

## CONCEPTUAL PRINCIPLES OF FENCING DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN'S SPORTS SCHOOLS IN UKRAINE

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**Abstract.** *Purpose:* to work out conceptual principles for successful and dynamic development of fencing in children's sports schools in Ukraine. *Material:* the researches were conducted on material of children's sports school Dynamo in Kiev. In this work we used SWOT analysis – method of strategic planning, which implies determination of external and internal factors of organization and their dividing into four categories: strengths (strong sides), weaknesses (weak sides), opportunities and threats. For determination of experts' opinion concordance in SWOT analysis we used concordance coefficient. *Results:* we worked out conception of fencing development in children's sports schools in Ukraine in modern conditions. The specificity of this conception implies determination of strategic approaches to further fencing progressing in children's sports schools in Ukraine. The conception can serve as bench mark for development and realization of program documents in sphere of fencing progressing or its different branches. *Conclusions:* we have worked out conception of fencing progressing in children's sports schools in Ukraine, which is based on achievements and traditions of fencing in Ukraine and in the world. Its development is based on systemic analysis of internal and external factors, which influence on development of fencing in sports schools and on choice of its progressing strategy in new social economical conditions.

**Key words:** conception, sports schools, fencing, development.

### Introduction

Main subjects in sphere of physical culture and sports, on which development of different kinds of sports in general and fencing in particular are based, are: children's sports schools (CSS), specialized children's sports schools of Olympic reserve (SCSSOR, Olympic reserve colleges (ORC) and other organizations.

The problems of development of kinds of sports in modern conditions in Ukraine are elucidated in scientific works of O.V. Borysova [4], D. I. Golod [5], I. S. Pavliuk [9], M. V. Tereshchuk [15] et al., which study separate components of this problem. Some aspects of sports schools' functioning in Ukraine are described in works by V.M. Platonov, [10], I. I. Prykhodko [11], G.M. Putiatina [12], N.V. Sereda [13], S.O. Stadnyk [14], O. A. Shynkaruk [18] et al. In spite of omni-directional character of these works the problem of sports' development in Ukrainian sports schools has yet been unsolved.

Especially urgent is the problem of searching of effective ways of kinds of sports' development, which is rather promising from the point of view of winning medals at Olympic Games (V.M. Platonov [10]). Fencing also belongs to such kinds of sports in Ukraine.

Analysis of fencing progress in Ukrainian sports schools showed a number of problems concerning legal-normative regulation of material-technical, financial, scientific-methodic and personnel provisioning; problems of organizational-administrative character (O. Driukov [7]). These data witness that sports schools in Ukraine require working out of conception of fencing development for long term perspective. This process can be considered to be sufficiently formed or typical and creative one (Law of Ukraine "On state targeted programs", dt. March 18, 2004: <http://www.rada.gov.ua>; Decree of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 106 dt. January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 "On approval of working out and realization procedure of state targeted programs": <http://www.rada.gov.ua>). Development of conception of sports' kind for long-term perspective is a complex of scientific-research and project operations, based on strategic methods of analysis and planning (N.L. Babets [2], N.V. Uvarova [16]).

At the same time, scientific conception of effective strategy building for kinds of sports' development, which would base on methodology of SWOT analysis or other strategy analysis methodic with quantitative assessment of internal and external mediums and which would permit to find strong and weak sides, is practically absent. Besides it would also permit to assess potential opportunities and threats as well as to systemize all available information for taking reasonable decisions concerning development of a kind of sports.

Thus, this problem has not been studied sufficiently; it is an urgent one and requires further studying.

### **Purpose, tasks of the work, material and methods**

*The purpose of the work* is to work out conceptual principles for successful and dynamic fencing progress in Ukrainian sports schools.

*Material and methods:* the research was conducted on materials of CSS “Dynamo” in Kiev. Analysis of literature and Internet data permitted to collect and systemize material, characterizing approaches to strategic analysis of different kinds of sports’ development.

SWOT- analysis permitted to determine strong and weak sides in CSSs’ functioning, potential external threats and favorable opportunities as well as their assessment.

For determination of experts’ opinion concordance in SWOT analysis we used concordance coefficient. Its value permits to make conclusions about degree of experts’ opinions and confidence of their assessments. Experts’ opinions about ranging of weak and strong sides of internal medium, opportunities and threats of external medium were in concordance ( $W \geq W_{gr.}$ ).

### **Results of the research**

For determination of basic elements of fencing progress in children’s sports schools in Ukraine we fulfilled SWOT- analysis on materials of CSS “Dynamo” in Kiev [8].

The fulfilled SWOT- analysis on materials of CSS “Dynamo” in Kiev resulted in quantitative assessment of factors, which influence on development of sports in this organization. Strong sides of CSS, concerning their actual potentials, are: high qualification of coaches, demand of city and country combined teams in sports school pupils, image of sport school.

Strong sides are the best protection from low level of legal support of fencing development in our state:

- Favorable opportunities for CSSs (providing proper use of strong sides) can facilitate development of personnel potential, governmental supports of fencing development in the country, appearing of new scientific-methodic technologies in sportsmen’s training. Though they are vulnerable because existing weak sides of these opportunities;
- Weak sides of CSSs are high dependence on budget financing, low salary and quick wear out of sport equipment. All these are complicated by threat of low legal support of fencing progressing in the state and reducing of budget financing.

Thus, the conducted SWOT-analysis provided general picture of situation in CSSs and permitted to substantiate conception of fencing progressing in children’s sports schools for the nearest years.

Specificity of the conception implies determination of strategic approaches, principles and opportunities of sports schools, in which human potential, coaches and sportsmen are the basic initial data.

The conception admits the following its structure: setting of problem, analysis of this problem’s appearing, purpose of the conception, ways and means of the problem’s solution, terms of conception’s fulfillment, expected results, determination of effectiveness, assessment of financial, material-technical and labor resources, required for conception’s fulfillment.

### **The problem of fencing development in sports schools in Ukraine**

In sports schools, fencing has long traditions of its development and certain potentials: presence of strong sportsmen and experienced coaches. In spite of substantial achievements of Ukrainian fencers – sports schools’ pupils at international level, development of fencing is still unsatisfactory in our country. In particular: general quantity of pupils decreases; budget financing is extremely insufficient; material-technical base does not correspond to world standards; low level of elucidation of fencing values as effective and accessible mean of physical education in mass media, imperfectness of management, legal and economic mechanism of governmental policy in sphere of physical culture and sports [7].

Thus, modern status of fencing in sports schools in Ukraine requires solution of a number of problems. It concerns perfection of management principles of fencing progressing in the country, training and advanced training of coaches, upgrading of material-technical base, improvement of scientific-methodic and medical provisioning of sport work, perfection of forms and methods of propaganda of fencing values as effective and accessible mean of physical education, and so on.

**Analysis of reasons of this problem’s appearing and substantiation of demand in its solution by targeted program method**

The main reasons of present fencing status in Ukrainian sports schools are the following:

- Low level of legal support of fencing development in the country;
- Insufficient financial and material-technical provisioning of functioning sports schools;
- High dependence on budget financing;
- Absence of effective scientific-methodic provisioning of sportsmen's training;
- Low prestige level of coaches' work;
- Low salary of coaches;
- Forced emigration of talented coaches and promising sportsmen in foreign countries;
- Insufficient marketing functioning.

**The purpose of the conception** is creation of conditions for successful and dynamic development of fencing in children's sports schools.

**Ways and means of the problem's solution, terms of the conception's fulfillment**

The conception of development has been created for five years' execution. For this purpose the following measures are required:

- Protection and development of fencing traditions in the country;
- Improvement of legal-normative base of sports schools' functioning;
- Creation of effective training system for sport reserve;
- Implementation of innovative approaches to personnel, scientific-methodic, informational and medical provisioning of fencing development;
- Improvement of methodic and material-technical base of fencing;
- Facilitating of reasonable gender policy;
- Creation and implementation of typical programs of sportsmen's training by kinds of arms, which would meet advanced international experience of fencing training;
- Expansion of extra budget financing;
- Improvement of marketing functioning.

**Expected results of the conception's fulfillment and determination of its effectiveness**

Conception's realization within program frames will permit:

- Improve image of fencing, its attractiveness for children and youth;
- Perfect pedagogic, material-technical, management, scientific-methodic base for further fencing progress in sports schools;
- Perfect training quality of sport reserve for combined teams of Ukraine;
- Ensure constant influx of sport reserve to combined teams of Ukraine;
- Implement modern technologies and scientific-methodic developments in fencing training;
- To form youth's patriotic world vision and active life position.

**Assessment of financial, material-technical and labor resources, required for execution of the conception**

Financial provisioning shall be ensured at the account of governmental and local budgets, other sources, which are not prohibited by legislation.

Control over conception's execution shall be dual: by founders (external) and by sports school administration (internal).

For objective assessment of the worked out conception we conducted experts' questioning. As experts we invited 15 competent specialists in fencing: headmasters of sports schools, leading coaches and administrators. Calculation of concordance coefficient showed  $N = 88$ , that points at sufficiently high level of experts' opinions concordance. The materials of questioning are given in table 1. The results showed that all experts (100%) positively assessed the conception. The experts noted that content of all conception's parts is accessible and clear. Most of experts (88.2%) noted high level of its quality; other (11.8%) assessed it as average.

High experts' assessment of conception's quality permits for us to conclude that it has high practical significance. Such conception can serve as targeted bench mark for development and realization of program documents in sphere of fencing and in its different branches.

**Table 1.** Experts' assessment of fencing in sports schools of Ukraine (n = 15)

Question	Sum	%	Rating
Your opinion about conception of fencing progress in Ukrainian sports schools			
Positively	15	100	1
Its difficult to answer	0	0	–
Negatively	0	0	–
Accessibility of information in all parts of conception			
Content is accessible and clear	15	100	1
Its difficult to answer	0	0	–
Content is not clear	0	0	–
Your opinion about conception's quality			
High	13	88.6	1
Average	2	13.4	2
Low	0	0	–
Its difficult to answer	0	0	–

### Discussion

Demand in conception of fencing progressing in Ukrainian sports schools is conditioned by modern state of elite sports. Such state puts forward new, higher requirements to organizational, methodic, material-technical provisioning of certain kind of sports. Demand in development of the conception is also conditioned by increasing of fencing popularity in the world.

Results of our researches comply with the data of O.V. Borysova [4], D.I. Golod [5], I.S. Pavliuk [9], M.V. Tereshchuk [15]), that effectiveness of any kind of sports' formation and development is determined by complex of interconnected factors: governmental support, traditions, personnel provisioning, international cooperation, development of infrastructure, social-economical accessibility, show character and other.

On the base of earlier received scientific-methodic data we found that as on to day one of the most popular tool of strategic analysis and planning of different objects is SWOT- analysis (M. Ansoff [1], G.Ya. Goldstein [6], D. Hassy [17], Beloborodko A. Et al. [19], Can C. Et al. [20], Ghinolfi D.et al. [21], Glass J.R. et al. [22], Jaber J.O. et al. [23]). Our results supplemented the opinion of L.V. Balabanova [3], that SWOT- analysis is universal method of strategic analysis and it can be applied to any organizations for building strategy in different branches of functioning. We also supplemented and expanded the existing works about strategic analysis and planning of objects on the base of SWOT-analysis methodology for building of effective strategy of different kinds of sports' development.

We received the data on resource provisioning of fencing progressing in Ukrainian sports schools and quantitative assessment of fencing development under influence of both internal and external mediums. These data are very important for taking reasonable decisions on fencing progress in Ukrainian sports schools in modern conditions. We received new knowledge, which permit to form and scientifically substantiate conceptual principles for successful and dynamic development of fencing in Ukrainian sports schools.

### Conclusions

We have developed conception of fencing progressing in sports schools of Ukraine, which is based on achievements and traditions of fencing in Ukraine and in the world. It is based on systemic analysis of internal and external factors, which influence on fencing development in children's sports schools and on choice of strategy in new social-economical conditions.

*The prospects of further researches in this direction* imply working out of State targeted social program of fencing development in our country.

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### Conflict of interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests.

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