

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ARMY SPORTS CLUBS FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Colonel S. YORDANOV (Bulgaria)  
Colonel (Ret) KONDEV (Bulgaria)

During the transition from totalitarian towards democratic social development a number of structural and organisational changes have occurred in Bulgaria. These changes have not left behind the Bulgarian Armed Forces, as well as such a social phenomenon as physical training. In fact the current system of physical training in the Armed Forces has stopped to function. New forms, directions and structures are looked for, adequate to the newly created conditions of democratic changes and modern economy.

Please allow us to show you our experience in the War College. In what way, in these conditions, we are looking for directions of integration of sports structures to social and cultural interests within the society. As basic aspects in the work of the College Sports Club we consider continuous improvement of the health condition, physical training, and working capacity; enhancement of the adaptive functional abilities against unfavourable factors within the professional academic and combat activities. Parallel to this, new opportunities arise for a purposeful educational process which motivates the young people and keeps them away from such negative phenomena and social malformations of the transition period as drug, addiction, smoking, religious sects, alcohol abuse, violence, et.

In our opinion, a larger number of officers from the War College should be included in the training and competitive process in different sports. The current plan for sports activities contains all necessary prerequisites for enhancement of the system and activity of the students. Based on the concept for development of physical training, military and competitive sport in the Bulgarian Army, and the law of physical training in the War College, a College sports club has been established and it has been functioning as a legal entity. It is a non-political, voluntary, independent organisation whose activity is to organise, practise, develop, advertise and promote military and other kinds of sport among the personnel of « Rakovski » War College and the Armed Forces, the members of their families, and the citizens of Sofia. This club is a member of the Federations of marksmanship, karate, badminton, as well as the Ministry of Defence Sports Council. In near future the club will receive a licence by the Committee of Youth, physical training and sport with the Council of Ministers.

The primary purpose of the Sports Club's activity is to develop military and other kinds of sports, to train competitors and teams in different age groups. Membership in the College Sports Club is based on the principle of voluntarism, so that every citizen who accepts the rules and agrees with the aims and the subject of the activity of the Club, is free to be its member.

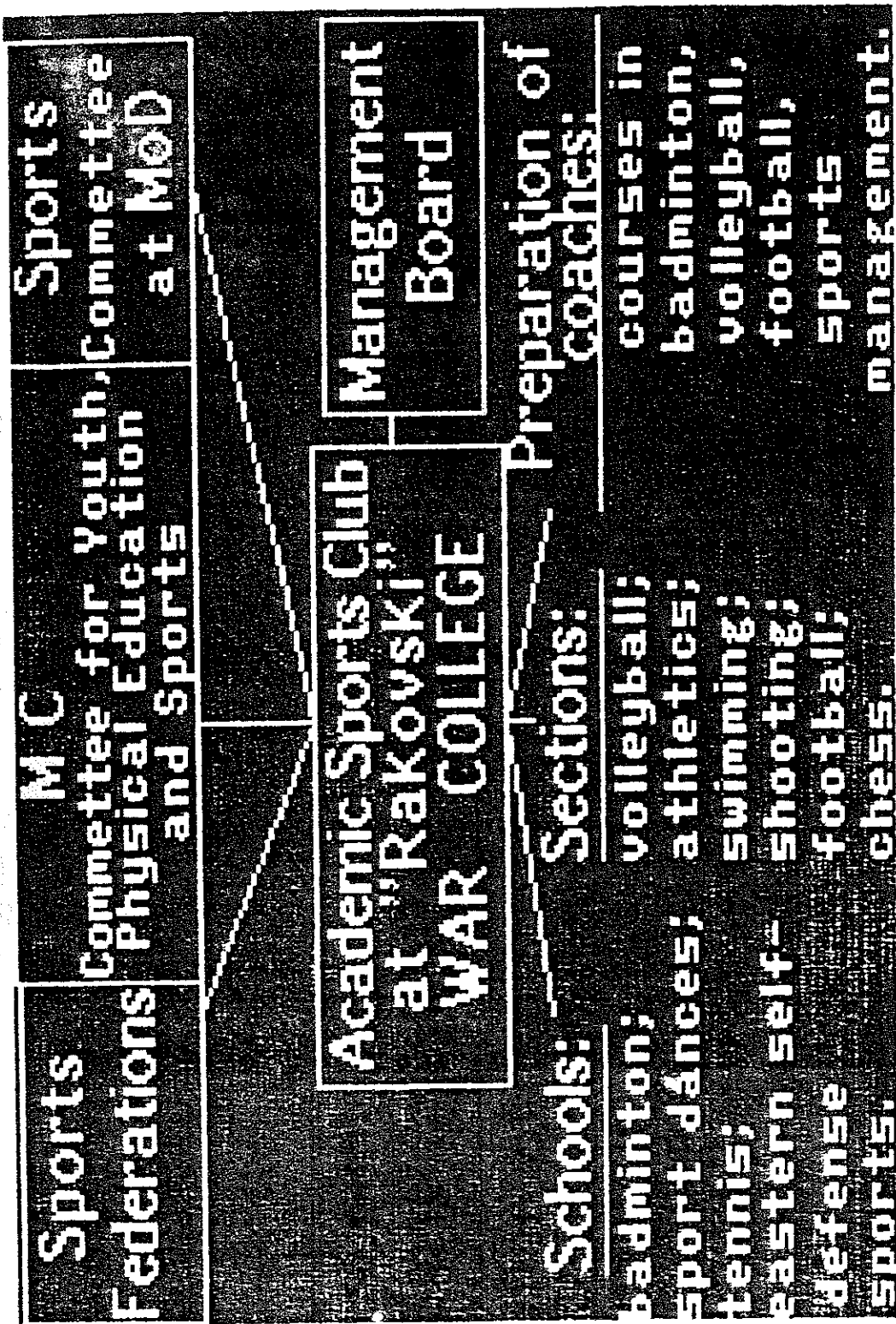
The Club is run by an administrative board which consists of 13 members: 6 military and 7 civilians. Members of the administrative board are managers of different schools and sections. The schools are parts of the Club, involved in training students from different age groups. School teams take part in tournaments with the respective federations and represent the College Sports Club of the War College. Their activity is regulated by books of regulations and curricula.

Members of sections are mostly men and women who work at the College. The basic document that regulates their work is the annual plan for sports and competitive activities.

The College Sports Club has established relationship and contacts with the National Sports Academy, which gives the opportunity for integration. Joint education of coaches in different sports included in the club (badminton, volleyball, football, sports management) help solve current problems. In future, this activity will be enlarged and students will conduct practice or research among officers.

In the end we would stress that the current system of sports activity in « Rakovski » War College is an open system of approbation. The results so far have been encouraging. In this way we consider that it creates a real opportunity for social and cultural integration with the public.

\*\*\*\*\*



Sports Federations

MC  
Committee for Youth, Physical Education  
and Sports

Sports  
at MoD

Academic Sports Club  
at "Rakovski",  
WAR COLLEGE

Management Board

Schools:  
badminton;  
sport dances;  
tennis;  
eastern self-  
defense  
sports.

Sections:  
volleyball;  
athletics;  
swimming;  
shooting;  
football;  
chess.

Preparation of  
COACHES:  
courses in  
badminton,  
volleyball,  
football,  
sports  
management.