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SPORT IN VOLYN IN THE YEARS 1921–1939. OUTLINE HISTORY**Eligiusz Malolepszy¹, Teresa Drozdek-Malolepsza¹ Daniel Bakota¹, Anatolii Tsos²**¹ Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Institute of Physical Education, Tourism and Physiotherapy, Częstochowa, Poland, e.malolepszy@ajd.czyst.pl² Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National University, Lutsk, Ukraine, Tsos.Anatolii@eenu.edu.ua<https://doi.org/10.29038/2220-7481-2017-03-73-81>**Abstract**

Introduction. The aim of this paper is to outline the history of sport in Volyn (the area of the Volhynian province in the period of the Second Polish Republic) in the years 1921–1939. The Volhynian province was established on 19 February 1921. As of April 1, 1939 its area covered 35,754 km² and had a population of 2,085,600 people (as of 9 December 1931). The population of Polish nationality was 16,6 %, of Ukrainian nationality – 68,4 %, of Jewish nationality – 9,9 %, of German nationality – 2,3 %, of Czech nationality – 1,5 %, of Russian nationality – 1,1 %, the remaining nationalities – 0,2 %. Townspeople of the province represented only 13,3 % of the population. The province consisted of the following counties: Dubno, Horochów, Kostopil, Kovel, Kremenets, Liuboml, Lutsk, Rivne, Sarny, Volodymyr and Zdolbuniv. The county of Sarny (formerly included in Polesia province) became a part of the Volhynian province in December 1930. **Methods and Research Problems.** As part of preparation of this study the following research methods have been used: analysis of historical sources, the method of synthesis and comparison. The following research areas have been put forward: What did the development of sport in Volyn in the years 1921–1939 look like? What conditions influenced the development of sport in the Volhynian province in the years 1921–1939? What clubs and associations were engaged in sports activity in Volyn in the years 1921–1939? As far as the research is concerned preliminary research into archive sources was conducted. The literature used has been the one taking into account the issues of contributions to the history of physical education and sport in Volhynian province in the years 1921–1939. **Findings and Conclusions.** The years 1921–1939 saw the development of sport in Volyn. The development of sports infrastructure as well as trainings of personnel for the purpose of physical education and sport could be observed. The sports structures established in Volyn – in the form of district sports associations and the operation of Provincial, County and Municipal Committees of Physical Education and Military Training (after 1927) were conducive to the development of this field of sports activity. A significant role in sports activity was played by sports, youth and social clubs and associations. Sport was practised by all nationality groups residing in the Volhynian province.

Key words: Sport, Volyn, years 1921–1939, national minorities, the Second Polish Republic.

Елігіуш Малолєпши, Тереза Дроздек-Малолєпша, Данієль Бакота, Анатолій Цьось. Спорт на Волині в 1921–1939 рр. Історичний нарис. Вступ. Мета дослідження – виклад історії спорту на Волині (часів Волинської губернії в період другого поділу Речі Посполитої) у 1921–1939 рр. Волинська губернія заснована 19 лютого 1921 р. Станом на 1 квітня 1939 р. її територія охопила 35 754 км² та мала населення 2 085 600 осіб (станом на 9 грудня 1931 р.). Серед них поляки – 16,6 %, українці – 9,9 %, німці – 2,3 %, чехи – 1,5 %, росіяни – 1,1 %, інші національності – 0,2 %. Міське населення губернії становило лише 13,3 %. У склад губернії входили такі повіти: Дубенський, Горохівський, Костопільський, Ковельський, Кременецький, Любомльський, Луцький, Ровенський, Сарненський, Володимирський і Здолбунівський. Сарненський повіт увійшов до Волинської губернії (Поліський регіон) у грудні 1930 р. **Методи та проблеми дослідження.** У межах підготовки цього дослідження використано такі методи дослідження: аналіз історичних джерел, метод синтезу та порівняння. Наведено проблеми дослідження: 1) як зароджувався спорт на Волині в 1921–1939 рр.? 2) які чинники вплинули на розвиток спорту на Волині в 1921–1939 роках? 3) які клуби та товариства проводили спортивні заходи на Волині в 1921–1939 рр.? Проведено попереднє дослідження архівних джерел. Використана література розкриває історичні проблеми фізичного виховання та спорту у Волинській губернії в 1921–1939 рр. **Результати та висновки.** У 1921–1939 рр. фіксували розвиток спорту на Волині. Простежено розвиток спортивної інфраструктури, а також підготовку кадрів для фізичного виховання й спорту. Розвитку спортивної активності сприяли створення на Волині певних структур у форматі районних спортивних асоціацій, провінційних, міських і районних комітетів із фізичного виховання та військової підготовки (після 1927 р.). Значну роль у спортивній діяльності відіграли молодіжні й соціальні спортивні клуби та товариства. Спорт культивувався всіма національними групами, що на той час проживали у Волинській губернії.

Ключові слова: спорт, Волинь, 1921–1939 рр., національні меншини, II Річ Посполита.

Елигнуш Малолепшы, Тереза Дроздек–Малолепша, Даниэль Бакота, Анатолий Цёсь. Спорт на Волини в 1921–1939 гг. Исторический очерк. Введение. Цель данного исследования – изложение истории спорта на Волини (времен Волинской губернии в период второго раздела Речи Посполитой) в 1921–1939 гг. Волинская губерния основана в 19 февраля 1921 г. На первое апреля 1939 г. ее территория охватила 35 754 км² и насчитывала населения 2 085 600 человек (на 9 декабря 1931 г.). Среди них поляки – 16,6 %, украинцы – 9,9 %, немцы – 2,3 %, чехи – 1,5 %, русские – 1,1 %, другие национальности – 0,2 %. Городское население губернии составляло лишь 13,3 %. В состав губернии входили Дубенский, Гороховский, Костопольский, Ковельский, Кременецкий, Шацкий, Луцкий, Ровенский, Сарненский, Владимирский и Здолбуновский уезды. Сарненский уезд вошел в состав Волинской губернии (Полесский регион) в декабре 1930 г. **Методы и проблемы исследования.** В рамках подготовки этого исследования использованы такие методы, как анализ исторических источников, метод синтеза и сравнения. Наводятся проблемы исследования: 1) как зарождался спорт на Волини в 1921–1939 гг.? 2) какие факторы повлияли на развитие спорта на Волини в 1921–1939 гг.? 3) какие клубы и общества проводили спортивные мероприятия на Волини в 1921–1939 гг.? В работе проводили предварительное исследование архивных источников. Использованная литература раскрывает исторические проблемы физического воспитания и спорта на Волинской губернии в 1921–1939 гг. **Результаты и выводы.** В 1921–1939 гг. фиксировалось развитие спорта на Волини. Наблюдалось развитие спортивной инфраструктуры, а также подготовка кадров для физического воспитания и спорта. Развитию спортивной активности способствовали создания на Волини определенных структур в формате районных спортивных ассоциаций, провинциальных, городских и районных комитетов по физическому воспитанию и военной подготовке (после 1927 г.). Значительную роль в спортивной деятельности сыграли молодежные и социальные спортивные клубы и общества. Спорт культивировался всеми национальными группами, которые в то время проживали в Волинской губернии.

Ключевые слова: спорт, Волинь, 1921–1939 гг., национальные меньшины, II Речь Посполитая.

Introduction. The aim of the paper is to present the sports movement in Volyn in the years 1921–1939. In terms of territorial scope the area of the Volhynian province making up the Second Polish Republic will be discussed. The Volhynian province was established on 19 February 1921. As of April 1, 1939 its area covered 35,754 km² and had a population of 2,085,600 people (as of 9 December 1931) [1]. The population of Polish nationality was 16,6 % (346,600), of Ukrainian nationality – 68,4 % (1,426,900), of Jewish nationality – 9,9 % (205,500), of German nationality – 2,3 % (46,900), of Czech nationality – 1,5 % (31,000), of Russian nationality – 1,1 % (23,400), the remaining nationalities – 0,2 %. Townspeople of the province represented only 13,3 % of the population. The province consisted of the following counties: Dubno, Horokhiv, Kostopil, Kovel, Kremenets, Liuboml, Lutsk, Rivne, Sarny, Volodymyr and Zdolbuniv [2]. The county of Sarny (formerly included in Polesia province) became part of the Volhynian province in December 1930. The largest proportion of the Polish population was in the following counties: Volodymyr (26,8 %), Kostopil (21,9 %) and Lutsk (19,4 %), and the smallest in Kremenets (10,6 %) ¹. As far as the present state of research is concerned, the issue of sport in Volyn in the years 1921–1939 has been presented in, among others, publications by E. Małolepszy [3, 4, 5] T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, D. Bakota [6], A. Tsos [7], E. Wilczkowski, A. Wołczyński, S. Kozibrocki [8], O Wacewa [9] and S. Zaborniak [10]. These works are mainly a contribution to the issues presented in the article.

Research Problems and Methods. As part of preparation of this study the following research methods have been used: the method of analysis of historical sources, of synthesis and the method of comparison. The following research areas have been put forward:

1. What did the development of sport in Volyn in the years 1921–1939 look like?
2. What conditions influenced the development of sport in the Volhynian province in the years 1921–1939?
3. What clubs and associations were engaged in sports activity in Volyn in the years 1921–1939?

Results and Discussion. The potential for the development of sport depended on many factors including the organization and structure of sport, sports infrastructure and equipment, training and further training of instructor personnel. The potential for the development of sport, with regard to rural communities, in the Second Polish Republic was greatly increased after the formation at the end of January 1927 of the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training (SOPEMT) and its administrative structures. In the Volhynian province the Provincial and Municipal, County, and Commune Committees of Physical Education and Military Training started to operate. According to archival sources, the subsidies for the Provincial Committee of Physical Education and Military Training (Provincial CPEMT) in Lutsk in the first years were: in the year 1927/1928 – 7,700 zł, in the year 1928/1929 – 3,000 zł; in the year 1929/1930 – 2,000 zł².

¹ RL: [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojew%C3%B3dztwo_woj%C5%82y%C5%84skie_\(II_Rzeczpospolita\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojew%C3%B3dztwo_woj%C5%82y%C5%84skie_(II_Rzeczpospolita)), accessed on 09.09.2017.

² The State Archive in Cracow (SAC), Provincial Office of Cracow (POC) file no. 124, unp.

In Lutsk the Municipal CPENT was active³. The budget resources for the Committee's activities came mainly from the subsidies of the Municipality of the city of Lutsk, and the revenue from sports events. In the year 1928/1929 the budget of MCPENT in Lutsk was 8,200 zł. In the following years the resources gradually increased, among others the budget of MCPENT in Lutsk in the year 1929/1930 amounted to 16,500 zł; in 1930/1931 – 10,000 zł; 1931/1932 – 34,189.13 zł⁴. It should be noted, however, that these amounts of money were not usually used in full by MCPENT in Lutsk. In the budgetary year 1932/1933 budget estimates of MCPENT amounted to 17,500 zł, while the amount spent was 24,400.43 zł. The Municipal CPENT allocated funds for supporting and promoting physical education, sport and military training in Lutsk, among others in the budgetary year 1930/1931 the following investments were financed: the equipment for recreational park (The Jordan's Garden), extension of the sports field, maintenance of the Centre for Physical Education and Military Training (PEMT), for organizing and holding winter sports competitions, maintaining Sports and Medical Clinic in Lutsk, subscription to professional journals (including «Stadium») and for purchasing literature in the field of physical education and sport, preparing and holding the «Festival of Physical Education and Military Training», for purchasing sports awards, paying instructor personnel working in sports clubs and associations and delegating athletes to sports competitions (outside Lutsk)⁵. In addition, some funds were allocated for the purchase of small arms shooting range, which was owned by the County CPENT in Lutsk. The President of MCPENT was Teofil Ołowiński, holding the position of the mayor of Lutsk, and the secretary was Paweł Skorobogatow. In 1933 the Marshal Józef Piłsudski Stadium in Lutsk opened. The event was attended by one of the best Polish athletes – Janusz Kusociński.

One of the conditions affecting the development of sport was instructor personnel. Volhynians participated in physical education and sport instructor courses, conducted by Polish sports associations, district sports associations as well as sports and social clubs and societies.

Archery was included in the programme of courses for female commandants of the Shooting Association (SA). The courses were held each year [11]. Such course was conducted among others in Lutsk on 10 February to 9 March 1928. The Executive Board of the Post Military Training (PMT) in agreement with the Polish Association of Archers (PAA) organized «Travelling Archery Courses of PMT». In March 1936 the courses were held in Lutsk and Rivne [11; 12; 13]. The programme of the courses covered mainly the issues of theory and practice of archery, including proper mastery of the principles of shooting, knowledge of training principles, competitor training, construction of archery lanes, selection of sports equipment and organization of archery sport. The full programme of the course was completed in 4 days, during which 6–7 hours of theoretical training and from 24 to 40 hours of practical classes were held.

In the period from 29 November until 11 December 1937 the course for assistants to ice hockey instructors for 30 people was to be held in the Regional Centre for Physical Education in Katowice [14]. Polish Ice Hockey Association (PIHA) assigned 4 places to the Volhynian PIHA. In the Volhynian province in 1938 a course for football leaders was organized [15]. The course, which took place in Rivne, was attended by 30 people from Dubno, Kostopil, Kremenets, Rivne, Sarny and Zdolbuniv. The course was taught by the coach of the Polish Football Association (PFA) – Jasionka from Warsaw. The courses in physical education and sport were also organized by the Headquarters of Corps District (HCD) no. 2 in Lublin, SOPEMT in the Volhynian province – Provincial, County and Municipal Committees of Physical Education and Military Training and Centre for Physical Education in Lutsk.

Sports clubs and associations struggled with the problems with sports equipment and sports infrastructure. For example the Sports Club of the Shooting Association in Kovel did not have its own sports infrastructure whereas it did have its sports equipment and requisites: 19 pairs of sports shoes, 22 tracksuits, 1 sports sweater, 18 pairs of shorts, 15 pairs of protective padding, 12 pairs of rifles, 4 balls, 2 pairs of knee pads, 3 pairs of spikes, 6 flags and 1 sports suitcase⁶.

The divisions of SA of the Volyn Subdistrict were provided assistance as to the equipment by the Chief Commandant of SA. In January 1937, the divisions of SA were provided with 30 pairs of ski bindings (from the counties of Dubno, Horokhiv, Kamin–Kashyrskiyi, Kovel, Kremenets, Lutsk, Rivne and Zdolbuniv)⁷. In

³ Державний архів Волинської області, Луцький міський комітет фізичного виховання і військової підготовки, під.126 місто Луцьк Волинського воєводства. С. 2–829.

⁴ Ibidem. P. 185, 399, 598.

⁵ Ibidem. P. 399.

⁶ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 129. Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу. м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1. Д. 51. С. 27.

⁷ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 129. Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу. м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1. Спр. 45. С. 152.

the second half of the 1930s thanks to efforts made by SA of the Volyn Subdistrict shooting ranges were made available which were usually open twice a week (on Saturdays and Sundays)⁸. The shooting ranges were established in the following counties: Dubno (Dubno, Radyvyliv, Mlyniv and Verba), Kamin-Kashyrskiy, Kovel, Lutsk (Lutsk), Rivne (Hoshcha and Rivne), Zdolbuniv (Ostroh and Zdolbuniv). In Kremenets the shooting range was to be made available at the beginning of the school year 1936/1937. The element impeding rational use of the shooting ranges was an insufficient number of sporting rifles⁹.

A significant role in the development of the sports movement, also in the Volhynian province, was played by sports and medical clinics. The first sports and medical clinics were created in 1928 after the establishment of SOPEMT¹⁰. On the territory of the Volhynian province there were sports and medical clinics in such towns as Kovel, Lutsk, Rivne and Volodymyr-Volynskiy.

On the territory of the Volhynian province there were regional structures of Polish Sports Associations. The Volhynian Regional Boxing Association (Volhynian RBA) conducted its activity which, among others, in 1939 had difficulties with referee personnel [15]. 2 boxing referees were registered in the region. The seat of the Volhynian RBA was located in Rivne. The Volhynian RBA was established in the second half of the 1930s. Prior to the establishment of the Volhynian RBA, sports clubs and associations conducting boxing sections made up the Lublin RBA, among others, as of 1934, the activity was conducted by the sports club (SC) «Strzelec» Lutsk (at the Headquarters of the SA Volhyn Subdistrict)¹¹. There was a Volhynian Regional Association of Ice Hockey (Volhynian RAIH), originally based in Rivne, and then in Kovel [14]¹². The Volhynian RAIH was composed of the following clubs: Students' Sports Association (SSA) Lublin, «Ognisko» Kovel, «Pogoń» Rivne, «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina. Jan Krysztopa became a delegate to the Lutsk district of the Polish Skating Association (PSA) in 1937 [14]. The seat of the district was located in Lutsk.

The Volhynian district was active within the structures of the Polish Association of Athletics (PAA). As of 1934, the Volhynian District Association of Athletics (Volhynian DAA) consisted of 10 track and field sections of sports clubs and associations¹³. The Volhynian District Skiing Association (Volhynian DSA) was established at the end of 1933 [16]¹⁴. The association was based in Kremenets. As of 1936, in addition to the Volhynian district, within the structures of the Polish Skiing Association (PSA) the following district skiing associations conducted their activity: of Grodno, Cracow, Lviv, Podhale, Przemyśl, Pomerania, Silesia, Warsaw and Vilnius [16]. The representative of the Volhynian DSA – dr Gronowski participated in the conference (meeting) of PSA which took place on 28 November 1937.

Sports clubs and associations of the Volhynian province were registered in other sports societies. The Volhynian Society of Cyclist and Motorcyclist in Lutsk was registered in the Polish Association of Cycling Societies (PACS); MSC Rivne was registered in the Polish Association of Lawn-Tennis (PALT); Volhynian Horse Riding Club in Rivne was registered in the Polish Horse Riding Association (PHA) and SKKW «Temida» Lutsk was registered in the Polish Kayaking Association (PKA)¹⁵. The Volhynian Automobile Club with its seat in Lutsk was a member of the Polish Automobile Club¹⁶.

On the territory of the Volhynian province sports clubs of the Ukrainian minority conducted their activity, including: Ukrainian Sports Club (USC) «Horin» Rivne (established in 1934, with sections of:

⁸ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф 129. Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу. м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1 Д. 46. С. 954.

⁹ Ibidem.

¹⁰ *Sport Polski [Polish Sport]*. 1938. № 24. P. 8.

¹¹ *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook]*. 1934. Warsaw, 1934. P. 443–447.

¹² *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook]*. 1934. Warsaw, 1934. P. 460; As of 1934, the seat of Volhynian RAIH was located in Rivne with the district including: Volhynian Sports Club (Volhynian SC) *Pogoń* Rivne, Military Sports Club (MSC) Rivne and Police Sports Club (PSC) Rivne.

¹³ *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook]*. 1934. Warsaw, 1934. P. 418–419. The Volhynian DAA was composed of the following track and field sections: GS «Falcon» Lutsk, Military Sports Club (MSC) 27 pal V Volodymyr-Volynskiy, PSC Sarny, MSC 24. P. Lutsk, Jewish Sports Club (JSC). *Hasmonea*. Lutsk, KSWFiPW (State Lower Secondary School) Kovel, MSC Rivne, PSC Lutsk, SC Strzelec Lutsk, SC Strzelec Kovel.

¹⁴ *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook]*. 1934. Warsaw, 1934. P. 424–425. Until the establishment of the Volhynian DSA, skiing sections of sports clubs and associations of the Volhynian province were included in the Lviv DSA, they were, among others, the following skiing sections: Amateur Sports Club (ASC) *Bona* Kremenets, JSC *Hasmonea* Kremenets, Polish SC *Horyń* Kremenets, Kremenets SC and the Skiing Department at the Union of Social Organizations of the Kremenets County.

¹⁵ *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook]*. 1934. Warsaw, 1934. P. 429–437; 465–471.

¹⁶ Ibidem. P. 472–473.

boxing, football, volleyball and table tennis), «Kometa» Bugajowice (established in 1935, with a football section), «Styr» Lutsk (established in 1935, with a football section), «Skob» Radyvyliv (established in 1935, with a football section), USC «Hart» Zdolbuniv (established in 1937, with sections of: athletics, football, chess and table tennis) [10]¹⁷. These clubs popularized and promoted physical activity mainly among the Ukrainian population from municipal and rural communities. Among the Ukrainian population activities in the field of physical education and sport in Volyn were conducted by the organizations «Płast» and «Junak» [8]. As S. Zaborniak writes «The Płast movement also spread in Volyn. The first teams were established there in 1923 as sections of local «Proswit». Although they were active outside school structures, their operation made school youth of Volyn significantly more active» [10]. Also, E. Wilczkowski, A. Wołczyński and S. Kozibrocki take the similar view believing that the «first groups of «Płast» were organized in Oleksandriia (Rivne county) in 1923» [8]. On 18–19 August 1927 in Oleksandriia the convention of the «Płast» organization took place from the areas of Galicia and Volyn. During the convention participants demonstrated exercises of physical activity, and sports competitions were also held.

On the territory of the Volhynian province associations and organization operated, which, as part of implementing their own programmes, conducted activity in the field of physical education, sport and military training. The Volyn region existed as part of the Masovia District of Gymnastics Society (GS) «Falcon»¹⁸. As of 31 December 1925 the Volyn district of GS Falcon» had 11 nests and 709 members. The district was composed of the following nests: Cumań, Dubrovysia (70 members and 2 falcon adolescents), Korets (48 members and 10 falcon adolescents), Kovel (232 members and 34 falcon adolescents), Lutsk (64 members and 42 falcon adolescents), Olyka (31 members and 7 falcon adolescents), Rozhysche, Rivne (204 members and 40 falcon adolescents), Sarny, Wólka Kotowska and Zdolbuniv.

On the territory of the Rivne county the Czech GS «Falcon» in Kvasyliv was active¹⁹. The nest was set up in 1911. The banner of the Czech GS «Falcon» in Kvasyliv was consecrated in March 1933. The commemorative nails, among others from Marshal Józef Piłsudski, were hammered by the Rivne starost Stanisław Bogusławski. The President of the nest was Włodzimierz Swarowski, and the secretary – Antoni Tomasz²⁰.

In the structure of the Post Military Training (PMT), branches of the Volhynian province were included in the 2nd district (Lublin) [12]. On the territory of the Volhynian province SA conducted its activity [17]. The Shooting Association in 1921 was made up of 10 districts (including the district of Lutsk). Another organizational change occurred on August 1, 1929. It was then that the 2nd Lublin district was established, with the subdistrict of Lutsk. Starting from 1930 the subdistrict of Lutsk operated as the subdistrict of Volyn. The numbers of SA of the Volyn subdistrict were the following: in 1921 – 199 shooters; in 1923 – 3,000; in 1932 – 4,194; in 1936 – 9,187 shooters [22]. The President of the SA Lutsk district in 1926 was A. Staniewicz, and the deputy commandant of the district E. Herbe²¹. In the second half of the 1930s the office of the commandant was held by Capt. Filar. Branches of the SA of two counties of the Volhynian province – Kostopol and Sarny – were, in terms of the administrative division, parts of the 9th District based in Brest–on–the–Bug [22]. At the end of 1930s the commandant of the 9th District of SA was Maj Józef Czerniatowicz²². In addition, the managerial offices were held by: engineer Tadeusz Moliński (head of the 9th District of SA) and Jadwiga Olkowska (Commandant of the 9th District of SA). The county of Volodymyr-Volynskyi of SA was included in the 2nd District of Lublin.

Sports activity on the territory of the Volhynian province in the years 1922–1939 was carried out by the Volhynian Association of Rural Youth (VARY) [5]. The Volhynian ARY gathered rural youth of Polish, Ukrainian and other nationalities. As part of its policy activity next to, among others, educational and cultural work and agricultural training, it was engaged in the activity in the field of physical education, sport and military training. Rural youth of VARY participated in courses and camps of physical education and sport, mainly aimed at preparation for work in the field of physical activity in Rural Youth Clubs (RYC).

¹⁷ According to S. Zaborniak, there were 7 sports clubs of the Ukrainian minority in the Volhynian province.

¹⁸ The report of the Management Board of the Gymnastic Society *Falcon* in Poland for the years 1923–1925. Warsaw, 1926. P. 51–77.

¹⁹ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 46. Волинське воєводське управління м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 9. Спр. 3845. С. 5.

²⁰ Ibidem. P. 9, 14.

²¹ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 129. Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу, м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1. Д. 3. С. 6.

²² Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 46. Волинське воєводське управління м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 9. Д. 4355. С. 5.

They participated in competitions, mainly at the local level. In the period of VARY operation the number of RYCs conducting sections of physical education and sport, as well as the number of members participating in physical activity classes, increased.

A range of sports disciplines developed in Volyn. Among them the following should be mentioned among others: sports games, athletics, archery, football and shooting. In 1937, boxers of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina participated in the Polish Championships of the Shooting Association²³. The colours of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina were represented by: Pasternak (featherweight), Owsianiuk (flyweight), Frącek (bantamweight), Wierzbicki (welterweight), Lagusowiec (middleweight), Rączka (light-heavyweight). The success of the boxers of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina was winning the 1st place in league tournaments of the Volhynian RBA in 1937²⁴. In the league tournaments they were ahead of the following teams: «Pogoń» Rivne, PSC Lutsk, JSC «Hasmonea» Rivne, WSC Kremenets, SC «Strzelec» Kovel, JSC «Hasmonea» Lutsk, MSC «Strzelec» Lutsk.

On 25–26 February 1939, the championships of the Volhynian RBA took place – for the second time – in Rivne [15]. The participants in the competitions were 24 boxers of the following clubs: «Hasmonea» (6 boxers), «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina (12), Volhynian SC «Pogoń» Rivne (6). The winners in individual weight categories were: Semeniuk («Pogoń»), Łatnik («Hasmonea»), Frącek, Siwek, Wierzbicki («Strzelec»), Pokotiła («Pogoń»), Rączka, Chłopecki («Strzelec»).

Qualification for Polish championships in boxing (at the end of 1930s) consisted in holding four interdistrict tournaments, which were to select the 32 finalists of the Polish championships. At the end of March 1939 an interdistrict tournament took place in Rivne, in which boxers of Lublin, Lviv and Volyn RBA competed [15]. The boxers of the Volhynian RBA won in two categories, in featherweight – Frącek, and in light – heavyweight – Rączka.

In January 1939, a boxing match between the teams of the Warsaw and Volyn districts was held [15]. The boxers of Warsaw won (12:4). In a commentary to the match we read the statement of the President of the Volhynian RBA: «The class of Volhynian boxers has been continuously increasing, owing to numerous contacts with other strong districts. From among Volhynian boxers one must mention Łogoszowiec, Frącek and Chłopecki as above-average»²⁵.

The boxers of Volyn took part in international competitions. In March 1939 a boxing match was held between the representations of Volyn and the team of Finland [15]. The match ended with the victory of Finland 14:2. Volyn was represented by (in each category): A. Owsianik, Łatnik, Frącek, Tomczyński, Wierzbicki, Garnuszcak, Rączka and Chłopecki.

The Volhynian District Association of Athletics (Volhynian DAA) had 11 clubs (in the 2nd half of of the 1930s) [15]. Volyn Championships in women's athletics in 1932 were held in Kovel²⁶. The female champions of the district were: Parfeniuk in the 60–m run (9,0 sec.) and in shot put (8,43 m); Poliszczuk in the 100–m run (14,4 sec.) and in long jump (3,35 m); Pryheda in discus throw (22,54 m); Łukasiewicz in high jump (122 cm). The athlete of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina – Wierzbicki in 1937 took the 2nd place in cross-country running [18]. The run was held at the distance of 54 km, from Janowa Dolina to Rivne. The calendar of track and field events in 1938 planned a (men's) National Cross-Country Race for 10 April in Lutsk. As part of the activity of the Volhynian DAA matches between towns were held, among others in 1933 athletes of Kovel defeated the team of Volodymyr–Volynskiyi 34:19²⁷. The following competitors gave an outstanding performance: Tokarzewski in the 100–m run (11,4 sec.), Czech in long jump (615 cm) and Albin in discus throw (35,38 m).

The representation of Lutsk (of the school district) participated in the All-Poland Winter Championships of School Youth in skiing held in Vilnius [16]. In 1937, PSA officially approved the operation of a ski jump on lowland territories, among others in Kremenets and Lutsk [19].

One of the most popular sports disciplines in the Volhynian province was football. Between 1922–1927 football clubs from Volyn took part in the matches of the Lublin District Football Association (Lublin DFA) [20]. In the next period (1928–1930) clubs of the Volhynian province took part in the matches of Lviv DFA. The Volhynian DFA, with its seat in Rivne, was established in 1930 [20]. The association was then composed of 20 teams (as of 1930). In 1934 the number of sports clubs and associations conducting football

²³ *Raz Dwa Trzy [One Two Three]*. 1937. № 11. P. 6.

²⁴ *Raz Dwa Trzy [One Two Three]*. 1937. № 46. P.15.

²⁵ *Start. Wiadomości Sportowe [Start. Sports News]*. 1939. №. 9. P. 2.

²⁶ *Przegląd Sportowy [Sports Review]*. 1932. № 53. P. 2.

²⁷ *Przegląd Sportowy [Sports Review]*. 1933. № 48. P. 4.

sections increased to 31²⁸. In the 1920s and in the 1st half of 1930s the best football teams of the Volhynian province were: MSC «Hallerczyki» Rivne, JSC «Hasmonea» Rivne, JSC «Hasmonea» Kovel «Makkabi» Rivne, MSC Kovel, «Falcon» Rivne, «Falcon» Kovel, MSC Dubno, PSC Lutsk, Volhynian SC «Pogoń» Rivne [20].

The competitions were held for the Cup of Volhynian Province Governor. On July 31, 1938 semi-final matches were played, in which the team of Kovel defeated the team of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina, and the team of Dubno beat Dederkały [15]. In the district league (of the Volhynian District Football Association – Volhynian DFA), in the 1938/1939 season 8 teams participated: PSC Lutsk, MSC Lutsk, «Hasmonea» Rivne, Volhynian SC «Pogoń» Rivne, «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina, MSC Dubno, «Strzelec» Kovel [15]. The Champion of the district (in the season of 1938/1939) was the team of PSC Lutsk. In the matches of B and C class of the Volhynian DFA teams of the Ukrainian minority performed including: SSC «Horin» Rivne and SSC «Hart» Zdobuniv [10].

The footballers of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina after becoming the winner in 1937 of the district league participated in the matches for the advance to the state league [18]. In the play-off group the footballers of «Strzelec» Janowa Dolina competed with the teams of: «Unia» Lublin, «Resovia» Rzeszów and «Revery» Stanisławów. The team of «Strzelec» took the 3rd place obtaining good results in the matches while being the host of the competition: with «Revera» Stanisławów (3:1), with «Unia» Lublin (0:0) and with «Resovia» Rzeszów (2:1).

In the play-off games for the entry to the state league in the season of 1938 the champion of the Volhynian district – PSC Lutsk competed in the 4th group with the Military Sports Club (MSC) Grodno, Sports Club (SC) «Pogoń» Brest-on-the-Bug and «Makkabi» Vilnius [15]. The first play-off round (at the interdistrict level) brought victory to the team of PSC Lutsk [21]. The footballers of PSC in the subsequent phase of the games – the final competed with «Garbarnia» Cracow, «Union-Touring» Łódź and «Silesia» Świętochłowice [20]. The team of Lutsk scored 1 point and took the last place. The teams of «Garbarnia» Cracow and «Union-Touring» Łódź advanced to the state league. In the final competition in Lutsk, the matches of PSC were attended by 2,000 to 3,000 fans. This system of play-off games was continued in the next year. In the play-off games within one group the champions of the districts of: Białystok, Polesie, Vilnius and Volyn were to participate.

The footballers of Volyn co-participated in the games for the President's Cup. In the season of 1938/1939 the team of Volyn in the 1st round met with the representation of Warsaw. The following players, among others, were appointed to the representation of Volyn for the match with Warsaw: Koźlik, Milczanowski, Zagor and Żyła («Strzelec» Janowa Dolina), Czyżewski (MSC Lutsk), Moreinek, Wałek II (Volhynian SC «Pogoń» Rivne), Aspis («Hasmonea»), Kosian, Wiedemienko (P.K.I.), Hajduk, Szałek (MSC Dubno). At the stadium in Lutsk, where about 2 thousands fans gathered, the team of Volyn lost to Warsaw 1:5 [15]. One of the greatest sporting successes of the Volyn footballers in the all-Polish arena was the advance of the team of MSC Lutsk to the final of the Polish junior championships in 1939. In the quarter-finals of the tournament the footballers of MSC Lutsk beat MSC «Śmigły» Vilnius (2:0, in Vilnius), whereas in the semifinal they defeated the team of SC Strzelec Górka Stanisławów (2:1). In the final of the tournament MSC Lutsk was to play against the winner of the second semi-final HCP Poznań: Vistula Cracow. The semi-final and final matches were not held due to the outbreak of the World War II.

In mid-1930s one of the best female competitors in shooting in the Volhynian province was Irena Baranowska (PMT Lutsk) [12]. The Lublin district had 15 shooting and archery sections with 713 sportspeople; the Shooting Badge was obtained by 725 people while the Archery Badge – by 5. In the ranking of regatta score of PKA for 1937, the Polish Sightseeing Association (PSA) from Kostopil was ranked in the 42 nd position [14].

The team of Shooting Association from Janowa Dolina participated in the 10th «Sulejówek–Belweder March» in 1935.²⁹ The March consisted of 2 stages: Sulejówek – Rembertów – 6 km, Rembertów –

²⁸ *Rocznik Sportowy [Sports Yearbook] 1934*. Warsaw 1934. P. 409–410. In 1934, the Volhynian DAF was composed of: ŻTGS *Amatorzy* Volodymyr, PTGS, *Czarni* Kostopol, RSWF *Gwiazda-Stern* Kovel, JSC *Hakoach* Rivne, JSC *Hakoach* Dubno, JSC *Hapoel* Lutsk, JSC *Hasmonea* Rivne, JSC *Hasmonea* Kovel. JSC *Hasmonea* Lutsk, JSC *Hasmonea* Kremenets, SRWF *Jutrznia* Kremenets, SRWF *Jutrznia* Rivne, SRWF *Jutrznia* Lutsk, JSC *Kadimach* Lutsk, Railway Military Training (RMT) Rivne, SC Kremenets, Post Military Training (PMT) Lutsk, VSC *Pogoń* Rivne, PSC Rivne, PSC Lutsk, PSC Volodymyr, PGS *Falcon* Dubno, LSC *Strzelec* Lutsk, JSC *Szomrija* Rivne, JSC *Trumpeldorja* Kostopol, Association of Workers' Universities (AWU) Kovel, VSC Rivne, VSC Lutsk, SA Rivne, SA Zdobuniv, *Strzelec* Janowa Dolina.

²⁹ *Raz Dwa Trzy [One Two Three]*. 1935. № 13. P. 13.

Belweder – 19 km. 72 teams were entered for the competition whereas 64 ones completed it. The team of «Strzelec» from Janowa Dolina took the 1st place in the marching competition in the category of «conscripts». The team of Shooting Association Janowa Dolina participated in this marching event in the subsequent years. In the marching competitions carried out in 1937, the team of «Strzelec» took the 1st place in the category of «conscripts», and obtained the best result in the competition³⁰.

The marching and sporting event, organized usually every year in the Volhynian province was the «March on Polska Góra»³¹. The route of the march began in Maniewiczze, next it ran through Rarańcza, Wołczek to Polska Góra. The winner of the event, held in July 1935 in the category of SA and Military Training divisions (for people over the age of 21) was SA Janowa Dolina, ahead of SA Ostroh and SA District II Lublin. The consecutive places were taken by: ZS Horokhiv, the division of the Association of Employees of the Agricultural Bank, division of Lutsk and the Association of Reservists Kivertsi³². In another category – for people under the age of 21 years, the 1st place was taken by SA Dubno, ahead of SA Hoscha and SA Volodymyr–Volynskiyi. The next places were taken by the divisions of SA in Kamin–Kashyrskiyi, Kovel, Klesiv, Lutsk – Castle, Rozhyshe and Kremenets³³.

A measure of the society's engagement in sport were attempts at obtaining a National Sports Badge (NSB). The Badge was established in 1930. In the Volhynian province the following sports and social associations, organizations and societies had the right to conduct tests for NSB: Provincial State Police Station in Lutsk; Local Headquarters of the Organization of Women's Military Training for National Defence (OWMTND) in Dubno, Kovel, Lutsk, Rivne, Sarny; Shooting Association Subdistrict Volyn in Lutsk, SA of District No. 2 in Lublin – in Volodymyr–Volynskiyi, AS (Commandant of the county in Kremenets; the Union of Polish Youth Associations (UPYA) in Lutsk; Association of Fire Brigades of the Republic of Poland (AFBRP) – Board of the Provincial Region of AFBRP Volyn and Boards of County Divisions of AFBRP in Dubno, Horokhiv, Kostopol, Kovel, Kremenets Liuboml, Lutsk, Rivne, Sarny, Volodymyr–Volynskiyi and Zdolbuniv; MSC Rivne; Rowing Club «Temida» in Lutsk; Volhynian Regional Association of Sports Games (seat – Centre for Physical Education in Lutsk); Volhynian DAA (Lutsk); Volhynian DFA (Rivne); Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (PSGA) – Headquarters of the Volhynian Regiment (for women in Kremenets – seat at the Secondary School; for men – seat in Lutsk)³⁴. It is worth noting that in the next years there were more and more sports and social associations, organizations and societies to organize sports tests and competitions in order to obtain NSB, among others in 1935/1936 the right to organize the NSB tests was also awarded to: the Troops of PSGA of the Volhynian Regiment (women, Rivne) – Kremenets (St. Sanojćówna), Dubno (Maria Bonkowicz–Sittauerówna), Kovel (Janina Mąkiewiczówna), Volodymyr–Volynskiyi (Wanda Skorupska), Sarny (Hanna Turkówna), Lutsk (Aniela Żmudzka), Rivne (Zofia Gołębiowska); Radom District of the Railway Military Training (RMT), divisions in Kivertsi, Kovel, Rivne, Sarny, Volodymyr–Volynskiyi and Zdolbuniv; Volhynian DSA (Kremenets)³⁵. In the Volhynian province in 1931 706 people received NSB (190 – students, 440 – the army, 76 – others), whereas in 1932 – 6,701 (619 – students, 4,201 – the army, 1,881 – others)³⁶. In the subsequent years the action of tests and competitions in order to gain NSB gained popularity, e.g. in the period from 1 January 1936 to 31 December 1937, members of SA of the Volyn subdistrict won 1,409 (including 62 women) NSB³⁷.

Conclusion. The years 1921–1939 saw the development of sport in Volyn. It developed noticeably rapidly in the 2nd half of 1920s and in 1930s. The formation of sport was influenced by a few factors. An important factor was the activity on the territory of the Volhynian province of SOPEMT administrative structures. The impetus for the development of sport in Volyn was the creation of regional structures of Polish Sports Associations. Another condition, constituting a kind of potential for shaping sport, was the development of sports infrastructure and training instructor personnel for sport. In Volyn sports activity was

³⁰ *Raz Dwa Trzy [One Two Three]*. 1937. № 20. P. 11.

³¹ Державний архів Волинської області. Ф. 129. Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу, м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1. Ссп. 32. С. 130.

³² *Ibidem*.

³³ *Ibidem*.

³⁴ State Archive in Katowice (SAKat.). County Office of Zawiercie (COZ). Ref. № 770. Rights to conduct attempts at NSB for the year 1934. P. 2–23.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, Rights to conduct attempts at NSB for the year 1935/1936. P. 32–54.

³⁶ SAKat., COZ, file no.757, General comparative list of the numbers of NSB obtained in provinces in the year 1931 and 1932. P. 104.

³⁷ Державний архів Волинської області, фонд 129, Управління підокругу Волинь Стрілецького союзу, м. Луцьк Волинського воєводства. Оп. 1. Спр. 45. С. 217–218.

conducted by sports and social clubs and associations both Polish and of national minorities – Ukrainian, Jewish, and to a lesser extent, Czech. Among the fields of sport especially popular ones were: boxing, sports games, athletics, archery, football, skiing, shooting and water sports. In 1930s among the local public tests and competitions aimed at obtaining NSB were promoted.

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