



The educational value of competitive sports in developing students' sense of national pride

UDC 37.013.42+ 796.011.1



Dr. Hab., Associate Professor **A.V. Ponomarev**
O.V. Obukhova

Ural Federal University named after the First President of Russia
B.N. Yeltsin, Yekaterinburg

Corresponding author: kristiobuhova@urfu.ru

Received by the editorial office on 28.01.2025

Abstract

Objective of the study was to explore the possibilities of using sports games to foster a sense of patriotism among university students.

Methods and structure of the study. To assess the development of patriotic sentiments, a survey was conducted among students of Ural Federal University. The survey was administered through a questionnaire, which was completed on the Yandex form and shared via social media platforms. The survey was conducted from September to December 2024. Additionally, a content analysis was performed on the social media pages of the university's gaming sports clubs.

Results and conclusions. The findings of the online student survey indicate that game sports have the potential to foster patriotism, cultivate character traits, promote teamwork, and enhance civic engagement and national pride. The survey also explores the potential for students to engage in game sports as participants or supporters.

Keywords: *patriotic attitudes, game sports, students, potential.*

Introduction. In the modern world, where issues of national identity and patriotism are at the forefront of public debate, the importance of developing patriotic attitudes among young people is beyond doubt. Young people bear a great responsibility for preserving the country's history, its traditions, and culture, which is especially important now in an unstable geopolitical situation. Patriotic education is one of the main tasks of modern society. According to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of November 9, 2022 No. 809 «On Approval of the Fundamentals of State Policy for the Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values», state policy for the preservation and strengthening of traditional values is implemented in the field of education and upbringing, work with youth, culture, science, interethnic and interreligious relations, mass media and mass communications, international cooperation¹.

One of the effective ways to facilitate this process can be game sports, which not only develop physical skills, but also help to form the participants' character, collectivism, civic consciousness and a sense of national pride for the team, region, country. In the system of patriotic education of the youth of Russia, the concept of «10 Facets of Patriotism» has been developed, in which each of the facets reveals patriotism in its own way and uses various tools, for example, the facet of Sports is associated with high-performance sports, when athletes represent their country in the international space, the importance of «developing domestic sports leagues and communities, creating volleyball, football and other sports teams in organizations and enterprises» is also indicated².

According to the research of M.N. Aliev, D.Z. Drandarov, «The main goal of physical education is to prepare a comprehensively developed individual, ready for work and defense of the Motherland» [1].

¹ Ukaz Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii ot 9 noyabrya 2022 goda, N-809 «Ob utverzhdenii Osnov gosudarstvennoy politiki po sokhraneniyu i ukrepleniyu traditsionnykh rossiyskikh dukhovno-nravstvennykh tsennostey» Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/48502>.

² Osnovy patrioticheskogo vospitaniya grazhdan Rossiyskoy Federatsii. Metodicheskiye rekomendatsii – FGBU «Rospatriottsentr» 10.10.2022 g.



A.N. Sozonova, S.I. Khromina indicate that «sports and patriotic education is everyday and targeted work with young people to develop perseverance, determination, courage, and discipline» [5]. In this regard, it is especially relevant it becomes possible to consider the issue of the potential of team sports in the formation of patriotic attitudes in students.

The peculiarity of team sports is that the team as a whole wins and loses in them, and not individual athletes. A sports team is the same integral sports unit as an athlete in individual sports. Such specificity of team sports determines a number of requirements for athletes, their views, attitudes, personal qualities, and the nature of their actions in the competition.

Team sports are an effective potential in the formation of patriotic attitudes, naturally, with the appropriate activities of coaches, teachers, specialists and other participants in the training process. It is team sports that contribute to the development of team qualities, team spirit, which can be elements of patriotism. The potential of team sports in patriotic education of students, in our opinion, can be defined as a set of opportunities to use the resources of these sports in the process of educating future specialists, expressed in the formation of a system of values based on the collective nature of the activity using the emotional component of the competitive and training processes, as well as various forms and methods of information and propaganda activities. In his publications, A.N. Samoukin characterizes the potential as a set of resources [4, 7 p.], V.G. Belomestnov defines the potential as a set of opportunities [2, 196 p.], R.A. Belousov considers the potential as certain abilities of an individual [3, 3 p.]. Therefore, the resources and opportunities of team sports, as well as the abilities of each player, can act as an effective potential in the formation of patriotic attitudes.

Objective of the study was to explore the possibilities of using sports games to foster a sense of patriotism among university students.

Methods and structure of the study. In order to determine the level of patriotic attitudes, a survey of students of the Ural Federal University was conducted by distributing a questionnaire completed in the Yandex form via social networks in September-December 2024, as well as a content analysis of the pages of UrFU game sports clubs in social networks.

The survey involved 211 students (49% boys and 51% girls) of the Institute of Physical Culture and Youth Policy, 1-2 years, of which 77 students are studying

in the direction of training «Organization of work with youth», 103 – in the direction of training «Physical Education», 32 – in the direction of training «Sports / Sports training in game sports».

As part of the Content Analysis of Social Networks, the pages of seven game sports clubs were analyzed (UrFU volleyball club, women's basketball club «UrFU Sima-Land», men's basketball club «UrFU», handball, rugby, football and mini-football clubs).

Results of the study and discussion. In accordance with the classification of sports by the nature of motor activity in competitions by L.P. Matveev, six sports groups were identified, which we combined into two larger ones: this is the 1st group – sports games, in which team confrontation is definitely within the rules (game sports) and the second group included other sports (martial arts, cyclic, speed-strength, complex coordination sports and all-around).

The first group – 64,2% and the second group – 35,8% of students in the sample. The most common game sports among the respondents of the first group were team sports: volleyball, basketball, football, handball, football, hockey. Of the total number of respondents – 30% believe that they are engaged in sports professionally; 47% - are engaged in sports at an amateur level and 23% are engaged in it to keep fit.

To the question: «What do team sports give you?» – respondents of the first group answered: the ability to work in a team – 96%, learning to make decisions in accordance with given circumstances – 64%, developing communication – 59% and leadership qualities – 42%. Respondents of the second group answered the same question: leadership qualities – 74%, the ability to work in a team – 5%, learning to make decisions in accordance with given circumstances – 21%.

To the next question, «What qualities are most significant in society?» respondents of both groups answered approximately the same: 34% – communication (1st group) and 29% – 2nd group. In the first group, 19% received – team interaction, tolerance and flexibility in interaction with others, in the second group: 19% – tolerance, management qualities and flexibility in interaction with others. In the first group, one of the last places is occupied by management qualities 9%, in the second group 9% – team interaction. Thus, the students of the first group realize that playing sports forms their personal qualities necessary in a social environment when working in a team, and the students of the second group high-



light leadership qualities in one of the first places. The students of the first group highlighted that the training and competitive process fosters a sense of friendship, camaraderie, mutual assistance, responsibility to the team, respect for partners and rivals, subordination of personal interests to team interests regardless of the status of the competition, while the second group notes them only when the competitive process is at the international level.

The next block of questions was related to the awareness of the role of the university, coaches and teammates in the personal development of student-athletes. Among the students of both groups, 88% and 85% understand the contribution of the university to their development, believe that a developed sports infrastructure, personal interest of the coach and support of teammates are important in their sports achievements and only 12% (1st group) and 15% (2nd group) consider sports achievements as personal merit.

The third block of questions concerned the students' ability to give their all for the benefit of their team. Of the respondents involved in team sports, 73% were ready to put the interests of the team above their own; 64% were ready to come to the rescue, support their teammate to the detriment of their personal interests, while students from the second group only at international competitions.

The fourth block of questions most fully reflected the patriotic feelings of students. We asked questions related to the attitude to the sports club, the team, the symbols, traditions and history of the team, to understanding the meaning of the anthem, flag, coat of arms of the country in international competitions. All survey participants from the first group (100%) showed a sense of patriotism, indicated the most significant achievements of their club, team, players. They expressed loyalty to the team, active social life and a desire to continue sports traditions. Students of the 2nd group – 58% are ready to show a sense of patriotism only at international competitions, at regional and municipal competitions only 76% are proud of the achievements of their club or team members. Thus, team sports have great potential for developing patriotism, a sense of duty and loyalty to their native country in students. As mass competitions, they act as a tool for consolidating citizens and a powerful factor in expressing patriotic feelings, not only among players, but also among fans, since the fans perceive the achievements and victories of the

players as their own and the victories of the country, which especially unites and unites players and fans at international competitions. Take the victory in 2022 of the UrFU-Sima-Land Women's Basketball Club, when for the first time in its history the team won the championship title of the Belov League within the Student Basketball Association, the players noted after the final game that they won with the help of the «sixth player – the spectator». It is the potential of team sports that can be considered from the point of view of opportunities, a means and a resource in the formation of patriotic attitudes, primarily sports professionalism, the charisma of the players, their dedication to the game, team cohesion, the history of the team, its ability to attract the attention of spectators and fans.

As a resource, we consider the sports infrastructure of the university, which allows for comfortable training and competition processes for players and fans. The sports base of UrFU makes it possible to organize and hold sports events at a high international level, which was demonstrated by the International University Sports Festival 2023.

The university has 24 national teams in various sports, including seven in team sports (basketball, volleyball, handball, rugby, mini-football, football, hockey), many of these teams are participants and winners of regional, regional, All-Russian, International competitions, Spartakiads, Universiades, Championships, Student leagues. Each of the teams has pages on social networks created for players, fans and sports enthusiasts. This allows attracting young people to perceive information about team sports and is a convenient format. The following data was obtained during the content analysis of social networks of team pages: information about games, players, coaches, team events, game schedules, photo and video materials are presented. The maximum number of subscribers on one of the pages reaches 2000 people, the total number of subscribers for all the listed teams is more than 6500.

Conclusions. The authors, based on their research, have shown the high potential of team sports in developing patriotic attitudes, which is obvious, due to the fan base and spectacular nature of the competitive process, and the opportunity for even a non-professional athlete to cultivate personal qualities that characterize patriotism. It is the students who form the university's game teams who can act as indicators of the development of patriotic attitudes.



After all, they come from different cities and sometimes play with a team from their hometown during competitions, but the team spirit and the desire to win as a team win in the internal struggle. Therefore, it is important to support team sports at the university level and create conditions for their development.

References

1. Aliev M.N., Dzhandarov D.Z. Znachenie fizicheskoy kultury i sporta v patrioticheskom vospitanii uchashcheysya molodezhi. Vestnik SVFU 2009. No. 3. Available at: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/znachenie-fizicheskoy-kultury-i-sporta-v-patrioticheskom-vospitanii-uchascheysya-molodezhi> (date of access: 20.01.2025).
2. Belomestnov V.G. Problemy upravleniya ekonomicheskim potentsialom sotsialno-ekonomicheskikh sistem. Problems of modern economics. 2005. No. 1, 2 (13/14). pp. 195-201.
3. Belousov R.A. Rost ekonomicheskogo potentsiala. Moscow. Economy, 2001. 261 p.
4. Samoukin A.N. O soderzhanii ponyatiye potentsial obshchestva. Methodology of statistical study of socio-economic potential. Moscow. Economy, 1986. 67 p.
5. Sozonova A.N. Khromina S.I. Izucheniye roli fizicheskoy kultury i sporta v patrioticheskom vospitanii studencheskoy molodezhi. Pedagogical journal. 2023. Vol. 13. No. 4A. pp. 203-209. DOI: 10.34670/AR.2023.69.47.024