

ORIGINS OF VOLLEYBALL IN THE WORLD, POLAND AND THE CITY OF RZESZÓW (1920-1939)

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INTRODUCTION

The rules of the game of volleyball were first defined in the USA in 1895 by W.G. Morgan, a physical education teacher in Holyoke, Massachusetts.



William G. Morgan: the founding father of the game of volleyball

The teacher suggested to his students a game with the rules which were similar, with some modifications, to the rules that are used in volleyball today. The first public demonstration of ...*hitting the ball over the rope hung at a low height [...] exclusively with hands...* took place in Springfield College in 1896 during the conference for directors of physical education of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). It was during this event when the present name of the game started to be used¹.

¹ J. I. Cameron: [*Prawidła gry*], „Physical Education” 1896.



The first volleyball team of W.G. Morgan (the first on the right in the second row).

In Poland, volleyball started to be played in 1919 with the arrival of the soldiers from American and French armies and the YMCA. The first demonstrations of the game took place in Warsaw in 1919. The first school competition was played in Łódź in 1920.



Volleyball on an aircraft carrier

In 1922 in Poland, organizational activity of rare volleyball clubs was included in the Polish Association of Palant, with the seat in Katowice. In the same year, the association changed its name into the Polish Association of Palant and Movement Games and then into the Polish Association of Movement Games (Polski Związek Gier Ruchowych, PZGR). The

greatest organizational contribution to the activities of the association in this period was made by: F. Eyman, J. Szeliga-Żuławski and A. Trypko. The first official rules of the game of volleyball based on the rules used in the United States of America were published in Poland in 1928.



The end of the 19th century: female volleyball in the USA

The first Polish volleyball championships were held in Warsaw in 1929. In 1929-1939, the best teams from individual regional associations participated in ten Polish championships. In 1932, the first matches of the Polish Cup were played. In 1936, PZGR changed its name into the Polish Association of Hand Ball. In the same year, on the initiative of the President of PZGR, T. Chrapowicki, Ph.D, the colonel M. Rawicz-Mysłowski and R. Wierszyła, the Commission for Volleyball was established at the International Amateur Handball Federation.



The thirties of the 20th century: volleyball during physical education lesson somewhere in Kresy Wchodnie (Eastern Borderland) in the Second Polish Republic.

It is remarkable that, in 1936, during the Olympic Games in Berlin, the IAHF was legalized. A great success of the representatives of Polish volleyball was choosing the first Pole, colonel M. Rawicz-Mysłowski², as a president of the PZGR, whereas the secretary position was held by R. Wierszyło.



Colonel Mieczysław Rawicz-Mysłowski
in the thirties of the 20th century, president of the IAHF and the president of
PZGR

This first international volleyball organization (IAHF) was a precursor of the world volleyball association established in 1947 that is active to date, the International Volleyball Federation (FIBA)³.



Lviv 1935: the first female setters.

² Apart from his military service, colonel Mieczysław Rawicz-Mysłowski developed athletic activity. He was the president of the Board in the Polish Association of Sport Games, which was renamed in 1936 into the Polish Association of Handball. In the same year, he was chosen as a president of the Technical Volleyball Committee that was active from 1934 at the International Amateur Handball Federation.

³ J. Nachyła: *Siatkówka*, [in:] (Board of Editors) *Iskier przewodnik sportowy*, Warsaw 1976, pp. 593–613; Zespół Redakcyjny: *Siatkówka*, [in:] *Mała Encyklopedia Sportu*, Warsaw 1984 vol. II, pp. 392–396.

In Rzeszów, games with the ball were started to be played in the CK I Grammar School in the school years 1904/1905. The report on the activity of the CK I Grammar School in Rzeszów for the school year 1907/1908 described participation of young people from the school coached by Janusz Polcyn in numerous games and playing with the ball. Similar records can be found in the next school reports, including the reports in the CK II Grammar School in Rzeszów, which was established in 1904. This was described by Tadeusz Tondera: ... *in our grammar school, we were allowed to play basketball, volleyball and palant or hazena...*⁴.



1936: volleyball in the KS Polonia Przemyśl field.

In the Rzeszów region, the first volleyball teams were associated in the Przemyśl Subdistrict of the Lviv District Association of Movement Games.

In the interwar period in Rzeszów, the beginnings of the volleyball are dated back to the thirties of the 20th century. Initially, volleyball was included in the curricula in the Rzeszów's grammar schools and then, around 1920, students and graduates from grammar schools transferred it to the sports clubs of TG Sokół, ZS Strzelec, Catholic Youth Association, Academic Subdivision of Shooting Association in APZS and the sections of volleyball KS Resovia and ŻKS Barch-Kochba⁵.

The volleyball and basketball section named Academic Subdivision of Shooter Association was established around 1932 on the initiative of Kazimiera and Stefan Tondera, their sons and brothers: Tadeusz, Jan and Stanisław Amarant⁶.

⁴ Information obtained by the author from T. Tondera on May 20, 2004. T. Tondera, the oldest from three sons of Stefan and Kazimiera, a graduate from the 1st Grammar School in Rzeszów, a prefect in the students' Sodality of Our Lady in the school and a graduate from the Lviv University of Technology. In 1934, T. Tondera was an athlete in KS Resovia club and practised boxing, hockey, canoeing, basketball, track and field, volleyball and rowing. He was the first in Rzeszów to have a rowing scull made precisely in the urban factory where his father was a director.

⁵ Unfortunately, Wiesław Sipowicz, Ph.D., in his study *Korzenie sukcesów rzeszowskiej siatkówki (Roots of Success of Rzeszów's Volleyball)* published in 2011 did not mention the game of *flying ball*, although he had obtained such suggestions from the author of the present study (S. Zaborniak).

⁶ S. Zaborniak: *Szkice dziejów klubu sportowego „Resovia” (1905–1944)*, Rzeszów 2004, pp. 119–121; A. Kowal, A. Kosiorowski: *60 lat podkarpackiej siatkówki*, Rzeszów 2006, p. 8.



1934: commemorative photograph of the winning team of Academic Subdivision of Shooter Association in the tournament of the basketball for the Rzeszów's President's Cup, with founders of the Cup, Kazimiera and Stefan Tondera (collections of T. Tondera).

According to Tadeusz Tondera *...we played basketball and volleyball during each break in the yard of the 1st Grammar School. I played for APZS and my younger brother, Janek, played in Reserve. Rivalry with brothers inspired our parents to organize tournaments for the cup founded by my mother, Kazimiera Tonderowa...*⁷.

Efforts made by Kazimiera and Stefan Tondera led to the repeated events of Rzeszów's Basketball and Volleyball Tournament for Rzeszów Championship⁸. Tondera's family founded a transitional cup for the tournament, with winning the cup regulated by a separate Cup Statute⁹.

The first information about volleyball players from KS Resovia can be found in the chronicles of the club from 1932 and 1936, where a reporter in the *Zew Rzeszowa* journal described the tournament of the sport games of volleyball and basketball organized on July 26, 1936 in Błażowa, Poland¹⁰.

Eight teams participated in the tournament. The rulebook required that the athletes in the volleyball and basketball should be registered.

⁷ Ibidem.

⁸ Typescript: *The Rulebook for the Basketball Tournament for Rzeszów's Championship* (original copy available from T. Tondera).

⁹ Typescript: *Statute of the Cup* founded by Kazimiera and Stefan Tondera (original copy available from T. Tondera).

¹⁰ *Zew Rzeszowa* journal: article *Basketball and Volleyball in Błażowa*.



1936: volleyball team from ZS Strzelec Rzeszów, who won in a volleyball tournament in Rzeszów, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 4, p. 4.

The team of volleyball and basketball players showed quite high level those days, which can be demonstrated by the following results:

Basketball:

Qualifying round

Resovia	-	Błażowianka	37:9
KPW Wieliczka	-	Strzelec Rzeszów	28:16

semi-finals

20 p.uł	-	Bar-Kochba Rzeszów	24:8
KPW Wieliczka	-	Resovia Rzeszów	31:27

finals

KPW Wieliczka	-	20th Cavalry Regiment Rzeszów	35:21
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Turniej siatkówki i koszykówki w Błażowej. Klub sportowy Błażowianka w Błażowej urządził w dniu 26 lipca b.r. turniej siatkówki i koszykówki, z udziałem 8 klubów, przyczem każdy klub wystawił odrębną drużynę do poszczególnych konkurencyj. Rozgrywki dały następujące wyniki: Koszykówka: Resovia--Błażowianka 37:9, — KPW. Wieliczka - Strzelec Rz. 28:16, — 20 p. ul.-Barkochba 24:8, — KPW.-Resovia 31:27, — KPW.-20 p. ul. 35:21.

Siatkówka: KPW.-Zalesie 2:0, — Resovia-Model (Dynów) 2:1, — Błażowianka - Strzelec (Rz.) 2:0, — 20 p. ul. - KPW. 2:0, — Błażowianka - Resovia 2:1, Błażowianka-20 p. ul. 2:1.

Żeńska siatkówka: Strzelec Rz.-KPW. 2:1.

Na marginesie powyższego turnieju należy zaznaczyć, że kluby, które mają zaszczyt być gospodarzami, winny posiadać w gronie organizatorów więcej kulturalnych osób; rzucanie się bowiem na gości z Rzeszowa z nożami (!) jest zwyczajem... nieuropejskim. Nagrody, które miały być rozdane po zawodach, zatrzymali sobie gospodarze — narazie przynajmniej, ponieważ goście rzeszowscy zmuszeni byli z obawy przed utratą życia (!) poprostu uciekać z Błażowej.

Również pod adresem sędziów, którzy prowadzili turniej gier sportowych, powiedzieć należy, że ich „objektywizm“ daje wiele do myślenia. Prawdopodobnie zdaje im się, że wygrana przy pomocy sędziego przynosi zadowolenie grającym i zaszczyt klubowi...

W tych warunkach wskazanem jest, aby kluby rzeszowskie, których jest przecież 4, bojkotowały Błażowę — łącznie z jej klubami sportowymi.

One of the first press reports on volleyball players and basketball players from KS Resovia who participated in the volleyball and basketball tournaments in Błażowa on July 26, 1936.

Volleyball:

Qualifying round

KPW Wieliczka	-	KS Zalesie	2:0
KS Resovia	-	KS Model Dynów	2:1

semi-finals

KS Błażowianka	-	ZS Strzelec Rzeszów	2:0
KS 20 p. ułanów	-	KPW Wieliczka	2:0
KS Błażowianka	-	KS Resovia	2:1

finals

KS Błażowianka	-	KS 20 p. ułanów	2:1
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The winning team in the final match was KS Błażowianka, with substantial contribution of the judges' decisions¹¹.

KS Resovia team took part in a tournament organized in Rzeszów. The team included: Dynia, Woźniak, Szostek, Fital, Rząsa, Kosicki, Tabaczyński, Małodobry, Koziej, Markowski and Grzyb. This team participated in a tournament in Błażowa, winning over KS Dynowiec Dynmów 2:1 and losing with the same relation to the winner of the tournament, KS Błażowianka.

Further development of the section of team games was stopped by the outbreak of the World War II¹².

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¹¹ „Zew Rzeszowa” as of July 28, 1936.

¹² S. Zaborniak: *Zarys...*, op. cit., p. 104–109.

FIRST VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS AND BASKETBALL PLAYERS FROM RZESZÓW BEFORE THE WORLD WAR II IN PHOTOGRAPHS



1936: Rzeszów's sport games teams: KS Resovia, ZS Strzelec and ŻKS Barch-Kochba after sport game tournament in Rzeszów, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 29, p. 13.



1936: basketball teams of Barch-Kochba and KS Strzelec in Rzeszów, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 30, p. 13.



1936: volleyball teams that participated in a tournament in Rzeszów, ended with winning of the team of the 20th Cavalry Regiment, before ZS Strzelec and Barch-Kochba, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 25, p. 13.



1936: volleyball team of the 20th Cavalry Regiment, who won the Dr. Kijas Cup during the winter tournament, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 9, p. 12.



1936: female teams of sport games: żeńskie drużyny gier sportowych: KPW Rawa Ruska and ZS Strzelec Rzeszów, who participated in a tournament in Rzeszów. Dr Kijas, the president of ZS Strzelec Rzeszów, is standing in the middle „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 12, p. 12.



1936: male teams of sport games: KPW Rawa Ruska and ZS Strzelec Rzeszów, who participated in a tournament in Rzeszów, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 No. 12, p. 12.



Volleyball team KS Strzelec Rzeszów, from the left: Sarna, Różycki, „Zosia”, Tondera, Kosicki I, Kosicki II, „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1936 No. 9, p. 4.



Before the volleyball tournament held on September 11, 1938 on the old stadium of KS Resovia at Krakowska Street.



1945: the first volleyball team KS Resovia after the World War II, before the match with HKS Czuwaj Przemyśl. Albin Małodobry, the section's manager, is standing in the middle (from the author's own collection)