THE HISTORY OF PARALYMPIC SPORT DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

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Annotation. Paralympic Games are the second according to scale and important (after the Olympic Games) world sports forum. The term “paralympic” concerning the competitions of sportsmen-invalids became official in 1988, when the first sport club was formed for deaf people. The motherland of the “Olympic Games” for deaf people became Paris (1924). But the development of world sport movement of invalids, known today as paralympic, started after World War II. First the movement developed by means of different sport organizations, but then there was a need for a coordinating organization. Different organizations tried to be coordinating, the final coordinating organ was formed in 1982. International coordinating committee of world sports organization of invalids became this organ, which since 1992 was called an International Paralympics Committee

Material. The main stages of the paralympic movement are considered, the analysis of the number of participants, representatives of different countries, results of their performances, kinds of sport in the programs of Paralympic Games of different ages are presented.

Research methods: scientific literature, archival date, legal documents analysis and summarizing.

Results. Paralympic movement, as well as the traditional Olympic movement, has its structure, governing body, emblem, talisman, flag, anthem, opening and closing ceremony. Sportsmen participate according to different groups, depending on the kind of invalidity. The records and achievements are recorded, team classification of the medals quantity is set, dope-control is fulfilled, the number of teams is controlled and a special equipment for invalids is set.

Conclusion. Competitions program are enlarged, records are set, special equipment is developed – all this proves that sport is not only for healthy people. One of the aims of the Games is attention attraction of society to the questions of disabled people involvement into a social sphere, the problems of ecology and sport popularization.

Introduction. Sport for invalids has a long history of development. In the 18th and 19th centuries it was stated that motional activity is one of the main factors of invalids’ rehabilitation.

The first attempts to involve the invalids into sport were made in 1888, in Berlin the first sports club for deaf people was formed.

The motherland of the “Olympic Games” for deaf people became Paris: in 1924 the sportsmen gathered there (the representatives of official national federations of Belgium, Great Britain, Holland, Poland, France and Czechoslovakia).

The sportsmen from Italy, Rumania and Hungary also came to Paris though they didn’t have federations.
The program of the Games included athletics, cycle racing, football, shooting, swimming. On August, 16 in 1924 International Sports Committee of deaf people was organized (ISCD).

The program of the competitions for deaf people and their rules were identical with the ordinary ones. The distinctive feature was the fact that the actions of the arbiters had to be seen. For this purpose, for example, lights are used in starting signals.

A positive factor, which makes the organization of the competitions easier, is the use of an international dactilological system, which allows sportsmen to communicate easily with each other.

However, the development of world sport movement of invalids, known today as paralympic, started after World War II.

In 1944 in the Center for rehabilitation of people with medullispinal traumas (Stoke Mandeville, England) sports program was created as an obligatory part of a complex treatment.

The author of the program, professor Ludwig Guttmann, became the director of the Center and a president of Britain international organization of invalids rehabilitation with injuries of musculoskeletal system. Using his methodologies he helped many soldiers to become normal again.

In time this help transformed into sports movement, in which physical abilities of the sportmen took the leading place.

Neurosurgeon Ludwig Guttmann is considered to be the founder of a paralympic movement.

In June 1948 he held the first competitions in Stoke Mandeville in archery for the sportmen in a wheelchair. 16 paralyzed men and women, former military men took part in the competitions.

The beginning of the competitions symbolically coincided with the opening of the Olympic Games in London.

In 1952 the first international competitions for invalids were held in London.

In 8 years in Rome after the end of the Olympic Games the competitions among 400 sportmen - invalids from 23 countries were held.

First the movement developed by means of different sport organizations for the people with the definite forms of invalidity, but then there was a need for a coordinating organization.

In Rome the Committee of International Stoke Mandeville Games (CIAMG) was founded, later it became an International federation of Stoke Mandeville Games (IFSMG).

In 1956 during the Olympiad in Melbourne International Olympic Committee rewarded this Federation with a special cup for realization of the Olympic ideas of humanism.

Later IFSMG became an International federation of sport in wheelchairs of Stoke Mandeville (IFSWSM).

Gradually people made sure that sport was not only for healthy people. Invalids, even with such serious traumas as injury of the spine, can take part in the competitions if they want.

In 1960 under the aegis of a World federation of military men International working group was formed, which considered the problems of sport for invalids.

In 1964 an International sports organization of invalids (ASOP), which included the sportmen with amputation, in 1978 an International association of sport and physical culture was formed for people with cerebral palsy (CP-ISPA), in 1981 – International federation of sport for blind people (IBSA), in 1986 – International sports federation for people with mental problems (INAS FID).

In 1982 a Paralympic movement was headed by International coordinating committee of world organization of sport for invalids. In 10 years it was called an International Paralympics Committee.

Since 1988 Paralympic Games have been held in summer and in winter right after the Olympiad and in the same town.

In 1989, as an acknowledged managing body of a Paralympic movement, an International Paralympics Committee (IPC) was organized, and in 5 years it took the whole responsibility for the Paralympic Games organization.
In 1996 in Atlanta the first sponsors appeared, and since then the Paralympic Games stopped being just a charitable event.

In 2004 IFSWSM and ASOP joined and were called an International federation of sport in wheelchairs and for people with amputation (IBAS).

The emblem of world paralympic movement differs from the Olympic: it has not 5 circles but 3 half-spheres – red, blue and green. They symbolize mind, body and free spirit.

The Paralympic Games (as well as the Olympiad) starts from a beautiful opening ceremony and finishes with a closing ceremony, has a talisman (in Sochi it is a Snowflake and a Beam) and a special chosen music.

The records and achievements are recorded, team classification of the medals quantity is set. Sportsmen compete according to different groups, depending on the kind of disability.

Since 2004 dope-control is held, which takes into consideration health state of a sportsman. Mainly the Paralympic Games include well-known kinds of sport, but the rules, teams number and equipment are adopted for invalids.

There are also some only paralympic kind of sport: races in wheelchairs-the first kind of sport for invalids, where soon healthy people will also take part.

The first summer Paralympic Games opened in Rome (September, 18, 1960). The opening ceremony was held on the stadium “Aqua Atsitosa”, where there were 5 thousand spectators. 400 sportsmen took part in the competitions from 23 countries. The delegation from Italy was the biggest.

The program of the Games in Rome included 8 kinds of sport, among which were the following: athletics, swimming, fencing, basketball, archery, table tennis.

The medals were given in 57 disciplines. The sportsmen with spinal cord injury took part in the competitions.

During these Games great results showed F. Rossi from Italy (fencing) and D. Thomson from Great Britain (athletics). The first place in an unofficial team classification took Italy, the second and the third places took Great Britain and the USA.

Ludwig Guttmann defined the “importance of the Paralympic Games in Rome as a new model of paralyzed integration into society”.

The 2nd summer Games were already Paralympic (Tokyo, Japan, 1964), 390 sportsmen from 22 countries took part in the competitions. The teams from Great Britain (70 people) and the USA (66 people) were the biggest. The program included new kinds of sport (race in wheelchairs, weightlifting and discus throwing), 144 medals were given. The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from the USA. The 2nd and the 3rd places took Great Britain and Italy.

These Games were renamed into “Paralympic”. For the first time paralympic attributes were used at the competitions (a flag, an anthem and a symbol) and after the end of the Games many sportsmen-invalids of Japan were given jobs.

The third summer Paralympic Games (Tel-Aviv, Israel, 1968) included 750 sportsmen from 29 countries. In comparison with the competitions in Tokyo the program was enlarged. Classificational changes were introduces into some kinds of sport (basketball, swimming and athletics).

The hero during the third summer Games became the Italian R. Marson. He took 2 gold medals at the previous competitions and in Tel-Aviv he competed in three kinds of sport and took 9 gold medals.

A female athlete L. Dod from Australia within one day set three world records in swimming. E. Owen from the USA in several kind of sport took 7 different medals.

The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from the USA. The 2nd and the 3rd places took Great Britain and Israel.
The fourth summer Paralympic Games (Heidelberg, Germany, 1972) included 1000 sportsmen from 44 countries. The biggest teams were from Germany, Great Britain and France. The program included new kinds of sport and disciplines for the sportsmen from different groups of disability (goalball, 100 meters running for the sportsmen with vision problems). Several world records were set during the Games, in particular, in swimming where for the first time special technical equipment was used.

The teams from the USA and Germany took most medals. The third place, according to unofficial general teams classification, took the sportsmen from the Republic of South Africa.

The fifth Paralympic Games (Toronto, Canada, 1976) included 1600 sportsmen (among them 253 women) from 42 countries. The representatives from some countries didn’t come in protest against participation of the sportsmen from the Republic of South Africa.

For the first time 261 sportsmen with amputation and 167 athletes with vision problems took part in the competitions.

In Toronto for the first time TV translation of the competitions was fulfilled for more than 600 thousand people in every region of Ontario.

The program was essentially enlarged. It included 200, 400, 800 and 1500 meters race in wheelchairs.

The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from the USA. The 2nd and the 3rd places took Germany and Canada.

The sixth Paralympic Games were held in Anhem (the Netherlands, 1980). 2500 sportsmen took part in the competitions from 42 countries and there were 12 thousand spectators.

The enlarged classification of the sportsmen-invalids allowed to give a lot of medals. For the first time the program included sitting volleyball, competitions for four groups of invalidity and goalball for the sportsmen with vision problems.

International co-ordinating committee was organized. The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from the USA. The 2nd and the 3rd places took Germany and Canada.

The seventh Paralympic Games were held in New York (the USA) and in Stoke Mandeville (Europe, 1984). 1780 sportsmen from 41 countries took part in the competitions in New York and 2300 sportsmen from 45 countries in Stoke Mandeville.

900 medals were given. Financing was from state and private resources. A considerable part of grants was presented through the information agency by the government of the USA. The main representatives of mass media were the companies BBC, Dutch, German and Swedish television.

The competitions (13 kinds of sport) in New York were watched by more than 80 thousand spectators. As a result the team from the USA took 276 medals and was the first in unofficial general teams classification. The second place took the sportsmen from Great Britain (240 medals).

In Stoke Mandeville (10 kinds of sport) the most world and paralympic records were set, especially in athletics.

The Paralympic Games in Stoke Mandeville, despite a short period (4 months) of their organization, were successful. The organizers of the competitions agreed with the necessity to include all 4 groups of invalidity into the Paralympic Games.

The eighth Paralympic Games were in Seoul (South Korea, 1988). 3053 sportsmen from 61 countries took part in the competitions and it was a record.

For the first time the team from the USSR took part in the competitions, the first gold medal was taken by a female athlete from Rostov-on-Don Tamara Andreevna Pan’kova.

The sportsmen, trainers and staff lived in a specially equipped village, which included 10 houses with 1316 rooms.

The president of the International co-ordinating committee, James Broman, offered to use a new paralympic flag. The program included 16 kinds of sport. As a demonstrational kind of sport tennis in wheelchairs was presented.
The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from the USA (268 medals). The 2nd and the 3rd places took Germany (189 medals) and Great Britain (179 medals).

The ninth Paralympic Games (Barcelona, Spain, 1992) included 3020 sportsmen, 50% of the athletes competed in swimming and athletic.

The Games watched 65 spectators; 90 delegations took part in a ceremonial parade. 3 thousand sportsmen and thousands of trainers, managers and officials lived in the Olympic village. All kinds of medical services were organized for the sportsmen.

During 12 days the sportsmen competed in 15 kinds of sport. 279 world records were set and 431 gold medals were given.

After the Paralympic Games in Barcelona, competitions for mentally retarded sportsmen were held in Madrid.

The tenth Paralympic Games were in Atlanta (the USA, 1996) and included 3195 sportsmen (2415 men and 780 women) and 1717 representatives of the delegations from 103 countries. The competitions in 20 kinds of sport were held (August, 16 – August, 25), three of them were demonstrational. For the first time 56 mentally retarded sportsmen took part in the competitions in athletics and swimming.

The Games were organized at a high level. 400 thousand spectators watched the competitions. The opening and closing ceremonies were attended by 60 thousand spectators. 2088 accredited journalists illustrated the competitions (among them 721 – in newspapers and magazines, 806 on the radio and TV, 114 – in photographs).

At the third Paralympic Congress, which was held 4 days before the opening of the Games, economic and political problems were discussed, the questions connected with civic rights of sportsmen-invalids in society were considered.

The eleventh Paralympic Games (Sydney, Australia, 2000) included 3843 sportsmen from 127 countries, 2000 officials, 1300 mass media representatives, 1000 technical workers, 2500 guests from International and national committees and 10 thousand volunteers.

The biggest teams were from Australia (303), the USA (288), Germany (262), Spain (224), Great Britain (219), Canada (172), France (158), Japan (157), Poland (114) and Holland (105). Russia was presented by 90 sportsmen.

From the kinds of sports the most representative were the following: athletics (1043 sportsmen), swimming (570), powerlifting (278), table tennis (270), basketball in wheelchairs (240), cycle racing - highway (177), cycle racing -track (152), volleyball sitting (140), shooting (139), goalball (116).

Russian sportsmen took part in 10 kinds of sport: athletics (22 sportsmen), swimming (20), basketball for mentally retarded sportsmen (12), powerlifting (11), football (11), judo (6), shooting (5), horseback riding (1), tennis (1), table tennis (1). Among 125 countries Russia took the 14th place.

The twelfth Paralympic Games were held in Athens (Greece, 2004). 3800 athletes from 136 countries took part in the competitions. The leaders were Chinese sportsmen, who took 141 medals (63 of them were gold). The 2nd and the 3rd places took Great Britain and Canada.

The sportsmen from Russia took 16 gold, 8 silver and 17 bronze medals and took the 11th place.

The thirteenth Paralympic Games (Beijing, China, 2008) were the most representative in the history of the movement – more than 4000 sportsmen from 148 countries. The biggest was the team from China – 332 sportsmen.

Russia had 145 sportsmen, 4 leaders (who run ahead of the blind sportsmen) and one reserve sportsman for participation in rowing. 39 sportsmen from Russia participated in athletics and 34 in swimming. 25% of sportsmen from Russia had vision problems, 75% had the problems with musculoskeletal system, among them 16 in wheelchairs.
Russia took 63 medals (18 gold, 23 silver and 22 bronze) and the 8th place in general teams classification. According to general number of medals Russia was among the first five countries-leaders. The sportsmen from Russia participated in 13 kinds of sport from 20.

6 medals were taken in judo (the 7th place), 6 in shooting (the 3rd place), 4 in powerlifting (the 8th place), 2 in table tennis (the 7th place), 1 in football (the 3rd place) and 1 in volleyball (the 5th place).

The leaders in unofficial general teams classification were the sportsmen from China (211 medals – 89 gold, 70 silver, 52 bronze). The 2nd and the 3rd places took Great Britain and the USA. Among the first six countries were the Ukraine, Australia and the Republic of South Africa.

The fourteenth Paralympic Games (London, Great Britain, 2012) became the biggest competitions during the whole history of the paralympic movement: more than 4200 sportsmen from 166 countries in 20 kinds of sport, 503 medals were given.

Russia had 162 sportsmen (the problems with musculoskeletal system, deaf people, mental problems), the official delegation – 313 people.

Russian sportsmen competed in 12 kinds of sport and took 36 gold, 38 silver and 28 bronze medals, took the 2nd place in unofficial general teams classification.

China took the 1st place, 95 gold, 71 silver and 65 bronze medals. The 3rd place took Great Britain (120 medals).

Among 10-top countries were the following: the Ukraine, Australia, the USA, Brazil, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands.

Bibliography


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