

Abstract:

The doctoral dissertation is devoted to the phenomenon of sport within the scouting organization known as the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego, ZHP) in the years 1920–1939 (from the unification of scouting organizations in Poland until the outbreak of the Second World War). The aim of the study was to describe the activities of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association and its influence on the popularization of sport in Poland during the period 1920–1939. According to the author, this objective has been achieved by presenting activities related to the development of sport within ZHP at various organizational levels- from the patrol level to initiatives undertaken by the national headquarters- and by demonstrating its impact on the development of sport in Poland.

The study outlines the legal status of the organization, the methodology of scouting work and the place of sport within it, as well as the methodological tools used to implement sporting activities. It also examines the cooperation between ZHP and the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training, as well as with sports organizations and associations. Furthermore, it discusses the implementation of state policy objectives concerning the development of physical fitness in society and the preparation of citizens for national defense.

Within its activities, ZHP developed such disciplines as shooting, archery, gliding, aviation, ballooning, parachuting, athletics, boxing, skiing, luge, skating, ice hockey, ice boating, canoeing, sailing, swimming, cycling, motor sports, table tennis, chess, and team sports such as football (soccer), volleyball, basketball, hazena, and handball. Particularly significant contributions were made in the development of sailing, canoeing, gliding, archery, basketball, and skiing.

The analysis conducted allows us to conclude that sport in interwar scouting constituted an important element of the organization's educational program, closely linked to the idea of the comprehensive physical and moral development of youth, although it was not its primary objective. Sporting activity was not treated as an end in itself, but rather as an educational tool used to shape character, discipline, and attitudes.

The activities undertaken by the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association aimed at the lasting integration of sport and physical education into the program of scouting units. Their overarching goal was not only to instill proper health and hygiene habits among young people, but also to prepare them for future military service. This activity was closely connected with the implementation of the provisions of the Act on the Universal Obligation of Physical Education

and Military Training, which imposed specific responsibilities on organizations in the field of promoting physical culture and defense preparedness.

In conclusion, sport in ZHP during the Second Polish Republic should be regarded as a significant component of the organization's educational system, combining elements of physical education, civic education, and preparation of youth for active participation in social life. It was also used to promote civic attitudes and to present the country and its achievements abroad (e.g., during international jamborees), and it contributed to the upbringing of hundreds of thousands of young people in the spirit of the Scout Law and Promise, including many outstanding activists and champions of sport.

Key words: #ZHP #Sport #Scouting #Poland #1920 #1939 #IIRP