

Ensuring a possibility of high quality training of students as sports volunteers for competitions in terms of organizing and running Universiade - 2019

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Abstract:

In the near future the Russian Federation has to undergo several major sporting events: the World Cup, Winter Student Games, etc. For the success of such large events thousands of volunteers should be recruited and trained, including volunteers for sports activities on-the-spot competition. According to experts the level of training of a significant part of the volunteers is not sufficient enough to carry out their activities effectively.

The research is aimed at searching for possibility to prepare students for such an important sport and institutional component of volunteer activities as assistance in running the competitions in terms of the process of education in a Higher school. The research results indicate the high importance of practical experience in sporting events for young people aimed to apply for the position of a sports volunteer at the Winter Student Games – 2019. It turned out that students with practical experience in running and servicing the competitions have significantly greater chance ($P < 0, 01$) of getting a positive response to the request on volunteering at the Universiade – 2019 in comparison with students without any experience. Techniques and methods of pedagogical influence in terms of the process of education may be used for more qualitative preparation of students for volunteering in sporting events. For example, classes on physical training of students, held in the framework of sports specialization - training on the basis of sports chosen by those students, with some additions to the curriculum - including practical assistance to students in the activities of the organization and running sports competitions in terms of the system of passing an exam on physical education, are quite suitable for reaching this goal.

Key words: volunteer activity; sports competitions; the process of education; a specialized physical education.

Introduction

In the near future the Russian Federation has to undergo major sporting events: the World Cup, Winter Universiade, etc. It is known that such significant sporting events can't be carried out without the active participation of thousands of volunteers. Some of the aspects of volunteers such as hospitality to the guests, well-organized and professional work are believed to have a significant impact on the success rate of those or other sporting events. M.K. Sanina considers that the multinational blend of the participants in international sporting events reveals the volunteers certain ethnic and cultural complex knowledge of cultural and sports orientation, skills and communication skills and cross-cultural cooperation, contributing to the effective implementation of voluntary activity [13].

At the same time individuals who want to work as volunteers in sports competitions are expected to be stress-resistant, to have enough physical fitness and knowledge of the rules for a particular sports competition. It is also necessary for them to speak a foreign language, mostly English, fluently [15]. To meet these requirements, people engaged in volunteer activities at a sporting event, have to obtain necessary skills and corresponding training. It is not always possible to achieve in terms of organization of major international competitions, when a great number of volunteers is required for successful organizing an event.

Thus, according to A.S. Makhova the level of training of a significant part of sports volunteers in Russia remains insufficient for the effective implementation of the activities assigned to them, and there are no general rules for training volunteers to significant sports competitions. [6] It is known that, in spite of a distinct nature of selfless volunteer work of volunteers has all the features of professional work, therefore, the training of volunteers should be carried out in accordance with evidence-based algorithms [5].

Due to the fact that in developed countries the majority of volunteers are students from various universities, which fact is indicated by K. Smith [14], it would be reasonable to carry out goal-oriented volunteering training in sports among this category of the population. Studies have revealed that in Russia, modern students consider volunteer activities as an important means of formation of common cultural competencies that is considered to be necessary for further life-sustaining activity [2]. In other countries, the opportunity to make new social contacts and acquaintances seems to be of prime motivation while doing

volunteer activities [4]. Young people believe that volunteering will help them to interact more effectively in relationships with other people [8].

The majority of students in our country and abroad considers volunteering as important and meaningful to themselves and society, and tend to make applies for participation in the organization and holding of major sporting events as volunteers in various fields, including sports. At the same time N. V. Macovei argues that the problem of training students of Higher educational institutions in volunteer activities has been the subject of comprehensive scientific research in our country. The author believes that there is a serious contradiction between the necessity for making a system of training for volunteer activities and the insufficient provision of pedagogical environment of the University, as both serious theoretical research and significant practical recommendations [7]. The lack of serious scientific analysis of volunteer activities in the field of sports activities has been pointed by foreign scientists, in particular T. Baum [1]. The fact that effective management of a large number of people recruited as volunteers for sports competitions, could be a serious problem for student sports management organizations has been considered by D. Pierce [11].

To solve such problems in many Western universities professional student organizations have been formed. They are an integral part of the overall structure of the University and carry out the recruitment and goal-oriented training of students in volunteer activities as a part of the educational process with high efficiency, as indicated by Judge L. [3]. Unfortunately, in Russian universities we don't have similar practice. Training of sports volunteers is carried out in special centers organized with the aim of running a certain sporting event and stop their activity after sports event has been finished. Students who wish to gain experience of volunteering are prone to apply for this position in advance as the application proceeding takes considerable time. Training time in these centers has not been defined by the time of application acceptance yet, so it is a typical situation when volunteers are chosen not according to experience being as a volunteer and knowledge of the peculiarities of the sport competitions where you plan to carry out service. Volunteers are chosen among young people who have opportunity to attend training courses within specified time-table, in our opinion, that policy is considered to be not appropriate.

Generally speaking, the analysis of recent scientific research of both Russian and foreign experts, has identified a significant number of works devoted to the study of motivation of young people to be engaged in volunteer work and a lack of specific research aimed at effective preparation of students for volunteering at major sporting events. In this regard, the aim of the research of the authors was a great opportunity to prepare students to work as sports volunteers in international competitions in terms of young people training in Higher education institution based on the example of training of students from leading universities of Krasnoyarsk to volunteering at competitions as a part of the winter Universiade – 2019. It is already known that to achieve successful procedure of the winter University games, it is planned to recruit at least 5,000 volunteers, more than a half of them are students of Krasnoyarsk universities [16].

Material & methods

Since the presence of a good physical training, knowledge of the specifics and rules of the competition as well as practical experience of participation and maintenance of sports competitions is one of the mandatory requirements for applicants for a position of sports volunteers, as indicated by the official websites of the organizers of the Student games in Russia [14], some experts suggest to consider the possibility of practical training students wishing to become sports volunteers in terms of classes of physical education in universities [9; 10; 12]. According to the authors, the most suitable for this purpose are classes, held in the form of sports specializations with intensive study of approaches of the sport chosen by students, passing in-depth theoretical course on the history development and the rules of competition in this sport [9]. As another essential criterion for assessing the standard of training of volunteer in sports is the practical experience of servicing competition [10], in order to improve the quality students preparation to work as a sports volunteer, the authors propose to include mandatory support students in organizing and running various sports events in the exam system within the academic syllabus: 'Physical education' in Higher educational institutions.

In practice, this seems to be the following: students who received necessary theoretical knowledge about the rules of the competitions chosen for physical culture sport and mastered the technique of performing motion actions that are specific for this type, during the 2nd and 3rd years of training they participate in running the competitions, as assistants of match officials. Due to the fact that Krasnoyarsk is a large sports center, where major sporting events are held annually, both summer and winter sports are among them, students should not have any problems with the events suitable for themselves. It should be noted that the students of Siberian Federal University attend classes in physical culture in the framework of a number of sports specializations: orienteering, cross-country skiing, martial arts, etc., practical assistance in organizing and running the sports competitions that are included in the list of conditions for passing an exam on physical education. Thus, during the 3 years of training young people obtain significant practical experience in issues of qualitative organization and running the competitions of different levels (from University level to worldwide one) [9].

To identify the importance of practical experience of organizing and running the competitions for young people gathered to participate in the Winter Student Games - 2019 as a sports volunteer, it was decided to carry out pedagogical research among students of leading Krasnoyarsk universities (Siberian Federal University and

Krasnoyarsk State Medical University named after professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, submitted preliminary applications for volunteer activities in preparation for the headquarters of the Student games in their universities. We chose 100 students, 50 from each university, who organized 2 groups. Group № 1 was organized among SFU students, group № 2 - KrasGMU students. All students had physical training classes conducted in the form of specialized physical training - sport activities chosen by the students (cross- country skiing). Research subject: the level of theoretical knowledge of young people about the history of the origin and development of the sport and knowledge of the rules of the competition, the degree of technical skills of going skiing, the level of practical skills of running and servicing this kind of sports competitions.

To assess the level of theoretical knowledge, all students have passed a special test, which contained 30 questions on knowledge of the history of cross-country skiing and the basic rules of competition in the sport. Level of technical skills of going skiing was evaluated within passing acceptability standards in terms of passing an exam on academic discipline 'Physical culture'. But to assess the practical service skills and running the competitions in the sport, all the students took part in a number of sports competitions at various levels: city and regional championships in cross-country skiing among different age groups, the competitions among the Krasnoyarsk Territory universities, Russian ski track, the championship of Russia on biathlon, etc., as a sports volunteer. Students performed volunteer work as assistants of match officials, were responsible for provision of hot food for spectators and competitors, assisted in paving racetracks, maintaining them in good condition, participated in awarding ceremonies, carried out various orders of officials, etc. The level of practical skills of volunteering students was assessed by experts, match officials of the competitions. When assessing the quality of work performed by a sports volunteer the speed of its implementation, the presence or absence of complaints on the work of volunteers from the experts, volunteer appearance and hospitality to the guests and participants of the competition were taken into consideration.

Results

The results of knowledge test of history and cross-country skiing competitions rules didn't reveal a significant advantage of one group of students in comparison with another. Students of both groups showed quite a high percentage of correct answers to test questions: group No. 1 – 82%, group No. 2 – 80%. It can be assumed that this result has been achieved by means of attending theoretical lectures, held within students specialization – cross-country skiing, according to curriculum time-table of classes each spring and autumn. The level of technical skills of going skiing is high for all students, which should not come as a surprise, due to attending classes in terms of sports specializations, students have the opportunity for in- depth study of the techniques of the chosen sport. Students of group 1 obtained an average 4.6 rating on a 5-point scale, and students of group No. 2 obtained 4.3. But the marks for practical volunteer activities vary considerably. If students of group No.1 received on average 4.7 points, while the students of group No. 2, only 3.9 points. The complete results of the study are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Research results of students

Research criteria	Group № 1 (SFU) n=50	Group № 2 (KrasSMU) n=50
Test on knowledge of history of origin and development of chosen sport, the rules of competitions	82%*	80%
The level of technical skills of going skiing	4,6*	4,3
Assessment for the practical activities at sports events	4,7**	3,9
The number of approved applications for volunteering	76%**	32%

Note. * - inaccurately, ** - accuracy- $P < 0,01$

Discussion

According to the authors, such discrepancies in assessment have been resulted due to the fact that students of the second group had no previous experience of practical work in the organization, implementation and running the sporting events, as opposed to students of the first group where each student had previous experience of such work. Moreover it is the fact that played a key role in the issue of a positive result of applications proceedings for participation of students who have been studied in the research, Student Winter Games as a sports volunteer. Student headquarters of universities approved applications from 38 people among the first group (that corresponds to 76%) in comparison with 16 people from the second group (that corresponds to 32%). The research results indicate the high importance of practical experience in sports events for young people applying for the position of a sports volunteer at the Winter Student Games – 2019. Students with practical experience in running and servicing sports competitions turned out to have significantly greater chance of getting a positive response to the request on volunteering at the Universiade – 2019 ($P < 0,01$) in comparison with students without any experience.

Conclusions

Techniques and methods of pedagogical influence in terms of the process of education may be used for more qualitative preparation of students for volunteering in sporting events. For example, classes on physical training of students, held in the framework of sports specialization - training on the basis of sports chosen by those students, with some additions to the curriculum - including practical assistance to students in the activities of the organization and running the sports competitions in terms of the system of passing an exam on physical education, are quite suitable for reaching this goal. These forms of practical training may improve the standard of preparedness of young people to volunteer activities significantly, as they are characterized by the possibility of a significant increase in the level of physical fitness of students, more in-depth study of the rules of competition and technology of chosen sport, implementation of the knowledge gained in competitive activity, as has been proved by recent scientific research.

Conflicts of interest - If the authors have any conflicts of interest to declare.

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