

PHYSICAL CULTURE MANAGEMENT IN BIELSKO-BIAŁA PROVINCE BETWEEN 1975 AND 1998

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Abstract:

The following article is devoted to the presentation of the organisation and management of physical culture in Bielsko-Biała Province between 1975 and 1998.

The chronological caesura is connected with administrative boundaries of 1975 that initiated a series of changes in the organisational structure of Poland as well as in structures of physical culture in former Bielsko-Biała Province. Existing changes significantly influenced the formation of physical culture in this region.

Between 1975 and 1998 on both administrative and sport maps of the country existed Bielsko-Biała Province with its seat in Bielsko-Biała. It included Western parts of historical Lesser Poland (to the Biała river), belonging previously to Kraków Province as well as Śląsk Cieszyński. The territory of the province consisted of six counties: Bielsko and Cieszyn (from Katowice Province) as well as Oświęcim, Sucha (most of it), Wadowice and Żywiec (from Kraków Province). The commune Chełmek from Chrzanów Province (Kraków Province) was a part of Bielsko-Biała Province as well.

Bielsko-Biała Province included following cities: Andrychów, Bielsko-Biała, Cieszyn, Chełmek, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Kęty, Maków Podhalański, Oświęcim, Skoczów, Sucha Beskidzka, Strumień, Szczyrk, Ustroń, Wadowice, Wilamowice, Zator and Żywiec. The province, although small in terms of territory, gained significant achievements in sports competitions: winter sports and other sports, especially team sports, including volleyball. School sports held a highly regarded position in this province. Physical culture, including sport, tourism and recreation always have been in the centre of attention of trade unions as an important area of social, health and educational activities. Tasks in this field were clearly stated in the resolutions of 7th Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party and the resolution of 8th Congress of Trade Unions. All objectives would contribute to the increase in efficiency of teams dealing with further improvement of employees' recreation as well as skilful organisation and spending of free time.

After the creation of a new Province Council of Trade Unions (WRZZ) in Bielsko-Biała in June 1975, simultaneously the works connected with creation and operation of the Council of Physical Culture and Tourism (RKFiT) began. In the first year of its operation in WRZZ in Bielsko-Biała, RKFiT focused its activities on fulfilling the adopted work plan and organisational issues. Newly-created Council in its principles decided to implement, among others, objectives such as: the creation of Company Councils of Physical Culture and

Tourism (ZRKFiT) in workplaces, especially those huge ones, that would perform coordinative and integrative activities in newly-created Bielsko-Biała Province, establishing guidelines of co-operation and co-ordination of aims concerning sport and tourism together with the Province Council and specialist organisations: the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK), the National Defence League (LOK), the Association of Promoting Physical Culture (TKKF), Popular Sports Teams (LZS) and the Polish Yachting Association (PZŻ), organising mass events of physical education and tourism, taking into consideration the specifics of Bielsko-Biała Province, training of staff of physical education, tourism and recreation after work¹.

The consolidation of youth movement started once again in 1973 when the Federation of Polish Socialist Youth Unions (FSZMP) was created, consisting of the Socialist Youth Union (ZMS), the Socialist Rural Youth Union (ZSMW), the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (ZHP), the Socialist Union of Polish Students (SZSP) and the Socialist Military Youth Union (SZMW). In 1976 these unions, except ZHP, were the basis for the Polish Socialist Youth Union (ZSMP)².

The main orientations of union's activity in the field of sport, tourism and recreation were established, confirmed and fulfilled by the presidium and session of RKFiT WRZZ in Bielsko-Biała. The sixth term of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic showed a particular interest in the condition of physical education in schools. It was connected with producing a report concerning the state of education by the experts that was to be a basis for introducing 10-year-long primary schools. During the meeting of 8th June 1972 in order to provide proper opportunities for conducting physical education lessons in schools (countrywide) the following was postulated: *obeying the rule of commissioning new schools with full-sized gymnasiums and necessary sports fields and sports-recreational equipment; the increase in the extend of educating physical education teachers; making more use of sport clubs' base for schools in terms of physical education and sport*³.

Sport-touristic-recreational activity in Bielsko-Biała Province had been conducted since 26th August 1975 by the session of RKFiT counting 23 people, of whom the presidium of seven was chosen. The presidium at that time consisted of: Franciszek Galocz – the chairman of RKFiT, Bronisław Słonka – the vice-chairman, Zdzisław Janik – the secretary, Rudolf Lejawa, Jolanta Wojewodzic and Piotr Wysocki – members⁴. In Bielsko-Biała Province in 1975 there were circa 685 workplaces and institutions. More than a thousand people were employed in 150 workplaces and institutions. ZRKFiT operated in 96 workplaces. During the second half-year of 1975 nine ZRKFiT were created. In those workplaces functioned 81 PTTK groups, 62 TKKF groups, 38 LOK groups, 29 PZW groups, 12 other groups and 23 sport clubs. In the discussed period seven various meetings with sports movement activists, RKFiT management responsible for mass sports, active members of ZRKFiT in individual regions and sportspeople were organised out of RKFiT initiative in collaboration with other organisations.

The activity in terms of professional sport in 1970s in newly-created Bielsko-Biała Province was conducted by 42 sport clubs including: the Central Council of Trade Unions – 23 clubs, Academic Sports Association-School Sports Association – 5 clubs, Sports Association 'Start' – 4 clubs, Popular Sports Teams – 8 clubs, Ministry of National Defence (MON) – 1 club. The clubs had 7117 contestants in 134 sections.

¹National Archives in Katowice. Sport, tourism, various matters, WRZZ, RKFiT Bielsko-Biała. The report of the activity of RKFiT, WRZZ in Bielsko-Biała, 1975–1976 (hereinafter: The report of 1975–1976), sign. 1926, c. 81.

²J. Gaj, K. Hądzelek (ed.): *Dzieje Kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, Poznań 1997, p. 240.

³L. Szymański, *Parlament polski wobec problemów kultury fizycznej 1944–1980*, Wrocław 1990, p. 139.

⁴The reports 1975–1976, sign. 1926, c. 82.

In the late 1970s the increasing number of non-working days was causing the dynamic development of weekend recreation among companies' staff in Bielsko-Biała Province. All initiatives in this field were inspired by companies' councils and companies' administration with active participation of parts included in union physical culture and tourism. The creation of more and more recreational centres after work was a widespread phenomenon.

The significant part in managing of physical culture was the creation of Physical Culture and Tourism Department in the Province Office in Bielsko-Biała in 1975 and units subordinated to it: the Province Federation of Sport (1976), district sports associations, the Province Association 'Popular Sports Teams', the Collective Work Sports Association 'Start' and the Association of Promoting Physical Culture. They were very active in terms of working on physical culture, supporting the functioning of lower level units.

The Province Federation of Sport (WFS) in Bielsko-Biała was created on 10th May 1976 and existed until 1991 co-ordinating the leading sport disciplines in this Province. During the meeting that was attended by the secretary of the Province Committee of Polish United Workers Party for organizational issues Stanisław Szczepanik, the vice-governor of Bielsko-Biała Province Antoni Urbaniec as well as activists and chairpeople of all sport clubs located in Bielsko-Biała Province. The vice-governor presented the plans of the Province authorities for the nearest future to assembled people, while the chairpeople of the biggest clubs of the Bielsko-Biała Province, namely Bielsko-Biała Sports Association 'Włóknierz', the Bielsko-Biała Sport Club, 'Beskid' in Andrychów, "Unia" in Oświęcim, "Start" in Bielsko, presented the current situation and plans for the nearest future of particular clubs. WFS was an incorporated organisation which activity aimed at, among others, fulfilling the policy of Polish sport authorities and management of local administration at the province level in terms of professional sport, planning the directions of the development of qualified sport, supervising the sport clubs on the basis of content, planning and organising trainings for sport staff, that is coaches, instructors, referees and sport activists, as well as fulfilling other tasks resulting from the statute of the Federation⁵. District sports associations, being the part of the Province Federation of Sport fulfilled the tasks of the Federation ensuring the correctness of functioning and the development of particular disciplines by: organizing the system of competition, petitioning and fulfilling the needs in terms of training of coaching and instructing staff, petitioning and evaluating the needs in terms of sport base development by evaluating the implementation of training programme by the sections, sport clubs as well as proposing the directions of the sections and clubs activity concerning particular sport disciplines in Bielsko-Biała Province and cooperation in organising sport events. The Province Federation of Sport created in 1978 districts of sports association, for example: District Ski Association, District Luge Association, District Football Association, District Volleyball Association, District Football Association, District Table Tennis Association, District Cycling Association, District Chess Association, District Duplicate Bridge Association, District Athletics Association.

The creation of other sport associations depended on the increase in sport level in particular disciplines⁶. At that time Jan Szwarz was the chairman of the Province Federation of Sport, serving as the chairman since 1979-1980 (since 1980 he was the associate director of the Province Committee of Physical Culture and Sport in Bielsko-Biała). Naturally, the realities of that period forced the Federation to keep the analysis of political objectives of Province Committee of Polish United Workers' Party in Bielsko-Biała up to date. In 1977 the WFS in Bielsko-Biała developed the programme of operation for the coming months and

⁵National Archives in Katowice. Sport, tourism, social matters. *Podstawowe zadania Wojewódzkiej Federacji Sportu*. Bielsko-Biała, February 1976, sign. 1926, c. 16.

⁶National Archives in Katowice. Sport, tourism, social matters. *Podstawowe zadania Okręgowych Związków Sportowych*, Bielsko-Biała 1978, sign. 1926, c. 17.

years. It was decided to operate more vigorously in the organisational area and to create district athletic association that would deal with, generally speaking, coordinating the activity of the 'queen of sports' club sections. It was also decided to strengthen athletic sections in clubs. This reinforcement would consist of, among others, the duty of recruiting young talents. For instance, Sport Club "Cieszyn" (KS "Cieszyn") organized specialised tests for the youth as soon as in September 1977.

It was recognised that four clubs of Bielsko-Biała Province running athletic sections, that is KS „Cieszyn”, „Hejnał” Kęty, Międzyszkolny Sport Club „Beskid” Bielsko-Biała (MKS „Beskid”) and „Unia” Oświęcim were not enough in order to develop this sport discipline. In the plans the need for organising athletic sections on the territory of Skoczów (in the club „Beskid”), Sucha Beskidzka (in „Kolejarz”) and Żywiec was formulated. It was intended to train runners in Sucha Beskidzka as this region had been famous for its runners, in Żywiec there was a desire of recalling the rich tradition of this sport discipline that had been very popular in the days gone by and had left empty facilities. One of the most important decisions of WFS in Bielsko-Biała was the introduction of cross-country race to the fixture list as well. It was, on the one hand, a great propaganda, on the other, the easiest and the cheapest (which also was significant) method of head-hunting new talents. The co-operation of schools of Bielsko-Biała Province and the Department of Education and Sport with School Sport Associations deserved the greatest interest. The attention was paid to too small number of grades with athletic specialisation. The programme assumed the discussion with school sports activist concerning common fixture list, proper recruitment of young sportspeople and adequate training. On the other hand, sport clubs were committed to take care of school youth with greater abilities. WFS assumed that teachers, educators, coaches and activists should have done their best in the shortest time possible to finally *find the boys of those days*⁷ in pupils, not to double the amount of received scores. The Province Federation of Sport was also fulfilling the tasks connected with professional sport, cooperating with sport clubs that did not belong to the Federation. Those were for example: LKS (Popular Sports Team) „Znicz” Sułkowice, LKS Łodygowice, LKS in Wieprzu, LKS „Spójnia” Górki Wielkie, LKS „Iskra” Iskrzyczyn, LKS „Wisła” Strumień, LKS „Błyskawica” Drogomyśl, LKS „Kańczyce Małe”, LKS „Rajcza as well as LKS Kalwaria Zebrzydowska⁸.

The Province Federation of Sport operated until December 1990 when it was closed down on application of the Department for Social Infrastructure and Civil Issues of the Province Office in Bielsko-Biała. As it was mentioned, on 28th February 1991 the Office of WFS was closed down as the Board of WFS was obliged to terminate the contracts with all employees by the decision of the Department for Social Infrastructure and Civil Issues (WISiSO). Since WFS no longer existed in 1991 in Bielsko-Biała, the Province Methodical-Training Centre took over its duties concerning staff training. It dealt with (in spite of training and supplementary training of instructing staff) the popularization of modern training methods and practical implementation of the latest scientific research.

Due to the administrative reform of the country in 1975, the reorganization of TKKF on the territory of Bielsko-Biała Province also took place. The organization in the Polish People's Republic period (after preventing the reactivation of "Sokół") legally and truly monopolised so-called mass physical culture, was subsidized by the authorities of Bielsko-Biała Province of that time. At the end of June 1975 during the meeting of the District Board of TKKF in Bielsko-Biała the City Board of TKKF was chosen with Józef Kłusek as the chairman and the following vice-chairpeople: Anna Borowska, Józef Grygiel and Golfryd Pietras. Whereas in October 1975 during the founding convention in Bielsko-Biała the Province Board of

⁷P. Wysocki, *Gdzie są chłopcy z tamtych lat?*, "Kronika", 25 August 1977, no. 33, Bielsko-Biała 1977, p. 12.

⁸⁸National Archives in Katowice. Sport, tourism, social matters. *Informacja dotycząca działalności Wojewódzkiej Federacji Sportu*. Bielsko-Biała 1990, sign. 1926, c. 157.

TKKF was created. Jerzy Kapias, the chairman of the Province Board of the Socialist Youth Union, became the leader. The Presidium consisted of the chairman of TKKF Cieszyn Kazimierz Raszka, while the Session of 25 people included: mgr Tadeusz Czternastek (the campus of the University of Silesia in Cieszyn), Eugeniusz Kempny (TKKF „Wisła”), Erwin Mrózek („Zampol”), Jerzy Stawarczyk (TKKF Cieszyn) and Rudolf Tyrna (TKKF „Relaks” in the Factory of Small-bore Cars (FSM) no. 12 in Skoczów). What is more, Jerzy Bednarczyk of TKKF Cieszyn was a part of the Audit Committee⁹.

Between 1975 and 1983 the basic direction of TKKF's programme activity was to maintain permanent exercising teams that offered an opportunity of forming exercising habits. The Association's trouble was the decrease in the number of major Province events or Spartakiads in working places organized by TKKF centres in workplaces in the agreement with physical culture councils operating in working places. For this reason the interest of the Province activists shifted towards organising small and community events. Tournaments, summer festivals, "runs for health", the "Family in the open air" competition were popularised.

TKKF centres in Cieszyn region had their own base at their disposal. Tennis courts belonged to TKKF groups such as "Ogniwo" Cieszyn (it had the best maintained and used courts in Podbeskidzie region), „Polifarb” and „Kowal” Skoczów (it operated the court in the rehabilitation centre in Skoczów). Similarly, the group of "Celmy" factory no. 3 in Goleiszów owned a tennis court. What is more, TKKF „Celmy” groups in Cieszyn i Goleiszów, "Spomasz" and the automation factory "FACH" were in possession of ski lifts. 15 sport equipment rental offices, including 8 public ones, were in operation.

TKKF's ski jumping groups belonged to the group of the best sport groups on the territory of Bielsko-Biała Province. The most successful were the activists of TKKF "Relaks" in FSM Plant no. 12. In 1970s they won Province ZMS and TKKF gathering three times. Whereas during the competition in Szczyrek in 1975 they won the first place in skibobbing. Members of "Relaks" were on the top of the score boards in foreign competitions.

Statutory structures of the Association in Wadowice region (in Andrychów and Wadowice itself) operated resiliently. The group of TKKF "Motor" in Andrychów functioning in Diesel Engines Factory in Andrychów organised national canoeing trip of "Three Dams" almost every year. The route of the trip was on Soła River from Żywiec to Oświęcim. Every year the organisers prepared a lot of attractions for the contestants, including a trip to the Żar mountain. "Motor" in Andrychów was one of the best operating groups of TKKF in Bielsko-Biała Province. Members of the group built with the great help of original factory the ski lift "Madohora" in Rzyki-Praciaki as a community service¹⁰.

Between 1977 and 1979 the members of "Leskowice" group of TKKF in Wadowice worked in the field of recreation as a part of The Housing Cooperative in Wadowice. The activity had socio-educational character in accordance with the statute of the Housing Cooperative. On the basis of presented data, it can be seen that versatile character of the Association of Promoting Physical Culture's activity on the territory of Bielsko-Biała Province, attractive forms of the activity won for the Associations through the years wide social recognition and support of political institutions of that time¹¹, national councils and since 1990 also local governments on commune level (both rural and urban), physical culture committees and companies management, housing cooperatives and other organisations operating in the place of living. For instance, in Wadowice the activity of TKKF after political

⁹National Archives in Katowice – the branch in Cieszyn (hereinafter: APC). The reports of Education, Culture and Social Issues Committee meetings 1975. City National Council (MRN) in Cieszyn, sign. 14/230/4, c. 114.

¹⁰ „Kronika”, 10th September 1986, no. 36, p. 10.

¹¹Z. Bałkowski, S. Drądzewski, O. Pieszewicz, E. Woźniak: *Rozwój form organizacyjnych wychowania fizycznego i sportu od 1944 do 1974 r.* [in:] *Księga sportu polskiego 1944–1974*. Warsaw 1975, p. 59.

changes was supported by private entrepreneurs as well. At the end of 1970s and the beginning of 1980s was marked in Poland by severe socio-economic and political crises. There occurred gradual decline in the development of almost all areas, living conditions of the people were also getting worse. Those problems caused huge social discontent between 1980 and 1981. This difficult period of political changes resulted in significant limitation of the Association's activity. It still organised various events, however it never achieved as significant results as in the previous years.

In 1978 the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Sport was created¹². The operating range of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Sport, hereinafter called the Committee included: popularisation and development of physical culture, physical education and sport, location, expansion and usage of sport facilities, development of sport equipment production as well as programming, coordination and control of activities in these areas. The range of activity of the Committee involved especially: pointing new directions and programmes of physical culture and sport development, programming, initiating and supporting the popularisation of physical culture and sport in all their forms, popularisation of mass forms of physical education, defining the rules of training sports, especially: competitions' and events' systems and sport classification, the rights and obligations of sport contestants, the systems of scoring, prizes, awards and punishments as well as the course of disciplinary proceedings in the sport movement¹³. The Committee of Physical Culture and Sport cooperated with proper main, central and regional authorities of Province level while performing its tasks.

Among programmes of physical culture development, the fundamental one was the programme of GKKFiS activity between 1980 and 1985, assuming as usual further promotion of physical education and sport. The focus was supposed to be given to physical education in schools, especially rural ones, but more attention was paid to sport classes and schools as well as to sport games and Spartakiads of children and school youth.

The ferment in the country led to creating and widespread activity of Independent Self-governing Trade Union "Solidarity" (NSZZ "Solidarity") that aimed at changes in socio-political and economic affairs towards the empowerment of the society and increase in its share in state affairs, therefore towards significant change in the political system. The Communist Party's (PUWP) reaction to systematically declining situation in the country as well as to more and more numerous demands and desideratum of the society was in turn to impose the martial law on 13th December 1981¹⁴. The crisis influenced negatively the development of physical education, sport as well as tourism and recreation both in the country and in Bielsko-Biała Province. There were attempts of compensating failures in achieving defined goals and tasks with organisational and promotional activity, most frequently feigned, that was performed in order to cover the shortages in popularisation of physical culture as well as bad health and physical condition of the society, especially of the young generation.

Between 1983 and 1989 the activity of the government and related institutions of national administration concerning physical culture under the influence of the Party could be seen. In this period there were three acts connected to physical culture with the act of physical culture passed by the Sejm on 3rd July 1984¹⁵ as the most important one.

This act concerned primarily professional sport and did not solve many of physical culture basic problems. Two other acts dealt with the organisation of this field. The act of

¹²On the basis of article 2 of Act 3 of 26th May 1978 about creation of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Sport (hereinafter: GKKFiS), (Dz.U.no. 14, position 59).

¹³National Archives in Cieszyn. The range of activity of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Sport 1978. City and Commune Office in Skoczów, sign. 14/268, c. 1–3.

¹⁴The University of Physical Education in Wrocław (ed.) L. Szymański, *Kultura fizyczna i turystyka w polityce Polski Ludowej 1944–1989*. Wrocław 2004, p. 197.

¹⁵Dz. U. no. 34, pos. 181.

12th November 1985 created the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism (GKKFiT) in the place of the Main Committee of Physical Culture and Sport while the act of 23rd October 1987 replaced GKKFiT with the Committee of the Youth and Physical Culture (Kds.MiKF)¹⁶. Kds.MiKF controlled the activity of regional administration authorities responsible for physical culture affairs on the basis of rules included in the act of national councils and regional authorities. It was supposed to co-operate with foreign countries in this field, to initiate research and development works, to create conditions for fulfilling educational, health and cognitive functions of physical culture. What is more, its tasks included propaganda and informative activity, establishing policy concerning educating, training and excelling staff educated in physical culture and recreation¹⁷. The President of Kds.MiKF became Aleksander Kwaśniewski whose main interest was in, in spite of youth affairs, professional sport. (His resilient activity gained him a lot of recognition in sport movement which was expressed by, among others, appointing him the President of Polish Olympic Committee in February 1988).

Organisational changes did not matter for the development of physical culture because the progress significantly depended on financial investments and the standard of living of the society. Yet, both aspects influenced negatively physical culture.

Political changes that occurred in 1989, the victory of the opposition in the election and the creation of a new government led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki as a symbol of political transformation, caused a lot of change. Underground organisations became legal, new ones were created, while the old ones were trying to adjust to new conditions. For example, the Council of Chorągiew (literally banner) of The Polish Scouting and Guiding Association in Bielsko-Biała dismissed its current patron Paweł Finder, in the branch of Lodz University of Technology the Independent Association of Students was created which gathered circa 100 people. In April 1989 "Solidarity" in Bielsko-Biała became legal. Grażyna Staniszevska was elected as the President of the Union, in later years she was a member of the parliament and an activist of the Democratic Union (the Freedom Union).

"Solidarity" resumed its open activity in the Textile Machinery Factory in Bielsko-Biała in 1989. In January 1989 Marcin Tyrna was appointed the chairman of the Factory Committee of "Solidarity" (the chairman of the Board of Podbeskidzie Region since 1992) and a senator. On 12th November 1989 3rd General Assembly of Delegates began when the underground Regional Executive Committee was granted discharge. During the second round (25th November 1989) the Board of "Solidarity" Region was chosen. Henryk Kenig became the chairman, vice-chairmen included: Kazimierz Grajcarek, Kazimierz Podstawa, Paweł Tomasiak and Marcin Tyrna. The factory Commission of "Solidarity" consisted of 50 000 members from whole Bielsko-Biała Province. In Podbeskidzie region six sub-regions of the Union operated: Andrychów-Wadowice, Czechowice-Dziedzice, Oświęcim, Skoczów-Cieszyn, Sucha Beskidzka and Żywiec¹⁸.

The Statute of NSZZ "Solidarity" expected performing by the Union, and other trade unions, broad recreational and sport activity for the members of the Union, families and general population. For obvious reasons, the first "Solidarity" existing between 1980 and 1981 could not and was not able to perform widespread activity in the field of physical culture. This type of activity was possible in new political system after 1989, when organisational structures of the revived Union were regulated. Taking physical culture into consideration, running was a sign of "Solidarity" activity, common running as a part of

¹⁶Dz.U. 1985, no. 50, pos. 262 and no. 63, pos. 333 as well as Dz.U. 1987, no. 33, pos. 179.

¹⁷Dz.U. 1987, no. 33, pos. 179. The President of the Committee was appointed and removed by the President of the Council of Ministers

¹⁸D. Węgrzyn, A. Kasprzykowski, *Encyklopedia „Solidarności”- Region Podbeskidzie*, Opposition in the People's Republic of Poland 1976–1989, t. 2. Bielsko-Biała 2014 .

athletics was the most widespread form of physical recreation among various age and social groups of our country due to health and social reasons. Those events successfully integrated and popularised local communities, simultaneously reminding of dramatic events of the latest history of Poland, especially to the youth¹⁹.

Undoubtedly, basic changes in political system that started in 1989 increased the significance and the extent of physical culture associations' independence. Polish administrative law distinguished physical culture associations among association categories. Legal existence of those associations was previously regulated by the law of 18th January 1996 of physical culture²⁰ that included some restrictions transcending the measures provided for other associations.

The theory of acts of 1990 (institutional and jurisdictional) was to reduce the role of state administration, including the area of physical culture, for regional authorities. Since 1990 the process of power decentralisation proceeded along with the reduction of responsibility which consisted in transferring powers from central administration to regional authorities in the field of physical culture as well as transferring powers from civil service (central and regional) to independent physical culture associations on the basis of tasks commissioned by the administration²¹.

While the act of 1996 was in effect, physical culture associations and sport unions, like other associations, were subject to entry in the register kept by a Province (District) Court of a given region. However, central administration bodies (the President of the Office of Physical Culture and Tourism, and a province governor) had significant supervision powers - from managing, removal, infringement, through suspension of association authorities' members to filing the motion to the court in order to dissolve a physical culture association that broke the law or the rules of its own statute. Undoubtedly, physical culture associations played an important role in managing this area of social life in the democratic Third Republic.

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland was amended on 8th March 1990, reactivating local governments in Poland after 40 years since their abolition (in 1950). On the same day an important political act of local governments was passed²². It became effective on 27th May 1990 - the day of the first free election to local governments in Poland after the World War II. As a result, in May 1990 the competence act was enacted concerning passing a range of tasks to local governments²³, including the area of physical culture defined at that time in the act of 1984.

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¹⁹G. Bielec, A. Nowakowski, L. Lassota, *Organizacja biegów „Solidarności” w Rzeszowie i Wadowicach* (1990–2005), [in:] *Z tradycji lekkoatletyki w Polsce* (1919–2009). In *Memorium of Brothers – Fregew Alfred* (1901–1927) and *Bronisław* (1906–1944). S. Zaborniak (ed.), Tarnobrzeg 2009, pp. 117–127.

²⁰Dz. U. no. 25, pos. 113. The mention law became effective on 7th July 1996

²¹A. Nowakowski, *Zarządzanie kulturą fizyczną w Polsce w latach 1944–2001*, Rzeszów 2005, p. 168.

²²Original text: Dz. U. 1990 no. 16, poz. 95 with numerous amendments. Currently the act is titled – of commune government.

²³The act of 17th May 1990 (Dz. U. no. 34, pos. 198) in art. 1 point 24 passed a range of tasks concerning physical culture to gminy as their own tasks.

²⁴A. Nowakowski, *Zarządzanie kulturą fizyczną w Polsce w latach 1944–2001, Studium historyczno – porównawcze*, Rzeszów 2005, p. 168.

administration structures (province structures) as province governor's supervision over commune was limited only to the criterion of legality.

Between 1990 and 1998 local governments in Poland existed only on city and commune levels. On province level, including Bielsko-Biała Province, in those years there was a provincial assembly serving as an advisory body of Bielsko-Biała Province governor. Delegates of the assembly were not elected by the people. They were chosen indirectly by councils of particular cities and communes.

Using the laws of commune act of local governments of 1990, many communes created - as budgetary entities - local physical culture centres, usually named as "sport and recreation centres", at times as culture centres as well. Those centres were subject to communes' boards (urban and rural ones), exploiting and making sport facilities available to the people.

Local governments' role in managing physical culture increased since 1st January 1994 when local authorities took mandatory control over the whole infrastructure of primary education, including the responsibility for physical education in those schools²⁵. The commune of Wadowice was the first region in Bielsko-Biała Province to take control over those matters.

However, after 1990 many sport disciplines of proud tradition on Bielsko-Biała Province territory virtually disappeared (due to financial reasons). Those included: box, duplicate bridge, rhythmic gymnastics (the only instructor of rhythmic gymnastics was employed in the general secondary school in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska), badminton, figure skating and basketball.

Between 1990 and 1998 budgetary expenses on physical culture were significantly reduced. It was not until the amendment to the act of gambling and betting as well as obtaining percentage refunds to numerical stakes operated by the Republic of Poland as a part of "Totalizator Sportowy" that the situation improved. Received funds were entirely spent on modernisations, renovations and funding sport investments as well as developing sport among children, the youth and the disabled.

SUMMARY

The following article describes the factors of physical culture development on the territory of Bielsko-Biała Province between 1975 and 1998. Discussed problems showed that developmental paths and physical culture management on the territory of Bielsko-Biała Province were in fact correlated with various economic, political and social processes taking place in the whole country as well as in Bielsko-Biała Province. The significant role (as it was already mentioned) in physical culture management played the creation of Physical Culture and Tourism Department and its units in the Province Office in Bielsko-Biała in 1975. At first, the main goal of physical culture authorities in Bielsko-Biała region was fast complementation of weak staff and base background. Those aims were supposed to be served by plans of popularising physical culture by improvement of youth sport's conditions, organising courses for instructors and care of so-called main disciplines. In case of Bielsko-Biała Province these were: volleyball, football, Nordic skiing, weightlifting and chess.

Years of 1980 and 1981 were a very difficult period for physical culture and tourism. Social movement intending to the general reform of the country, including democratic changes in physical culture and tourism did not actually resulted as expected because it was suppressed by the implementation of the martial law in the period between 13th December 1981 and 22nd July 1983. This period caused massive regress in physical culture and sport. Socio-political and economic conditions between 1983 and 1989, that is after the abolishment of the martial law, did not encourage any reforms of physical culture and tourism. It was a

²⁵R. Kaliński, *Rola samorządu w rozwoju kultury fizycznej*, „Training” 1993, no. 3 (19), pp. 162–163.

period of fighting to survive and making as little loss as possible and numerous attempts of state authorities of improving the situation in those areas were primarily of formal character, connected with ideological and political goals and did not produce expected results.

In 1989 Polish political system transformed and allowed for the abolishment of the communist system which caused many changes in physical culture and tourism. Between 1990 and 1998 (for financial reasons) many sport disciplines having great successes in the previous years in Bielsko-Biała Province virtually disappeared.

Sport clubs faced serious problems. For instance, Workers' Sport Club (RSK) "Cukrownik" in Chybie which had quite good base for practising sports, especially artistic gymnastics and acrobatic gymnastics, had serious financial problems. The examples of difficulties in maintaining possessions, lacking financial resources in sport clubs of Bielsko-Biała Province (and not only) could be multiplied.