

Origin and development of the Salesian Sports Organization of the Polish Republic between 1992-2007

Summary

Until 1992, the activity of the Salesians in Poland in the field of physical culture had already had a hundred-year tradition and played a key role in the development of the physical culture of children and youth. The physical activity of children and adolescents was carried out in schools, oratories, orphanages, summer camps, day camps, scout camps, sightseeing tours and other leisure, cultural and social events. In the 1920s and 1930s, games and activities, falcon gymnastics, athletics, jerk, football, handball, basketball, volleyball, archery, shooting and boxing were conducted in Salesian centers. The Salesians had their own sports fields, gymnasiums and playgrounds. There were also competitions in winter sports (skiing, tobogganing, skating) and water sports (swimming, canoeing). The scouting activity also intensified, which resulted in the publication of methodical and program manuals. The period of the Second World War and the 1950s caused that many institutions and oratories were closed or their activities were suspended. The scout movement was reactivated in 1986. In 1990, thanks to contacts with PGSI, Salesian youth from Poland took part in sports competitions of international importance.

Legal and organizational conditions, sports infrastructure and training staff, as well as SALOS RP programs and projects in 1992-2007 raised the level of physical education of children and youth in Poland every year. Thanks to the dynamic organization of many members, activists, sports and recreation instructors, animators, and volunteers of SALOS RP, it was possible to implement various programs or projects in the field of physical culture. In the years 1992-2007, the SALOS RP organization annually organized nearly 400 sports, sports and educational tourism camps for about 30,000 children and youth, implementing fitness and health, intellectual, social, educational, formation and moral goals. The most important nationwide projects in the field of physical culture included: "Salesian Winter", "Salesian Summer", "Sports Holidays", qualified tourism, sports and educational camps, family camps, swimming camps, health camps, integration camps, tourism cycling and canoeing on the Trails of Karol Wojtyła. In addition, regular sports events were organized, such as: Savionalia, Youth Days, Campo Bosco, the Minister's Feast of Dominic Savio, the Sports Games in Twardogóra and the Don Bosco Cup. The implementation of so many sports projects was possible thanks to the acquisition of various grants from institutions and central offices and local self-government institutions as well as church funds or other donors. Some of the funds obtained were used to

purchase costumes and sports equipment for individual local associations of SALOS RP, as well as for the construction or modernization of sports facilities and the organization of sports events. Sports classes were conducted by qualified coaches and instructors of physical recreation and sport for whom the SALOS RP association has carried out annual instructor courses in such disciplines as: basketball, football, volleyball and table tennis.

The implementation of physical education, sport and tourism in Salesian schools in 1992-2007 was dynamic thanks to the fact that many schools had their own sports facilities in the form of sports fields and gyms. The following disciplines were mainly practiced: basketball, volleyball, football and table tennis. The classes were carried out during physical education lessons and extracurricular activities at the School Sports Clubs. Students took part in various sports competitions organized by a given commune, city or province. They competed mainly in team games and athletics. The students also performed physical activity during breaks, e.g. by playing table tennis. Salesian schools had extensive experience in organizing sports and recreation, itinerant and tourist camps. Hiking was the most popular. Every year, summer and winter camps were organized.

Regular training and sports activities in local associations of SALOS RP in 1992-2007 resulted in numerous sports achievements in the regional (IIMS), national (OIMS, OIMS in futsal, ORSAS) and international (ŚIMS / EIMS) arena.

The best SALOS RP teams in Poland in 1992-2007 were Local Associations: SALOS Lublin (table tennis), SALOS Przemyśl (table tennis), SALOS Piła (volleyball), SALOS Płock (table tennis), SALOS Słupsk (football), SALOS Szczecin (football), SALOS Łódź (volleyball), SALOS Ostróda (volleyball), SALOS Sępólno (table tennis), SALOS Suwałki (volleyball), SALOS Warszawa (volleyball), SALOS Żyrardów (basketball), SALOS Lubin (table tennis), SALOS Poznań (football), SALOS Wrocław (basketball), SALOS Czaplinek (basketball).

The greatest achievements on an international scale were achieved by the teams of Local Associations: SALOS Kraków (second place for girls in basketball - Poland 2001); SALOS Lublin (1st place for boys in table tennis - Sicily 2002); SALOS Przemyśl (1st place for girls in table tennis - Italy 1998, Spain 2000); SALOS Zabrze (2nd place for boys in table tennis - Spain 2000; 2nd place for boys in volleyball - Poland 2001); SALOS Debrzno (2nd place for boys in football - Italy 1998; Poland 2001); SALOS Rumia (1st place for boys in table tennis - Poland 2001); SALOS Słupsk (1st place for boys in football - Poland 2001); SALOS Szczecin (1st place for boys in football and table tennis - Poland 1997; 1st place for boys in volleyball and table tennis - Italy 1998; 1st place for boys in football and table tennis, 1st place

for girls in volleyball; 1st place girls in basketball - Spain 2000; 1st place boys in football - Poland 2001); SALOS Łódź (3rd place for boys in basketball - Sicily 2002); SALOS Ostróda (1st place for boys in volleyball - Poland 2001, Sicily 2002); SALOS Płock (1st place for girls in table tennis - Poland 1997); SALOS Różanystok (second place for girls in table tennis - Poland 2001); SALOS Sępólno (1st place for girls in table tennis - Poland 1997; Italy 1998; Spain 2000; Poland 2001, Sicily 2002); SALOS Suwałki (3rd place for girls in volleyball - Italy 2001); SALOS Warsaw (3rd place for boys in basketball - Portugal 1995; 3rd place for girls in volleyball - Italy 1998; 1st place for boys in volleyball - Spain 2000; SALOS Żyrardów (1st place for boys in basketball - Poland 1997; 1st place for girls in basketball - Spain 1999; 2nd place for girls and boys in basketball - Poland 2001; SALOS Częstochowa (1st place for boys in basketball - Poland 2001); SALOS Lubin (1st place for boys in table tennis - Sicily 1996; Poland 1997; 2nd place for boys in football - Warsaw 2001); SALOS Wrocław (1st place for boys in basketball - Slovenia 1993, 1st place for girls in basketball - Poland 2001); SALOS Czaplinek (3rd place for girls in basketball - Sicily 1996; 2nd place for peasants in basketball - Poland 1997; Poland 2001); SALOS Nowa Ruda (2nd place for girls in table tennis - Spain 2000; 3rd place in table tennis (mixed) - Poland 2001); SALOS Ostrów Wlkp. (3rd place for girls in basketball - Slovenia 1993; 2nd place for girls in basketball - Spain 1999; SALOS Pieszyce (1st place in table tennis (mixed); 2nd place for girls in table tennis - Poland 2001.).

Cooperation of SALOS RP with sports clubs and societies in 1992-2007 influenced the development of physical education and sports for children and youth. Local associations SALOS RP took, inter alia, participation in competitions of the Regional Sports Associations: Lower Silesian Regional Table Tennis Association, Koszalin Regional Football Association, Lublin Regional Table Tennis Association, Łódź Basketball Association, Lesser Poland Volleyball Federation, Masovian Regional Table Tennis Association, Masovian-Warsaw District Football Association Basketball, Pomeranian Football Association, Silesian Football Association, Świętokrzyski Volleyball Association, Wielkopolska Football Association, Wielkopolska Table Tennis Association, Provincial Volleyball Association, West Pomeranian District Basketball Association.

The most popular form of tourism in SALOS RP in 1992-2007 was hiking, biking and canoeing. Through the implementation of SALOS RP programs and projects, children and adolescents had the opportunity to spend their free time for psycho-physical development.

Activities in the field of physical rehabilitation were carried out in SALOS Tarnowskie Góry and SALOS Chybie. The disabled participated in various types of rehabilitation and recreation camps. In addition, the disabled participated in sports activities

such as lifting weights lying down, sitting volleyball, table tennis, swimming, and athletics. The greatest success of the disabled athletes of SALOS RP was the bronze medal in the World and European Championships in lying weights.

The educational, cultural and educational activities of SALOS RP in the years 1992-2007 were carried out in Salesian schools, oratories, boarding houses, orphanages, educational centers, recreation centers, community centers, summer camps and day camps. Educational, cultural and educational goals were also included in the programs of Salesian sports and recreational events. The publications of the SALOS RP publishing house in the years 1992-2007 served teachers, educators, instructors, animators, volunteers, children and teenagers to learn about the multidimensionality of physical culture and tourism. The publishing activity of SALOS RP also showed the role of Salesians in shaping the physical culture of children and youth in Poland.

The fifteen-year activity of SALOS RP enabled many young people to take up physical activity, which was often an educational measure shaping pro-health and pro-social attitudes.