Calendar of holding sports competitions as a source in study of features of
development of domestic sport in the 30s of the XXth century

Abstract. Purpose: Based on the analysis of a number of archive documents made an attempt to investigate the
dynamics of development of Olympic and non-Olympic sports in the first decades of the Soviet period of the Ukrainian
history. Materials and methods: The analysis and generalization of sources on the subject. Results: The features of the
development of sports industry of the USSR in the 30-ies of 20th century are analyzed. Conclusion: it is proved, that the
development of the sports field was caused by primarily political factors; equal attention was paid to Olympic and non-
Olympic kinds of sports.

Keywords: kinds of sport, calendar of sportsevents, sports chart, sporting competitions, sportsmen.

Problem statement. Research of becoming and development of domestic twenty-four hours in the last years
becomes more popular. The crisis phenomena that inherent to all spheres of modern Ukrainian society, did not go round
a side of athletic-sporting industry of our state. During overcoming of difficulties, caused by a difficult socio-economic
and military-political situation in this country, we once again turn to experience of past generations which are forced to
overcome the number of problems for the sake of reformation of domestic sport. The account of errors credible incidents
which took place in the 30s of the XXth century, will allow to economize resources for more swift and effective updating of
sports area of modern Ukraine.

Thus a retrospective study of becoming and development of domestic sport in soviet times is original empiric foundation
on which will be erected new building which must answer the necessities of present time.

Illumination of process of installation of sport inhered for researches of soviet period underline attention to the
questions of management, marking, sporting activity of sporting achievements of the Ukrainian sportsmen [2,4]. Modern
researchers try to reconsider the historical legacy of soviet period [1,3,5].

Connection of the research with scientific programs, plans, themes. The paper is done within the research
project “Theoretical and methodological characteristics of the development of non-Olympic sports.”

The aim of this research is an attempt to characterize the dynamics of Olympic and non-Olympic kinds of sports in the
USSR in the 30-ies of 20th century.

Materials and research methods. Among the variety of dissertations, monographs and scientific articles devoted
to this problem, the special place belongs to the archived materials the analysis of which allows to educe the real format
of historical events of the past [6]. Exactly, the archived documents come forward as a primary base of any research.
Application of analytical in general lines, logical, empiric methods allows not simply to feel the atmosphere of time, but also
realize the narration of phenomena which became history.

The use of analysis of content makesscientific labour maximally narrative, clear and realized.

From between the large array of funds of the Central archive state public associations of Ukraine (farther - ЦДАГО), a
main place is occupied by party documents, as plans, decisions, reports, and the like, leading structural subdivisions which
took care for physical culture and sport. Then planning activity regardless to the high degree of formalization, contains very
valuable information which touches the dynamics of functioning of physical culture and sport in Ukraine in the 30s.

For realization of dynamics of preparation and exposure of sporting abilities and skills of the Ukrainian sportsmen,
achievedfor the twentieth birthday of bolshevist domination, it is worthto analyse the calendar of sporting events for
1937.

Results of the research and their discussion. Structurally the calendar of sporting events(farther for comfort -
KCI) contains information about the sports, form, time and place of conducting of competitions, and so on [6, p. 24–29.].
The calendar register of sports in this document is structured not after alphabetical but on the priority principle. Such
hierarchy allows to define the degree of importance of sporting directions that cultivated in USSR and in URSR in the 30s.

The specificity of realization of sporting measures was based on spatially-calendar basis, embracing by itself terrain
and aquatic space. Airsports now among civil competitions in this document are not marked. Character of competitions
and relay races, by plan of their organizers could reveal the maximal amount of talented sportsmen inthe condition of
achievement of high results by them.

Calendar factor varied within the limits of March - December of current year. It means that a sporting year began at
early spring and closed at the beginning of the winter. In the set interval of time organizers tried to include all possible types
of control of physical possibilities of sportsmen, regardless of varieties of kinds of sport.

A gymnastics stood on the first place. Exactly in the USSR in 30s - considered a sport queen. And not surprisingly. In
fact physical drills demonstrate corporal perfection. The rightness of their implementation needscoordination of work of all
groups of muscles which are the guarantee of correct development of all organism.

A spring heat allowed to organize and conduct a competition on outside court. However it should be noted that
gymnastics is only one from all list marked in KCI December type of sport.

In April - May individual- team championship revealed the champions of cities and areas. Summer period foresaw
realization of mass-sporting gymfest within the limits of cities and districts. Finally, late autumn republican competitions
were planned, what completed trade-union championship of all-union scale.

On the second place was swimming stood in a sporting register. Besides overcoming of aquatic obstacles, this sport was complemented by diving and water-polo. To the competitions cities were brought over where swimming pools were: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk. It is not difficult to guess that teams of these cities were the strongest due to a corresponding infrastructure. As a rule exactly, they presented a republic on the inter-republican and all-union competitions. For the swimmers of rural and district scale the open reservoirs were used in daylight for saving time of an year. Republican competitions in watersports that years took place in Dnipropetrovsk. Obviously the annual rotary was existed of accepting city which physically could provide sportsmen with necessary sports buildings. All-union championship was held at the end of July in Moscow. Inter-republican competitions – at the end of autumn in Leningrad.

Followings on a calendar are kinds of competitions which allow to unite them in the power sports. They were: boxing, wrestling and weightlifting. Traditional monthly limbering-up of boxers and wrestlers- championship of cities and URSR, later on the all-union championship in Moscow. By the way, during all-union competitions in boxing of 1937 in feather-weight (57 kg) the gold was won by an youth from Kharkiv, student of Institute of sports Anatoli Greiner (1916 - 1990).

Attention was payed to the name of the third power type of sport. In KÇZ weight lifting is considered asa “barbell”, although as seen this type of sport foresaw a competition only of weighters, but notweight -lifters. Thus unlike boxing and wrestling, competitions in a barbellifting were less protracted. Obviously force and skill the weight-lifters cultivated throughout a year.

Fencing, unlike the previous kinds of sport of that year did not foresee all-union competitions and carried especially regional character.

The cycle racing in those times had the name bicycle. Cycling races lasted almost a whole year. Evidently such method of movement was claimed. Cycling competitions began from middle of March and lasted to the end of September. On an initial phase (in spring) they were held for the lines of GTÖ, later carried administrative-territorial character within the limits of UKRAINE. In summer were all-union competitions. In autumn was all-Ukrainian championship. A “bicycle”, as a type of sport, included for itself cycling races, cycling cross, and also track and a figure ride. Regarding to the smallest numbers of cycle tracks regional and republican championship took place in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk and on Donbas.

A next step in a sporting pantheon was occupied by track-and-field. For soviet authorities it was personification of the modern times. That is why this sport was brought over as many as possible participants. Next to regional, the military men heats took place for the lines of GTÖ and BGTO.

The running relay races of cities and areas were completed by all-republican championship in Kharkiv. All-union competitions were traditionally held in Moscow. Its worth to pay attention to ideological colouring of track-and-field events. After the completion of all important competitions, the September heats were settled down in honour state holidays and party leaders. Thus every participant of heat subconsciously showed respect to the soviet system and its leaders doing the contribution in building up theradiant future.

The games at that time were presented by football, handball, tennis, gorodki, volleyball, basketball and rugby. Actually, exactly in such sequence they are transferred in KÇZ. Most respected among them was certainly football which in KÇZ considerably more attention was paid than to others. Considerable attention was paid to the sports staff. During March - April trainers passed the two-month skill improvement courses. By the way, the same measures (but for masters-of-sportand judges) were taken in relation to track-and-field athletics. Thus, these two types of sport, unlike others foresaw permanent further qualification training and improvement of qualification for coaches and judges.

During qualifying games in football the Olympic system was used which foresaw bringing in of widerange of soccer teams of different level. Absence of such approach to other sports did football by more Olympic kind of sports competitions.

Next was the summer republic championship held by round robin. Cup-tie of the USSR was played from May, 24 upto June 30 in 1937. August-September was devoted to the union championship for determination of the strongest team of Soviet Union. That year Moscow “Dynamo” became the first, and Kyiv “Dynamo” took the third place. Thus, football from the amateur sport, during one short season was transformed into professional or, at least, semi-professional.

Competition handball, gorodki, volleyball, unlike basket-ball and rugby did not have all-union meaning. Routine competitions at the level of cities and areas were ended with republican championship in Kyiv. Thus in organization of volleyball the paralogism of realization of games was, to some reason, noted. The March-April championship of Ukraine, even at the level of public organizations and labour collectives outgrew in summer championship of cities.

The competition in tennis, basketball and andrugby took place on a fully logical administratively-regional chart, by the final stage were all-union competitions. Only one feature: all-union championship intennis was individual and not team.

Relay races were also considered regional in rowing and sailing, which got the name “rowing-sail”. Beginning in July championships of cities, competitions had the intermediate trade-union stage which passedover into the September all-Ukrainian championship.

The individual sports included equestrian, auto-motorcycling and also chess and checkers. Pretty queerly combination of physical and intellectual varieties of sporting competitions in KCZ was given exactly in such sequence. Meanwhile, equestrian races kept limits to an area and were held in those cities where hippodromes were located. Relay races in auto-moto events were more various. For their realization existing roads were reused and motorways, that saved money, but created inconveniences for the civil participants of traffic.

This type of competitions began in a middle of Spring and lasted up to the middle of Autumn Auto-moto included: motor races, motor cycle races, car races of championship of cities, autoclubs, republican and all-union auto competitions. Notable is that all forms of auto-competitions were completed by the militarized winter cross-country autorace (probably devoted to the anniversary of October revolution) during military parades in the cities of ukraine, and winners - on the Red square in Moscow. It is worth to pay attention, that regardless considerable financially-organizational expences on realization of competitions, auto-moto among the technical sports was paid maximal attention to. You can add to it the
service of motor mechanics, cost of gas and oil materials, spare parts, logistics in providing of racing motorists’ needs. Obviously reason that is a militarist constituent of auto-motorcycling, in fact, in the case of war rapid re-deployment of manpower and technique is possible on a condition of presence of specialists in extreme driving of technical means. In this context we can compare inexpressive competitions in equestrian sport and bright enough of auto-moto. Evidently soviet authorities in the conditions of the expected war considered the Artiodactyla means as archaic, as compared to “ferrous horse” equipped by the supermodern types of fire-arms.

Next to aspiring to physical perfection of workers and peasants, attention was paid in Ukraine to intellectuals as well. This function in a sporting area was performed by chess and checkers. Schools of soviet chess-players had not yet been formed in that time and that is why the sport carried an amateur character. In chess and checkers were played by both men and women. The selection of the best was held on a standard chart: at first qualifying rounds within the limits of the union republics, afterwards there was a republican final, then an all-union tournament. At that an all-union tournament was conducted also among women, demonstrating by that of gender equality declared by soviet ideology.

A hunting belonged to the individual sport. Holding of regional and all-union competitions took place within the limits of hunting-season but in summer and fall seasons. Ability of well-aimed shooting was combined with skills of training of fore-paw friends, that is why alongside with firing the all-union exhibitions were conducted in dog-breeding. Plugging of hunting in the list of sporting competitions was not casual. A man with a gun in a peace-time perfects the abilities. For human a hunting is a hobby, in the case of beginning of war the skilful marksmen and dog-breeders are transformed to the rank of the most claimed specialists from the cohort of the mobilized.

In summer the all-round competitions were conducted in the context of verification of base physical skills of citizens who are “ready to labour and defense”. As it is known the all-round complex GTÖ was included to all-union sporting classification. The summer and winter events existed which presented the complex system of body-conditioning which the wide strata population were attracted to. Beginning from 1931 in the USSR annual competitions were held on both regional and all-union scale. Namely in 1937 the summer program of GTÖ was planned in UKRAINE. The end of the 30s summarized the first soviet sporting six-year plan. It is evident now that competitions in this events of sports were conducted at first among the most skilful persons who showed the greatest results in days gone by. Individual and team championship of badge-holders of I-st ranking of voluntarily societies and physicalculturists fluently passed into regional and all-ukrainian competitions for the badges of 2-nd ranking of GTÖ.

Amateur competitions became the final part of KCZ in 1937. Rural sport stood on the first place. Regarding that collective farmers were busy, timely and physical impossibility to take up the systematic trainings, and accordingly to go in for sports professionally; for them there were the planned competitions in all-round. Interesting is the fact that the collective farm competitions were conducted at once at the republican level. The winners of a collective farm sporting games of Ukraine could participate all-union spartakiad meet in all-round and sporting games.

It should be noted that bringing peasants in sporting activity created certain discomfort in their lives. They were to be distracted from agricultural works, got permission and money from the chairmen of collective farms for participating in competitions. That is why archives are abound in numerous queries, in relation to transferece of competitions and forbid to use agrarian workers for training sessions and competitions and the like.

The last step of final part of KCZ belongs to spartakiad meets among the students of schools and universitites. What concerns schoolboys is that the compilers of calendar paid attention only to town schools. After conducting of town contents winners rode to all-ukrainian spartakiad meet. Obviously such measures took place in a vacation period which meanwhile for somebody was delayed to September. You can see that inspite of certain indignation of children and parents, in relation to absorption of vacations by going in for sports, such approach allowed to reveal the most talented young people, create sporting reserve and form the professional orientation for the young generation.

Interinstitution competitions, unlike school ones had a certain specificity. Students presented not secondary schools but public committees (that time ministries) the departments of which they belong to. It provided more high-quality financing and provision of juniors a sporting inventory.

In July relay races among public committees in gymnastics, that traditionally held in Moscow came forward as final and at the same time were chronologically middle part of sporting activities foreseen for 1937.

An eventual phase were the September university games in which students-sportsmen defended honour of own alma mater.

Vacation time for sporting trials was rationally planned taking into account beginning of academic year where no measures in the sphere of physical culture and sport were not planned.

Without regard to certain failures and hard centralism during creation of all-union and regional sport in Ukraine and USSR in an intermilitary period, party authorities put considerable efforts with the purpose of realization of principle of healthy way of life in all strata of society. The obtained experience will be used in the further years of soviet history. Exactly, this factor allowed to apply the numberof standard charts in education of sportsmen, their aspiring to victory in sports competitions.

Conclusions and the prospects for further research. Summing up the conducted research it is worth to say that a process of realization of sports measures in Ukraine at the state of the end of the 30s had clear and careful thought out of organizational and logical structure. The heads of the sports and physical culture industry when planning KCZ tried to take into account the maximum amount of human and objective factors, which concerned the sportsmen, kinds of sports and specificity of their holding. Regardless to a financial deficit, bad infrastructure, certain social indifference, the soviet party bodies considered sport to be the important mean of education, ideological influence on society and effective form of forming of reserve of Red Army. Next to classic kinds, there developed the artificially created non-olympic sports, which were of mass character somewhere. For sports authorities that was not important. Nevertheless in that time neither the USSR nor none of soviet republics took part in official international or olympic competitions. Among priorities in
development of sports area in the USSR of intermilitary period was more important the social but not the bourgeois-selfish constituent.

In spite of such sporting autarchy itself, it was succeeded to lay the foundations of future sports schools, create a skilled base for swift flight of domestic sport in the second half of the XX-th century in Ukraine

Further researches should be directed to study the characteristics of non-Olympic sports in Ukraine during the second half of the 20th century.

**LIST of abbreviations:**

- БГПО/ВГТО/ - be ready to labour and defensive
- ВЦРПС is All-union central advice of trade unions
- ГПО/ГТО/- ready to labour and defensive
- ДФКУ - the State institute of physical culture. Presently - ХДАФК (Kharkiv state academy of physical culture).
- UKRAINE - the Ukrainian socialist soviet republic (the name of Soviet Ukraine is from 1919 to 1937)
- UKRAINE - the Ukrainian soviet socialistic republic (the name of Soviet Ukraine is from 1937 on 1991)
- РСЧА - the Working-peasant red army (the name of soviet military powers from 1918 to 1946)
- The USSR - Union of soviet socialistic republics.

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