilton County Sports Authority has partnered with Chicago-based Officially Human, which is run by Big Ten Senior Director of Officiating Brenda Hilton. The partnership is the first for a local sports authority in the country.

"In my first conversation with the HCSA team, they shared a desire to drive change in the Hamilton County area by being the first sports authority to partner with Officially Human," Hilton said in a recent announcement. "This organization sees the value of raising awareness surrounding the positive treatment of officials, and we look forward to working alongside their communities."

Officially Human works to restore respect to game officials and recognize them as authorities on fields and courts. The organization lists many state high school federations among its partners as well as college and recreational organizations, including Westfield's Grand Park. The partnership launched with an online video for Hamilton County community members, the first of more content and programs aimed to drive a greater focus on sportsmanship and prosperity for officials.

After a visit with local sports executives who work with Officially Human to watch the area's WNBA team in action, Hamilton County Sports Authority Director Carl Daniels saw the fit and value of the partnership.

"We want this partnership to be organic in growth and to be educational," Daniels said. "We are all in the sports ecosystem together – with no officials, there are no games. This positions Hamilton County as a leader in sportsmanship and sustainability of our officials."

Daniels says the plan is to communicate with parents and other stakeholders in youth sports in the area and to drive these ideas home, which in turn will help sports event owners and administrators. Many areas have similar educational initiatives in this space and the Officially Human Partnership will provide resources and ideas to keep athletes on the field in Hamilton County.

[Watch the HCSA-Officially Human educational video.](#)