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The Management of Physical Culture in Łódź in 1945–1949

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present how physical culture was managed in Łódź in 1945–48 during the times of social and political changes. This period is characteristic for the rebirth of sport movement after the WWII and the activities of the authorities aimed at introducing a new model of management of physical culture.

On the territory of the voivodeship of Łódź, sport activity was revived along with the withdrawal of German army. The activity of reviving clubs and sport unions was quite spontaneous at first. The model of management of physical culture, introduced in 1946, combined physical education issues with military training referring to pre-war models. The newly created Voivodeship Office of Physical Education and Military Training in Łódź in 1948 was temporary.

The final objective was introduction of sports management based on the Soviet model. In the years 1946–49 Łódź authorities popularized the development of physical education and sport in the way compatible with the State policy. They put pressure on massive sport events, sport was combined with military and agricultural training. The new authorities supported the development of physical education and sport in leftist organizations. Sports associations which were claimed to be adverse were eliminated.

Keywords: physical culture, physical education, military training, management, Łódź.

The end of German occupation in Poland sparked off reactivation of so far banned various forms of cultural activity. One of them was physical culture. Using physical exercise to win favour of the young generation for political transformation in Poland was approved by all political authorities. Striving to gain control over the sports movement, Communist parties took over the pre-war model of administration. Reactivation of the State Office of Physical Education

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and Military Training (PUWF and PW)¹ gave time to prepare for introducing the changes in administration of physical culture.

The revival of Łódź² sport after the World War II hasn't been fully elaborated on so far. The existing reports by Andrzej Bogusz³, Wiesław Kaczmarek⁴ and Julian Jaroszewski⁵ are limited only to the area of the city of Łódź.

The author takes particular interest in the history of Łódź physical culture after 1945. On the one hand, the aim is to show the general changes in Poland affecting Łódź physical culture (decrees, acts, edicts), and on the other hand, to present the achieved organizational results. The article below is devoted to the first attempts after WW2 to administer sport activity in the voivodeship of Łódź. The chronological scope includes years 1945–1949. It was based on border events, the first caesura is the date of liberation from German occupation, and the other is the introduction of Central Committee of Physical Culture (GKKF).

Looking for information, the author searched the archival sources, museums and press coverage. The most valuable for this work proved to be CCPE and MT files and Central Office of Physical Culture files deposited in the Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw and the files of the Town Council and City Council in Łódź in 1945–1950, Łódź Voivodeship Office 1945–1950 and the Board of Union of Polish Youth (ZMP) in the resources of Public Records in Łódź. The collected data are complemented by commemorative issues by sports clubs and associations and sports press (“Przegląd Sportowy”), and local press (“Express Ilustrowany”, “Dziennik Łódzki”, “Dziennik Popularny”, “Głos Robotniczy”, “Kurier Popularny”).

The Vistula-Oder offensive of the Red Army resulted in liberation of the territory of Łódź voivodeship from German occupation, Soviet tanks entered the

¹ L. Gondek, *Kultura fizyczna w Polsce 1944–1984. Zarys podstawowych struktur, form i efektów zarządzania kulturą fizyczną w czterdziestoleciu PRL* [*Physical Culture in Poland 1944–1984. An outline of basic structures, forms and effects of administration of physical culture in 40-year period of People's Republic of Poland*], Gdańsk 1986, pp. 11–12.

² The notion “Łódź” refers to the area of Łódź – the city and the voivodeship.

³ A. Bogusz, *Sport łódzki po II wojnie światowej i jego rola w odbudowie sportu polskiego w latach 1945–1948* [*Łódzki Sports after WWII and its role in reconstruction of Polish sport in 1945–1948*], [in:] L. Szymański, Z. Schwarzer (ed.), *Z najnowszej historii kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, t. 2 [*Recent History of Physical Culture in Poland*, vol. 2], Wrocław 1996, pp. 307–317; *Sport w Łodzi po II wojnie światowej* [*Sport in Łódź after WWII*], [in:] J. Żelazko (ed.), *Rok 1945 w Łodzi* [*Year 1945 in Łódź*], Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Oddział w Łodzi [Institute of National Remembrance in Łódź], Łódź 2008, pp. 315–322.

⁴ W. Kaczmarek, *Wychowanie fizyczne i sport* [*Physical Education and Sport*], [in:] E. Rosset (ed.), *Łódź w latach 1945–1960* [*Łódź in years 1945–1960*], Łódź 1962, pp. 390–399.

⁵ J. Jaroszewski, *Kierowanie sportem w Łodzi w latach 1945–1948 w świetle relacji “Łódzki Daily”* [*Sports Management in Łódź in the Years 1945–1948 in the Light of Reports of “Dziennik Łódzki”*], [in:] J. Kwieciński, M. Tomczak (ed.), *Wybrane zagadnienia kultury fizycznej – aktualny stan badań* [*Selected Aspects of Physical Education – the recent state of research*], PWSZ, Konin 2012, pp. 185–211.

city of Łódź on January 19, 1945⁶. Following the Red Army, came Polish communists. Soon the City Council of Łódź was approved and structures of Polish Workers' Party, Polish Socialist Party and Democratic Party were created. On the territory of the voivodeship people's councils came to life. On February 25, 1945 the Provincial People's Council was created and Jan Dąb-Kocioł was appointed the Governor (Voivode) of Łódź Province⁷.

After the warfare, the destruction of Łódź voivodeship was massive. The destruction of the city reached 57%, destruction of the industry – over 60%. Damage in the countryside was even greater. In spite of this, the destruction of Łódź voivodeship, as compared with other regions in Poland was less extensive.⁸ The slight damage in the infrastructure of the city of Łódź and its central location as well as growing population⁹ resulted in Łódź taking over of some of the duties of the capital of Poland.

After the frontline moved westward, cultural activity banned by the occupant started to revive, among them sports activities. On February 15, 1945, Pabianice Cyclist Association¹⁰ reopened its contests, and a month later: “Ruda Workers' Sports Club” and “Widzew” Łódź Workers' Association¹¹. Symbolical for the reviving Łódź sport movement was finishing a match interrupted by German gendarmerie on June 4 1944. On April 1 1945 in Łódź the teams “Wicher” and “Wólka” confronted each other again¹².

Łódź clubs and local sports associations, reactivating their activity, attracted the attention of left-wing parties¹³. On April 13, 1945, at their first sports confer-

⁶ W. Kozłowski, *Ofensywa styczniowa 1945 r. na obszarze województwa łódzkiego* [*The Vistula-Oder Offensive in 1945 r. on the Territory of Łódzkie Voivodeship*], [in:] *Województwo Łódzkie 1919–1969. Studia i materiały* [*Łódzkie Voivodeship 1919–1969. Studies and materials*], Łódź 1971, pp. 135–141.

⁷ *Kształtowanie władzy ludowej w Łodzi i województwie łódzkim w 1945 roku* [*Creating of people's government in Łódź and Łódzkie Voivodeship in 1945*], Warszawa – Łódź 1985, pp. 293–297.

⁸ S. Banasiak, *Województwo Łódzkie w okresie Polski Ludowej* [*Łódzkie Voivodeship in the time of the People's Republic of Poland*], [in:] R. Rosin (ed.), *Województwo Łódzkie 1919–1969* [*Łódzkie Voivodeship 1919–1969*], Łódź 1971, p. 146; *Województwo łódzkie w XXX-leciu PRL* [*Łódzkie Voivodeship in 30-year period of People's Republic of Poland*], Łódź 1974, p. 28.

⁹ In 1946 the population of the city of Łódź amounted to almost 499 000, it was about 20 000 inhabitants more than in Warsaw. *Rocznik statystyczny 1947* [*Statistical Yearbook of 1947*], Warszawa 1947, p. 21.

¹⁰ *75 lat Pabianickiego Towarzystwa Cyklistów 1906–1981* [*75th anniversary of Pabianice Cyclists Association 1906–1981*], Pabianice 1981, p. 15.

¹¹ Archiwum Państwowe w Łodzi [State Archive in Łódź] (hereinafter: SAŁ), Urząd Wojewódzki Łódzki 1945–50 [Łódź Voivodeship Office (hereinafter: LVO) 1945–50], ref. 279, Associations' Issues pp. 12–13, List of societies on the territory of the town of Ruda Pabianicka; *75 lat RTS Widzew (1910–1985)* [*75 years of RTS Widzew (1910–1985)*], Łódź 1985, p. 17.

¹² B. Madej, L. Włodkowski, *Stadion pełen wspomnień* [*A Stadium full of memories*], Łódź 1978, p. 64; “Głos Robotniczy” [“Voice of the Workers”] 1985, No. 16, p. 7.

¹³ J. Jaroszewski, *Kierowanie sportem w Łodzi w latach 1945–1948 w świetle relacji “Dziennika Łódzkiego”* [*Sport Management in Łódź in years 1945–1948 in the light of relations of “Łódzki*

ence, youth organizations representatives¹⁴ discussed, among other things, the issues of physical education in Poland. Waclaw Zatke (OMTUR) postulated relegating physical education to the Ministry of Public Health, separating physical education from military training¹⁵.

The April sports conference in Łódź showed that the issue of physical education and sport became the centre of attention of the new authorities. Aspiration of Łódź Polish Socialist Party (PPS) and Youth Organisation of the Society of Workers' Universities (OMTUR) to administer sport was confirmed by delegating representatives to sports clubs and regional sports associations. Subjecting factory clubs to District Office of Physical Education and Military Training allowed PPS and OMTUR to dominate in the newly formed Łódź sports structures.

The next conferences appointed City Committee of Physical Education in Łódź (December 4, 1945), a body in charge of physical culture in the city of Łódź area¹⁶.

The revival of Poland took place in administrative structures of pre-September Poland. Łódź Provincial Office¹⁷ recreated in 1945 had a Military Department, which included an Agency of Military Training and Physical Education responsible for organization of committees of military training and physical education, budgets and equipment supervision¹⁸.

Daily”], [in:] J. Kwieciński, M. Tomczak (ed.), *Wybrane zagadnienia kultury fizycznej – aktualny stan badań* [*Selected Aspects of Physical Education – the recent state of research*], Konin 2012, pp. 185–211. Till the end of 1945. 7 regional unions revived their activities (boxing, ice hockey, athletics, swimming, football, handball and fencing).

¹⁴ The representatives of the Union of Youth Fight, Youth Organization of the Society of Workers' University, Rural Youth Union “Wici” and the Union of Democratic Youth Fight took part in the conference.

¹⁵ A. Bogusz, *Sport łódzki po II wojnie światowej i jego rola w odbudowie sportu polskiego w latach 1945–1948* [*Łódzki Sport after WWII and its role in the reconstruction of Polish sport in years 1945–1948*], [in:] L. Szymański, Z. Schwarzer (ed.), *Z najnowszej historii kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, t. 2 [*The most recent history of Physical Culture in Poland*, vol. 2], Wrocław 1996, pp. 307–317.

¹⁶ SAŁ, Miejska Rada Narodowa i Zarząd Miasta Łodzi [City National Council and City Board in Łódź] (hereinafter: CNCCBŁ) 1945–1950, ref. 60, Wydział Zdrowia, Oddział Ogólny, Oddział Wychowania Fizycznego [Health Department, General Department, Department of Physical Education], pag. 52, Letter to Presidential Department of December 1, 8, 1945; k. 54, abstract of 36th meeting of Łódź City Board Committee; “Łódzki Daily” 1945, issue 176, p. 5; 1945, issue 155, p. 6. The following representatives were appointed members of the Committee: the regional representatives (the President and Vice-president of Łódź), school regional officer and delegates of army, high schools and universities, and delegates of sports unions (boxing, sports games, athletics, cycling and swimming) and also, brought by the City Board, representatives of youth organizations (OMTUR, Democratic Youth) and the Union of Regional Sport and Working Associations.

¹⁷ SAŁ, LVO 1945–1950, inventory.

¹⁸ Ibidem, ref. 37, Organizational issues of voivodeship office, pag. 11, Decree of the Ministry of Public Administration of May 25, 1945 re.: Offices of Voivodeship Bureaus.

In military structures, a similar function was performed by Departments of Military Training in regional Army Recruiting Commands (RKU)¹⁹. On May 2, 1946, on the premises of RKU Łódź – City in 18 Piotrkowska Street, the first meeting of the workers of the Voivodeship Office of Physical Education and Military Training (VOPE and MT) in Łódź²⁰ initiated its activity. VOPE&MT came into being under the Decree of January 16, 1946, “On Forming Offices and Councils of Physical Education and Military Training”, appointing National Office of Physical Education and Military Training and National Council of Physical Education and Military Training²¹.

VOPE&MT was situated in 18, Pomorska Street²² and Andrzej Nonas²³ was appointed its director on May 8, 1945. Voivodeship Council (VC) of Physical Education and Military Training in Łódź was constituted in November 1946, Edward Andrzejak (the Chairperson of City Council in Łódź)²⁴ was appointed its President. The negative evaluation of VCPE&MT activities caused division of the office into two separate sections one for the voivodeship and one for the city of Łódź. The changes were positively evaluated, especially regarding VOPE&MT of the city of Łódź, administered by Jan Karbowski²⁵. The chairperson of VCPE &MT of the voivodeship section was Potapczuk²⁶. It was the first

¹⁹ They were RKU: Łódź-city, Łódź-administrative district, Skierniewice, Łask, Piotrków Tryb., Opoczno, Kutno and Wieluń.

²⁰ Archiwum Akt Nowych [The Archives of Modern Records] (hereinafter: AMR), Państwowy Urząd Wychowania Fizycznego I Przystosowania Wojskowego [State Office of Physical Education and Military Training] (hereinafter: SOPEMT), ref. 33, Organization and activity of Voivodeship Office of PE and MT in Łódź, reports, lists of detachments, correspondence of (1946–1948), pag. –, Report of January 1948. Its works were led by lieut. Kazimierz Rybaczek, supported by second lieut. Bronisław Gosłowski, reserve warrant officer Kordylewski and Reinholz (a graduate of Central Institute of Physical Education). The activity of MT started on April 15, 1945 with a holy mass accompanied by marching of MT troops.

²¹ L. Szymański, *Nad modelem kultury fizycznej w Polsce Ludowej 1944–1980* [Over the model of Physical Culture of People's Republic of Poland in 1944–1980], Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Wrocławiu [Academy of Physical Education in Wrocław], Wrocław 1996, p. 14; “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1945, No. 4, p. 1; “Głos Robotniczy” [“Voice of the Workers”] 1946, No. 130, p. 6; “Express Ilustrowany” [“Illustrated Express”] 1946, No. 180, p. 5.

²² AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, Organization and activity of Voivodeship Office of WF and PW in Łódź, reports, lists of detachments, correspondence of (1946–1948), p. –, Report of January 1948; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, No. 130, p. 6.

²³ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 14, Activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW). Reports, correspondence (1946–1947), k. 78, Report on the activity of State Office of WF and PW of May 1946; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, No. 128, p. 4; “Głos Robotniczy” [“Voice of the Workers”] 1946, No. 130, p. 6.

²⁴ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23, activity of State Office of PE and MT, announcements, instructions, reports, list of course participants, correspondence (1946), p. 72, Monthly report of November 1946.

²⁵ “Expres Ilustrowany” [“Illustrated Express”] 1947, No. 179, p. 5; 1947, No. 258, p. 4; “Kurier Popularny” [“Popular Courier”] 1947, No. 255, p. 4.

²⁶ “Expres Ilustrowany” [“Illustrated Express”] 1947, No. 263, p. 5.

case of separating structures administering physical culture of the city of Łódź from the voivodeship.

Voivodeship Office of Physical Education and Military Training coordinated the activity of district and city councils of physical education and military training (Łódź-Śródmieście, Łódź-Północna, Łódź-Południowa)²⁷. Its duties involved administering physical education and military training in the area of Łódź voivodeship, organization of voivodeship training centres for directing staff, supervising the activity of regional councils of physical education and military training and management of the entrusted money. The main goal was to promote physical education and sports among teenagers and adults and professional sportsmen and sportswomen²⁸.

VOPE&MT was divided into sections and departments. In August 1946, there were the following sections functioning: Political-Educational Section (manager captain Antoni Koźluk), General Organizational Section (manager captain Cugant Romuald), Physical Education Section (manager Andrzej Nonas), Military Training Section (manager – vacancy).

The Voivodeship Office reported its activity to VOPE&MT. The data concerned the organizational status of the MT detachments, cooperation with clubs and sports associations, activity of cultural-educational section, safety issues in the region. The Voivodeship Office contacted clubs and sports associations authorities²⁹ and the Sports Council within the Regional Trade Union Committee³⁰. Striving to gain full control, in November 1946, it obliged sports clubs and associations to submit work schedules, sports events calendars and information on meetings³¹.

The greatest problems that the Voivodeship Office of Physical Education and Military Training had to tackle were office space, staff and training equipment shortages³². In June 1945 VOPE&MT was situated in a building in 28 Cu-

²⁷ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 41, positions in voivodeship and region, orders, decrees, lists of civil and military workers, correspondence (1946), k. 68, Letter to the Personal Department of Polish Army; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 125, p. 4; 1946, No. 120, p. 4; 1946, No. 125, p. 4.

²⁸ "Głos Robotniczy" ["Voice of the Workers"] 1946, No. 130, p. 6.

²⁹ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23 Activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military Training (PW). Announcements, instructions, reports, lists of names course participants, correspondence (1946), k. 299, Monthly reports of July 1946, p. 235, Monthly reports of September 1946.

³⁰ Ibidem, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), p. 57, Monthly reports of October 1947 r.

³¹ Ibidem, k. 36, Report of May 1947, pag. 57, Report of October 1947, pag. 68, Report of November 1947, pag. 2, Report of December 1947 r., pag. –, Report of January 1948; "Expres Ilustrowany" ["Illustrated Express"] 1946, No. 23, p. 6; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 329, p. 5.

³² "Kurier Popularny" ["Popular Courier"] 1945, No. 34, p. 4.

rie-Skłódowska Street³³. In the area of the voivodeship some regional offices got their office premises as late as in the middle of 1947³⁴.

Promoting physical activity after 1945 in the area of Łódź voivodeship was not helped by the accessibility of sports objects. Undamaged sports halls were occupied by the army or industrial plants. For example, the sports hall in Łódź in Łąkowa Street was put at the disposal of "Film Polski"³⁵. In 1946, in the area of Łódź voivodeship the voivodeship and regional offices were in charge of 49 sports fields, 21 shooting ranges and 4 swimming pools³⁶. A year later, the number of sports objects decreased³⁷. The attempts were made to rent sports sites, for example, from Łódź YMCA or to adapt production halls for sport purposes³⁸, but were unable to meet the growing needs.

A great challenge was also staffing full-time positions, especially in regional offices³⁹. Despite making use of officers⁴⁰, staff shortages were noticeable⁴¹. The problem was worsened by ethical requirements imposed on candidates and giving up cooperation with non-commissioned officers and privates⁴². The shortages concerned mainly training staff (instructors). Courses of training for the

³³ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), pag. –, Report of January 1948 r.; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 136, p. 5; 1946, No. 309, p. 5.

³⁴ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), p. 36, Report of May 1947.

³⁵ "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1948, No. 18, p. 6.

³⁶ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23 Activity of WF and PW, announcements, instructions, reports, list of names of course participants, correspondence (1946), pag. 168, Report of October 1946.

³⁷ Ibidem, ref. 33 Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), p. 5, Attachment No. 1, Report of January 1947.

³⁸ Ibidem, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), p. 36, entry No. 1, Report of May 1947; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 245, p. 4; "Głos Robotniczy" ["Voice of the Workers"] 1947, No. 338, p. 8.

³⁹ "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 120, p. 4.

⁴⁰ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 41, Posts in Voivodeship and Regional offices, orders, decrees, lists of military and civil workers, correspondence, (1946), pag. 68, Letter to Personnel Department of Polish Army; pag. 69, Letter of State Office of Physical Education and Military Training of April 5, 1946.

⁴¹ Ibidem, ref. 43, Posts in Voivodeship and Regional PE and MT offices, reports, correspondence, (10 VIII – 18 X 1946), pag. 1. Report of Personnel of WF and PW Voivodeship Offices in Łódź and WF and PW Administrative Districts of August 1, 1946.

⁴² Ibidem, ref. 33, Organization and Activity of PE and MT Voivodeship Office in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), k. –, Report of January 1948; ref. 23 Activity of WF and PW voivodeship offices, announcements, instructions, reports, lists on names of course participants, correspondence (1946); pag. 235, Monthly Report of September 1946.

staff for physical education in schools, boxing, gymnastics, regional dances, swimming, athletics, handball⁴³ did not solve the problem.

Training courses were conducted in the Voivodeship Centre for Physical Education in Łódź⁴⁴, Polish YMCA in Łódź⁴⁵, Physical Educational Centre in Łódź. From 1947 they were run by employees of the Voivodeship Office (Józef Okoński, Krystyna Sękowa)⁴⁶ and trainers of regional associations: swimming and gymnastics association⁴⁷. Until 1948, VOPE&MT in Łódź conducted 11 training courses for leaders of physical education (316 participants). The result gave Łódź Voivodeship only the 10th position in Poland (among 14 Voivodeships)⁴⁸.

Provision of sports equipment was an *insuperable* barrier. The activity of the Central Planning Office of Manufacturing had a positive effect on the condition of sports equipment⁴⁹. However, the amount of training equipment was not impressive. In July 1946 only three regional offices (Kutno, Łowicz, Łęczyca) owned sports and military equipment. This status was improving slightly. At the end of 1946, the regional offices in Brzeziny, Opoczno, Skierniewice, Rawa Mazowiecka and Łódź were in the worst situation, as they did not have any sports equipment⁵⁰.

⁴³ “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1947, No. 30, p. 5; 1947, No. 41, p. 5; 1947, No. 48, p. 5; 1947, No. 64, p. 5; 1947, No. 111, p. 5.

⁴⁴ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State Office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), k. –, Report of January 1948; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, issue 309, p. 5.

⁴⁵ J. Jaroszewski, M. Łuczak, *Kultura fizyczna w programach Łódzkiego Oddziału Związku Młodzieży Chrześcijańskiej w latach 1920–2002* [Physical Culture in the programmes of Łódź Division of Christian Youth Union in years 1920–2002], “Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna” [“Scientific Papers of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa. Physical Culture”] 2014, 12, No. 2 13, p. 104; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, No. 245, p. 4.

⁴⁶ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, Organization and activity of the State office of Physical Education (WF) and Military training (PW) in Łódź, reports, lists of names of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), pag. 27, Attachment No. 1, Monthly Report of March 1947.

⁴⁷ Ibidem, k. 68, Report of November 1947; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, No. 103, p. 6; 1947, No. 48, p. 5; 1947, No. 29, p. 5; 1947, No. 111, p. 5.

⁴⁸ AMR, Główny Komitet Kultury Fizycznej [Central Committee of Physical Culture] (hereinafter: CCPC), ref. 26, The scope of physical culture in schools. Statistical reports of 1946–1949 r. pag. 53, Statistics of PE leaders qualified by VO for years 1946–1947 – till February 1, 1948 r. the following leaders were qualified in: swimming (50), boxing (60), gymnastics (111), dancing (23), physical education leaders in plants (32), general course of physical education (14). Total 316.

⁴⁹ “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1946, No. 136, p. 5.

⁵⁰ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23 Activity of Voivodeship offices of WF (physical education) and PW (military training), announcements, instructions, reports, lists of course participants, correspondence (1946), pag. 304 List of training equipment in Łódzkie Voivodeship; pag. 33, Attachment No. 1. List of training equipment in Regional WF and PW offices.

To promote physical education and sports in Łódź voivodeship, the offices organized Physical Education Festival whose programmes included dancing and gymnastics shows, air shows, sports parades, diving, swimming, as well as football matches and handball⁵¹.

Military Training was promoted by backpacking camps⁵², the routes of which lead through the regions of: Łowicz, Skierniewice and Rawa. During the camps, local football matches and athletics competition took place⁵³. In the beginning, military training was conducted by PE&MT offices within ARC and Recruitment Department of the Ministry of National Defence, and then by the PE&MT Office. After the introduction of COPE & MT, the agendas of PE and MT Offices within ARC were taken over by the MT Department and after the reorganization on the management level, from July 1946 standardized working models in detachments were introduced throughout the country⁵⁴.

In Łódź voivodeship area, in 1946–1947, military training was conducted by VOPE & MT in Łódź and the PE and MT Unit in the Military Department of Łódź Voivodeship Office⁵⁵.

Work with the young people took place in detachments, the number of which was subject to changes. In July 1947, there were 280 male detachments (18 973 boys) and 131 female detachments (7135 girls)⁵⁶, in Łódź voivodeship. In 1947, creation of MT detachments in factories and youth organizations (ZWM) generated an improvement in organizational situation of the MT detachments⁵⁷. In January 1948, there were 414 male detachments (42 629 boys) and 143 female detachments (13 176 girls)⁵⁸ in the voivodeship area. PE and MT City Council in Łódź had the greatest number of detachments.

Starting from March 1947 VOPE and MT claimed its jurisdiction over Agriculture and Military Training action (PRW). PRW Inspectorates and Agricul-

⁵¹ "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1946, No. 164, p. 5; 1947, No. 80, p. 5; 1947, No. 103, p. 5; 1947, No. 153, p. 4; 1947, No. 154, p. 4.

⁵² "Express Ilustrowany" ["Illustrated Express"] 1947, No. 177, p. 5; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1947, No. 175, p. 5; 1947, No. 183, p. 4; 1947, No. 190, p. 4; 1947, No. 193, p. 4; 1947, No. 196, p. 4.

⁵³ "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1947, No. 175, p. 5; 1947, No. 183, p. 4; 1947, No. 190, p. 4; 1947, No. 193, p. 4; 1947, No. 196, p. 4.

⁵⁴ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 14, Activity of State Office of WF and PW. Reports and correspondence. 1946–1947, pag. 1, report on activities of State Office of WF and PW for the year of 1946.

⁵⁵ SAŁ, LVO 1945–1950, ref. 37, Voivodeship Office organization, pag. 26 Temporary Organizational Structure Articles of Łódzkie Voivodeship Office.

⁵⁶ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23 Activity of WF and PW Voivodeship offices, announcements, instructions, reports, lists of course participants, correspondence (1946), pag. 299, Monthly report of July 1946 r.

⁵⁷ SAŁ, LVO 1945–1950, ref. 304, Report on activities of Voivodeship office and other institutions (1947), pag. 55, Report on activities of Military Department for the period of April 1 till August 31 1947.

⁵⁸ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 33, organization and activities of Łódź Voivodeship Office, reports, lists of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), pag. –, report for January 1948.

tural Education Boards were formed in the regions, and in local communities, PRW community detachments and Community Boards of Agricultural Education. In March 1947, there were 500 PRW instructors participating in the work of PRW in the Łódź voivodeship area. Within a short period of time, Łódź voivodeship became the leader in Poland. In January 1948, PRW associated 65 900 boys and girls in the voivodeship of Łódź⁵⁹. Training programs acquainted rural youth with military training, work on farms, physical education and sports (fencing, wrestling, running and shooting).

Cultural-educational activities of VOPE and MT were based on classes in club-rooms. Propaganda activity was based on reports, lectures⁶⁰, distribution of daily and military press and bulletins⁶¹. Classes were conducted by full-time officers of PE and MT Voivodeship Office (among others mayor Koralewski, second lieutenant Leszczyński)⁶². The negative evaluation of the work of the section work gave grounds for employment of military officers⁶³.

The activity of the Voivodeship PE and MT Office lasted two years. It was stopped by reorganization of the structure of physical education under the Act of February 25, 1948, which set up Public Organization "Service to Poland" and Central Office of Physical Culture (GUKF)⁶⁴. The separation of physical education and sports from military training became legitimized. GUKF was an out-of-

⁵⁹ Ibidem, pag. 27, Attachment No. 1, Monthly report for March 1947; pag. 8, Statistical Report for December 1947 – January 1948; "Express Ilustrowany" ["Illustrated Express"] 1947, No. 227, p. 5.

⁶⁰ The topics of lectures were: "After elections", "Legislative Parliament started its work", "President's address", "The State take care of physical education of young people part I and II", "Amnesty", "Find out about your country – Upper Silesia", "Press news", "Economic and social changes", "The role of Polish farmer in the pre-war period and nowadays", "Agricultural reform", "The Anniversary of the Battle of Lenino", "Polish Borders", "Women Fighters", "Slavic Nations' Alliance", "Anniversary of Parliamentary Elections", "January Uprising", "Polish Liberation Anniversary".

⁶¹ AMR, SOPEMT, ref. 23 Activity of Voivodeship WF and PW, announcements, instructions, reports, lists of names of course participants, correspondence (1946), pag. 299, Monthly report of July 1946; k. 235, Monthly report of July of September 1946 r.; pag. 168, Monthly report of October 1946; pag. 72, Monthly report of November 1946; pag. 5 Attachment No. 1, Monthly report of January 1947; pag. 20, Attachment No. 1, 1947 r.; k. 27, Monthly report of February, Attachment No. 1, Monthly report of March 1947; pag. 36, Monthly report of May 1947.

⁶² Ibidem, ref. 33, Organization and activity of Voivodeship Offices of PE and MT in Łódź, reports, list of detachments, correspondence (1946–1948), pag. 39, Monthly report of July 1947.

⁶³ Ibidem, pag. 57, Monthly report of October 1947; pag. 68, Monthly report of July November 1947; pag. 2, Monthly report of December 1947.

⁶⁴ E. Małolepszy, *Z dziejów organizacji i zarządzania kulturą fizyczną w Polsce w latach 1918–1998* [On management and Organization of Physical Culture in Poland in the Years 1918–1998], "Prace Naukowe Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Częstochowie, Kultura Fizyczna" ["Scientific Papers of Pedagogical School of Higher Education in Częstochowa, Physical Culture"] 2001, No. 4, pp. 87–100; "Głos Robotniczy" ["Voice of the Workers"] 1948, No. 31, p. 6; "Express Ilustrowany" ["Illustrated Express"] 1948, No. 41, p. 5; 1948, No. 42, p. 5.

department body and it acted under the guidelines of the Supreme Council for Youth and Physical Culture.

In Łódź, Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture (VOPC) was formed on March 5, 1948, with Andrzej Nonas as a chairperson⁶⁵. It was located in 28 Curie-Skłodowska Street⁶⁶. In December 1948, the Voivodeship Council for Youth and Physical Culture was created with Edmund Woźniak in charge of it. The VOPC was divided into sections: the section of organizing physical culture (manager Józef Okoński) and administrative section (manager Jerzy Skotnicki). The sections included offices. Activity of the VOPC was focused on staff issues and provision of office space for inspectorates. In March 1948 only two regions had inspector positions: Kazimierz Radwański (Brzeziny) and Zdzisław Jelonkiewicz (Łowicz). At the turn of 1948/49 staffing in the VOPC amounted to 75%, and 60% in PE inspectorates⁶⁷. In 1949 the situation improved, the only exception was the inspectorate in the city of Łódź⁶⁸. A significant problem arose because of the shortage of office space for inspectors. Regional inspectorates worked as subtenants within regional headquarters of the Public Organization "Service to Poland".

Voivodeship Office continued its activity in the field of training staff. The problem was urgent, lack of staff affected the quality of work. They continued training the leaders of physical education to meet the needs of: the school system, the army, the militia, the youth associations, military training, the trade unions and the rural organizations. In October 1948, the training program included 5 courses: 2 concerning gymnastics, 2 – handball and 1 – boxing⁶⁹. The training situation was impeded by the fact of the takeover of the Voivodeship Centre of Physical Education⁷⁰ by The Voivodeship Headquarters of PO "SP" and the lack of Physical Education Offices (PEO) in the regions⁷¹.

⁶⁵ AMR, CCPC, ref. 39, Activity of Voivodeship offices of Physical Culture in 1946 – March 31 1948, reports, pag. 93, Report on the 1st quarter of 1948; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1948, No. 198, p. 4; "Głos Robotniczy" ["Voice of the Workers"] 1948, No. 198, p. 8.

⁶⁶ Ibidem, ref. 2, Inspection of Voivodeship offices of physical culture (1949), k. 70, Report No. 28 of preliminary control of Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture in Łódź carried out by Roman Jerzy and Rakowski Ryszard, GUKF internal auditor Romana Jerzego i Rakowskiego Ryszarda on 26–27.08.1949.

⁶⁷ Ibidem, ref. 39, Activity of Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture in 1946 – March 31 1948, reports, pag. 95, reports from March 1 till September 30 1948; pag. 98, Report on 1st quarter of 1948.

⁶⁸ Ibidem, ref. 2, Inspection of Voivodeship offices of Physical Culture (1949), pag. 70, Report No. 28 of preliminary control of Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture in Łódź carried out by Roman Jerzy and Rakowski Ryszard, GUKF internal auditor Romana Jerzego i Rakowskiego Ryszarda on 26–27.08.1949.

⁶⁹ Ibidem, ref. 39, Activities of voivoship offices of physical culture in the period of 1946 till March 31 1948, reports, pag. 98, Report on 1st quarter of 1948; pag. 95, Report on the period of March 1 till September 30 1948; "Dziennik Łódzki" ["Łódzki Daily"] 1948, No. 270, p. 4; "Głos Robotniczy" ["Voice of the Workers"] 1948, No. 269, p. 8.

⁷⁰ AMR, CCPC, ref. 39, Activity of Voivodeship offices of physical culture in 1946 – March 31, reports, pag. 98, Report on 1st quarter of 1948.

⁷¹ Ibidem, pag. 95, Report of March 1 – September 30 1948.

Cooperation of the VOPC with youth organizations, Samopomoc Chłopska, the militia, the army, the Voivodeship and Regional Councils of Rural Sports, Łódź Voivodeship Office and Tourism Office within Transport Department and the Board of the City of Łódź (Military Department), took part in meetings, helped in the field of organization of physical education⁷².

The greatest events promoting sport and physical education were the National Run, the Autumn Marches and the “Festivals of Physical Education”. The propaganda activity was also aided by exhibitions of sports achievements (1945–1949), cycling races around Łódź Voivodeship (to celebrate “National Revival”), lectures combined with artistic part and matinees for sportsmen. The VOPC supervised organizations working in the field of physical culture via detailed inventory, statistical reports and participation in meetings⁷³.

Being a State office it took care of development of physical culture in compliance with the State’s policy. Organizations obtained their activity permit only after the approval of the department of Internal Affairs of Łódź Voivodeship Office. Organizations hostile to “communist authorities” were forbidden to reactivate, and the existing ones were closed down. In 1948, Gymnastics Association “Sokół”⁷⁴ was closed down and dismantling of Young Men’s Christian Association – Polish YMCA in Łódź, was begun⁷⁵.

In 1949 it turned out that COPC was a transitional form of administration of physical culture. The following changes took place at the turn of 1945/50, with the aim of introducing the model of sport administration which was a copy of that in the Soviet Union. The changes were initiated by the resolution of September 28, 1949 of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers’ Party concerning physical culture and sports, according to which, COPC was replaced by Central Committee of Physical Culture (CCPC). The Voivodeship Committee of Physical Culture⁷⁶ was formed in Łódź Voivodeship in March 1950, and Andrzej Nonas⁷⁷ was appointed its chairperson.

⁷² Ibidem, pag. 98, Report on 1st quarter of 1948.

⁷³ Ibidem, ref. 2, Inspection of Voivodeship offices of physical culture (1949), k. 70, Report No. 28 on the initial inspection of Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture in Łódź carried out by internal auditors GUKF Roman Jerzy and Rakowski Ryszard on August 26–27, 1949.

⁷⁴ SAŁ, CNCCBŁ 1945–1950, pag. 170 Decision; ANF, CCPC, ref. 18, Dismantling of T.G. “Sokół”, pag. 388, A letter to Nonas Andrzej, receiver of Gymnastics Association “Sokół”.

⁷⁵ Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, Oddział w Łodzi [Institute of National Remembrance in Łódź], IPN Ld PF10/725, Voivodeship Office of Internal Affairs in Łódź (1945) 1983–1990, materials on YMCA in 1948–1950, pag. 6, To Voivodeship Office of Public Safety in Łódź. Head of department; pag. Agent denunciation. Source – Górnik, 29.10.1949; SAŁ, Zarząd Łódzki Związku Młodzieży Polskiej [The Board of the People’s Council in Łódź], ref. 83, speeches (at meetings, workshops), pag. 4, Official report; SAŁ, Prezydium Rady Narodowej w Łodzi [National Council Chair in Łódź], ref. 2363, Matters of dismantling and dissolving of associations year 1952: ref. 2363, Matters of dismantling and dissolving of associations year 1952, pag. 2, Minutes of inspection of “Ognisko” Association located at 4 Moniuszki St. flat 6.

⁷⁶ L. Szymański, *Ze studiów nad modelem kultury fizycznej w Polsce Ludowej 1944–1980* [From the studies of the model of physical culture in People’s Republic of Poland 1944–1980], Wrocław 1996, pp. 33–37; “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1950, No. 1, p. 6.

⁷⁷ “Dziennik Łódzki” [“Łódzki Daily”] 1950, No. 78, p. 4.

Conclusions

As a result of liberating Poland from German occupation by the Soviet army, there was a change of political climate in Poland which affected all spheres of life of Polish citizens. One of them was sports activity. The Communists were focused on striving for new political system and it involved recreating in 1946–48 the model of administration of physical education and sports from the period of the Second Polish Republic. COPR and MT reactivated by the Voivodeship PE and MT Offices strived to get control of the reviving sport activities.

The greatest impediments in fulfilling the tasks of the VOPE and MT in Łódź, functioning in 1946–1948, were staff, office space and equipment shortages. The VOPE and MT coordinated military training and, after 1947, agricultural-military training in rural areas. The activity of the Voivodeship Office of PE and MT lasted until 1948. The formation of the Central Office of Physical Culture sanctioned the separation of physical education from military training.

The Voivodeship Office of Physical Culture formed in Łódź tackled similar problems as its predecessor. Taking care of the development of physical education, it cooperated with youth organizations, Samopomoc Chłopska, the militia, the army, Voivodeship and Regional Councils of Rural Sport and with the Voivodeship Office of Łódź. It supervised clubs and associations working in the field of physical culture. The ones considered as hostile to communist authorities in Poland were closed down.

The promotion of sport activity organized by VOPE and MT and then by VOPC in the Łódź Voivodeship area were aided by Festivals of Physical Education, National Runs, Autumn Marches and backpacking camps.

The falsified parliamentary election, the fusion of left-wing parties, enabled Communists to take over the power in the country. In 1949 the transitional form of COPC was terminated by the resolution “On Physical Culture and Sports”. The Central Committee of Physical Culture was formed, and it eventually introduced the Soviet model of physical culture administration.

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Zarządzanie łódzką kulturą fizyczną w latach 1945–1949

Streszczenie

Celem pracy jest przedstawienie zarządzania łódzką kulturą fizyczną w latach 1945–1949 na tle zachodzących zmian społeczno-politycznych. Wprowadzony w 1946 roku model zarządzania kulturą fizyczną łączył sprawy wychowania fizycznego z przysposobieniem wojskowym. Wojewódzki Urząd Wychowania Fizycznego i Przysposobienia Wojskowego w Łodzi, a następnie Wojewódzki Urząd Kultury Fizycznej w Łodzi były formami przejściowymi. Ostatecznym celem było wprowadzenie modelu zarządzania sportem łódzkim na wzór realizowanego w Związku Radzieckim.

W latach 1946–1949 łódzkie władze sportowe propagowały rozwój wychowania fizycznego i sportu zgodnie z polityką państwa. Forsowano duże imprezy sportowe. Szkolenie sportowe powiązано z wojskowym i rolniczym. Nowa władza państwowa sprzyjała rozwojowi wychowania fizycznego i sportu, szczególnie w organizacjach lewicowych. Stowarzyszenia sportowe, których działalność uznano za wroga, były likwidowane.

Słowa kluczowe: kultura fizyczna, wychowanie fizyczne, przysposobienie wojskowe, zarządzanie, Łódź.