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## TRADITIONS OF SWIMMING IN THE PHYSICAL CULTURE OF GALICIA UNTIL BEFORE 1939

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### Abstract

*The purpose* of this study was to identify the features of the development of swimming in Galicia in the interwar period (20–30 years of the twentieth century). To this end, a historical study and analysis of scientific literature on the development of navigation in the central and eastern regions of the Ukrainian lands, as well as in Galicia, was conducted.

It was established that during the period of Galicia being found in the II Rzecz Pospolita (20–30th years of the 20th century) among Ukrainians there was a spread only on volleyball and football. Track and field athletics, skiing, but also swimming.

The first swimming competitions in Galicia took place in June 1923 in Lviv on a natural reservoir. Both during the first and subsequent swimings (R. Shukhevych, O. Priphan, O. Dutkevich, Valko, O. Dzjaba) competed in all kinds of swimming (free style, bracelet, butterfly, relay swimming) and showed sports The results of which were at the level with athletes of the Ukrainian people's republic. The formation and development of swimming in Galicia is closely linked with the sports clubs «Carpathian Leshtyaryan Club», «Sokol», «Chernik», «Sokol-Father» in the cities of Lviv, Stanislaviv, Ternopil. Przemysl.

**Key words:** swimming, sports clubs, interwar period.

**Станіслав Заборняк, Богдан Мицкан, Тетяна Мицкан. Традиції плавання у фізичній культурі Галичини до 1939 року. Мета дослідження** передбачала виявлення особливостей розвитку плавання в Галичині в міжвоєнний період (20–30 рр. XX ст.). Із цією метою проведено історичне дослідження та аналіз наукової літератури щодо розвитку плавання як у центральних і східних регіонах українських земель, так і в Галичині.

Установлено, що в період знаходження Галичини в складі II Речі Посполитої (20–30 рр. XX ст.) серед українців набули поширення не лише волейбол, футбол, легка атлетика, лижний спорт, а й плавання.

Перші змагання з плавання в Галичині відбулися в червні 1923 р. у Львові на природній водоймі. Як під час перших, так і наступних змагань із плавання плавці (Р. Шухевич, О. Приphan, О. Дуткевич, Валько, О. Дзьоба) змагалися у всіх видах плавання (вільний стиль, брас, батерфляй, естафетне плавання) і показували спортивні результати, які були на одному рівні з досягненнями спортсменів європейських країн. Становлення та розвиток плавання в Галичині тісно пов'язані зі спортивними клубами «Карпатський Лещетарський клуб», «Сокол», «Черник», «Сокол-Батько» в містах Львів, Станіславів, Тернопіль, Перемишль.

**Ключові слова:** плавання, спортивні клуби, міжвоєнний період.

**Станіслав Заборняк, Богдан Мыцкан, Татьяна Мыцкан. Традиции плавания в физической культуре Галиции до 1939 года. Цель данного исследования** предусматривала выявление особенностей развития плавания в Галиции в межвоенный период (20–30 гг. XX в.). С этой целью проводятся историческое исследование и анализ научной литературы по развитию плавания как в центральных и восточных регионах украинских земель, так и в Галиции.

Установлено, что в период нахождения Галиции в составе II Речи Посполитой (20–30-е гг. XX в.) среди украинцев имели распространение не только волейбол, футбол, легкая атлетика, лыжный спорт, но и плавание.

Первые соревнования по плаванию в Галиции состоялись в июне 1923 г. во Львове на естественном водоеме. Как во время первых, так и последующих соревнований по плаванию пловцы (Р. Шухевич, А. Приphan, А. Дуткевич, Валька, А. Клов) соревновались во всех видах плавания (вольный стиль, брасс, баттерфляй, эстафетную плавание) и показывали спортивные результаты, которые были на одном уровне с достижениями спортсменов европейских стран. Становление и развитие плавания в Галиции тесно связаны со спортивными клубами «Карпатский лещетарский клуб», «Сокол», «Черник», «Сокол-Отец» во Львове, Станиславе, Тернополе, Перемишле.

**Ключевые слова:** плавание, спортивные клубы, межвоенный период.

**Introduction.** Swimming in Ukraine is one of the oldest sports discipline. There were the favourable natural conditions: a network of deep rivers, many ponds and lakes, picturesque Black Sea and Azov Sea coasts. Since ancient times, Ukrainian liked to swim. Anyone who lived near the water considered to learn swimming, because swimming in everyday life was related to gaining food, fishing and other economic affairs on water.

Eager and staunch swimmers of the year were Ukrainians – Slav nations. Their tactic of mindfulness in their work «Tactics and Strategy» leads Byzantine Mauritius: «They are in particular able to cross the river, because longer and better than other people are able to stay on the water» [3].

In the ancient epics «The Tale of Igor's Campaign» the meaning of the Slav nations that can swim was given in detailed form. There is historical data that, in campaigns for Byzantium, especially for the siege of Constantinople, numerous Oleg Red's troops crossed on boats along the Dnieper and the Black Sea. During fights, when the Greeks set fire to their «fire» towers, slavs threw themselves into the water and crossed in full armament several hundred meters to other boats and continue to fight with the enemy.

The swimming in that time was important and used in the military sphere. In written documents it is mentioned how Slavic soldiers with the arms crossed the river and set up ambushes. In small places they went under the water, and breathed through the jungle tube, one end took in the mouth and the other pulled out to the surface. In such way they could wait for hours, or unknowingly sneak up to the enemy.

In historical literature there is a story about playing on water. This is one of them. In the beginning of July, near the ancient Kiev, gathered the best diving–divers. In the evening they jumped into the water and started fishing with their's bare hands, throwing it to the shore. Fishing continued until the evening dusk, until the last rays of the sun were gone. Who managed to catch the most fish, became winner. As a reward, the winner received a silk fishing net, a carefully woven royal squash. Similar games – water classes were built on health items [1].

Legends tell about the extraordinary skills of the Zaporozhian Cossacks, who courageously and desperately crossed the thresholds on their kayaks. In kayaks, they fought in skill and intelligence. Of course, the warlike advances of the Cossacks to the Dnieper and the Black Sea were possible thanks to the fact that they had a good mobile training [1]. Interesting is the statement by A. Kuzmina in his book «The Zaporozhian Sich» (1802) that Cossacks were experienced swimmers who could almost be in the water all day, diving without fatigue and freely flowing Dnieper river in the widest place.

These examples evidenced that swimming in the 16th and 17th centuries in Ukraine was very widespread and used as important military-use skills, useful exercise and a valuable hygienic–healing measure [1]. Admittedly the official swimming competition in today's sense of this term with concrete definitions of methods and techniques in swimming, distances and recordings began at the end of the 19th century [1; 2]. Geography of sports swimming in Ukraine was spread quickly. In the early XX century in Kiev, Mykolaiv, Odessa private swimming schools were formed. From 1910 to 1912 years sports competitions began in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Sevastopol, Mikolaiv, Mariupol and other cities [6; 7; 8].

The relatively high level of the development of swimming in Ukraine proved that the first Russ competitions took place in July 1913 at the first Russian Olympic Game in Kiev. There were about 60 competitors from Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and other cities. As expected, swimmers Szuvalivsk's school. The Ukrainian swimmer Verkhoviec was the second in 100 m. on his back. In 1918–1920 the first clubs and swimming schools were established in various cities of the State. Later, Ukrainian swimmers took part in competitions held in Moscow, Leningrad, Crimea [1]. The first clubs and there swimming schools were created in 1921–1925, where young workers popularized such kind of sport. In 1922 was held a «sport week» in Kyiv, which included the programme of swimming competitions. In 1924 and 1925 years the collective swim team of Ukraine was presented in a League and occupied the 3rd place. Among the first masters in swimming were Ukrainian swimmers V. Furmaniuk and B. Bojko [1]. In the 20s, the kroll swimming became popular. Among those who had mastered it, was the Ukrainian swimmer Konrad Furmaniuk. Since 1921 till 1925 he was a champion of the former Soviet Union at distances of 100 m and 400 m freestyle. The champions of Ukraine at that time were Olexander Garbatych, Igor Grigoriev, Nadiia Gasan, Anna Akimova and others [2].

Already at the beginning of 1926, swimming pools in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, Mykolaiv and other cities are being built. The expansion of the material base and the active work of sports organizations had attracted youth to swimming. In 1927, the first swimming championship was held in Mykoiv. In addition to the numerous urban competitions, in Ukraine, were starting in 1929, the annual championship of the Republic was held in swimming, jumping into the water and water polo. Until 1938 all the championships of the Republic took place in Mikolaiv, which was a pivotal center of sport in Ukraine, then in Warsaw, and after World War II – in Kyiv and Lviv. In 1931 in Kharkiv and in 1937 in Kyiv are opened winter swimming pools (in Kharkiv is a swimming pool by the bike factory), which allowed the Ukrainians to swim, jump into the water and waterpolo train throughout the year and favorably reflected on the growth of sports–technical indicators.

In Kharkiv in 1933 the first Institute of Physical Culture in the USSR was opened, where a higher school of trainers was established. In the same year in Kyiv began to work the Technical School of Physical Culture. The formation of these trainings schools helped to create in Kharkiv and Kyiv not only good swimmers but also a lot of trainers and teachers. Young cadres of teachers performed great work for the further development of swimming in Ukraine, help swimmers to promote the sport–technical results [3]. Ukraine has becoming a traditional place for organizing different events. Thus, in 1934 in Kyiv the competitions of the Soviet Union took place in the championship of the Sports Association «Spartacus» in swimming, jumping into the water and water polo.

Young sportsmen were successful in the big competitions. Thus, in 1937. the USSR champion became W. Garbatych, who won the absolute championship and had set a record of Europe at 400m in classical style.

**Research goal** is to define the characteristics of swimming development in Galicia until 1939.

**Research methods:** There were used the methods of theoretical analysis and historical methods

**Results.** The information of swimming instructions, among young Ukrainians, dated back to the First World War, involving conducting classes in the «Chaika». The first swimming competition was held on September 15–16, 1923, in Lviv, in the “Svitiaz” suburban pond (See photo 2), where distance was determined for the passage. At a distance of 100 m, Roman Shukhevych, the later participant in the development of swimming among the Ukrainians in Lviv, was an optional participant. R. Shukhevych (See photo 1) paid special attention to sports. He played well in basketball, volleyball, football and water polo, jogging, swimming, racing and gliding, and occupied the high places. He even organized a sports club «Syrena», where football, volleyball and basketball competitions were held. On September 15–16th, 1923 at the IVth Zaporizhia Games in Lviv at the junior competitions R. Shukhevych had set a record in the 400 m race with obstacles and at 100 m, defeated in the 100 m in swimming with a time of 1 min 54.7 sec., took the podium seat in the throwing a disk and a kernel. He also repeatedly performed in the Lviv School competition among the swordsmen.

During the Vth of the Zaporizhia Games in 1924, there were division into age groups: juniors and seniors. The juniors swam at a distance of 50 m, among them were the best – L. Tsehelski and J. Shukhevych [9]. Among seniors swimmers at a distance of 100 m, was O. Gronski from «Berkut» of Przemyśl. In the interwar period, among the Ukrainian society the development of water sports was started. The beginning of swimming in sport form is related to the program of the IVth Z–Summer Games organized in 1923. Firstly, the program of these competitions was introduced in the time of the Kozaczyna, particularly the competition in swimming. The participants learned swimming by their own.

After the establishment of the «Swimming Proceedings», the Lviv Ukrainian Sports Alliance, which had been operating since 1925, had created the sport structure of this discipline. Judging courses were conducted, the publishing house was introduced, the regulations on sports were published, and training courses for swimming instructors from Lviv clubs were organized. The separate discipline, like a swimming was distinguished from the Zaporizhya Games. On September 12th, 1926, only swim competitions were held, where women competed for the first time.



**Photo 1.** Full Pond in Lviv in the Interwar Period, Where Summer Swimming Competitions and Hockey in Winter Were Held

In the 1930–1933 years during the swimming competitions in Lviv, Volodymyr Slipko representative of the «Plast», among others, on October 29th, 1930, won a record time of 1.35.0 min at a distance of 100 m in the freestyle, and the brothers Volodymyr and Tadei Jurchuk from the «Dniester» Zalishchyky (Ternopil

region) won at the Lviv Championship in 1931, among other competitors of USSR, they recorded the first place. Numerous swimmers in that period were: V. Slipko, J. Shukhevych and B. Slavetski [9]. The high level of Ukrainian swimmers at the turn of the 20's and the 30's centuries of the interwar period was connected with the popularization and the floating of the water and the use of natural water bodies in the form of rivers, lakes and ponds in Lviv, Prhemysl (See photo 3,4) Stanislav and Stryj. The lack of training staff was a major obstacle to greater athletic progress. Since 1933 (excluding Lviv), other cities in the Eastern Borderlands of Ukraine had seen a decrease of interest in swimming. In Lviv, a renewed interest in swimming raised a dedicated swimming pool. Apart from «Sokila–Bat'ko» and the UZS, the Carpathian Leshchetarsky Club (CLC) was also included in the organizers of the swimming competition. CLC was the organizer of a numerous of swimming events where not only their members were participated.

In 1935 the best Ukrainian results of the winners were: Baczynskii, 100 m freestyle – 1.45,02 min, Mamchka, 100 m in classical style – 1.57,6 min and USSK relay 4 x 50 m – 3.26,6 min. Among women, Pankievich was the best, who won at a distance of 50 m in free style – 1.27,6 min [13].

The following results were organized by CLC's swimming competitions on June, 10 1937 – at distance of 100 m in classic style – Karpiak 1.50.7 min; 200 m in free style – B. Slavetskii 3.04,7 min; 50 m freestyle junior – Voloshyn 46,5 s; 100 m dorsal style – Peljushchak 1.56,5 min; 3x50 m junior style – CLC team, represented by Trach, Oles, Voloshyn 2.50,5; 100 m freestyle – Slavetskii 1.19,7 min; 5x50 m style CLC represented by: Senchyna, Rybachek, Paljushchak, Bojko, Slavetskii 3.17,5 min; 3x100 m with variable style: Bojko, Slavetskii, Karpiak 5.00,0 [20]. In the program of the competition, also the swimming competitions for juniors were concluded. At the end of the competition a water ball was played between CLC and «Chernik» with the victory of the last with a score 4:3. On June, 26–28 1937, the company organized another competitions, where the most of the Ukrainian swimmers were participated. [11]. Besides complaining about the lack of good coaches, underlined the good preparation of the players. Both competition's program and the results were indicated on a good preparation for the competition. Another interesting fact of the swimming competition was that CLC (Carpathian Ski Club) organized the competition. Roman Shukhevych (1907 – 1950) – an active nationalist and participant of armed conflicts in Lviv and the Eastern Borderlands in the period of 1918–1919 years, Commander of the Ukrainian Battalion «Nachtigall» in 1941, Commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army UPA (1943–1950) [10]. Among Ukrainian society increased interest in swimming competitions. In the regional swimming championships organized by the «Sokil» on August 21, 1938, at the pond «Switiaz» not far from Lviv, 17 representatives from «Sokil–Bat'ko» (8 + 1 woman), «Sokil» Rudna (1), «Sokil» IV of Lviv (1), «Sokil» of Mshana (5), «Sokil» of Rudna (1). Firstly, in the history of Ukrainian swimming sport, the competitions at the «Switiaz» pond near Lviv, were held on September 9, 1938, where more than 50 competitors were gathered. These competitions took place within the framework of the IVth National Sokil's Sports Competition [19]. Trainers and swimmers made efforts to develop water jumps. In 1935, at the «Czernik» Sports Club, a water ball team was formed. However, there were exceptional situations, the lack of a sports base, the training staff evoked the inabilities further development. According to the 1938 Report for the Ternopil activity of «Sokil», the general meeting of the members of this organization, held on January 15, 1939, organized two swimming events on June 16, and July 9, 1938 at the distances of 30 and 60 metres.

Table 1

**The Best Record Achievement in Swimming Competition CLC, Lviv, 1937 [18]**

Competition	Participant	Result	Club
Mężczyźni			
200 m free style	Boiko	2.59,8 min	CLC
400 m free style	Boiko	6.46,2 min	CLC
800 m free style	Slipko	1.33,5 min	«Chernik» Lviv
1500 m free style	Walko	28.59,6 min	«Chernik» Lviv
200 m classical style	Slipko	3.31,7 min	«Chernik» Lviv
400 m classical style	Slipko	7.33,2 min	«Chernik» Lviv
200 m dolphin style	Stakhiv	4.42,8 min	CLC
4 x 50 m		2.31,4 min	CLC
4 x 100 m		14.20,3 min	CLC
Kobiety			
100 m free style	Rozhankowskaj	1.56,9 min	CLC

Table 2

**The Results of the Swimming Competition on the Pond «Switiaz»  
Lviv, 21.08.1938 [15]**

Competition	Participant	Result	Club
<b>Women</b>			
50 m free style	Dzioba	1.19,1 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»
<b>Meżczyźni</b>			
50 m free style	Modla	52,5 s	«Sokil» Mshana
100 m free style	Zalizniak	1.32,2 min	«Sokil Bat’ko»
400 m free style	Kushnik	9.52,0 min	«Sokil»Mshana
100 clascal style	Yanchar	1.43,0 min	«Sokil»Lviv
4 x 50 m free style		3.30,0 min	Sokil–Bat’ko»

In the same year, on July 24th, it was also the organizer of the Regional Swimming Competition, where participants were from Ternopil, Trembovla and Zbarazh.

In addition, representatives from Ternopil took part in the swimming competition on September 9th in the first National Swimming Championship in Lviv, where they took one the first place, three – the second places, and one – the third places.

In swimming matches on 26.06.1938 the swimmers achieved the following results: in distance of 50 m in classic style for women – 58,2 s Marta CLC; Among men in distance of 100 m in dolphin style – 1,40,4 min RU Bohdaniivski CLK; 100 m classical style – 1,44,4 min Slipko; 100 m free style – 1,24,7 min Bohdaniivski CLK; in 4x50 m – 2,30,0 min RU Varcaba, Zalaniak, Pripckhan, Kozachok «Sokil»; in 3x100 m – 5,02,3 min CLC.

It should be emphasized that the swimming sections were active in such Lviv`s clubs as CLC, Plai, USSK, Pshemysl, Dnister, Berkut and in Stanislav, Stryi, Ternopil [20].

They also developed within the UZS business, and after its dissolution in 1936 their activity was limited.

Table 3

**The Results of the Swimming Competition on the Pond «Switiaz». Lviv, 21.08.1938 [14]**

Competition	Participant	Result	Club
<b>Women</b>			
50 m free style	Dzioba	1.19,1 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»
<b>Men</b>			
50 m free style	Modla	52,5 s	«Sokil» Mshana
100 m free style	Zalizniak	1.32,2 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»
400 m free style	Kusznik	9.52,0 min	«Sokil» Mshana
100 free style	Janczar	1.43,0 min	«Sokil» IV Lviv
4 x 50 m free style		3.30,0 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»

Table 4

**Competition Results in Swimming at the 4th National Sokil's Sports Competitions.  
Lviv, September 9, 1938 [17]**

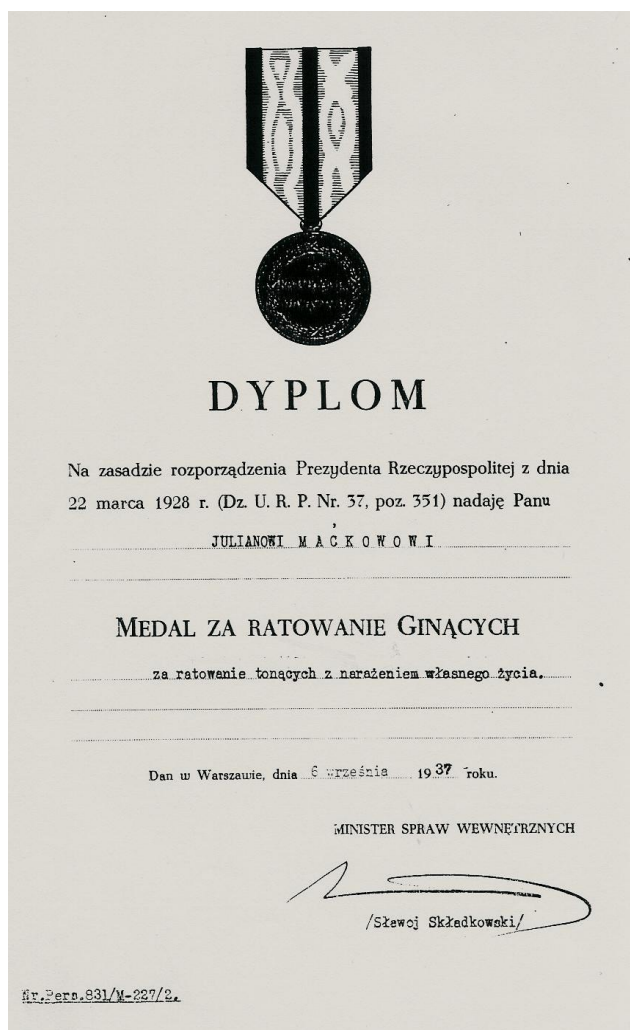
Competition	Participant	Result	Club
<b>Men</b>			
100 m free style (21 participants)	O. Pripkhan	1.25,8 min	«Sokil» Stanislav
100 m classical style	A. Melnyk	1.52,6 min	«Sokil» IV Lviv
100 m dolphin	O. Pripkhan	2.06,8 min	«Sokil» Stanislav
400 m free style	O. Pripkhan	8.51,2 min	«Sokil» Stanislav
200 m free style	O. Pripkhan	3.49,8 min	«Sokil» Stanislav
4 x 50 m free style		2.29,4 min	«Sokil» Lviv
<b>Women</b>			
50 m free style	O. Dutkewich	1.04,7 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»
50 m classical style	O. Dutkewich	1.07,8 min	«Sokil–Bat’ko»
50 m dolphin	O. Chubaty	1.12,1 min	«Sokil» Ternopil
100 m free style	O. Chubaty	2.39,9 min	«Sokil» Ternopil
4 x 50 m variable style		3.55,4 min	«Sokil» Ternopil



**Photo 2.** Roman Shukhewych in his Students Years. Lviv, 1926



**Photo 3.** Prhemysl 1937. Swimming Section of the UCS «Berkut» on the San River in Pshemysl [16]



**Photo 4.** Diploma for Julian Machkiv, a Member of the UCS «Berkut» in Prhemysl Awarded with the Medal for Rescuing of the Drowning People, on September 6, 1936, by Minister Internal Affairs of Slawa Skladkowski

**Conclusions.** The development of the swimming among youth of Galicia began after the I World War. The first swimming sections were established in the early 1920s in Przemysl, Lviv, Stanislav, Ternopil, so in 1923 the first swimming competition took place in the natural pond.

The swimming sections in 20–30 years functioned as the Sports Clubs? The most popular were: «Carpathian Leshchetarskii Club», «Chernik», «Sokil – Bat'ko», «Sokil» Mshana, «Sokil» Stanislav, «Sokil» Ternopil.

The sportsmen competed in different distances: 50, 100, 200, 400 m in free style” 50,100 m in classical style, 50 m, 100 m in dolphin and relay, 4x50 in free and split style. The members of the outstanding Swim Team were Prypkhan, Shukhevych, Dutkevych, Dzilba, Valko working in different sports, like football, volleyball, athletics, skiing, etc. For that time, they showed high sports results in all swimming disciplines.

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