

## FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS IN PRIMORYE (PRIMORSKY KRAY) IN THE LATE XIX - EARLY XX CENTURIES

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### Abstract

The article examines the features of the process of formation and development of physical culture and sports in Primorye in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. The role of officials, patrons, organizers of sports clubs in the development of physical culture and sports movement is noted, the results of athletes are presented. The reasons for the emergence of sports societies and clubs, the most popular sports in Primorye at the beginning of the 20th century, including hockey, football, gymnastics, athletics, cycling, and outdoor games are considered.

**Key words:** Primorye, physical culture and sports, sports, sports clubs and societies, sports competitions.

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### INTRODUCTION

The study of Russian physical culture and sports in the second half of the XIX - early XX centuries are of relevance in connection with a new stage in the development of the country. Currently, Russia is in the process of improving physical education and sports. To solve various problems in the field of physical culture and sports, one should turn to the study of Russian cultural and historical traditions at both the national and regional levels. In this regard, it seems relevant to study the history of physical culture and sports activity in Primorye in the late XIX - early XX centuries.

In Russia, at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries, physical education and sports did not have much importance in the civil and military life of the country. However, in Russian society, in certain strata, a consciousness, a deep understanding of the importance, relevance, and social significance of this sphere of social life was ripening.

All these factors had a significant impact on the development of physical culture and sports. Conditions arose for the emergence of new sports, the formation of a bourgeois gymnastics movement. This was facilitated by the organizational unification of athletes, the introduction of a competitive element, the holding of competitions not only between members of one club, but also between different clubs.

The first Russian amateur sports clubs united representatives of the aristocracy, nobility, and the big bourgeoisie. They have become a kind of entertainment and business meeting place. Usually sports clubs of a closed type were created for sailing, rowing and equestrian sports, figure skating, tennis, and cricket. A similar situation was also observed in Primorye.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the sports movement in the country noticeably intensified, new sports emerged: weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, athletics, hockey, football, skiing, and cycling. The composition of sports clubs was being democratized; they were replenished with people from the middle and small strata of the bourgeoisie, representatives of different ranks of youth.

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Historical analysis of the formation and the initial stages of development of physical culture and sports in the late XIX - early XX centuries.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physical culture and sports in Primorye began to develop at the turn of the XIX - XX centuries - during the period of intensive settlement of the region. The resettlement movement was largely facilitated by the opening of the Trans-Siberian railway, the unprecedented development of the economy in the distant outskirts of Russia, the construction of new cities and settlements.

At the initiative of the progressive intelligentsia in Vladivostok, and then in Nikolsk-Ussuriysky, book and theatrical clubs appeared. A little later sports clubs also appeared there, especially since similar clubs in the European part of Russia at that time had already been widely developed.

Initially, sports in Primorye were mainly commercial in nature. In the 90s of the XIX century in Vladivostok, businessman Igoni opened a skating rink opposite the Admiral'skiy Skver (in the current park of the PF Officers' House), and then a paid bath. His example was followed by the entrepreneur Kompatsky, who also equipped a paid bathing house (currently the water station "Dynamo").

In 1898 a nautical sports club was organized in Vladivostok. It was decided to create the yacht-club. The founding members of the mentioned nautical sports club developed the charter of organization and with the help of the commander of the Vladivostok military port, Rear Admiral Chukhnin, made a petition to the Russian Maritime Department to approve the yacht club. In 1899, the Vladivostok Yacht Club was approved by the Maritime Department (simultaneously with the Baku Yacht Club) [1].

In 1900, the first chess club was created in Vladivostok. Chess is the sport that opens the history of sports in the pre-revolutionary Primorye of the XX century. The lack of suitable premises made it difficult to develop this useful entertainment. Later, a group of clerks opened a department for a chess game in its building, however, it was possible to play only for a certain fee: 1 ruble per month - from members of the chess club and 20 kopecks - for an entrance ticket from the fans [2].

In Nikolsk-Ussuriysky on July 2, 1900, a national shooting competition was held, which was attended by the military governor of Primorskaya Oblast N.M. Chichagov. In the winter of the same year, a skating rink was organized in a military town for the first time. The entrance was free, in the evenings the

orchestra played. Everyone was invited to the chess tournament of Nikolsk-Ussuriysky on August 25, 1901, the recording was carried out in the town hall at the barman [3].

In 1905-1907 in Primorye, as well as throughout Russia, there was a wave of workers' strikes, sailor and peasant uprisings. The bourgeoisie began frantically to seek ways of diverting the working people from the revolutionary struggle. And one of these ways was the organization of new sports clubs, that corresponded also to financial interests of the bourgeoisie. At the end of 1908, on the initiative of representatives of the bourgeois intelligentsia, the liberal nobility, the merchants, the Vladivostok Sports Society was created - "for entertainment and physical development."

The Vladivostok Sports Society, founded in 1908, was the first in the Far East that established the School of Physical Development of the Younger Generation for the practical implementation of its tasks [3].

In 1909, this society made a request to earl V.A. Bobrikovsky, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, for recommending an appropriate gymnastics teacher and sending him to the service of the Society in Vladivostok.

The Society organized regular classes at its School. In addition to the Sokol gymnastics classes were held also classes in athletics, Sokol wrestling, boxing, fencing, rowing, and others. For training in gymnastics, the Society charged the minimum available fee: 1 ruble per month, income was formed by the receipt of membership fees from organizing sports events, as well as from entertainment evenings. Throughout its existence, the Society has not received material support from the government or the city, and as it was based on school principles, it could not have large income, however, it managed to find funds to build its own building.

In October 1909, the city commission on public education presented a timetable for Sokol gymnastics classes in schools. In the city college for boys on the Missionerskaya Street (now Lazo Street) gymnastics was prescribed to be engaged in one hour four times a week. In the First Women's School, Russian-Chinese School, Pushkin School and in the Rabochaya Slobodka school - it was prescribed twice a week. Pupils of the parish, Kuperovskaya School, and the Second Women's school, due to the lack of gyms, went to the Sokol gymnastics classes on Sundays at the People's House.

In addition, everyone who was interested in it was engaged in falconry in the own building of the Vladivostok Sports Society, in the square named after Nevelskoy. Moreover, adults - two hours three times a week, and children - one hour with the same schedule. For adults the ticket price was 2 rubles, for children it was half the price [4].

The gymnasts demonstrated their achievements at the Sokol holidays, which were held in Vladivostok with enviable regularity. The athletes showed the techniques of French boxing, freestyle movements of the women's and men's groups, pyramids, tug-of-war, playing black and white, running with a relay, exercises on apparatus.

Local newspapers of the beginning of the 20th century testified that Nikolsk-Ussuriysky at that time lived in a mood associated with the need ... "to organize a decisive struggle against the spiritual and physical degeneration of society." Until 1910, information about the sports life of the city was practically not presented, which rather indicates the absence of physical culture and sports events in Nikolsk-Ussuriysky. Almost every newspaper had articles about "unrestrained drunkenness" not only of the lower strata of society, but also of "masters." But to be fair, some sporting events and individual sports enthusiasts have made headlines. So, in one of the June issues of the newspaper "Vladivostok" in 1911 one could read: "On June 2 at 7 pm Lieutenant of the 3rd East Siberian battalion Povalov

Shvyikovskiy rode out on a bicycle from Nikolskoye to St. Petersburg" [5].

Gradually, sports clubs and societies were formed around individual enthusiasts. In the summer of 1911, the Nikolsk youth, apparently, became interested in sports, the competitions held in the Green Island Park during the summer were eagerly attended by the public, despite the fact that the performance in sports was far from organized.

The idea of organizing of sports society deserved the deep interest of the urban population. There were many young students in the city who needed physical exercises. In neighboring Vladivostok, a society has existed for several years, benefiting the city's public.

In 1911, sports clubs appeared almost simultaneously in the garrison garden, the People's House, and the United and Commercial Assemblies. As the newspapers wrote, the sports club of the Commercial Assembly, founded in 1910, about whose activities nothing was known for a year, was reopened on a leased plot overlooking Znadvorovskaya Street. The plans included the construction of a site for athletic games and exercises, in addition to athletics and gymnastics, French wrestling was supposed to be practiced.

By the resolution of the Council of the Deputies on September 15, 1902, a plot of land on the Rakovka River was allotted to Ivan Avgustovich Yurgenson for arranging a garden. However, the garden began to function normally only by 1910. At first, there was only one alley with benches and rare lanterns at the edges, which led straight to the restaurant "Sui-fun", where, after drinking and having a snack, the Nikolsk dandies joined the fashionable game of billiards, they had four American billiard tables [5].

We must pay tribute to Jurgenson, the restaurant did not become the main institution of the park. Already in 1911 Green Island Park became a real center of Nikolsky sports. Judging by the advertisements in the newspapers of those years, the park had: a football field with gates and benches for spectators, several gymnastic grounds, a cyclodrome for bicycle races, two shooting galleries, a bowling alley, running tracks, a pavilion for board games, a summer theater, and attractions. Sports competitions were usually held on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, mainly local intelligentsia, officials, employees, merchants, industrialists, and garrison officers took part in them. Cycling races were very popular and attracted many participants and spectators. They were first held on June 5, 1911 at the hippodrome, organized by the sports club of the Commercial Assembly. The participants were 30 athletes from Nikolsk-Ussuriysky, Harbin, Blagoveshchensk, Vladivostok. Champions in races of one and a half versts were: Volkov, Kichkov, Strepetov - all from Nikolsk, they were awarded with silver tokens. In the race for three miles, the victory went to an athlete from Blagoveshchensk - Tsishensky, he received a gold token as an award [6].

A month later, at the cyclodrome of the Green Island Park, the local club held its own competitions, where Maerovich became the champion - record holder. In some races won: Kvyatkovskiy, Miroshnichenko, Bondar, Piasto.

With the onset of cold weather in the same 1911, paid small skating rinks and slides appeared in many gardens, only members of sports clubs and their children attended them free of charge. Although the fee was small, children from poor families preferred to ride on the banks of Rakovka and small lakes, of which there were many within the city. Garden skating rinks were not allowed on the "sled" popular among the poor, and skates were too expensive for many people.

In July 1911, at the Council of the Deputies, the issue of introducing training in military formation and gymnastics in the city's educational institutions was discussed. It is not known what decision the city fathers made, but physical education did

not take root in schools. Gymnastics classes were held in only 2-3 schools. Teachers, mostly from the former military, by force and their own example instilled in their pupils a love of physical exercise. At the May meeting of the Duma in 1912, among other important city affairs, a statement No. 53 of the Committee of the People's House was presented on the allotment of part of Sennaya Square along Alexandrovskaya Street (now Volodarsky Street) next to the People's House, a plot of up to 20 sazhens for arranging a gymnastic area with all the accessories for students of Nikolsk-Ussuriysk educational institutions. With a majority vote, it was decided to satisfy the request [7].

Hockey and football were popular sports in Primorye at the beginning of the 20th century. At the end of 1912, the first ice hockey game in Vladivostok took place at the skating rink of the businessman Igoni, in which 14 people participated - seven in each team. It was decided to establish the first Vladivostok Hockey Club based on the ice rink. Igoni did not mind, as sports performances attracted visitors to the rink. A commission was selected to draw up the club's charter.

The Hockey Club played a major role in the development in Vladivostok and Primorye of ball hockey, speed skating, and football. Anyone could become a member of the club, membership fees were low, a lot of work was done with the students. Already in 1913, the club organized a speed skating competition, in which students competed at two distances - 250 and 500 meters, adults - had to overcome 1500 meters [2].

In the same year, the Vladivostok ball hockey championship was organized, 4 adult teams and 2 youth teams took part in the competition. In adults, the winner of the first championship was the team "Hockey Club", among the younger ones the second team of gymnasiums took the lead.

Along with men, women were also fond of ball hockey. "The ladies are beautiful when playing hockey," a newspaper correspondent admired.

Football clubs were organized in Vladivostok in 1912. One of the teams, consisting of workers and employees, was the most numerous and was called the "volunteers" team, the other arose under the Vladivostok Sports Society. In the same year, football teams of students of the men's gymnasium and employees of the Churin Trading House were organized, and a year later a football team was formed in Nikolsk-Ussuriysky.

In the fall of 1913, the first football intercity meeting took place: Nikolsk-Ussuriysky received Vladivostok residents. The more experienced Vladivostok team defeated their rivals twice with a score of 7: 0 and 10: 0. But already in the next season Nikolsk players took revenge, they won against the best team of Vladivostok - the gymnasium football players, and also defeated the city team [2].

The passion for football spread to the villages: Chernigovka and Razdolnoye, where "football clubs" also appeared. As written in the press, 1915 was marked by an epidemic of the game of football. And yet it should be noted that in some localities, for example, in Chernigovka, the attitude to sports was not just "indifferent, but even hostile." [2]

The first Russian martial arts club - judo - was created in Vladivostok in 1914, and a year earlier the world's first section of French women's wrestling was formed [8].

Sports in the pre-revolutionary Primorye were mainly engaged in by employees of trade firms, officers, high school students. Amateur sports faded by itself by 1918. Only from the end of the 20s of the XX century, already under the new Soviet regime, sports received a new impetus, as the newspapers wrote at the beginning of the century, "the hope that in the future, football and other sports games will conquer ... citizenship rights".

## CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries, the physical culture movement in Russia was in close connection with the transformations that took place in the spheres of politics, economics, culture, and science. At the beginning of the 20th century, prerequisites were created for the formation of theoretical, natural science, methodological foundations of physical education. However, the entire pre-revolutionary history of physical culture was the era of singles, sports, as a social phenomenon, occupied a more than modest place.

In Primorye, as well as throughout the country, physical education and sports were deprived of state support, they existed and were promoted only thanks to the patronage and enthusiasm of the progressive layers of the Russian intelligentsia, who did a lot of useful things for their development.

Chess, gymnastics, skating, wrestling, athletics, hockey, football, and cycling - these are the directions that determined the path of development of physical culture and sports in Primorye until the October Revolution of 1917.

Stable and comprehensive development of physical culture and sports in the Far East and, in particular, in Primorye was outlined only in the 1920-1940s of the XX century, when physical culture and sports were considered as the duty of citizens, their national duty, and sports achievements were positioned as a national property [9].

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