

EDITORIAL

About the tradition of events in sports Despre tradiția evenimentelor în sport

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Continuing the tradition of important events in the field of sports involves consistently organizing important sports events with a certain significance, organizing large scientific meetings, celebrating the birth anniversary or commemorating the death of personalities in sports or related fields, publishing or republishing monographs, specialized journals related to traditional milestones, etc.

There are several situations in which events, including those in sports and related fields, fit: keeping a tradition (developed tens or hundreds of years ago), resuming a tradition after an interruption for a variable length of time, developing a tradition in time, which takes 5-6 years or more, by birth or death anniversaries, systematic annual celebrations. A number of specific events are included in these general situations:

- periodic birth or death anniversaries of personalities in sports or related fields (personalities in the field of sports, sports veterans);
- periodic scientific meetings;
- re-creation of professional associations;
- creation, re-creation of specialized periodicals;
- initiation and resumption of periodic competitive sports events;
- specific activities of traditional sports associations or clubs.

In sports and related fields, there are a number of personalities whose birth or death anniversaries can and should be periodically marked by the organization of meetings in order to keep or develop a tradition in this sense.

The development or continuation of scientific traditions requires the periodic organization of scientific meetings by a union of organizations or professional associations, such as national congresses, conferences, etc. Some scientific meetings have reached a considerable number of editions, such as the 22nd edition of the National Conference of Sports Medicine in Romania.

Another example of activity of tradition is the re-creation of associations, societies, foundations, after the model of societies founded by Romanian students in the early 20th century, which was taken from European countries, a tradition originating in the interest for sport of

those young people who studied abroad (Austria, Germany, Hungary). A series of professional associations founded in the interwar period, which had extremely generous aims, interrupted their activity for objective reasons (the two world wars of the 20th century) or political reasons. We believe that some of these should resume their activity today, with the participation of different socio-professional categories in various specific activities. We only mention an example that is close to us: the Medical Society of Physical Education and Sports, founded by Prof. Dr. Iuliu Hațieganu in 1930, which only functioned until 1939. One of the objectives of this Society was the organization in May 1937 of a Course of sports medicine that included 20 "conferences of medicine applied to physical education and sport", paralleled by practical demonstrations conducted by physical education teachers. The tradition of this society, interrupted for more than 70 years, was resumed in 2009, when the Romanian Medical Society of Physical Education and Sports was founded, which continued, updated and improved the objectives of the former Society. According to the objectives of the former Society, the anastatic edition of the volume of Conferences on medicine applied to physical education and sport, published under the auspices of the Society in 1938, will be printed in 2012 under the auspices of the present Society and will be launched in May, when 75 years from the organization of the above mentioned Course (1937) will be celebrated.

The foundation of periodicals published for at least 10 consecutive years represents the development of a tradition. A round number of years of publication or a round number of issues can be celebrated, in order for these periodicals to form a tradition. There are many examples of periodicals nowadays. It remains to be seen how many of these will survive in time. Here we mention some bi-monthly, quarterly or bi-annual journals: *Știința sportului* – a bi-annual journal, published in Bucharest starting with 1995; *Palestrica Mileniului III - Civilizație și sport* – a quarterly, published in Cluj-Napoca starting with 2000; *Discobolul*, published in Bucharest (founded in 1995/archived on the website since 2007); *Sport și Societate*, published in Iași (2007); *Citius Altius Fortius - Journal of Physical Education and Sport*, published in

Pitești (2001); *Gymnazium*, published in Bacău (founded in 1994/ archived on the website since 2004); *Medicina sportivă*, published in Craiova (2005); *Studia Educatio Artis Gymnasticae*, published in Cluj-Napoca (founded in 1993/archived on the website since 2008).

Tradition involves consistently organizing sports events, not necessarily for a high performance elite. These events can be combined with scientific and cultural events, they can be local or international. Importantly, they should have a regular, systematic character, occurring at least once a year, in order to have a considerable number of editions. Such an example is the Romanian Athletic Federation, founded in 1912, which has organized the Romanian National Championships every year since 1914.

Other models of ongoing tradition are some associations or clubs, particularly of football, which have survived in time. Here are some examples: **Clubul de Fotbal CFR Cluj** 1907, founded in 1907; **Universitatea Cluj**, a club founded in 1919; **Rapid București**, founded in 1923; **Sportul Studențesc**, founded in 1916.

An emblematic international example of maintaining the tradition of a sports event is the organization of the Summer Olympic Games. Modern Olympic Games have

been held every 4 years since 1896, the 2012 edition in London being the 30th edition. There were two interruptions due to the world wars in the periods: 1912-1920, with the cancellation of the Olympic Games in 1916, and 1936-1948, with the cancellation of the OG in 1940 and 1944. Although the ancient tradition of OG required the cessation of war during the Games, this did not happen in the modern era in the two situations. However, these editions (the 6th, 12th and 13th editions) were scheduled to be held, but they never took place. Throughout the duration of ancient OG, various feasts and celebrations were organized, a tradition that has been maintained by modern OG. Unfortunately, these events including shows, concerts, exhibitions that take place during the Games are not sufficiently publicized.

Relevant for the organization of university sports events that have become traditional is the legendary Oxford and Cambridge University boat race, which is an annual event reaching its 158th edition this year. It was first held in 1829.

The Editorial is based on the synthesis of written, audiovisual and online materials, as well as on personal experience facts.