

# Main components and content of sports volunteer activities

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**Purpose:** identification of the main structural components and content of sports volunteer activities.

**Material & Methods:** used analysis of literature and documents, organizational analysis.

**Result:** basic structural components of sports volunteer activity are defined. The content of sports volunteer activity is disclosed.

**Conclusion:** sports volunteer activity includes the following structural components: subject, object, purpose, motivation, means, actions; subject is a sports volunteer, the object is a sports competition, the goal is to provide gratuitous assistance for a quality competition, the means are the special knowledge, skills, communication abilities of sports volunteers, actions should be understood as types of volunteer activities and functions that volunteers perform during the preparation and conduct of competitions. Main types of sports volunteer activity are: 1) organizational; 2) judiciary; 3) coaching; 4) legal; 5) medical. Functions that volunteers perform in the competition system are general and special. Content of the functions of sports volunteering depends on the specifics of the sports, the rank of the competition, the specifics of the competition for people with special needs.

**Keywords:** volunteer, sports volunteer activity, structural components, content, functions.

## Introduction

As is known, volunteering for Ukraine, as in many countries of the world, it is a relevant and important social phenomenon for several reasons: the employment of volunteers is an effective way to solve the complex problems of the individual, society and the environment; Volunteering brings new, creative and courageous ideas to the social sphere to solve acute and complex problems; volunteering – This is the way in which every citizen of the country can participate in improving the quality of public life [15]. The events of 2014 and the beginning of the ATO in Ukraine became an illustrative manifestation of social self-organization and a large-scale spread of the volunteer movement, a decisive role in this process was played by the patriotic rise in Ukrainian society [21].

To date, the volunteer movement is an integral part of the development of the sphere of physical culture and sports in Ukraine, including the system of physical culture and recreational activities and sports competitions [13; 18; 19].

The experience of attracting sports volunteers originates from the very first Olympic Games in 1894, as a social phenomenon sports volunteering began to form since 1980 – the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. Developing large-scale scenarios of future Universiade and Olympic Games, the organizers began to rely on the participation of volunteers in their conduct. Already in the early 80-ies of the last century, sports volunteers were recognized as "official assistants" of the organizing committees of major competitions [14].

Modern scientists A. V. Bepalko (2007), R. Kh. Vainola (2008), S. F. Matveev (2010), T. L. Liakh (2011), etc. in scientific works considered certain aspects of the formation and development of volunteerism in Ukraine and in the world. Separately, we should single out the works of M. V. Dutchak

(2007), A. S. Bondar (2010, 2015), E. V. Goncharenko (2010), V. I. Levkiv (2013), I. A. Kogut (2014, 2015), I. V. Petrenko (2015, 2016, 2017), in which the authors described sports volunteering as a social phenomenon, revealed the specifics of the activity of sports volunteers, the participation of students in the sport volunteering movement.

The theoretical analysis of scientific works on the research problem has shown that sports volunteer activity is a specific type of activity that requires a scientific analysis of the content and definition of its main components.

**Relationship of research with scientific programs, plans, themes.** The research was carried out in accordance with the thematic plan of the research work of the Kharkov State Academy of Physical Culture for 2016–2018. On the topic 1.5. "Methodological bases of strategic development of the sphere of physical culture and sports in the region" (state registration number 0113U004615), as well as within the framework of the fundamental scientific project for 2015–2017. "Theoretical and methodological fundamentals of the non-Olympic sport" (state registration number 0115U002372, the number of the sub-theme "Organizational and managerial, economic and humanitarian foundations of the non-Olympic sport in Ukraine" 0115U006861C).

**The purpose of the research:** identification of the main structural components and content of sports volunteer activities.

*Objectives of the study:*

1. Identify the main structural components of sports volunteer activity.
2. To disclose the content of sports volunteer activities.

## Material and Methods of the research

Methods of research: analysis of literary sources and documents; organizational analysis.

## Results of the research and their discussion

It is known that activity is a specific kind of human activity aimed at cognition and creative transformation of the surrounding world, including itself and the conditions of its existence. In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Voluntary Activities", voluntary activities are voluntary, socially directed, non-profitable activities carried out by volunteers through the provision of volunteer assistance [12]. Volunteer activity, like any activity, in its structure has the action and organization of activities in general, and therefore, it can be argued that it includes the following main structural and content components, such as: target, procedural, motivational, performance-appraisal.

Volunteer activity is a purposeful process of providing gratuitous assistance, conditioned by social necessity. In the modern world, volunteerism has received the status of an inalienable and ever relevant socio-cultural phenomenon that characterizes any highly developed and civilized society whose priorities are humanistic values [17].

For the implementation of any activity, including volunteer work, a set of official written (issued) documents that are adopted in a certain form by the *law-making body* is required [5], which regulates this type of activity: the basic principles of its implementation, requirements in volunteer organizations, regulation of relations with volunteers, consolidation of the legal status of the volunteer, sources of funding.

Volunteering requires motivation (willingness of the volunteer to work), which, on the one hand, determines the behavior of the individual (A. Adler, A. Maslow, V. Frankie), and on the other – stimulates and allows to maintain it at a certain level (E. Lower, L. Porter, H. Heckhausen) [2].

*Planning for attracting volunteers* – identifying the need for volunteers; the development of the content of volunteer activity; resource analysis; development of the list of requirements for the volunteer; the development of a time recording system for volunteers; planning a campaign to attract volunteers [15], *and further selection* of volunteers, taking into account their level of training, experience in volunteering, personal qualities.

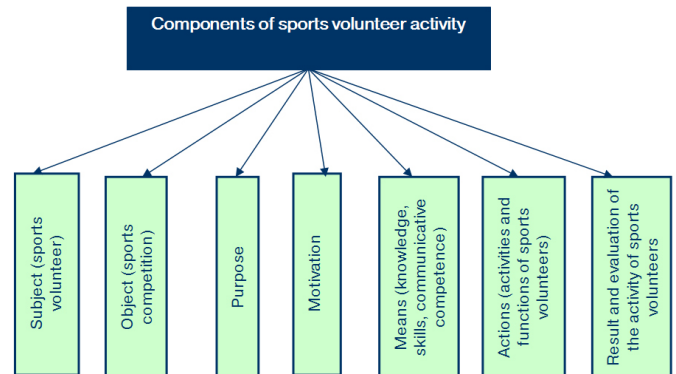
The *main activities of volunteers*: medical volunteers, social volunteers, peacekeepers, cultural and cultural-historical volunteers, environmental volunteers, sports volunteers [6].

For effective volunteering requires *targeted training* of volunteers is necessary for each direction of their activities.

*Result and evaluation.* This criterion is a motivational value for volunteers. It is necessary to determine how well the volunteer fulfilled his assignment successfully or not, he is working. Evasion from assessing the work of volunteers (believing that this can demotivate them) leads to a loss of interest in the matter [16].

Summarizing the foregoing, we can assume that sports volunteer activity includes the following structural components:

subject, object, purpose, motivation, means, actions, while the subject is a sports volunteer, the object is sports competition, the goal is to provide gratuitous assistance for a quality competition, means are the special knowledge, skills, communication abilities of sports volunteers, and actions should be understood as types of volunteer activities and functions that volunteers perform during the preparation and conduct of competitions, the result and evaluation of the activities of sports volunteers [8; 10; 14], which are shown in Figure 1.



**Fig. 1. Main components of sports volunteer activity**

Sports volunteers perform various functions during sport competitions, depending on their level of preparation, knowledge, volunteer experience, based on which one can single out the main activities of sports volunteers:

1) organizers (sports managers). Each sports competition has an Organizing Committee, which has the primary responsibility for the quality and timely preparation of the event. The organization of competitions contains diverse tasks: preparation and construction of objects and adjacent territories, on the basis of which competitions will be held; development of necessary transport routes; training and involvement of specialists to ensure the functioning of services; attracting the attention of the public and the media. In this regard, the Organizing Committee, as a system, can not consist only of managers, it needs "working hands", volunteers are just one of the elements of the Organizing Committee system, indicates the recognition of their official status [11].

2) assistants. These are volunteers who perform various functions in competitions, depending on the above directions, in which they can participate (from placing guests to volunteer coordinators).

3) sports referees. These are volunteers who have received special training and have received the appropriate referee's category and authorized by the organizers of the competitions to ensure compliance with the rules of the sport, the regulation (regulation) of the sports competition.

4) trainers. These are volunteers authorized by the organizers of the competitions, who, having the appropriate education and qualifications, conduct educational and training work among athletes in the preparation and conduct of competitions.

5) volunteers who are conducting legal support of competitions. They can be professional lawyers (fans of this kind of sport), students of law schools.

6) sports doctors. These are volunteers, authorized by the organizers of the competitions, who have the appropriate education and qualifications. Check the applications of teams for the presence of medical admission of participants in the competition with the visa of the relevant medical institution; provide first aid to the participants of the competition.

The content of sports volunteer activity is presented in Figure 2. Analysis of the content of sports volunteers in the competition system suggests that the content of the functions of sports volunteering depends on the specifics of the sports, the rank of the competition – the level of the sport event held in Ukraine or abroad [20], the specifics of the competition for people with special needs. At the same time, with the change in the rank of the competition, the functions of sports volunteers remain the same, only the amount of work for their fulfillment changes.

The general functions of volunteers in the competition system, depending on their inclinations and the level of preparation for volunteer activity are: accommodation; accreditation; safety & security; hospitality; IT-volunteers; logistics; marketing; media; match organization; venue management; team service; ceremonies; VIP-services; ticketing; transportation; welcome & information; curators of all directions, including the leaders of the volunteer squads [1; 4; 9].

Proceeding from the foregoing, it is reasonable to assume that special functions are performed by sports volunteers who have skills in various sports and work directly in the competition area.

The main task of volunteers involved in the organization and holding of the Paralympics and Deaflympic Games is the organization of competitions and direct assistance to athletes, as well as the promotion of the Paralympics and de-Olympic movements outside the Games:

1. Transportation: meetings and seeing off of participants and guests, managing their flows. Assistance in transportation and support of athletes.

2. Administration and information support. Work on information racks, checking and registration of participants and staff, issuing uniforms, etc. Translators services. Informing the participants of the Games and spectators about the environmental situation.

3. Providing ceremonies and competitions. Help in setting the scenery, preparing the ceremonies and rehearsals. Management of recreation areas and stands. Preparation of the competition places and direct work on them during the Games. Ensuring safety in the competition area. Accompanying athletes to the podium, handing out flowers and medals, raising national flags.

4. Medical support and doping control. Fulfillment of the instructions of the chief physician. Organization of work of medical workers. Work as an auxiliary medical personnel, conducting procedures for selecting doping samples. Registration of persons arriving and departing at the Doping Control Station and their escorts.

5. Interaction with the media and dissemination of information. Work with the information services of the Games. Maintenance of quantitative indicators of competitions. Distribution of printed materials about the results of competitions.

6. Training activities. Work with the information services of the Games. Maintenance of quantitative indicators of competitions. Distribution of printed materials about the results of competitions [7].

Volunteers of the Special Olympics movement work on such volunteer programs:

1. "United sports" – the organization of training sessions and sporting events and participation in them together with persons having deviations in mental development.

2. "Healthy athletes" – medical examination of the health status of persons with intellectual disabilities by medical personnel.

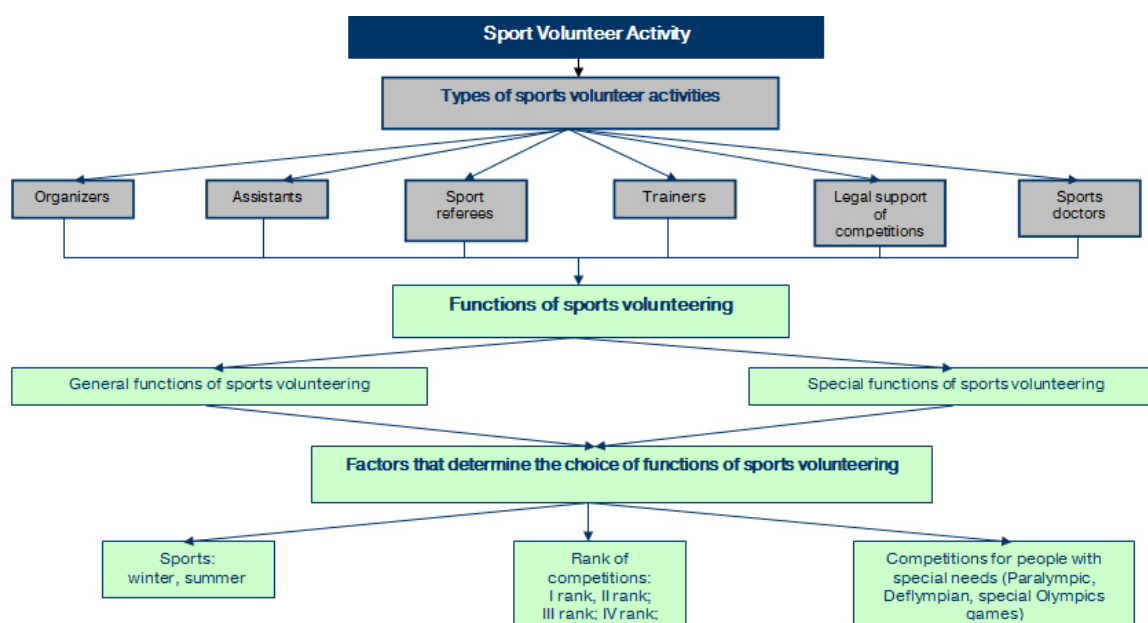


Fig. 2. Content of sports volunteer activities

3. "Flare run" – the Olympic torch relay from Olympia to the city – the organizer of the Games.
4. Educational program – sports events at the level of educational institutions.
5. "Leadership of athletes" – training of persons with intellectual disabilities of oratory for the purpose of their representation at conferences and other events.
6. "MATP" – organization of training sessions for people with severe forms of mental development disorder [3]

During training and preparation among volunteers it is possible to distinguish:

- 1) recruiters. During the training and preparation are selected people who conduct selection and interviews with volunteers (used in preparation for the Euro 2012).
- 2) volunteer coaches who conduct training, games and training courses for the preparation of sports volunteers.

## Conclusions

1. Sports volunteer activity includes the following structural components: subject, object, purpose, motivation, means, actions, while the subject is a sports volunteer, the object is sports competition, the goal is to provide gratuitous assistance for a quality competition, the means are special knowledge, skills, the communication skills of sports volunteers, and actions should be understood as types of volunteer activity and functions that volunteers perform during preparation competitions.

2. Main types of sports volunteer activity are: 1) organizational; 2) judiciary; 3) coaching; 4) legal; 5) medical. The functions that volunteers perform in the competition system are general and special. The content of the functions of sports volunteering depends on the specifics of the sports, the rank of the competitions, the specifics of the competition for people with special needs.

**Prospects for further research** are to further disclose the organizational aspects of athletic volunteerism.

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