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STALINIZATION OF SPORT IN ŁÓDŹ VOIVODESHIP IN YEARS 1949–1956

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Abstract

At the end of 1948 single party ruling of PZPR (Polish United Workers' Party) started uncritical following of the Soviet state model. The changes concerned physical culture as well. The guidelines on the new model of sport and physical culture management were created by the resolution of Politburo (BP) of KC PZPR (Central Committee of Polish United Workers' Party) of September 8th, 1949. The implementation of the tasks were handed over to the Head Committee of Physical Culture. In Łódź Voivodeship it was at first the Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture, then the Voivodeship Committee of Physical Culture and Łódź Committee of Physical Culture that supervised the process of sports reorganization. The biggest difficulty in the reforms was the lack of staff. The trials of its replacement by the Polish Youth Association did not compensate the purge that was carried out among the pre-war activists. As a result of the September resolution sports unions were reorganized into sports sections and sports clubs lost their legal status and traditional names. The implementation of the physical culture tasks into the six-year planning secured the financial resources for their realization. The level of physical culture was marked by its range, mass events and the «Fit for Work and Defence» badge.

Key words: stalinism, physical culture, Łódź voivodeship, Łódź.

Юліан Ярошевський. Сталінізація спорту в Лодзьському воєводстві в 1949–1956 рр. Наприкінці 1948 р. Однопартійне панування ПЗПР (Польська Об'єднана робітничка партія) розпочало некритичну трансплантацію радянської моделі держави. Зміни стосуються й фізичної культури. Настанови щодо нової моделі управління спортом та фізичною культурою створені постановою Політбюро (ВР) від 8 вересня 1949 р. ЦК Польської об'єднаної робітничої партії. Виконання завдань передано Головному комітету фізичної культури. У Лодзькому воєводстві воно було спочатку воєводським відділенням фізичної культури, потім – Воєводським комітетом фізичної культури та Комітетом фізичної культури Лодзя, який керував процесом реорганізації спорту. Нестача кадрів уважалася головною перешкодою для реформ. Передвоєнні активісти не компенсували спроби заміни їх активістами Польського союзу молоді. Унаслідок вересневої резолюції спортивні союзи реорганізовано в спортивні секції, а спортивні клуби втратили свій правовий статус і традиційні назви. Уключення завдань фізичної культури в 6-річний план забезпечило фінансування їх реалізації. Рівень фізичної культури визначався фізичною культурою, масовими подіями та символом «Ефективний для роботи та захисту».

Ключові слова: сталінізм, фізична культура, Лодзьке воєводство, Лодзь.

Юліан Ярошевський. Сталинизация спорта в Лодзинском воеводстве в 1949–1956 гг. В конце 1948 г. однопартийное господство ПЗПР (Польская объединенная рабочая партия) начало некритическую трансплантацию советской модели государства. Изменения касаются и физической культуры. Рекомендации по новой модели управления спортом и физической культурой созданы постановлением Политбюро (ВР) от 8 сентября 1949 ЦК Польской объединенной рабочей партии. Выполнение задач передали Главному комитету физической культуры. В Лодзинском воеводстве оно было изначально воеводским отделением физической культуры, затем – Воеводским комитетом физической культуры и Комитетом физической культуры Лодзя, который руководил процессом реорганизации спорта. Недостаток кадров стал главным препятствием для реформ. Предвоенные активисты не компенсировали попытки замены их активистами Польского союза молодежи. Вследствие сентябрьской резолюции спортивные союзы реорганизованы в спортивные секции, а спортивные клубы потеряли свой правовой статус и традиционные названия. Включение задач физической культуры в 6-летний план обеспечило финансирование их реализации. Уровень физической культуры определялся физической культурой, массовыми событиями и символом «Эффективный для работы и защиты».

Ключевые слова: сталинизм, физическая культура, Лодзинское воеводство, Лодзь.

The uniting Congress of Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party in December 1948 and as a consequence erecting Polish United Workers' Party ended the process of taking over the authority in Poland by the communists. This event was preceded by the four-year period of breaking down of the Polish society weakened by the WWII and abandoned by the war allies. It was possible due to brutal repressions of the

patriotic part of the society and the inefficiency of the underground organizations' fight as well as the legal opposition (Polish People's Club). The forged referendum, then the Parliament elections¹ were the prelude to the takeover of the authority by the communists which took place at the end of 1948.

December 1948 started the period of stalinism in Poland which lasted till 1956. The single-party period supported by the newly created political elite through the changes in the social structure, dismantling of the former elites and terror began the activities targeting at imposing on Polish society the society model based on the Soviet ones.

PZPR sole ruling triggered the activities heading towards the implementation of socialism in all aspects of social life. Physical culture became its scope of interest. The past sport and physical culture management and supervision models turned out to be temporary. The final goal was to copy the Soviet Union's model.

The Resolution of Politburo (BP) of the Central Committee (KC) of Polish United Workers' Party of September 28, 1949 about «*the physical culture and sports issues*»² announced changes in the physical culture area. Based on resolutions of Communist parties of the Soviet Union they broke down with the local traditions of sports movement. It enhanced the political and social importance of physical culture and formulated the development programme. Through the implementation into the National Economy Plan the financial support for the development of physical culture was secured. In years 1949–1956 it was the only party document concerning physical culture and constituted the basis for all changes in physical education and sport³.

The creation of the new institution fulfilling the September resolution, announced by the Party, took place on December 30, 1949. The Parliament empanelled the Central Committee of Physical Culture (GKKF)⁴ on the basis of the resolution about organizing physical culture and sports issues. The new State administration body was created for planning, managing and controlling the whole field of physical culture.

For the first time the physical culture issues were incorporated into the State economy planning for the year 1950 and into the six-year plan⁵.

The reconstruction of physical culture history after the WWII is an ongoing process. Despite numerous general and detailed research data it is still insufficient in the narrow aspect, namely regional area. The lack of research concerning changes in the aspect of physical culture of Łódź voivodeship in years 1949–1956 corroborates the need for the presentation of some aspects of the issues being discussed here. In this essay some most crucial issues (in the author's view) were concentrated on. The basis for this was the information found in the files deposited in the central and regional archives, as well as local newspapers. The source, however, was not complete enough to comprehensively present all aspects of the topic.

The announcement of the changes brought by the September resolution was signalled by «Głos Robotniczy» («Workers' Voice»). The words of B. Bierut of April Plenary Session of KC PZPR, cited below, were partially used in the Resolution⁶. «... more than so far the matters of physical education of the youth and sports movement should be appreciated, cared for by the party, since in this way we can efficiently serve the peace establishment and disrupting of war plans...»⁷.

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¹ K. Kersten, *Birth of the Authority System Poland 1943–1948*. Poznań: SAWW, 1990. P. 248–249; A. Paczkowski, *Semisenary of Poland's History 1939–1989*, Warszawa: PWN, 1996. P. 193; A. Friszke, *Poland – a story of the State and Nation 1939–1989*. Warszawa, 2003. P. 153.

² L. Szymański, *From the studies of Physical Culture Model in People's Republic of Poland 1944–1980*, Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław. Wrocław, 1996. P. 33–37.

³ A. Pasko, 'Managers' of sport in Poland of Stalin Times (1949–1956), *Podlaskie Studies v. XVIII – Białystok*, 2009/2010. P. 223–236; L. Szymański, *Physical culture and Tourism in the politics of People's Republic of Poland 1944–1989*, Academy of Physical education in Wrocław. Wrocław, 2004. P. 48.

⁴ E. Małolepszy, On management and Organization of Physical culture in Poland in years 1918–1998 [w:] *Scientific Papers of pedagogical school of Higher Education in Częstochowa. Physical culture. V. IV*. 2001. P. 92.

⁵ State Archives in Łódź (APŁ), Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council and Voivodeship Office in Łódź (PWRNiUW) w Łodzi. Sign. 362. Minutes No IX meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of February 13, 1951. K. 57, Activity Report of *W.K.K.F. in 1950 on the Łódź Voivodeship territory and main tasks and guidelines in 1951*.

⁶ L. Szymański, *On the studies of the model ...* P. 148.

⁷ *Workers' Voice*. 19.08.1949. Issue 226. P. 6.

The introduced changes were of great importance for the Communist government. Despite the fact that the resolution of September 28, 1949 on «*physical culture and sport*» was numerously the topic of the debate of the party and sports activists⁸ it was H.Szemberg (deputy manager of GUKF) who took the activists of Łódź through the resolution of BP KC PZPR and the guidelines of The Main Office of Physical Culture step by step. The plans of educational work in the spirit of marxism-leninism and the fact of basing Polish sport on «*the same ideals and models as in the Soviet Union*»⁹, among the others, were greatly applauded by the participants.

To support the guidelines of the Resolution Łódź active party members highlighted the neglect of the Poland before the WWII «...*the deficiencies and shortcomings of physical culture shown mainly in burdening sport with sanationand bourgeois downgrading...*»¹⁰ and they also pointed to «... *the turning point for the development of physical culture in People's Republic of Poland ...*»¹¹. A similar scenario was typical to the meetings of trade unions' active party members¹².

The voivodeship, district and municipal committees were the regional entities of GKKF. According to the regulation of the Prime Minister of February 8, 1950 about granting the statute to the committees of physical culture, chairmen of the committees were appointed by the Prime Minister on a motion of the Chairman of GKKF. Inspectorates (of control, of personnel and propaganda), departments (of organization, physical education and sport as well as of general nature) and training centres were the executive bodies of the voivodeship committees of physical culture¹³.

The Voivodeship Committee of Physical Culture (WKKF) in Łódź came into being on March 18, 1950. The representatives of trade and youth unions, education, health service, army, security office and sport unions were WKKF members¹⁴. Andrzej Nonas¹⁵ was the chairman of thirty members' Presiding Body¹⁶.

The inauguration of the plenary meetings of WKKF in Łódź was of ceremonial character. In the conference room of the Voivodeship Office there appeared the following guests: the governor-Piotr Szymanek, the chairman of the Voivodeship National Council-J. Karbowski, the President of Łódź-Marian Minor, the secretary of Łódź Committee of PZPR-Edward Uzdański, the chairman of the Municipal National Council-Edward Andrzejak, the secretary of GKKF colonel H.Szemberg and the workers' leaders Handrysiak, Szyncer, Szlot, Lenart and others¹⁷.

In the main paper on the tasks of physical culture committees colonel H.Szemberg pointed out that establishing WKKF «*is the realization of the tasks prepared by Politburo of KC PZPR, it is the combination of sports life with political and social life, it is a step towards the introduction of millions of youths to sports fields and yards in order to get them prepared to the gigantic six- year economy plan which they are facing*».

⁸ *Łódzki Daily*. 29.09.1949. Issue 268. P. 2; *Workers'Voice*. 2.10.1949. Issue 270. P. 8; 8.10.1949. Issue 276. P. 8.

⁹ *Sports Review*. 24.10.1949. Issue 85. P. 4.

¹⁰ APL, Łódź-Śródmieście Borough Committee of PZPR (KDPZPRŁŚ). V. 6, minutes with attachments I–VI. 1951. P. 78. *How was The Resolution of BP KC PZPR on Physical Culture in sports life organizational units achieved in our Party Borough*.

¹¹ APL, KDPZPRŁŚ sign. 40, minutes of Board meeting with attachments I-VI 1950. P. 148, *Resolution of Executive Body of KD Widzew PZPR on the work of sports club and sports circles in the borough on the basis of the Resolution of BP KC PZPR of September 1949*.

¹² APL, Voivodeship Council of Trade Unions in Łódź. 1936–1939, 1945–1957. Sign. 152. Minutes of conferences and meetings of Physical Culture and Sports Council ORZZ, inspectors of Regional Sports Associations and sports administrative units P.R.Z.Z. 1949. P. 48, *Minutes of sports meeting of union activists of O. R. Z. Z. in Łódź on 5. 10. 1949*.

¹³ APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 391 Minutes No XXXVIII of the Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council meeting on September 4. K. 61. *Fight for popularization of physical culture on the territory of Łódź Voivodeship; Official Gazette of the Government of the Republic of Poland of 1950. Item 186*.

¹⁴ Archives of Modern Records (AAN) in Warsaw, the Head Office of Physical Culture, sign. 14, *Organization of GKKF voivodeship committees of physical culture*, p. 48, *Statute of Physical Culture Committees*.

¹⁵ *Sports review*. 9.03.1950. Issue 20. P. 2; *Łódzki Daily*. 19.03.1950. Issue 78. P. 4.

¹⁶ *Illustrated Express*. 17.03.1950. Issue 76. P. 4; *Łódzki daily*. 17.03.1950. Issue 76. P. 4. WKKF in Łódź Presiding Body consisted of: Jerzy Włoczyk (vice chairman), Zygmunt Krzywański (vice chairman), Józef Doleckiński (vice chairman), Józef Okoński (secretary), Roman Lenarczyk (secretary) and members: Władysław Michalski, MD col. Bronisław Seyda, Tadeusz Kozłowski, MD Kazimierz Cholewina. WKKF in Łódź members became: Adam Barański, Zdzisław Borowski, Henryk Czekański, Stanisław Frass, Jadwiga Głazewska, Henryk Kucharski, Zdzisław Królewski, Jan Kacprzak, Marian Król, Stanisław Kostrzewa, Edmund Luczak, Lucjan Michalski, professor Waław Markiert, Michał Malinowski, Zenon Nonas, professor Emil Paluch, Władysław Sosiński, Witold Potocki, Stanisław Szperling, Jan Więckowski, Stanisław Woźniakiewicz

¹⁷ *Sports Review*. 20.03.1950. Issue 23. P. 3; *Illustrated Express*. 19.03.1950. Issue 78. P. 6.

The chairman A. Nonas named the priority tasks of WKKF for the year 1950 which were the following: organizing district structures, organizational and political strengthening of LZS, physical education care at schools and helping clubs.

Jadwiga Głazewska¹⁸, who represented Łódź sports environments, declared co-responsibility for the introduced changes and reaching the main goal, namely « *multiplying health and sustaining fitness for the fight for the realization of the six-year economy plan* »¹⁹.

The meeting was closed by sending a message to the Prime Minister Józef Cyrankiewicz and the Marshal of Poland Konstanty Rokossowski supporting government activities in the field of physical culture²⁰.

As a result of the 1st Plenary session of WKKF, the Committee of WKKF set up six boards²¹, at the end of 1950 there were nine boards²² in total. The boards signalled the most important activity directions. One of them was Łódź rural region. Through the system of rivalry between the LZSs and an increase of contacts between the country and the city they aimed at activation of LZS and an « *increase of sports activities of the backwater* »²³.

Realizing the aims of the plenary meeting of WKKF in Łódź on the territory of Łódź voivodeship there were district physical structures set up. Till May, 1950 they established eleven District Committees of Physical Culture (PKKF) and one Municipal Committee of Physical Culture (MKKF) in Tomaszów Mazowiecki. There were also other committees set up, like those in the district of Sieradz, Radomsko and Łęczyca²⁴.

National councils established in 1950 became the area bodies of the unified state authorities²⁵. The committees of physical culture were granted the statutes. The area body of physical culture committees were the offices of the presiding bodies of national councils.²⁶ In Łódź the Office of the Municipal Committees of Physical Culture started its activity on March 1st, 1951²⁷.

The undertaken activities of state authorities were of central character. The changes led to the loss of the administration of physical culture committees and shifting it to state councils.

The introduction of the new model (structures) of management of physical culture went together with the resolution of BP KC PZPR. This process was not free of problems in Łódź voivodeship. Similarly to the previous periods²⁸, after the year 1950 the first problems the committees of physical culture had to face were the shortages of personnel and premises. The offices of district structures were located together with other departments or in places not adequate for functioning (Łask, Sieradz, Kutno and Skierniewice). There were cases of closing down posts (executive assistant in PKKF Brzeziny, Łowicz) and salary lowering (Radomsko, Łowicz and Piotrków Tryb²⁹). The full staffing of WKKF in Łódź was completed at the end of 1950 (twenty six people).

¹⁸ Jadwiga Głazewska, married name Walasek (1914–1979) bronze medal winner of Basketball European Championships (1938), Poland's Champion in basketball, athletics, skating and hazena.

¹⁹ *Workers' Voice*. 19.03.1950. Issue 78. P. 6; *Illustrated Express*. 23.03.1950. Issue 82. P. 6.

²⁰ *Illustrated Express*. 19.03.1950. Issue 78. P. 6.

²¹ There were: Sports and medical Care Commission (chairman MD Cholewius), Culture and Education Commission (chairman Jerzy Wołczyk, vice chairman WKKF), awards commission for LZS distinguished members (chairman J. Doleckiński, WKKF), commission on cooperation of the country with the city and the commission on sports amnesty.

²² APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź, sign. 362, Minutes No IX of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of February 1951. P. 57. Report on activity of *W.K.K.F. in 1950 on Łódź voivodeship territory and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951*. Commissions as follows: on amnesty, culture and education, medical, on events, on cooperation of the country with the city, on investments, on awards and medals and on LZS competition.

²³ *Illustrated Express*. 2.04.1950. Issue 92. P. 6; *Workers' Voice*. 31.03.1950. Issue 90. P. 6.

²⁴ APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 362. Minute no IX of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council Meeting of February 13 1951. P. 66. Report on *W.K.K.F. activity in 1950 on the territory of Łódź voivodeship and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951*; *Workers' Voice*. 10.05.1950. Issue 128. p. 6.

²⁵ *Official Gazette of the Government of The Republic of Poland* of 1951. Issue 14. Item. 130.

²⁶ *Official Gazette of the Government of The Republic of Poland* of 1951. Issue A–29. Item. 374.

²⁷ *Official Journal Of National Council of the City of Łódź* of March 15. 1951 Issue 6. Item 41.

²⁸ J. Jaroszewski, M. Łuczak, The Management of Physical Culture in Łódź in 1945–1949 [w:] Scientific Papers of Jan Długosz Academy of Physical culture in Częstochowa *Physical Culture*. V. XV. № 3. P. 25–40.

²⁹ APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź, sign. 391 Minutes of No XXXVIII meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of September. 4. P. 61. *Fight for popularization of physical culture on the territory of Łódź voivodeship*; Sign. 362. Minutes. No IX: meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of February 13 1951. P. 57. Report on *W.K.K.F. activity in 1950 on the territory of Łódź voivodeship and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951*. Sign. 480. Minutes of No XVIII meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council in Łódź on March 19, 1953 from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm under the presidency of Julian Hordecki-WRN Presiding Body chairman. P. 12. *Analysis of Voivodeship Committee of Physical Culture activity in year 1952 and main tasks planned for 1953*.

The work of the committees was determined by the programmes. The first voivodeship activity plan for the year 1950 included guidelines of the increase of the range of physical culture, realization of sports competitions (mass events), staff development, sports investments and equipment supply. In 1951 A. Nonas named a success all sports organizations' subordination, mass events' politicisation, an increase of number of people practising physical education and sport, an increase of educational and ideological level of sportsmen and activists, as well as an increase of political activity of sports movement. As shortcomings in functioning of WKKF he mentioned a poor control of area structures, faults in compatibility of sports work with the six-year plan, little progress in the fight for better morality of athletes and activists, too small a number of defensive jobs and too small a number of women in the sports movement³⁰. In next years the degree of fulfilling the programmes marked the level of the development of physical culture.

At the end of 1950, GKKF undertook the activities towards final tailoring of sports structures to those in the Soviet Union. Sports unions were eliminated, replaced with sections in physical culture committees³¹. The plenary assemblies of sports unions took decisions about self dissolution and setting up GKKF sports sections, analogically the same process took place in voivodeships³².

In February 1951 they started a shutdown of sports unions in Łódź voivodeship. The regional unions, after handing in the reports for the year 1950, took resolutions about their shutdown and then starting WKKF sections in Łódź³³. Along with the winding-up of sports unions, sports clubs lost their legal status and traditional names.

Similarly to other regions³⁴ the process of closing down sports unions in Łódź was getting late. Growing antagonisms between sports environment of the city of Łódź and the voivodeship contributed to additional organizational chaos. This led to the division of voivodeship structures into two separate ones, namely WKKF in Łódź (voivodeship) and Łódź Committee of Physical Culture (city of Łódź)³⁵.

The Łódź Committee of Physical Culture (ŁKKF) was alleged by the Resolution of the Presiding body of the National Council of Łódź on March 1, 1951. Managed by A. Nonas it started its activity a month later³⁶. The Presiding body of ŁKKF comprised the representatives of sports unions, youth organizations, education, health care, army and sports environment³⁷.

³⁰ APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 362. Minutes of No IX meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of February 13 1951. P. 57. *Report on W.K.K.F. activity in 1950 on the territory of Łódź voivodeship and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951; Workers' Voice*. 13.01.1951. Issue 12. P. 6.

³¹ A. Nowakowski, *Management of Physical education in Poland in 1944–2005*. Rzeszów, 2005. P. 59; *Sports Review*. 18.12.1950. Issue 100. P. 3.

³² *Workers' Voice*. 2.03.1951. Issue 60. P. 4.

³³ *Illustrated Express*. 3.02.1951. Issue 34. P. 6; 26.02.1951. Issue 57. P. 4; 2.03.1951. Issue 61. P. 4; 28.03.1951. Issue 85. P. 6; 30.04.1951. Issue 118. P. 4; 10.05.1951. Issue 128. P. 4; *Workers' Voice*. 18.02.1951. Issue 49. P. 4.

³⁴ AAN, Head Committee of Physical Culture (GKKF). Sign. 132/4. V. II. Resolution of Presiding Body of GKKF on KKF Sports Sections activity KKF. P. 23.

³⁵ *Workers' Voice*. 4.04.1951. Issue 91. P. 4.

³⁶ AAN in Warsaw, GKKF, sign. 84/2 WKKF Post control report (1950–51). P. 118. *Report on total control of economy of Committee of Physical Culture in Łódź undertaken on 30. V–2.VI.51 by the GKKF control inspectors, senior inspector Brzóska Tadeusz and inspector Nowicki Stanisław*.

³⁷ APL, Presiding Body of National Council (PRN) in Łódź. Sign. 797. *Matters of Municipal Office of the Committee of Physical Culture 1951*. P. 4. *Matters of Physical Culture in the city of Łódź*. ŁKKF organizational post: Nonas Narcyz Andrzej (chairman), Borowski Zdzisław (sports section secretary), Leonarczyk Roman (general and administrative section secretary), Falkiewicz Mieczysław (Head of Physical Education and Sport unit), Karpow Eugeniusz (Head of General and Administrative Unit), Szymański Stanisław (Head of Self governing Unit of Personnel), Bereza Jarosław (Head of Self – governing of unit of Control), Walewski Mirosław (Head of Self-governing unit of Propaganda), Dubie Stanisław (head of Self-governing unit of Staff Training), Chrząszcz Józef (Head of Self-governing unit of Sports Equipment), Kaźmierczakowi Kazimiera (Head of self-governing unit of Planning and Reporting), Zielińska Maria (Inspector Statistics and Reporting), Białasiewicz Barbara (Desk Officer stenotypist), Urbański Józef (Inspector SFO), Pawlakówna Zdzisława (I Sports Section Inspector), Kędziński Czesław (II Sekcji Sportowej Inspector), Sroka Jerzy (III Sports Section Inspector), Grzegory Stanisław (IV Sports Section Inspector), Dreszer Bolesław (VI sports Section Inspector), Józwiakowi Władysława (Sports Qualification Inspector), Rogalińska Eufemia (Financial Inspector), Wlazł Zdzisław (accountant payer), Fidelus Bronisław (Section clerk of Supply – warehouse clerk), Zawiraka Stefania (Head of Office), Kominiak Maria (typist), Sadowski Edward (janitor). ŁKKF members of Presiding body members representing: Łódź Board of Polish Youth Union – Stanisław Kostrzewa (I vice chairman), Cenral Council of Trade Unions (CRZZ) – Lech Gruz (II vice chairman), Roman Leonarczyk i Zdzisław Borowski (secretaries) and the following members: Mokrzycki Józef (Political School for Officers), Krysiak Kazimierz (*Gwardia*. Sports Association). Winiarski Roman (Municipal National Council in Łódź, Education Division), Frasz Stanisław (DOSZ), Chelwiusz Stanisław (Municipal National Council in Łódź, Health Division).

The Voivodeship Committee of Physical culture (chairman Józef Okoński) and Łódź Committee of Physical culture (chairman Andrzej Narczyk) Nonas functioned since 1951 on the territory of Łódźvoivodeship.

The creation of ŁKKF caused confusion in the ongoing process of sports reorganization. The final date of sports unions shutdown (June 3, 1951) in Łódźvoivodeship was not kept. In mid 1951 still some disciplines like fencing, boxing, skating, hockey, shooting sports functioned in the former structures. The rise of ŁKKF led to additional confusion about the affiliation of sports sections³⁸. At the beginning sports sections were part of WKKF. Only in October 1951 did they take a decision about setting up similar bodies with ŁKKF³⁹. The number of functioning sections was changed. At the end of 1951 ŁKKF supervised nineteen sports sections⁴⁰. In 1953 there were twenty one⁴¹ sections with WKKF. In 1954 the number of sports sections with ŁKKF rose to twenty three and those with WKKF decreased to sixteen⁴².

New trustworthy people were needed for the realisation of the goals set by BP KC PZPR in the September Resolution. The party authorities looked for the guards of the ideologically right face of sport among the activists of the Polish Youth Union (ZMP).

In March 1950 the chairman of GKKF Lucjan Motyka called the ZMP active members to join organising of new structures: «Your task is to strenghten the organization, to democratize physical culture, add new values...». Prewar activists were to be «exploited», whoever worked with them was supposed to be particularly cautious⁴³. Getting rid of pre-war activists took on force. Manging posts in physical culture committees were taken by party activists. The committees presiding bodies were often party teams. The staff nomenclature system which started in May 1950 introduced a list of managerial posts goverened by PZPR. Basing the reorganization on party structures guaranteed meeting the targets, especially political ones.

Tooting their own horns activists of ZMP did not show any greater engagement in reorganizing Łódź physical culture. Few of them worked for associations and sports clubs⁴⁴. In 1951 at the meeting of the Executive Body of Śródmieście Borough Committee the party activists were presented with a negative opinion on ZMP activists' engagement in the realization of the Resolution of BP KC PZPR⁴⁵. Little involvement of ZMP activists was also signalled on the territory of Łódźvoivodeship⁴⁶.

The situation slightly improved in 1954 in the city of Łódź. The Resolutions of XIII Plenary Session of the Management Board of ZMP and the Łódź Committee (KŁ) of PZPR⁴⁷ made it possible for the Łódź Unit of ZMP to delegate activists to Regional Councils of Sports Associations and special sections of ŁKKF⁴⁸. In

³⁸ AAN in Warsaw. GKKF. Sign. 84/2 WKKF post control report(1950–51). P. 118. *Report on total control of economy of Committee of Physical Culture in Łódź undertaken on 30. V-2.VI.51 by the GKKF control inspectors, senior inspector Brzóska Tadeusz and inspector Nowicki Stanisław.*

³⁹ *Illustrated Express*. 31.08.1951. Issue 233. P. 4.

⁴⁰ APL, PRN in Łódź. Sign. 797. Matters of Municipal Office of the committee of Physical Culture 1951. P. 4. Matters of Physical Culture in the city of Łódź. The sections: athletics, gymnastics, chess, football, boxing, weight lifting and wrestling, fencing, archery, shooting sports, swimming, skiing, sailing, ice hockey, skating, handball (volleyball, basketball, szczypiorniak-handball), tennis, table tennis, cycling and motor cycling).

⁴¹ PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 557. Minutes no XXIV of WRN Presiding Body meeting on 1.VI.1954 from 10.00 am – 09.30 pm headed by citizen Hodorecki Juliana, Chairman of WRN Presiding Body. P. 12, *Analysis of Voivodeship Committee of Physical Cultur activities 1953 and main tasks planned for 1953.*

⁴² AAN in Warsaw. GKKF. Sign. 34. *Survey of the state of physical culture and sport, Statistical data sent from voivodeships.* 1954 r. P. 48. *Survey of the stae of physical culture and sport in the city of Łódź for 1. V. 1954.* P. 56. Survey of the state of physical culture and sport in łódźvoivodeship for 1. V. 1954.

⁴³ *Sports Review*. 2.03.1950. Issue 18. P. 3.

⁴⁴ APL, Łódź Board of Polish Youth Union, Sekretariat, sign. 116, Correspondence. P. 79. *A list of ZMP delegates in Associations, Unions and sports clubs in Łódź.* The delegates were: J. Feliksiak (to the Regional Council of Sport of trade Unions and ZS Związkowiec-Zryw), Bieleński W. (delegated to ŁOZPN), Dembowski S. (delegated to ŁOZT and ŁOZP), Tomaszewski L. (delegated to do ŁOZB), Koperski B. (delegated to ŁKS Włókniarz), Wolczyk J. (ZS Spójnia).

⁴⁵ APL, KDPZPRŁŚ, sign. 6, Minutes and attachments I-VI 1951. P. 78, *How was The Resolution of BP KC PZPR on Physical Culture in sports life organizational units achieved in our Party Borough.*

⁴⁶ AP in Płock, Division in Kutno MKKS Czarni Sports Club w Kutnie. Sign. 2, the book of minutes of Kolejarz Sports Club Council. 1954–1956. P. None. Minutes No 3 of the meeting of Kolejarz Sports Club Council in Kutno on April 7, 1954.

⁴⁷ *Workers' Voice*. 5.01.1954. Issue 3. P. 4.

⁴⁸ APL, Łódź Committee (KŁ) of PZPR, Propagand Division. Sign. 2399. Functioning of the League of the Soldier's Friends, Polish Writers Union and sport san physical culture unions, instructions, information, evaluations (1953–1954). P. 154. *Information on ZMP organization functioning in the field of physical culture and sport.*

1952 the chairman of WKKF Józef Okońskis signalled the lack of care for the social activists in PKKF in Łowicz, Skierniewice, Brzeziny and Radomsko. He estimated negatively the work of the staff of «Kolejarz», «Ognisko», «Budowlani» and «Gwardia» associations. The improvement, which concerned only the quantity of staff, happened after the elections to municipal and district committees of physical culture⁴⁹.

The activists of ZMP were used by the Security Service to «take over» the control in sports associations which Communist Government treated as their opposition. Łódź Young Men's Association (YMCA) faced such fate. In 1948 the Ministry of Interior Security took activities under the cryptonym «Łaźnia»⁵⁰ which along with the takeover of control in YMCA Management Board by the members of ZMP⁵¹ led to changes in the Statute⁵² and its final shutdown (1952)⁵³.

The problem of staffing was discussed both during the plenary meetings of GKKF, WKKF in Łódź⁵⁴ as well as in Łódź press.

«The old» activists, who were alleged with opportunism towards massive actions, were to be replaced with...» comrades with the highest ideological level»⁵⁵. In 1950 KŁ PZPR set up Sports Party Body to review the staff. The body (five people) cooperated with CRZZ during elections to club authorities, sports units and regional sports unions management boards. It was one of the forms of reviewing management posts. The appraisal was of regular character. In some club boards (Łódź Sports Club «Włokniarz», Workers' Sports Society «Widzew») or sports unions (Łódź Regional Sports Union, Łódź Regional Fencing Union, Łódź Regional Union of Athletes) there was a need for reelections or taking on new members. The reason for staff problems of WKKF in Łódź was seen in a small number of activists in management boards. In 1950 in eighteen regional sports unions there was 41 % of PZPR members, 9 % of ZMP members and still 50 % were non-party members.

The work of the boards elected after 1950 was evaluated as generally positive. However, there were objections regarding the activities of Łódź County Football Union («*poor shape and work input*»), Łódź County Boxing Union («*poor ideological level*») and Łódź County Swimming Union («*too small a number of quality activists*»)⁵⁶.

Considering the guidelines of BP KC PZPR Resolution WKKF in Łódź worked out a long-term programme of ideological and political training of sports staff⁵⁷ which encompassed the whole area of the voivodeship⁵⁸. Despite this, the commitment of physical culture committees staff, social sections, ZMP, Łódź Council of Trade Unions or associations was repeatedly negatively evaluated⁵⁹. In 1951, after a negative appraisal, the Presiding Body of WRN instructed sacking Władysław Adamski (the chairman of PKKF in Piotrków Trybunalski) for «*no commitment and lack of cooperation with the region*», Antoni Kupisz (executive assistant of PKKF in Piotrków Trybunalski) who was blamed with «*bad style of work and neglecting of collective work in the committee of physical culture*»⁶⁰. In the city of Łódź the problem of unqualified sports activists lasted till the end of the reported period. None of the inspectors held a degree of higher education in a given field and many were not even graduates of secondary schools.

⁴⁹ *Workers' Voice*. 28.11.1952. Issue 285. P. 4.

⁵⁰ Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) In Łodzi, IPN Ld PF10/725, Voivodeship Office of Interior Affairs in Łódź (1945) 1983–1990, materials concerning spying of YMCA in 1948–1950. P. 6. *To Voivodeship Office of Public Safety in Łódź. Head of the I Department.*

⁵¹ APL, Board of Łódzki Union of Polish Youth. Sig. 83. Papers (meeting papers, speeches). P. 4, *Shorthand notes.*

⁵² IPN in Łódź, IPN Ld PF10/725, Voivodeship Office of Interior Affairs in Łódź, p. Intelligence Agency report. *Source-Miner*, 29.10.1949; APL, PRN in Łódź. Sign. 2363. Matters of dissolving and shutting down of associations, 1952. P. 26. Copy. *To Magistrate Starosty of Śródmiejsko-Łódzki Administrative department in Łódź.*

⁵³ APL, PRN in Łódź. Sign. 2363. Matters of dissolving and shutting down of associations. 1952. *Minutes of Inspection of «Ognisko» Association at 4, Moniuszki St. apt 6.*

⁵⁴ *Workers' Voice*. 19.03.1950. Issue 78. S. 6. *illustrated Express*. 26.08.1950. Issue 234. P. 4.

⁵⁵ *Workers' Voice*. 4.01.1950. Issue 4. P. 6.

⁵⁶ APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 362. Minutes of No IX meeting of Presiding Body of voivodeship National Council of February 13 1951. P. 57. Report on *W.K.K.F. activity in 1950 on the territory of Łódź Voivodeship and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951.*

⁵⁷ *Workers' Voice*. 28.04.1951. Issue 115. P. 4.

⁵⁸ *Sports Review*. 22.12.1951. Issue 108. P. 4–5.

⁵⁹ *Workers' Voice*. 16.06.1952. Issue 143. P. 4; 13.12.1952. Issue 298. P. 4; *Łódzki Daily*. 21.07.1953. Issue 172. P. 6; *Łódzki Illustrated Express*. 1.04.1955. Issue 78. P. 6.

⁶⁰ APL, PWRN i UW in Łódź, sign. 391, Minutes of No XXXVIII meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council of september. 4.1951. P. 20. Resolution *No XXXVIII/456 of September 4, 1951 on popularizing physical culture and sport on the territory of voivodeship.*

Staff work and the implementation of the Resolution of BP KC PZPR on physical culture issues was controlled by GKKF⁶¹, among the others. In 1953 the Commission of Propaganda Department of KC PZPR ordered in its post control conclusions eliminating «a foreign and demoralized element» and introducing new part and ZMP staff into the sports movement⁶².

The problem of staffing new structures existed till the end of 1955 and it was not limited only to the area of Łódźvoivodeship. To improve section work and mutual relationships between social and management activists of physical culture committees the chairman of GKKF issued a recommendation which said: «one of the major tasks of Committees of Physical Culture in the field of increasing management efficiency is constant inducing of sports activists to work in sports sections and referees' boards of KKF and systematic improvement of their work»⁶³.

The committees of physical culture (WKKF and ŁKKF), according to the resolution of BP KC PZPR, popularized physical education and sport. Their activities encompassed sports unions («Budowlani» Association, «Kolejarz» Association, «Ogniwo» Association, «Stal» association, «Spójnia» Association, «Unia» Association and Włókniarz «Association», «Start» sports associations (comprising small-scale producers), «Zryw» sports associations (vocational education), school sport subordinated to the Minister of Education, LZS Sports Association⁶⁴ and AZS association (on the territory of the city of Łódź)

The quantity of sports circles and its members (the range of physical education and sport), the number of sports classifications won (marking the level of competitive sport), the number of massive events (i.e. «National Jogging, Marches of Victory Track and «ZMS Cycling Tours) and also the «Fit for Work and Defence» Badge (SPO)⁶⁵ became the determinants of sports level, replacing titles and medals. The available statistical data make it unable to expressly determine the level in Łódźvoivodeship. It is rather mostly fragmentary. The separate statistical presentation for the city of Łódź and Łódźvoivodeship was of great difficulty. Analysing the available data one can notice that till 1955 there was an increase in the number of sports circles and their members. In 1956 on the territory of the city of Łódź the level became stable. In Łódźvoivodeship, however, the number of circles (31 %) and their members (35 %) decreased. The «National Jogging» mass event was stable⁶⁶. SPO/BSPO badge became the symbol of physical education and sports system which was achieved on a similar level. 1956 was an exception, however, when a sudden fall of badges' winners occurred.

Conclusions. At the end of 1948, the power in Poland was taken over by the communists. Single-party ruling of PZPR (Polish United Workers' Party) started to uncritically implement the Soviet model of the state. Physical activity became of interest. The new model of managing sport and physical education became a tool of political influence on the society. The main changes were marked out in the Resolution of September 28, 1949 of Politburo of Central Committee of PZPR. Based on the resolutions of Communist parties of the Soviet Union broke down with home traditions of sport movement. It upgraded the political and social importance of physical culture and formulated the development programme. The implementation of the tasks was passed on to GKKF.

In Łódźvoivodeship the reorganization of sport was initiated by the Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture. Then in 1950 it was Łódź Committee of Physical Culture which took over on the territory of Łódź. The introduction of the new model of physical culture management faced many difficulties. At the beginning one could notice premises and staff problems. The situation was not improved by marking new tasks for ZMP active members. Till the end of the discussed period there were numerous cases of negative appraisal of full-time members of committees of physical culture and social activists. The situation got worse due to getting rid of the pre-war activists.

⁶¹ AAN in Warsaw, GKKF. sign. 88/2 WKKF post control report (1950–51). P. 118. *Report on total control of economy of Committee of Physical Culture in Łódź undertaken on 30. V-2.VI.51 by the GKKF control inspectors, senior inspector Brzóska Tadeusz and inspector Nowicki Stanisław.*

⁶² A. Pasko, *Competitive sport in state politics in 1944–1989.* Kraków, 2012. P. 129.

⁶³ AAN in Warsaw. GKKF. sign. 188/4. Minutes of the meeting of Presiding Body of WKKF Łódź, 1955. P. none, Preparation to the implementation of new regulations of Sports Sections.

⁶⁴ PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 557, Minutes of no XXIV of the meeting of WRN Presiding Body held on June 1. 1954 from 10.00am to 9.30 pm under the presidency of citizen Hodorecki Julian, Chairman of the WRN Presiding Body. P. 12. *Analysis of the activity of Voivodeship Committee of physical Culture for 1953 and its main tasks planned for 1953.*

⁶⁵ L. Szymański, *Physical culture and Tourism in the Politics of People's Republic of Poland in 1944–1989,* Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław. Wrocław, 2004. P. 48.

⁶⁶ year 1952 was an exception for the city of Łódź and year 1956 was exceptional for Łódźvoivodeship when there was a visible decrease of the number of participants.

Due to September Resolution sports unions were dissolved and they became part of WKKF and ŁKKF. Sports clubs lost their legal status and traditional names.

The inclusion of physical culture tasks into the six-year plan ensured financial support of the goals given to every single unit. The level of the development of physical culture was marked by the range of physical culture, mass events and the «Fit for Work and Defence badge».⁶⁷

The realization of the tasks was granted to the Head Committee of Physical Culture and local committees.

The real control of physical education and sport matters belonged to party committees. It was them that finally approved the development programmes and estimated the activities.

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⁶⁷ AAN in Warsaw. GKKF. sign. 23. Physical Culture in Poland in 1951. Statistical data sheet 1950–1952. Sign. 31. Collection of basic data on the state of physical culture and sport in 1954. Study, statistical data sheet 1954.; Sign. 32. Collection of basic data on the state of physical culture and sport in Poland in 1955, directive of the Chairman, statistical data sheet. 1955; Sign. 33, Collection of basic data on the state of physical culture and sport in Poland in 1956. Report on statistics of the Chairman and instructions 1956; «News Bulletin» of July 25 1958; APL, PWRN and UW in Łódź. Sign. 362. Minutes of No IX of the meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship national Council of February 1951. P. 57. report on *W.K.K.F. activity in 1950 on the territory of Łódź voivodeship and its main tasks and guidelines in 1951*. Sign. 480 Minutes of No XVIII of the meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship national Council in Łódź held on March 19, 1953 from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm under the presidency of Julian Hordecki WRN Presiding Body Chairman. P. 12. Analysis of Voivodeship Committee of Physical Culture activity for 1952 and main tasks planned for 1953; Sign. 557. Minutes of No XXIV meeting of Presiding Body of Voivodeship National Council in Łódź held on July 1, 1954 r. from 10.00 am to 9.30 pm under the presidency of Hordecki Julian WRN Presiding Body Chairman. P. 47 Report on Voivodeship of Physical Culture Committee in Łódź on the activity in 1953 and main tasks planned for 1954.