

Structure of Top Level Sport in the Croatian Armed Forces

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The subject of this presentation is the structure and organisation of sports in the Croatian Armed Forces.

Sport activities in the Croatian Armed Forces should be considered according to the characteristics of the soldiers, junior and senior officers who fill the army's ranks. The Croatian Armed Forces are composed of recruits, professional soldiers, soldiers who serve in the Guard Brigades, junior and senior officers, NCOs, as well as a number of civilian persons. Apart from military skills training and all of the usual professional duties, rehabilitation programmes, recreation, physical activities and sports for all of the abovementioned are also systematically organised.

Sport activities in the Croatian Armed Forces have been modelled on the positive experiences of some of the strongest Armed Forces of the world. At the same time, we have, nevertheless, tried to preserve and develop certain aspects peculiar to the Croatian Army and the Croatian people, aspects which stem from the historical evolution, our sports tradition, as well as from the experience of the recent war.

Sport activities in the Croatian Armed Forces have been structured in such a way as to ensure an optimal development of, above all, the professional abilities of the staff. Further more, it is meant to help maintain a desirably high level of health and fitness, as well as to satisfy the biopsychosocial needs and enhance the personal achievements and athletic results of those involved.

The Military Sport Department is the principal official body dealing with promotion and development of sports and the organisation of competitions. The department is composed of two sections: firstly, the Section for Development and Organisation of Sport, which is the more important and more widely active section, and secondly, the International Military Sport Section – CISM, which is, comparatively speaking, subsidiary.

The fundamental mission of the Section for Development and Organisation of Sport is to promote, develop and organise sport activities and to provide a suitable institutional framework for sport, physical activity, recreation and rehabilitation programmes in the Croatian Armed Forces.

The Section for International Military Sport is in charge of keeping in touch with other armed forces of the world through CISM and other military sport competitions.

The structure and scope of the activities pursued by the Section for Development and Organisation of Sport have been defined according to the traditionally high level of interest displayed in the matters of sport and in order to meet the requirements of the Croatian Armed Forces. This section enjoys the professional support of special advisers in the following groups of sports: mountain sports, combat sports, water sports, track and field, shooting and parachuting.

In this section, much prominence is given to education in the matters of sport as an important vehicle for the implementation of its primary objectives: coaching and specialist seminars, sports associations and clubs are organised, as well as Croatian Army championships in those

disciplines which have been mentioned. In 1998, for example, the following events have been organised – Croatian Army championships in combat sports: judo, taekwondo, wrestling, watersports: swimming and sailing, track and field: semi-marathon, cross and triathlon, mountain sports: orienteering, biathlon and ski track, military sports: parachuting, shooting and football (played on handball court).

The policy of the Military Sport Department is implemented by the senior officials in charge of International Military Sport and the Section advisers. They plan, promote and organise sport activities in the Croatian Armed Forces, in which they are aided by chiefs of sub-sections from other Croatian regional headquarters in different commanding areas, by the Croatian Marine Headquarters, by the Croatian Air Force Headquarters and by the Croatian Army Central Headquarters.

Aside from the Military Sport Department, there is also, as an integral part of the Croatian Armed Forces, a special sport unit, into which top level Croatian athletes are recruited for their military service. They are ranked and categorised on the basis of their achievements and eventually drafted upon recommendation by the Croatian Olympic Committee. The special sport unit is run on a regional basis, so as to keep the top athletes as close as possible to the sport clubs and associations they originally come from. This strategy helps the athletes to stay in top form, keep improving their results and further develop their abilities. They in turn, as recruits during their military service, assist the Department in promoting and popularising sport in the Croatian Armed Forces through the education of military officials in the matters of sport and through their participation in the army-organised competitions.

In accordance with the framework described, special camps are set up in training centres for the training and preparation of top athletes during their military service. In these camps they enjoy the support of qualified supervisors, have a chance to work on further improving their level of performance, and, as a result, effectively prepare for local competitions, as well as those organised on the international level. Different camps specialise in different groups of sports, as shown on this map of the Republic of Croatia, on which all these camps are marked, including the Croatian Olympic Centre of Bjelolasica, where top level facilities are placed at the disposal of military athletes, too.

2nd MILITARY WORLD GAMES – ZAGREB 1999

1. Republic of Croatia – host of the 2nd MWG

The Republic of Croatia is a Central European and Mediterranean country spreading over a total area of 56 538 sq. km with a population of about 4 million. Parts of the fertile Panonian plain, the hillside and the high mountain area which separate the plain from the Adriatic Sea (which is a bay of the Mediterranean Sea) are the areas which make up, each by its own particularity and variety, one of the most beautiful European states.

Besides beauties of nature, Croatia offers to its visitors a handful of cultural and historical peculiarities and sights from the Illyric, Roman and Early Medieval Croatian cultural and historical heritage.

A stay in the Republic of Croatia is pleasant and unforgettable, due to the long tradition of hospitality, the proverbial industriousness and the wish of Croatian people to show on every

occasion how much they welcome and appreciate both deliberate and chance visits to their homeland.

2. Zagreb, Host City of the 2nd MWG

Zagreb, the capital of the Republic of Croatia, has a population of about one million. It is situated at the foot of the Zagrebačka gora mountain in a fertile plain on the bank of the Sava River, which flows into the Danube and then on into the river basin of the Black Sea.

Due to its natural advantages, the present Zagreb area has been inhabited ever since the Roman conquest of the region.

In 1994, Zagreb celebrated its 900th anniversary, which speaks of its historical and cultural peculiarities and sights which can be seen and recognized in the streets and squares of Zagreb.

The old nucleus of Zagreb was built in Baroque style which gradually changed into Classicist style towards the south and the Sava River and eventually transformed itself into a modern, Central European city, which has long spread beyond the farther bank of the Sava and acquired all the standard features of a contemporary European metropolis.

Besides its cultural and historical presence as a part of Central Europe since the times of the Habsburg Monarchy, Zagreb is also a city with a great tradition in sports.

Already in 1903, the "Academic Sport Club" was founded in Zagreb with the purpose of promoting sports among academic citizens: fencing practice and various other games like tennis, cricket, football etc. featured prominently. The foundation of this club and other similar academic and workers' clubs favoured the development of sport activities and sports in Zagreb and in the whole of Croatia.

Today in Zagreb there are many sport halls for team and individual competitions, swimming pools with diving platforms, a rowing lane, football and track & field stadiums on which some European and World competitions have been held. In 1987, to cite only the most important one among many, Zagreb was the setting of the International Student Games, the "Universiade".

Due to its sport culture and the heritage of the international competitions successfully staged here, a city favoured, as it is, by the commodities resulting from efficient urban planning, Zagreb definitely seems a guaranteed success in the organising of the 2nd Military World Games in 1999.

3. Traffic Connections and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

Zagreb is a big traffic junction, a convergence of the European traffic routes descending from North and Central Europe down towards the Mediterranean, but it is also the hub of the traffic routes leading from Western Europe, Germany, Italy and Austria towards the east of Europe, down to Greece and Turkey.

3.1. Air traffic

The Zagreb Airport "Pleso" is a modern international airport which can land every size and type of aircraft.

3.2. Railroad Traffic

Zagreb, a true railroad junction, is the place where the train routes from North and Central Europe meet, and head on down towards Rijeka, Croatia's biggest industrial port.

For those participants of the 2nd MWG who prefer this way of travelling, it is possible to reach Croatia from Western Europe by fast trains.

3.3. Road traffic

As well as by the above mentioned and explained air and railroad ways, it is also possible to reach Zagreb by car: through Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary.

3.4. Ocean travel

From the countries of North Africa, travelling by ship, it is possible to reach the Croatian ports of Split (about 400 km south of Zagreb) or Rijeka (about 180 km south of Zagreb). Both ports are connected with Zagreb by highways of satisfactory permeability.

4. Croatia – host of CISM Events

The Republic of Croatia was accepted by CISM as its 105th member on October 22nd 1993, at a time when the war in Croatia was still raging.

In this difficult time, the war-torn Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Armed Forces realised the significance of CISM and discovered the possibilities that this international organisation for military sport offers to its members.

On May 16th 1994 the CISM section was formed and established as an independent office within the Croatian Ministry of Defence. Having become a full-fledged member of this eminent organisation for military sport, the Croatian CISM delegation started work. Lt.-General Josip Lucić, a man of great merit in starting the entire sports development programme in the Croatian Armed Forces, was elected President of the Croatian Delegation to CISM.

As a new member, Croatia naturally sought to establish its reputation by hard work and by organising various CISM events and competitions.

The first opportunity turned up when Croatia was entrusted with organising the European CISM Congress, which was very successfully hosted by the Istrian town of Rovinj, with the participation of 32 member countries.

After this congress, in 1996, in an attempt to boost the development of military sport in the Croatian Armed Forces, Croatia undertook to organise two competitions. The first of these was a regional orienteering tournament in Pula, with 13 CISM countries participating. The other was also held in Pula – the 8th Taekwondo Military World Championship, with participants from 14 countries.

In 1997, in an attempt to confirm the early reputation and to further improve its organisational skills for top level competitions, Croatia organises other international CISM events. The regional parachuting tournament is held in Vrsar with 12 countries participating. The

marvellous Croatian town of Dubrovnik hosts the 23rd Judo Military World Championship with great success: men and women from 26 countries compete.

In 1998 Croatia organises the European Military Championship in Orienteering, held on the maps of Jastrebarsko, Zaprešić and Delnice, with 18 CISM countries participating.

5. Zagreb in Charge of the 2nd MWG

In late 1997, after Argentina gave up the organisation of the 2nd MWG, Croatia, thanks above all to the great amount of dedication it had displayed and the success it had already met with in organisational matters, was immediately seen as one of the potential organisers.

At the European CISM congress in Rome, December 1997, based on the the decision of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian delegation submitted an application to organise the 2nd MWG in Zagreb.

At this point, with very little time in our hands, one event followed the other in quick succession: on December 15th 1997 a preliminary contract is signed; on February 18th 1998 at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of CISM the final contract on the "2nd MWG" is signed.

6. Expected Number of Participants

At the 1st MWG in Rome there were approx. 4000 athletes, from 83 countries, competing in 17 sports. At the 2nd MWG in Zagreb we expect a 25% increase in participations, as CISM member countries will compete in 20 different disciplines. The organiser is ready to host 6500 – 7500 athletes, 2000 accompanying persons, about 10000 spectators, a total of 20000 persons related to the Zagreb Games.

7. Reception and Accommodation of the 2nd MWG Participants

By accepting the obligation to organize the 2nd MWG, the host city has also accepted the obligation to accommodate all the participants of the 2nd MWG, according to CISM regulations for accommodation infrastructure.

Accommodation will be organized separately for:

- competitors
- officials and referees
- VIP's (CISM officials)
- reporters
- spectators

Competitors will be accommodated in Zagreb student camps "Stjepan Radić", "Cvjetno naselje" and "Dr. Ante Starčević".

Officials and referees will also be accommodated in student camps.

CISM officials and VIP's will be accommodated in suitable hotels according to the CISM rules and standards.

Reporters will be accommodated in suitable hotels.

Hotel accommodation will be booked for the spectators and other participants of the 2nd MWG 1999 in Zagreb and its surroundings.

In accordance with the wishes and possibilities of arriving to Croatia, the reception for the 2nd MWG participants will be organized in the following places:

- a) "Pleso" Airport
- b) Zagreb Railway Station
- c) Zagreb Bus Station
- d) Zagreb Fair for the delegations which decide to use their own transportation.

8. Agenda of the Events at the 2nd MWG

At the 2nd MWG, the arrival of all the participants, with several exceptions, is expected on August 6th & 7th 1999. The Opening Ceremony will be held on August 8th 1999, 19,00 – 21,00, at the City Stadium. The competitions will continue from August 7th – 17th 1999. The Closing Ceremony will be held on August 17th 1999, 19,00 – 21,00.

The departure of all participants will take place on August 18th, 1999.

9. Programme of Sports and Sport Facilities at the 2nd MWG

Competitions at the 2nd MWG in Zagreb will be held according to International Sport Federations' and CISM regulations in 20 CISM sports (or 24 civilian sports).

Military sports

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Military Pentathlon | NCO School of Jastrebarsko |
| 2. Naval Pentathlon | SRC Jarun |
| 3. Shooting | Vrapčanski potok |
| 4. Parachuting | Air-field Lučko |
| 5. Orienteering | Jastrebarsko, Medvednica, Delnice |

Combat sports

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6. Judo | Sports Hall at Velika Gorica |
| 7. Wrestling | Sport Hall "Peščenica" |
| 8. Taekwondo | Karlovac, 40km from Zagreb |
| 9. Boxing | Sport Hall "Dom Sportova", Zagreb |
| 10. Fencing | Sport Hall at Zagreb Fair |

Individual sports

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|-------------------|---|
| 11. Track & Field | SRC Mladost, Stadium Velika Gorica |
| 12. Marathon | Streets of Zagreb |
| 13. Triathlon | SRC "Jarun" |
| 14. Cycling | Streets of Zagreb |
| 15. Swimming | Indoor Swimming Pool "Mladost" |
| 16. Diving | SRC "Šalata" |
| 17. Life saving | Outdoor swimming pool "Mladost" or "Šalata" |
| 18. Waterpolo | Outdoor Swimming pool "Mladost" |
| 19. Rowing | Rowing track SRC "Jarun" |
| 20. Kayak – canoe | Rowing track SRC "Jarun" |

Team sports

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|----------------|---|
| 21. Football | Stadiums "Croatia", Zaprešić, Samobor, Jastrebarsko, Velika Gorica, Vrbovec, Krapina and Karlovac |
| 22. Handball | "Dom športova" and Sport Hall "Kutija Šibica" |
| 23. Basketball | Sport Hall "Dražen Petrović" |
| 24. Volleyball | Volleyball Hall "Dom odbojke" and Sport Hall "Trnsko" |

Training will be possible at the premises of the Faculty for Physical Education, in competition halls and adequate primary and secondary school halls near the accommodation sites.

10. Culture and Entertainment for the Participants and Spectators

Entertainment will be organized throughout the Games in such a way that they will be, completely or partly, open for the public and citizens of Zagreb and Croatia.

During the organization of these events, accent will be put on several locations:

Jarun Lake

Ban Jelačić Square

Croatian National Theater in Zagreb

Vatroslav Lisinski Square.

Besides the aforementioned events, the following will also be organized for all guests and participants:

Guided tour of Zagreb in cooperation with the Zagreb City Tourist Office,

Tour of the "Plitvice Lakes" National Park in cooperation with the Croatian Tourist Office,

Tour of the castles of Hrvatsko Zagorje in cooperation with the Croatian Tourist Office.

11. Weather Conditions in the Host City

Zagreb has a continental climate with all the characteristics typical to it.

According to the statistics from the Croatian Weather Bureau, the month of August in Zagreb has all characteristics of the continental climate, with an:

Average temperature:	20,4 °C
Absolute maximum temperature:	36,6 °C
Average relative humidity:	70%
Average rainfall (in mm)	103 mm
Average number of days with strong wind (>6 BOF)	2,5

According to the above data it is clear that the month of August in Zagreb is hot and warm in the first half, with slightly cooler nights. Statistics from the Croatian Weather Bureau show that a slight weather deterioration with minor precipitation and lower temperatures (2-3 degrees) is to be expected in the second half of August.

According to the given description of the Zagreb's continental climate, and the careful observation of the Croatian Weather Bureau, we recommend that the participants of the 2nd MWG bring light summer clothes and summer uniforms to Croatia. To those who are more careful we recommend some slightly warmer clothes.

WITH THE CISM MOTTO "FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPORT", WE WELCOME YOU ALL IN ZAGREB IN THE AUGUST OF 1999!