

## APPROACHES AND MAIN FACTORS FOR IMPROVING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE SPORT COMPETITIONS

(Professional paper)

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### Abstract

The author is analyzing different types of classification of sport competitions, and particularly athletic competitions. Based on that he is defining the main principles that are used in the compilation of classifications for sport events, which explains why there isn't a single universal classification for all the sports competition.

**Keywords:** social characteristics, demographic characteristics, legal aspects of the sport events, social groups, specifics of sport, Olympic games

The main goal of every competitor is the good performance on the sport competitions, where he/she can present his/her abilities. The sport events are not only affecting the athletes, but also a large group of persons and organizations, which actions lead to the successful performance of the event. These complex relations of the different specialists, organizations and fans, as well as their management is of a particular challenge for the management of the sport competition.

In the sports literature there are many classifications of sport competitions, but none of them can be accepted as a unified and universal. As Dasheva and Krustev (2002) has stated: "in the contemporary sport there isn't a unified classification, which based on objective criteria to encompass the whole variety of sport competitions".

The suggested in the sport literature classifications of the sport competitions are mainly focused on criteria, which are taking in account the nature of the sport, as well as some social and demographic characteristics of the participants.

Similar classifications we can see in the works of Dasheva and Krustev (fig.1) (2002), Sandanski (table 1) (2009).

There are classifications that besides the mentioned indices also include criteria that represent the organizational and legal aspects of the sport competition. In most of the cases the approach to compiling such a classification can be characterized with a certain limitation of the used criteria to those that the author has



Figure 1. Classification criteria, according to Dasheva and Krustev (2002)

considered as important on the basis of his working field. Such is the case with Gouguet by the faculty of law and economics of the University of Limoges, who, in cooperation with Barget from the French Centre for Sports Law and Economics, also a professor at the University of Poitiers, suggest as main principles the economic aspects of the event Barget & Gouguet (2007), and Chanavat and Ferrand from the University of Lyon suggest a classification that examines the legal aspects of the event, as well as its correlation and effect to different social groups, participating as organizers or as fans (Ferrand & Chanavat, 2006), (Fig. 2).

There are different classifications in athletics, which are based mainly on criteria like significance and territorial span of the competition. Such indices are for

Table 1. Classification criteria by Sandanski (2009)

CRITERIA	TYPES
According to the contents	Championships, tournaments, leagues, demonstrational, etc.
According to the qualification of the participants	Professional, amateur, mixed
According to the level of organization	City, municipality, national, international, etc.
According to the specifics of the type of sport	Cyclic, acyclic, sports games, etc.
According to the conditions for performing	Land, sea, air, high altitude, etc
According to the frequency of staging	Regular, periodic, single, etc.
According to the system of use	Eliminations, playoffs, etc.
According to the financial preconditions	Free, with participation tax, etc.
According to the type of the facilities	On stadium, indoors, etc.
According to the statute of the competition	Olympic, non-Olympic
According to the role of the competition in the system of preparation	Preparation, control, for selection, modeling, main, etc.
According to the number of the participants and the system	Single, individual, team, mixed
According to the subject of the system for physical education and sport	For students, for children, for workers, army competitions, for elderly, for socially excluded groups, etc.



Figure 2. Classification criteria according to Ferrand and Chanavat (2006) and Barget en Gouguet (2007)

Table 2. Classification of athletic competitions by All Athletics

Cat.	COMPETITION
OW	Olympic Games; IAAF World Championships
GW	IAAF World Indoor Championships; IAAF World Cross Country Championships
GL	IAAF Continental Cup; IAAF Diamond League Meetings; European Championships
A	IAAF Race Walking Challenge; Continental Indoor Championships; African Championships, Asian Championships, South American Championships
B	IAAF World Challenge Meetings; Area Permit Race Walking Meetings; National Outdoor Championships; National Championships in Main Events
C	Area Permit Premium Meetings; Balkan Games; Area Permit Indoor Meetings; IAAF World Junior Championships, IAAF World Junior Cross Country Championships; Continental Championships for under 23 years
D	Area Permit Outdoor Meetings; National Indoor Championships; CISM World; Continental Club Championships (first division only); Continental Junior Championships; IAAF World Youth Championships; International outdoor matches
E	International Indoor Matches; International Race Walking Matches; NCAA Div. I Indoor Championships; Other (national permit) international meetings and competitions (indoor, outdoor and Race Walking)
F	Other meetings and competitions

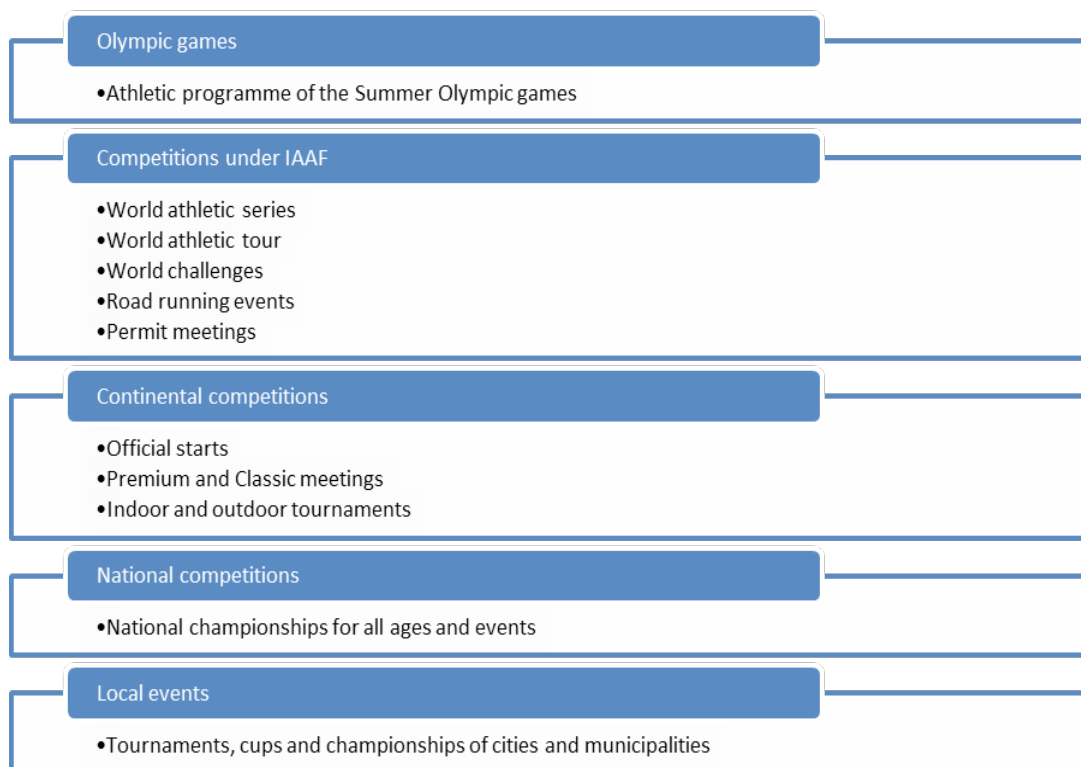


Figure 3. Classification of athletic competitions according to RusAthletics

example the prize budget, the type of the competition – Olympic Games, tournament, championships, etc. or the inclusion of the competition in one of the elite tournament groups, recognized by IAAF or by the continental organization.

An example of such classification of athletic competitions we can see in the rules for compiling the rang list of the world athletics – All Athletics (2010), (table 2), as well as in the Russian site for fans of athletics – Fan-Zone RusAthletics (2010), (Fig.3).

In the book “Competition organization manual” under the editorial of Glad (2001), as a main part of the important for the organizers characteristics of the competition are listed the rang and the level of the competitors, the number of participants, the requirements for admission, the timeframe of the competition in the calendar for the season.

Studying the available literature and the published classifications, we can conclude that each party that deals with the organization of sport competitions will be using a classification that is compiled according to the criteria, which are most important for his field of work.

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