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**SPORTS IN THE LIFE OF POLISH STATE POLICE OFFICERS IN 1921 – 1939.
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF VOLYN VOIVODESHIP)**

Abstract. *The state police was a constituent part of the internal affairs bodies in the Second Polish Republic. This institution united three corps: general, investigative (criminal) and political. Its territorial organization corresponded to the administrative division of the state. District (voivodeship) administrations, county administrations, commissariats and precincts (posts) functioned under the leadership of the Main Directorate of the State Police in Warsaw. Since 1919, the above-mentioned state armed body of the executive power began its activities on the territory of Volyn as well, which during the interwar period was part of the newly revived Polish state as Volyn Voivodeship. The everyday life of police officers consisted of service and a private life. An important role was given to physical education, which helped law enforcement officers rest from the performance of professional duties, and at the same time made the body strong and contributed to a better working capacity. Therefore, **the purpose of the***

research is to study individual manifestations of the sports life of Polish state police officers in 1921 – 1939 (on the example of the Volyn Voivodeship). **The research methodology** is based on the use of general scientific and specially historical research methods, including problem-chronological, synchronous, diachronic, comparative historical and the others. **The scientific novelty** is that the authors tried, on the basis of unpublished archival materials, to highlight certain manifestations of the sports life of Polish state police officers in 1921 – 1939 (on the example of Volyn Voivodeship). **The Conclusions.** In the first decade of the interwar twenty years, the sports life of Volyn police officers was not distinguished by activity and was limited mainly to football matches, athletics and shooting. At the end of the 1920s, police sports clubs appeared in various towns of the Volyn Voivodeship (Lutsk, Rivne, Zdolbuniv (“Zoriia”), Kovel (“Turiiia”), Kremenets (“Horyn”). Such clubs consisted of sections according to sports (football, hockey, shooting, boxing, etc.). As a rule, police sports clubs had their own statutes that regulated their activities. Such an institution was headed by a board consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. The highest body of the club was the general assembly.

The first sports competitions of policemen in Volyn took place at the end of July of 1928 in Lutsk under the protectorate of Volyn Voivode Henryk Józewski. In June of 1933, sports competitions organized by the efforts of the local police sports club took place in Rivne. The following year, cycling competitions were held in the voivodeship centre. Volyn police officers also took part in national competitions in Warsaw, where they also demonstrated quite high results.

Key words: Volyn, Poland, police, sport, competition.

СПОРТ У ЖИТТІ СЛУЖБОВЦІВ ДЕРЖАВНОЇ ПОЛІЦІЇ ПОЛЬЩІ У 1921 – 1939 рр. (НА ПРИКЛАДІ ВОЛИНСЬКОГО ВОЄВОДСТВА)

Анотація. Складовою частиною органів внутрішніх справ Другої Речі Посполитої була державна поліція, яка об'єднувала три корпуси: загальний, слідчий (кримінальний) та політичний. Її територіальна організація відповідала адмінподілу держави. Під керівництвом Головного управління державної поліції у Варшаві функціонували окружні (воєводські) управління, повітові управління, комісаріати та дільниці (пости). Із 1919 р. зазначений державний озброєний орган виконавчої влади розпочав діяльність також на теренах Волині, яка впродовж міжвоєнного періоду входила до складу нововідродженої польської держави як Волинське воєводство. Повсякдення працівників поліції складалося зі служби та приватного життя. Вагома роль тут відводилася фізичному вихованню, яке допомагало правоохоронцям відпочити від виконання професійних обов'язків, водночас загартовуючи організм, і сприяло кращій працездатності. Відтак, **метою запропонованої статті** є дослідження окремих проявів спортивного життя службовців державної поліції Польщі у 1921 – 1939 рр. (на прикладі Волинського воєводства).

Методологія дослідження ґрунтується на використанні загальнонаукових та спеціально історичних методів дослідження, зокрема, проблемно-хронологічного, синхронного, діасхронного, порівняльно-історичного та ін. **Наукова новизна** полягає у тому, що автори спробували на основі неопублікованих архівних матеріалів висвітлити окремі прояви спортивного життя службовців державної поліції Польщі у 1921 – 1939 рр. (на прикладі Волинського воєводства).

Висновки. У першій декаді міжвоєнного двадцятиліття спортивне життя волинських поліцейських не вирізнялося активністю й обмежувалося переважно футбольними матчами, заняттями легкою атлетикою та стрільбою. Наприкінці 1920-х рр. в різних містах Волинського воєводства постають спортивні клуби поліції (Луцьк, Рівне, Здолбунів (“Зоря”), Ковель (“Турія”), Кременець (“Горинь”). Такий клуб складався із секцій відповідно до видів спорту (футбольна, хокейна, стрілецька, боксерська тощо). Як правило, спортивні клуби поліції мали власні статuti, які регламентували їхню діяльність. Очолювало таку установу правління, яке складалося з президента, віцепрезидента, скарбника та секретаря. Вищим органом клубу були загальні збори.

Перші спортивні змагання поліцейських на Волині відбулися наприкінці липня 1928 р. в Луцьку під протекторатом Волинського воєводи Г. Юзевського. У червні 1933 р. в Рівному пройшли спортивні змагання, організовані зусиллями місцевого поліцейського спортклубу. Вже наступного року у воєводському центрі тривали змагання з велосипедного спорту. Волинські поліцейські також брали участь у загальнодержавних турнірах у Варшаві, де демонстрували досить високі результати.

Ключові слова: Волинь, Польща, поліція, спорт, змагання.

The Problem Statement. Internal affairs bodies are an integral part of the law enforcement system in any country. They constitute human rights units of the state executive power, aimed at ensuring legality and law and order, protection against illegal encroachments on life and freedom of citizens, interests of the state and society. An important element of the internal affairs bodies in the Second Polish Republic was the state police, established in 1919. It consisted of three corps: general, investigative (criminal) and political. Its territorial organization corresponded to the administrative division of the state. Thus, district (since 1924 – voivodeship) administrations, county administrations, commissariats and precincts functioned under the leadership of the Main Directorate of the State Police in Warsaw, that were located on the territory of communes. Since 1919, the above mentioned state armed body of the executive power began its activities on the territory of Volyn as well, which during the interwar period was part of the newly revived Polish state as the Voivodeship of Volyn.

The Review of Recent Research. Naturally, the issue of the past of interwar Polish police units was a subject of interest among Polish historians mainly. In particular, it is worth mentioning the studies by R. Litwiński (Litwiński, 2007), A. Misiuk (Misiuk, 1996), A. Peplowski (Peplowski, 1991) and the others. Domestic Soviet historical science covered the specified issue under analysis in the context of law enforcement officers' resistance to the communist threat on the territory of interwar Western Ukraine. Modern Ukrainian historians study the activities of the Polish police through the lens of repression against the Ukrainian national movement mainly. At the same time, in his studies, Oleh Razyhrayev highlighted the issue of formation, organization and functioning of individual branches of the law enforcement system in Poland (police and prison service) at the national and regional levels (Razyhrayev, 2010a, 2010b; Razyhrayev, 2020a, 2020b; Razyhrayev, 2022a, 2022b, Razyhrayev & Maleonchuk, 2023). In general, the analysis of the above-mentioned studies proves a certain interest of scholars in various issues of organization and activity of law enforcement bodies. On the other hand, much less coverage was given to a daily life of their employees, in particular, sports activity of law enforcement officers. At the same time, certain elements of sports everyday life of police officers were studied by Jacek Dworzecki (Dworzecki, 2010), Robert Litwiński (Litwiński, 2007), Oleh Razyhrayev (Razyhrayev, 2019), Janusz Sowa (Sowa, 2021), Bolesław Sprengel (Sprengel, 2003), Julian Jaroszewski (Jaroszewski, 2022; Jaroszewski, 2024) and the others.

The purpose of the research is to study individual manifestations of the sports life of employees of the Polish state police in 1921 – 1939 (on the example of Volyn Voivodeship).

The Results of the Research. The activities of internal affairs bodies in the region were coordinated by Volyn Voivodeship Department of the State Police, which was located in the city of Lutsk. The above-mentioned body carried out the organization of the police, resolved administrative and personnel issues, and also controlled the activities of all field units of internal affairs bodies. The Volyn Voivodeship Department of the State Police consisted of administrative and economic departments, as well as a military detachment and a reserve. During the period under analysis, the specified body was alternately headed by: an inspector V. Stupnytski (1921 – 1922), a sub-inspector V. Hozdzhewski (1922 – 1924), an inspector Ch. Grabowski (1924 – 1927), a sub-inspector A. Tarnawski (1927 – 1929), an inspector Ja. Plotnytski (1929 – 1934), sub-inspectors K. Ziowski (1935 – 1939) and R. Shtaba (1939) (Litwiński, 2007, p. 541).

The highest structural link of internal affairs bodies within the county was the county department of the state police. As of February 1, 1921, 9 such units of the state police

functioned in Volyn. At the same time, on the eve of World War II, there were 11 district offices, namely: in Volodymyr, Dubno, Horokhiv, Zdolbuniv, Kovel, Kremenets, Kostopil, Lutsk, Luboml, Rivne and Sarny (Razyhrayev, 2010, pp. 88–91; Archives of Modern Records in Warsaw (AMR), z. 349, sygn. 41, pp. 281–293).

State police commissariats of Volyn Voivodeship were on duty on the territory of towns. In the first half of 1926, 5 state police commissariats operated in Volyn. As of 1939, there were 6 of the above-mentioned units operating in Volyn: in Lutsk, Unit 1 and Unit 2 in Rivne, in Kovel, in Kremenets and Ostroh (AMR, z. 349, sygn. 41, pp. 281–293).

State police stations were grassroots and at the same time the most numerous units in the system of internal affairs bodies. The territorial limits of the powers of the above-mentioned police units covered mostly communes (*in exceptional cases, the stations could be located in towns* – O. R.). In 1922 – 1926, from 128 to 200 police stations functioned in the region. As of 1939, there were 181 police stations in Volyn Voivodeship. According to the district localization, the number of stations was as follows: in Volodymyr poviat – 14, in Dubno poviat – 20, Horokhiv poviat – 13, in Zdolbuniv poviat – 13, in Kovel poviat – 23, in Kremenets poviat – 11, in Kostopil poviat – 20, in Lutsk poviat – 19, in Liuboml poviat – 10, in Rivne poviat – 18 and in Sarny poviat – 20 (AMR, z. 349, sygn. 41, pp. 281–293).

The general police corps included employees who served on the territory of the district administration of the state police, poviat offices, commissariats and stations. The main task of the general police was to ensure law and order, protect the interests of citizens, society and state. The issue of combating crime was within the competence of the investigative (criminal) police. Its main tasks included: preventing and solving crimes, conducting investigations in cases of murder, theft, fraud, extortion, usury, countering the anti-state movement (since 1926), etc. As for the political police, it was a special service that operated during the “pre-May period” and carried out a constant monitoring of the socio-political situation and, on this basis, identified and neutralized numerous subversive and anti-state groups.

The everyday life of police officers consisted of service, as well as a private life. A notable role was assigned to physical education, which on the one hand helped law enforcement officers rest from the performance of professional duties, and on the other hand – made their bodies stronger and contributed to a better working capacity. In 1923, the Main Directorate of the State Police in Warsaw organized special physical education courses for police officers, and the following year, special sports units – clubs, circles, sections – began to be established within the police units (Sprengel, 2003, p. 29). At the end of the second decade of the interwar twenty years, standards for organizing the sports life of police officers were unified in the state, and the number of departmental sports clubs numbered several dozens. Since the mid-1920s, national sports competitions had been held in Warsaw (Dworzecki, 2010, pp. 121–122).

In the 1920s, Volyn Police District was one of the least developed sports centres in Poland. With the formation of the voivodeship, sports life in Volyn was limited only to football matches of local clubs (Na Posterunku, 1930, no 42, p. 17). In general, football was the most popular sport among the policemen of Volyn Voivodeship. In the region the first police football club was established at Rivne District State Police Department in June of 1923. Initially, 12 people became its members. Soon, with the financial assistance of the local police library, this organization purchased several sets of sports uniforms and shoes. In the first half of the 1920s, Rivne football club did not have the opportunity to play football due to constant personnel rotations and frequent police missions due to unsatisfactory state of public

security in the poviat (The State Archive of the Volyn Region (SAVR), f. 1. d. 4a, c. 47, p. 16). Volyn policemen went in for athletics. Thus, in May of 1927, police officers of Rivne District Police Department were trained to participate in the all-Polish police sports competition in Warsaw. From Police Commissariat 2 of Rivne, the following officers were selected for the athletics competition – Juzef Jakubovski, Roman Tarnowski and Antoni Golatski (The State Archive of the Rivne Region (SARR), f. 113, d. 1, c. 84, pp. 1–2).

As of October 1927, two police sports clubs were operating in Volyn Voivodeship: “Lutsk” and “Zoriia” (Zdolbuniv). The governing bodies of these clubs were the general meeting, the board and the audit committee. The police sports club in the city of Lutsk was founded by the then voivodeship commandant of the police, sub-inspector Adolf Tarnawski. This club was under the regional police department in Lutsk and there were eight members. Initially, there was only one section – athletics, which developed quite successfully, as evidenced by the success of law enforcement officers at competitions of various levels. Thus, in 1927, members of the Lutsk Sports Club took part in the national police sports competitions in Warsaw, where they won: two first places in the 200 and 400 m races, second place in the Olympic relay, fourth place in the 400 m race, fifth place in the high jump, fifth place in the javelin and fourth place in the long jump. Accordingly, the policemen received the following awards: two silver cigarette cases, eight tokens, eight sports diplomas and five commemorative medals. In addition, in 1927, the Lutsk police sports club won the 3rd prize in the Olyka-Lutsk team march (35 km) (SAVR, f. 1. d. 4, c. 620, p. 4). In the spring of 1930, in this police sports unit there was established a football section, which played fourteen friendly matches from mid-June to the end of September (Na Posterunku, 1930, no 42, p. 17).

Police sports club “Zoriia” in Zdolbuniv was established in 1927 on the initiative of the local district police commandant Stefan Sobesczanski. Initially, it included 35 members who belonged to two sections: athletics and shooting. Members of this club also took part in the all-Polish police sports competition in Warsaw (1927), where they took the prize in running at various distances (SAVR, f. 1. d. 4, c. 620, p. 4).

In Volyn the first police sports competitions took place on July 28–29, 1928, at the stadium of Infantry Regiment 24 in Lutsk under the protectorate of Volyn Voivode Henryk Józewski. They were led by the Deputy Commandant of Lutsk District Police, Deputy Commissioner Liutsjan Menke (Na Posterunku, 1928, no 35, p. 17). The judges were: Kazimierz Hrushzczynski (lieutenant of Infantry Regiment 24), Jozef Palac (a commandant of Volyn District Rifle Association), Janusz Ray (an engineer of the State Forestry Directorate in Lutsk) and Bronislaw Kondratowycz (Professor of Physical Education at the State Gymnasium in Lutsk). In total, about forty participants took part in the competition. The sports programme included competitions in shooting, athletics and swimming. After the competition, on July 30, 1928, an individual march was held along the Lutsk-Kovel route at a distance of 30 km. The newspaper “Przegląd Wołyński” noted on its pages that this sports event took place owing to the support of the state authorities, self-government bodies, as well as individual citizens, who provided the winners of the tournament with valuable gifts. At the same time, the reporter of the above-mentioned newspaper stated that there was little interest in the competition among the public, since, apart from representatives of local authorities, there were almost no spectators (Przegląd Wołyński, 1928, no 32(215), pp. 7–8).

On April 30, 1929, a police sports club called “Turiia” was established in the town of Kovel in Volyn. Its first leader was the head of the police station in Kovel, Deputy Commissioner Dombrowski (Gazeta Administracji i Policji Państwowej, 1929, no 11, p. 34).

The active development of this club fell on the second half of 1929 and was connected with the appointment of the curator of the club Kazimierz Zielowski, the police commandant of Kovel district (SAVR, f. 308, d. 1, c. 16, p. 20). In July of the same year, police athletics competitions were held in Kovel, which included: running (100, 200, 400, 800, 500 m), throwing (discus, javelin, grenades, shot put), high jump and shooting from small-caliber and military weapons Soldiers of Border Rifle Regiment 50 stationed in Kovel under the command of Colonel Józef Liwacz also took part in the competition (Przegląd Wołyński, 1929, no 33, p. 5).

On August 17–18, 1929, under the leadership of deputy commissar Lutsjan Menke, another sports competition of policemen of Volyn Voivodeship was held in Lutsk, in which 72 participants took part. In the presence of Deputy Voivode Szleszynski, Commandant of Voivodship Police in Lutsk, Jan Plotnytski, and Commissioner Gintovt, a delegate from the main police department, the participants competed in running, throwing, jumping, and swimming (Przegląd Wołyński, 1929, no 35, p. 2).

On the initiative of Lutsk Sports Club of the Police, in January of 1931, the first skating track in Volyn Voivodeship appeared on its site, which was illuminated and surrounded by a high fence (Przegląd Wołyński, 1931, no 3, p. 4). It is worth adding that in Volyn the largest track of this nature had an area of 900 square meters and was built on the territory of Rivne police sports club in 1931. This rink had electric lighting, changing rooms, a buffet, a radio and a skate rental point (SARR, f. 115, d. 2, c. 18, p. 3). On January 19–22, 1931, on the initiative of Kremenets police sports club “Horyn”, ski courses were held for the commandants of the poviat police stations. After that, skiing competitions took place on a 2.5 km track. 24 people took part in them. The award (skiing), presented in the presence of the headman Stefan Czarnotski and the district police commandant Roman Makowski, was received by the law enforcement officer Viktor Bisztyga (Przegląd Wołyński, 1931, no 8, p. 4). On January 29, 1933, a hockey match was held in Kovel between the team of the local gymnasium and Kovel police sports club. The result showed the advantage of youth in speed indicators. Instead, the police showed better teamwork (Wołyń, 1933, no 6, p. 7).

The Rivne police club was created on July 1, 1929. During the initial period, it existed only formally. Positive changes in the functioning of this club took place in 1930 – 1932 and were associated with the appointment of Chief Commissioner Antony Zarzytski as the head of the board. According to the charter, the highest body of the club was the general meeting, which elected the board, the audit commission and the arbitration court. The general meeting also approved the plan of the club’s activities, budget issues, changes to the charter, granting the status of honorary membership, elected members of the board and the audit commission, approved the regulations on the general meeting and the board, accepted voluntary donations, and could also prosecute the members of the board and the audit commission (SAVR, f. 115, d. 2, c. 18, pp. 12–14; SARR, f. 116, d. 1, c. 131, p. 5).

The board of the club consisted of the president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. According to the charter of the Rivne police club, the president was the main representative of the club, supervised the activities of the board members, convened meetings and presided over them. In the absence of the president, his duties were performed by the vice president. The secretary conducted correspondence and set the agenda for meetings of club members, as well as took care of the archive. The duties of the treasurer were related to managing the cash register and responsibility for its condition. The main function of the audit committee was to check the club’s finances and inventory, which was carried out twice a year. In March

of 1932, the board of the Rivne Police Sports Club included the following people: the president – Chief Commissioner Antony Zarzytski, the vice-president – a graduate student Piotr Kulesha, the secretary – senior police officer Stepan Stepula, and the treasurer – Jan Sledz (SARR, f. 116, d. 1, c. 131, p. 3).

Members of the club who were engaged in joint sports were united in a section. The work of the sports sections was coordinated by the board of the club. At the same time, they had a certain economic and financial autonomy. The organizational and sports activities of the sections consisted in the organization of trainings and competitions. To cover expenses related to the functioning and development of the section, funds from two sources were used: membership fees and income from sports events. All members of Rivne Police Sports Club were required to pay monthly membership fees, which as of 1936 amounted to 0.5 zł (SARR, f. 112, d. 1, c. 167, p. 1). The club's expenses were divided into two categories: 1. administrative expenses for the maintenance of the stadium, tennis courts, sports equipment, instructors, etc.; 2. expenses for the purchase of sports equipment. At the beginning of the 1930s, Rivne police sports club had the following sections: football, ice-hockey, skiing, athletics, shooting, cycling and motorcycle. Later the boxing section was founded (SARR, f. 115, d. 2, c. 18, pp. 3–4).

During the 1931 football season, Rivne police football team played 32 matches. It competed not only with Volyn teams, but also with the military sports club "Legia" from Warsaw, Infantry Regiment 22 from Siedlce and the "Maccabi" team from Krakow. The police hockey team was also active in the Rivne district, which played high-level matches against the military sports club "Rivne", as well as the police sports clubs of Kremenets, Kovel, Lutsk, etc. (SARR, f. 115, d. 2, c. 18, pp. 3–4).

On June 16–17, 1933, a small arms shooting competition was held in Lutsk for the championship of Lutsk poviat. The victory was won by the local police sports club, which defeated four teams of the Military Sports Club and received the silver cup. The shooting team was represented by senior pshodovs – I. Boratyn, V. Kubasewycz and L. Zinkewycz, as well as A. Bazant and V. Pikulski (Na Posterunku, 1933, no 33, p. 11).

On June 18, 1933, sports competitions were held in Rivne, organized by the efforts of the local police sports club. 63 law enforcement officers took part in the tournament. The programme of sports events included: shooting with small arms, cycling at a distance of 35 km, pentathlon (100 m run, 400 m run, long and high jump, throwing a grenade) and a volleyball match. Constable Jan Gutman from the 2nd police station in Rivne took first place in shooting and received a prize in the form of a watch. The second place was won by Stanislav Novakovski, a senior constable of the investigative department in Rivne. Policeman Pavel Hepner from the police station in Bugryna took first place in the bicycle race. He also received a watch as a reward. At the same time, constable Stanislav Sikora from the railway police station in Rivne received only a briefcase for second place. In the pentathlon, police officer Leon Urbanovych from the Rivne investigative department took the first place, who was awarded a silver cigarette case. Employees of the same unit won the first place in the volleyball match (Na Posterunku, 1933, no 29, p. 12).

The report of the Volyn Voivodeship State Police Department for the 4th quarter of 1933 shows that the police sports clubs worked very intensively. Boxing and football training took place on a permanent basis. Ski sections also operated actively. In particular, in the Volyn Voivodeship, 850 policemen were equipped with skis, which were used not only for sports, but also for the performance of official duties. In the first half of March 1934, on the basis of the order

of the Main Directorate of the State Police, shooting competitions of law enforcement officers were held in the districts of the Volyn region, and on March 25, the all-voivodship shooting competitions were held, in which 34 policemen took part (SAVR, f. 1, d. 2, c. 3581, p. 13). In June of 1934, a cycling competition for the championship of Volyn took place in Lutsk. They were attended by 24 people representing six police sports clubs. Lutsk law enforcement officers took the first place (*Gazeta Administracji i Policji Państwowej*, 1934, no 14, p. 27).

In April of 1937, during a meeting of the district police commandants of the Volyn Voivodeship, the head of the administrative department of the Volyn Voivodeship State Police Department, Commissar Yana Berenda, noted that shooting was the most popular sport among law enforcement officers. Its development was actively supported by the police leadership, who believed that the efforts of departmental sports clubs should be aimed at improving the quality of shooting skills of law enforcement officers. However, according to the head of the military department of the Volyn Voivodeship State Police Department, Commissioner Zdislav Faliszewski, “the accuracy of the policemen’s shots left much to be desired due to the neglect of recent marksmanship training”. According to the results of the meeting, the management of the Volyn police recommended to their subordinates to continue classes related to gymnastics, swimming, rowing and to perform exercises to overcome obstacles in the area (SAVR, f. 1, d. 4, c. 1433, p. 20).

As of 1937, there were five police sports clubs operating on the territory of the Volyn Voivodeship – Lutsk, Kovel, Volodymyr, Rivne and Kremenets. The largest sports club – Lutsk – was headed by the commissioner Jan Berenda mentioned above. The following sections operated within the club: rowing, athletics, shooting, football, cycling, swimming and skiing (Dworzecki, 2010, pp. 121–124). In May of 1937, a scandal broke out during a football match between the Kremenets sports team and the Lutsk police sports club. The newspaper “*Życie Krzemienieckie*” reported that the people from Lutsk, having failed to defeat the team from Kremenets, “looked for help in strength and brutality”. As a result, the victory was won by the Kremenets team (*Życie Krzemienieckie*, 1937, no 21, p. 446).

Going in for sports was also included in the programme of training courses for police officers. As a result of the understanding of the Ministry for Justice with the Main Directorate of the State Police, prison employees could also participate in such classes. The prison staff were subject to the same disciplinary principles as the police and the obligation to listen to the entire course, arrive in full uniform with a carbine and revolver, and have sports clothes with them.

The Conclusions. Therefore, sports was an important part of the everyday life of police officers. Exercising helped law enforcement officers to recover after performing their professional duties, strengthened the body and improved performance.

In the first decade of the interwar twenty years, the sports life of Volyn police officers was not distinguished by activity and was limited mainly to football matches, athletics and shooting. At the end of the 1920s, police sports clubs appeared in various cities of the Volyn Voivodeship (Lutsk, Rivne, Zdolbuniv (“Zoria”), Kovel (“Turiiia”), Kremenets (“Horyn”)). The club consisted of sections according to sports (football, hockey, shooting, boxing, etc.). As a rule, police sports clubs had their own statutes that regulated their activities. Such an institution was headed by a board consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. The highest body of the club was the general meeting.

The first sports competitions of policemen in Volyn took place at the end of July 1928 in Lutsk under the protectorate of Volyn Voivode Henryk Józewski. In June of 1933, sports

competitions organized by the efforts of the local police sports club took place in Rivne. The following year, cycling competitions were held in the voivodeship centre. Volyn police officers also took part in national competitions in Warsaw, where they also demonstrated quite high results.

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