
THE ORGANISATIONAL STATE OF SUB-CARPATHIAN REGIONAL ATHLETICS ASSOCIATIONS (1989-1998)

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Abstract:

The article discusses the activity of Regional Athletic Associations (OZLA) on the territory of former Voivodeships: Krosno, Przemyśl, Rzeszów and Tarnobrzeg in years 1966 – 1988 (until 1975 the Rzeszów Voivodeship).

The article aimed at presenting the development of the organisations associating and promoting, as well as popularizing the athletics in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The authors interest concerned mainly the organisational side, training and sport activity of the institutions described in the article. In addition, the attention was drawn to means, structure and range of their activity.

In chronological terms, the time caesura of the article were the years between 1989 and 1998. Initial caesura was 1989 when the administrative reform was introduced. The final caesura was determined by 1998 which was followed by the administrative division of Poland into 16 Voivodeships, which resulted in the creation of Podkarpackie Voivodeship merging the following Voivodeships: Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Krosno and Tarnobrzeg.

The territorial scope of the article concerns the years 1989–1998¹⁵. In 1975 the reform of administrative division in Polish People's Republic was introduced, resulting in Rzeszów Voivodeship being divided into four smaller Voivodeships¹⁶.

The main source of information used in the following article were reports, protocols, programmes, bills, tape scripts and announcements being in the possession of Regional Athletics Associations. Moreover, the analysis of literature concerning athletics was conducted. In the following article, the following research were used analysis of source material, being the basis source of information being researched.

¹⁵ K. Kucharczuk, *Historia Polski Tysiąc lat burzliwych dziejów*, Carta Blanca Warszawa 2010, p. 155.

¹⁶ T. Dziki, *Wizje i rzeczywistość*, Studia Gdańskie, tome X, 2010, p. 444.

INTRODUCTION

There were many institutions popularizing athletics in Poland. They were the organisations of various specifications and area of operation (whole-Poland and regional). The association created in 1919 as the organisation enabling Polish athletic being presented on the international area was the Polish Association of Athletics (PZLA). PZLA was an imperative force in Poland, which structure contained: the Regional Athletic Associations, clubs, sections and associations. There were also institutions promoting athletics that were excluded from basic hierarchy – creating their own, alternative structure.

PZLA was the main exponent of athletics in Poland. The area of their activity was the territory of Poland, but also it could operate outside the boarder of Poland. The headquarters of PZLA since 1919 was Kraków, and from 1922 – Warszawa. It had legal personality and could be a member of Polish and international organisations of similar area of activity. The Association was an autonomous organisation and based its activity on social work of people affiliated in it¹⁷.

PZLA had strictly set goals and means of activity, defined by its statute. The Association's aims concerned affiliating athletics clubs and associations, supporting the development of athletics in all its forms and to represent the interest of people affiliated in it¹⁸. PZLA defined also the essential organisational norms, interpreting and defining sport, technical and training rules as well as created the schedule of sport events. In addition, it appointed the representation for international competitions, granted the sport and training licenses, represented Polish athletics on the international area, conducted trainings, organised competitions, camps, and courses. The association enabled easier creation of new associations and organised sport competitions, both amateur and professional ones¹⁹.

The organisations that directly reported to PZLA, and having narrower area of activity, were Regional Athletic Associations (OZLA). Their organisational activity was similar to the activity of the Polish Association of Athletics, except for it was local activity, usually on the territory of a Voivodeship. OZLAs were ordinary members of PZLA. The regional divisions could make proposals and directives to PZLA's authorities, be informed of its situation, using

¹⁷ The Repository of PZLA acts (further: SA PZLA), The Statue of Polish Association of Athletics on 19.11.2016.

¹⁸ In there

¹⁹ In there

advice and help of its specialists in various areas as well as take part in whole-Poland and international events organised by PZLA²⁰.

In 1989 part of PZLA's districts were formed into Regional Athletics Associations, affiliating the clubs with direct athletic activity on the territory of a given Voivodeship²¹.

In 1975 the biggest administrative reform in Poland was introduced. As a result, former 17 large Voivodeships were replaced by 49 smaller ones. In the place of one Voivodeship before the reform, from two to four new ones were created²². This change caused the increase in the number of OZLA's, following the increase in the number of Voivodeships.

After the administrative reform of the country, there were 49 Regional Associations of Athletics functioning in Poland and they had mostly Voivodeship rank.



Pic. 1. The administrative division of Poland in 1975

Source: K. Kucharczyk, *Historia Polski Tysiąc lat burzliwych dziejów*, Carta Blanca, Warszawa 2010, p. 156.

The analysis of OZLA's statutes shows that aims and assumptions of OZLA activity were very similar to those described in PZLA's statute. Most of the Associations were Public Benefit Organisations, which enabled them to gain funds for their activity. The main goal of OZLA was to promote athletics in particular regions of the country. The most famous means of popularizing athletics was organising training, recreational and sport camps.

²⁰ In there.

²¹ J. Czajkowski: *Encyklopedia żeglarstwa*, PWN, Warszawa 1996, p. 270.

²² K. Kucharczyk, *Historia Polski Tysiąc...*, quoted., p. 156.

OZLA consisted of the following kind of members: ordinary in the form of clubs and associations, honorary and supporting. The authorities in regions were represented by a local government council, a Board, Revisory Committee of the Association and Association's court, operating on the rules similar to PZLA's ones. The term of these authorities lasted 4 years and they were elected in a secret ballot with a majority of votes²³.

All of OZLAs were associations operating on the basis of the Physical Culture Bill, law of associations, its own statute and PZLA's resolutions. In the statute all the information about its powers, aims, authorities and possible ways of fulfilling its programme were included²⁴. Each region had its strict area of operation. All of OZLAs in Podkarpackie Voivodeship worked with each other closely.

Rzeszów Regional Athletics Association

Rzeszów Regional Athletics Association (ROZLA) was created on 10th March 1948. In ROZLA's activity between 1990 and 1998 new organisational structures of Polish sport were introduced, as well as new registration requirements of associations and the rules of ROZLA's funding. The system transformation originating in 1989 finished in 1996 by introducing the bill of 18th January 1996 about physical culture²⁵. One of the main changes was the necessity of registering ROZLA's statute in National Court Register.

Due to reduced funding of club sections, many trainers and instructors left. In spite of these problems, the domination of ROZLA was visible in Przemyśl and Rzeszów, also in the matter of organizing sport events. ROZLA was funded by the Voivodeship Council. Money was granted for organizing sport championship in the Voivodeship, region and Poland in the categories of: youngster, junior, junior junior and adolescent²⁶.

Between 1996 and 1998 ROZLA's Board reduced its activity. The number of sport events diminished as well. Similarly, the activity of Trainers Council and Regional Arbiters College was smaller. In 1998 the honoured trainers of PZLA working in a section of „Stal Rzeszów” and „Tęcza” Mielec, Youth Sport Club Rzeszów and Resovia were: Piotr Surowiec and Janusz Mazur²⁷.

²³ In there.

²⁴ Statute of Rzeszów Athletic Association, original version in possession of ROZLA.

²⁵ ROZLA files storehouse, Protocol from the meeting of PZLA Board taking place 06.12.1996

²⁶ S. Zaborniak: *Sprawozdanie z działalności ROZLA za lata 1993–1996. Księga Protokołów ROZLA 1991–1998.*

²⁷ In there.

Trainers of „Stal” Mielec organized many athletic events on the Mielec Stadium (the only stadium complying with technical requirements), including indoor events. Owing to the Chairman of OKS, Lesław Lichy, the events were serviced by the arbiters with PZLA’s license²⁸.

Between 1993 and 1996 in 4 ROZLA clubs there were 242 competitors registered who won 51 medals in Polish Championship events. OKS gathered 76 arbiters (8 youth arbiters, 11 candidates, 27 regional ones and 15 with PZLA license)²⁹.

Between 1989 and 1998 PZLA activity was influenced by financial problems. In this period, there was a change in ROZLA’s Board. In 1994 Bogusław Duda resigned from the chairman function. In May 1995 Stanisław Zaborniak was appointed this function³⁰.



Photo. 1. Stanisław Zaborniak, the chairman of ROZLA between 1995 and 2003.
Source: <https://d-pt.ppstatic.pl>

The activity of ROZLA was focused on organizing sport events and trainings for the young people to prepare them for competitions. Between 1996 and 1998 ROZLA reduced its activity to organizing events for young people as well as OKS and Trainers Council work³¹.

Przemysł Regional Athletics Association

Przemysł OZLA was created in 1975 and operated until 1998. POZLA consisted of the following athletic sections: Rail Sport Club (referred to later as KKS), „Czuwaj” Przemysł,

²⁸ S. Zaborniak (ed.): *Z tradycji lekkoatletyki w Polsce (1919–2009)*. In *Memorian Braci Freyerów – Alfreda (1901–1927) i Bronisława (1906–1944)*, Sztafeta, Tarnobrzeg 2009, p. 89.

²⁹ OKS report for years 1993-1996 ROZLA files storehouse .

³⁰ S. Zaborniak: *Sprawozdanie z działalności ROZLA za lata 1993–1996. Księga Protokołów ROZLA 1991–1998*.

³¹ In there.

Youth Sport Club „Polonia” Przemyśl with its branches in Lubaczów and Jarosław. The basis of Przemyśl OZLA’s activity was the rules of Procedure legitimized by the General Reporting and Electing Congress, endorsed by Voivodeship’s Sport Federation in Przemyśl³².

A difficult situation of Przemyśl OZLA caused a shutdown of several clubs, forcing many trainers and instructors to resign, leading to suspending clubs activity. Activists and trainers joined the Rzeszów OZLA. Przemyśl OZLA was reactivated in 1996. It had 17 clubs registered, associating 238 competitors. In 1998 8 clubs with 141 competitors operated. The most famous of the competitors were, among others: Małgorzata Malec, Mariusz Zaborniak, Wiesław Wróbel, Danuta Daniel, Halina Ciupińska, Janusz Mroszczyk, Grzegorz Zajączkowski and others³³.

Przemyśl OZLA’s Board organized many sport events, among others: indoor competitions of youngsters and junior juniors, championships of youngsters, Voivodeship’s Spartakiads (athletics meet) in cross country running, cross country running in Macroregion’s Youngsters Championship, athletic „Thursdays”, city competitions and many others. The events were served by Regional Sport Clubs: 10 regional arbiters, 6 arbiters and 4 candidates³⁴.

Krosno Regional Athletics Association

Krosno Regional Athletics Association [further referred to as KOZLA] operating on the territory of Krosno Voivodeship was created on 20th October 1976. The association was based on social work of its members and activists. KOZLA was a part of PZLA and had all the rights guaranteed by the statute of PZLA.

Sport successes of OZLA in Krosno between 1990 and 1998 were owed to its trainers and activists. They were conducting classes in all age categories. In this period, Andrzej Zatorski, second class trainer was the instructor. Between 1991 and 1999 he worked in the City Sport Club „Krośnianka” [further referred to as MKS „Krośnianka”], between 1999 and 2004 in Folk and School Club „Krośnianka”. He organized numerous competitions and operated as a trainer. Andrzej Zatorski’s students won approximately 30 medals in events of Polish Championship level. Among these students there were: Edmund Kramarz, A. Nogaj,

³² *Sprawozdanie z działalności Okręgowego Związku Lekkiej Atletyki w Przemyślu za okres 1989–1998*, Przemyśl 1998, p. 1.

³³ S. Zaborniak (ed.), *Z tradycji lekkoatletyki...* quoted., p. 85.

³³ In there

³⁴ *Sprawozdanie z działalności Okręgowego...* quoted., p. 2.

Kamil Goleń, Henryk Szost and Izabela Zatorska, who herself won 20 medals in mountain run, including participation in European and World Championships³⁵.



Photo. 2. Izabela Zatorska.

Source: <https://www.google.pl/search>

Enormous input in the development of athletics in Krosno had first class instructor Waclaw Katan. His students won 4 medals in Polish Championships in the category of youngster, junior and junior junior. His alumni were, among others: Agata Niziołek, Krzysztof Książkiewicz, Katarzyna Czubska. In 2004 he was elected the trainer during the celebration 75 years of athletics in Krosno³⁶.

Andrzej Zatorski and Waclaw Katan, except for athletics training, dealt also with finding sponsors, organizing camps and sport groupings as well as co-operating with contestants parents on school level³⁷.

In spite of a difficult situation in the country, OZLA in Krosno was progressing between 1991 and 1996. In this period Jan Majznarski was the chairman. The Board dealt with approving of the sport classes, conscripting staff, organizing camps and creating an events calendar. The association's activity was based on the following sections: Students Folk Sport Club „Lipinki” [known further as: ULKS Lipinki], Youth Sport Club „Karpaty” Krosno, Youth Sport Club „Krośnianka” Krosno, Youth Sport Association „Sokół”, Sport Association

³⁵ S Zaborniak (ed.): *Z tradycji lekkoatletyki w Polsce...*, quoted p. 85.

³⁶ In there.

³⁷ In there.

„Zryw” Sanok, Sport Club „Komunalni” Sanok, ULKS „Technik” Trzcinica. In 1995 19 club sections were created owing to Krosno OZLA’s initiative³⁸.

At the moment of Krosno Voivodeship elimination in 1998, there were 268 competitors registered in KOZLA. KOZLA had 9 trainers, 5 instructors and 12 arbiters. Jacek Władyka as the Board’s chairman. On the territory of Krosno 9 club sections and 26 student sections operated³⁹.

Tarnobrzeg Regional Athletics Association

Regional Athletics Association in Tarnobrzeg [known further as: TOZLA] was created in 1977, two years after administrative reform of the country. After 1989 political and economic situation in Poland changed drastically. It also influenced the situation of athletics in Poland. Difficulties with finding funding sources forced many OZLAs to shut down and their sections reduced their numbers. This kind of problems were experienced also by TOZLA. Among others, the following sections were eliminated: sections of „Orzeł” Rudnik and „Pogoń” Staszów, Youth Sport Clubs Tarnobrzeg and „Sanna” Zaklików. The strongest section of TOZLA was „Stal” Stalowa Wola that gathered the best competitors and its financial and staff situation was identical in comparison with other ones⁴⁰.

The activity of the section was funded mostly by Military Sport Federation [further referred to as WFS]. In 1991 6 events were organised, in which 400 competitors took part and 4 titles of Macroregion Champion were won⁴¹.

After the term ended, a new Board of OZLA was elected with Zbigniew Kantorowicz as its Chairman, Benedykt Sobczyński as vice-chairman for training and Zbigniew Kochanowskina as vice-chairman for sport, who was replaced by Mieczysław Ziemianko⁴².

The crisis in the economic situation in the country and reducing a sport budget caused that in 1992 many club sections finished or reduced its activity. Out of 11 athletic sections that gathered 198 competitors in 1992, only 4 sections with 145 competitors operated⁴³.

³⁸ S. Zaborniak: *Lekkoatletyka na Podkarpaciu (1984–2008)*, Rzeszów 2009, p. 281.

³⁹ Private collection of Jacek Władyka in Trzcinica, information concerning organizational state of Regional Athletic Association in 1998.

⁴⁰ M. Żebrowski: *Sprawozdanie z działalności OZLA w Tarnobrzegu za lata 1989–1992*.

⁴¹ APUWwR– Representative Powers in Tarnobrzeg, sig.4125/64: City Athletics Club Stalowa Wola – business report for 1991.

⁴² M. Rusin: *Rozwój Okręgowego Związku Lekkiej Atletyki w województwie tarnobrzesckim w latach 1975–1998*. MA thesis. UR Rzeszów 2005, p. 43.

⁴³ OZLA in Tarnobrzegu: *Sprawozdanie z działalności za lata 1992–1996*, Stalowa Wola, pp. 6–7.

The problems mentioned above were experienced also by Youth Sport Club in Tarnobrzeg as well as sections from Zaklików and Janów Lubelski. Athletic sections, in order to remain active, started their own businesses as well as they looked for sponsors. Stalowa Wola athletics owed a lot to company called PPS „Społem”. As a result of this help, the club changed its name to „Stal-Społem” Stalowa Wola⁴⁴.

In 1992 General Reporting-Electing Gathering took place. The board did not change. Benedykt Sobczyński handed in his resignation; his position was filled in by Stanisław Dziemanko. On 4th December Tarnobrzeg OZLA was registered in physical culture associations registry in Social Matters Unit of Tarnobrzeg Voivodeship Council⁴⁵.

In 1993 only 4 clubs owned their own businesses, including Youth Sport Club „Wspolnota” in Tarnobrzeg. From this moment athletics in Tarnobrzeg Voivodeship rapidly developed. As far as results are concerned, 1994 was one of the best years in Tarnobrzeg Voivodeship athletics. In 1995 15 trainers in 8 clubs were conducting their works: „Stal” Nowa Dęba, „Stal-Społem” Stalowa Wola, „Wisła” Sandomierz, „Płomień” Dzwola, „Metalbut” Ożarów, „Sparta” Stalowa Wola, „Wspólnota” Tarnobrzeg.

In 1996, Zbigniew Kantorowicz was re-elected as the chairman of OZLA, Mieczysław Zieminako as the vice-chairman for training and Stanisław Anioł as the Trainers Council Chairman⁴⁶.



Photo.3. Robert Korzeniowski.

Source: 90 lat polskiej lekkoatletyki 1919–2009, PZLA, Warszawa 2009, p. 47.

⁴⁴ M. Rusin: *Rozwój Okręgowego Związku Lekkiej Atletyki w województwie tarnobrzesckim w latach 1975–1998*, MA thesis UR Rzeszów 2005, p. 43.

⁴⁵ In there

⁴⁶In there.

In TOZLA's activity between year 1989 and 1996, many splendid athletes trained, including: Leszek Beblo, Jan Bandyga, Marta Frankiewicz, Robert Korzeniowski, Marcin Nowak, Grzegorz Sudol and many others. Trainers who worked in TOZLA were, among others: Stanisław Anioł, Mirosław Barszcz, Mieczysław Dziemianko, Jerzy Jakowski, Janusz Kłós, Jacek Łyp, Benedykt Sobczyński, Jan Tokarz⁴⁷.

Summary and conclusion

Political, social and economic conditions changes in the discussed period caused that in the consecutive years organisational and financial possibilities varied for Polish athletics. It especially influenced the results reached in individual and team competitions.

The analysis of source materials allowed gathering the statistic data concerning competitors and athletic sections in the time period 1990-1998 (table 1 and 2). There is no information concerning year 1989.

Table.1. Number of competitors in 1990–1998

| Region | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Krosno | 125 | 121 | 120 | 158 | 116 | 697 | 684 | 682 | 686 |
| Przemyśl | 84 | – | 110 | 80 | 126 | 203 | 223 | 156 | 260 |
| Rzeszów | 191 | 163 | 283 | 317 | 486 | 670 | 1070 | 1133 | 975 |
| Tarnobrzeg | 232 | 282 | 288 | 324 | 365 | 371 | 428 | 508 | 456 |

Source: Main Statistic Office in Rzeszów. *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, p. 96.

Table 2 Number of athletic sections between 1990 and 1998

| Region | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Krosno | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 28 |
| Przemyśl | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 10 |
| Rzeszów | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 20 | 23 |
| Tarnobrzeg | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 18 |

Source: Main Statistic Office in Rzeszów. *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, p. 96.

On the basis of table 1 and 2, it can be said that activity of OZLA in Krosno, Przemyśl, Rzeszów and Tarnobrzeg Voivodeships between 1989 and 1998 the Rzeszów division had the largest number of competitors. In 1998 the biggest amount of athletic sections belonged to KOZLA.

⁴⁷ Delegates Bill of General Meeting of OZLA in Tarnobrzeg on 29.12.1998.

In spite of OZLA being divided into smaller administrative units, it encountered a lot of problems, for example lacks in trainers and instructors numbers and no internal sources of funding. These difficulties did not prevent activists and competitors from achieving successes.

In 1999 Poland was divided into 16 Voivodeships, resulting in Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Krosno and Tarnobrzeg Voivodeships being merged into one big Podkarpackie Voivodeship. After the union of the voivodeships discussed, Podkarpacie Region Athletic Association was created. Stanisław Zaborniak was elected its chairman⁴⁸.

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⁴⁸ S. Zaborniak (ed.), *Z tradycji lekkoatletyki...*quoted., p. 91.

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