

FORMING SPORTS RESERVE IN SWIMMING: CRITERIA DISCUSSION

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Abstract. *The article summarizes the results of the analysis of literary sources regarding the issue of initial sports selection in swimming in Ukraine, post-Soviet bloc countries and Europe. A comparison of factors and selection criteria are provided.*

Keywords: *swimming, sporting reserve, selection criteria, Ukraine, Europe.*

Introduction. When it comes to competitive swimming the selection process acquires the utmost importance. Not just the location of swimming pool and socio-economic status of parents but also motor abilities of a future athlete should be taken into account [4]. There have been a number of researches [1,2,3,4,5,6] that aimed to reveal the criteria to be taken into account for successful training process. These criteria are usually evaluated by a battery of tests and serve as valid admission tests to a swimming school. The identified abilities make it possible to create favorable conditions for training champion athletes. Nevertheless, it is important to understand how these criteria enhance swimming performance.

The purpose and objectives of the research is to compare the selection criteria that coaches use to train champion athletes in Ukraine, post-Soviet bloc countries and Europe.

Research materials and methods include theoretical analysis of the literature in native and foreign languages; sorting the data and their generalization.

Research results and their discussion. Each country has its own criteria for selection into the initial group of swimming and they are evaluated according to different parameters. For example, in Ukraine, the morphotype is evaluated using the following tests: body length and the ratio of chest girth to height. In Uzbekistan, the following are evaluated: body length, upper and lower limbs, shoulder width and pelvis width.

To evaluate the hydrodynamic qualities, the same test is used for the length of sliding from the side of the pool [1,5]. According to the analysis of the sources, we also see that the dynamics of mastery development has an insignificant influence in the selection process in Ukraine and post-Soviet bloc countries. In Europe this criterion has a significant impact [1,4,5]. Also in Europe such criterion as anthropometric characteristics is gaining more importance. The same tests are used to evaluate it, but the selection is more serious.

Regarding child's and parent's motivation in Ukraine and post-Soviet bloc countries, this is not as important as in Europe. Parents in Europe have the opportunity and ready to invest more effort and money in their child's sports career [1,3,5].

The comparative analysis of selection criteria are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Initial selection criteria for competitive swimmers

Criteria	Ukraine	Post-Soviet bloc countries	Europe
1. Health status of children	+++	+++	+++
2. Child's motivation + parents' motivation	++	++	+++
3. Biological age	+	+	+
4. Anthropometric characteristics	+	+	++
5. Motor skills	+	+	+
6. Muscle activity	+	+	+
7. Flexibility	+	+	+
8. Hydrodynamic characteristics	++	++	++
9. Feeling of water	+	+	++
10. Dynamics of mastery development	-	-	+
11. Genetically determined predisposition to sport	++	++	++
12. Integral assessment	+	+	+
13. Expert assessment	++	++	++

(-) does not matter; (+) has a value; (++) significant; (+++) very important.

Conclusions. Although majority of criteria coincide a few differences still exist. During the research process, it was determined that the motivation of children and parents in Ukraine and the countries of the post-Soviet bloc is not as important as in Europe. Parents in Europe have the opportunity and are ready to invest more effort and money in their child's sports career.

Prospects for further research in this direction. It would be interesting to analyze the correlation between the mentioned above criteria and successful performance of athletes in a long-term perspective.

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