
Original research article

ATTITUDES OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN POLITICS AND SPORTS

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SUMMARY

Sport and physical activity play an important role in all areas of human life. Physical activity has a positive effect on the adoption of healthy lifestyles; it improves health and quality of life. Sport is the name for all physical activities that a person performs for a variety of reasons. Some of those reasons include pastime, development of the body, improvement of skills, competitive spirit, etc.

Unfortunately, today we are witnessing the increase in the professionalization of sport so as to achieve superior results and material gain, in other words, the Olympic spirit – “it is important to participate” is frequently being forgotten, and thus the pressure on children and athletes is increased enchanting another motto “it is important to win”.

Connection between politics and sports is a phenomenon which must be viewed from a variety of aspects so that it could be better understood and explained. In this paper, using the registered models, through various examples, description of the connection between politics and sport will be investigated. During data collection and analysis, the results of the study led to the conclusion that although sport is essentially valuable and positive, nowadays there are more negative aspects to it which are the result of efforts to gain more money, and thus turn sport into a political malfeasance.

Keywords: sports, politics, violence

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INTRODUCTION

If we carefully examine the existing methods of sport's use for political purposes, or how politics uses sport for some of its objectives, we find out the undeniable fact - the ways and possibilities of such use of sport are numerous. It is possible to set aside a certain number of characteristic features - models of sport's use noting that these models were registered in the previous periods of modern sport formation and development and that changes in society have led to the emergence of new ones. Regardless of different ideological basis of certain policies, it is mutual to everyone that they want to use sport to promote their goals. Therefore, they try to invest in sport some financial resources by which they control the development concept of sport and its use, in the surroundings where they exercise their power (Zivanovic et al, 2010).

There are a large number of scientific papers that have studied the attitudes of different populations, including high school students attitudes as well. However, although the connection between politics and sports is a theme and a phenomenon that has always been in the focus there is a scarce number of papers and studies researchingl this topic, with this category of subjects. Some of the research and papers investingating the above-mentioned issues are following ones:

Savić and Stojiljkovic (2013) suggest that sport, politics and business represent inextricable trinity from the ancient times and the organization of the ancient Olympic Games. The reasons for organizing the ancient Olympic Games to a much greater extent reflect the goals of politics and business, rather than sporting spirit motives. This ancient heritage continued to "grow" through the modern Olympic Games as well. This paper aims to chronologically present some of the most striking examples of the connection between sports, politics and business which show a continuous tendency of the politicians to achieve political goals through sport, of the businessmen to make profit and in the end of the athletes to gain fame for their virtuosity.

Stankovic and Bazic (2013) point to the complex process of political socialization and claim that the interest in sport is triggered, developed and changed by many factors, among which the most important are: family, peer groups, various sports organizations and federations, major sporting events, direct experience, etc. The aim of this study was to determine the quantitative and qualitative differences in the attitudes of students on the relationd between politics and sport. The reserch results show that there are statistically significant differences in the attitudes of student athletes and student non athletes in the perception of the relations between politics and sport. The largest differences between these groups of students were found in their attitudes toward the scope of the impact of the politics on sports, motives of the politicians to work in sports

organizations, the impact of the political parties on the media and membership of distinguished athletes in political parties.

Olympic Games, as a planetary phenomenon, occupy an important place in a modern society. The aim of this study was to determine the possible correlation of politics and the Olympic Games. Entry and political interference in sport, that is the struggle for political goals at the Olympic Games, has caused much damage to the development of the Olympic Movement.

Mijatovic, Parčina and Siljak (2013) suggest that sport during its historic development has often reflected the economic, social and political dimensions of society. Olympic Games, as a planetary phenomenon, occupying an important place in modern society. The aim of this study was to determine the possible interconnection of politics and the Olympics. Entry and political interference in sport, and the struggle for political goals at the Olympics, has caused much damage to the development of the Olympic Movement.

Dorić (2010) suggests that the politics is reflected in all segments of society including sport as well. Special attention is devoted to the study of violence among the audience at sporting events which the society has been facing since the ancient times. There are located causal links between politics and hooliganism and relevant examples are provided.

Kustec Lipicer and Maksmuti (2011) point to a time when there were no relations between the politics and sport, whether it was a daily practice or academic research approaches between the politics and sport. Nevertheless, today it seems that in scientific research the former socialist sports superpowers are not putting adequate attention to these relations and that they are often denied and considered irrelevant. Based on the obtained results, the authors believe that the differences between the relationship of politics as a struggle for power, institutional structure and the concept of public action and sport have a crucial impact on the future relationship characteristics of sport and politics.

Girginov and Hills (2009) have proven an association between major international sports events and politics, united with the aim of promoting the current political ideology and social policy. The London 2012 Olympic Games were used to inspire the country to become more physically active and to tackle wider social and economic issues such as exclusion, obesity and unemployment.

A correlation between politics and sport is now largely undisputed, but there are differences in the perception of the manifestation of these links. Thus, this research is an attempt to obtain further information and thus supplement the overall picture of the researched phenomenon.

The primary objective of this research is to gain new knowledge about the perception of the phenomena discussed for certain groups of subjects and obtain the appropriate conclusions resulting from it.

METHODS

Subjects

This research was conducted on a sample of 97 subjects - students of secondary schools in Paracin and Cuprija. Surveyed subjects were the two classes of students in the Technological school in Paracin and the two classes of students of the Technical School in Cuprija. Surveyed subjects answers gave simultaneously the answer to the question to what extent in two different cities and two different classes there is awareness about the connection between politics and sport. The first sample of the population was represented by the two classes of the first grade of secondary schools students in both cities. Another population sample were the two classes of fourth grade of secondary schools in both cities.

Procedure

In this study, measuring the degree of the awareness of students on the connection between politics and sport was performed using an anonymous questionnaire-survey. The survey referred to the general data and reviews as to what extent subjects had already formed their opinions about the reality and the possibility of politics connections with sport and vice versa. The survey consisted of 25 questions, out of which six were open questions serving to provide additional information on their attitudes where actually it was not possible to formulate close type questions. Subjects were informed before the survey about the goal of this research. Time for filling out the questionnaire was unlimited.

Statistical analysis

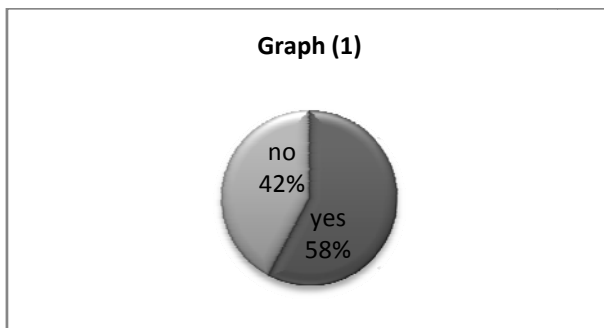
Based on the answers obtained in the survey systematization of responses to questions was performed where the answers were given freely so as to bring them to the common elements on the basis of which corresponding conclusions were reached. Descriptive statistical methods were applied.

RESULTS

Survey results and discussion of subjects answers are represented by corresponding graphs. The answers to those questions that are directly related to

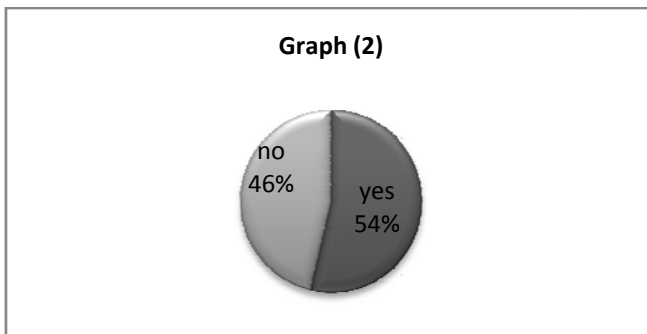
the research topic are presented, however, the informative questions related to gender, school name, city, active sports participation and the like are not presented.

Graph (1). Do you think that there is correlation between politics and sport?



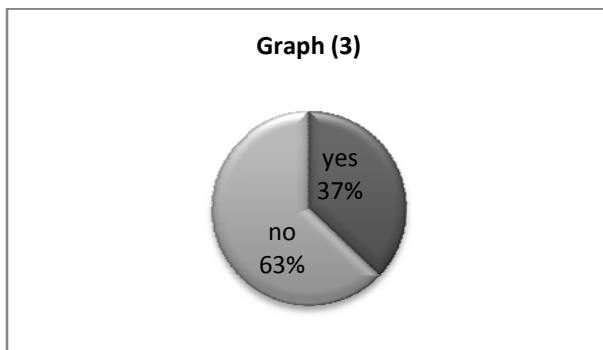
Total results obtained show that larger number of students thinks that there is correlation between politics and sport.

Graph (2). Do you think that correlation between politics and sport is a characteristic of modern sport?



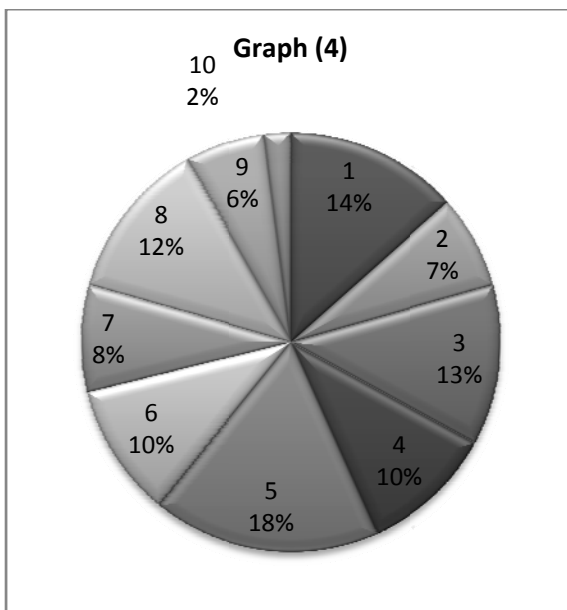
Total results obtained show that slightly larger number of students thinks that correlation between politics and sport is a characteristic of modern sport. Therefore, it can be concluded that that there is evidently expressed attitude that the correlation between politics and sport is a decisive characteristic of modern sport.

Graph (3). Do you think that the correlation between politics and sport existed earlier throughout history?



The obtained results to this question show that the majority of students are of the attitude that the correlation between politics and sport did not exist earlier throughout history, or that these correlations or involving politics in sport were not that much manifested.

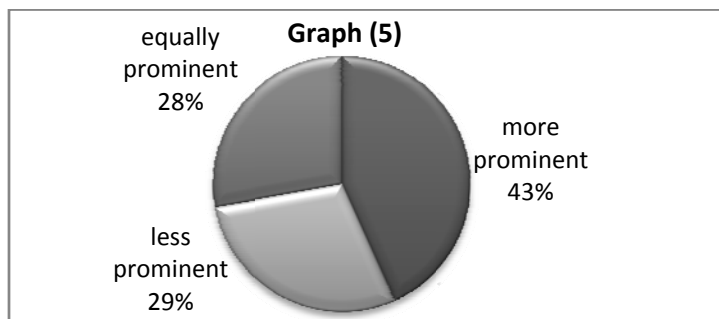
Graph (4). To what extent is politics correlated to sport?



The subjects were posed a question of the extent of politics correlation to sport and they were given a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is the least correlation and 10 the greatest correlation. Total results obtained show that the students opted for the answers where the largest correlation between politics and sport was found in the clubs owners, while the inclusion of sponsors, athletes and fans is

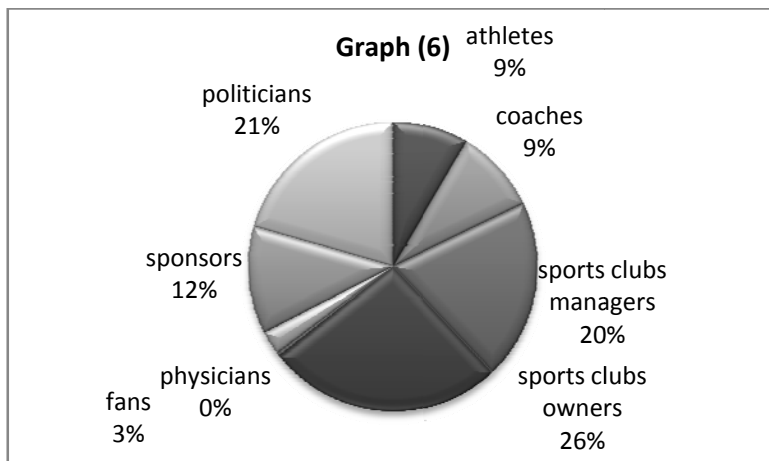
shown, but in somewhat smaller scale. Total results obtained show that larger number of students thinks that in the correlation between politics and sport more influence is exerted by politics on sport than vice versa.

Graph (5). In the developed countries having higher living standards as compared to the countries having lower living standards correlation between politics and sport is:

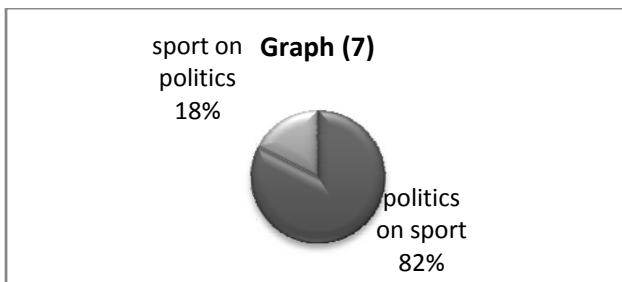


Total results obtained show that the largest number of students thinks that the correlation between politics and sport is more prominent in the developed countries having higher living standards.

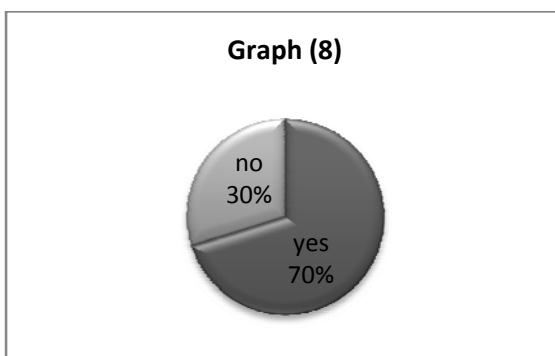
Graph (6). In the correlation between politics and sport most active participants are:



Graph (7). Whose influence is more prominent?

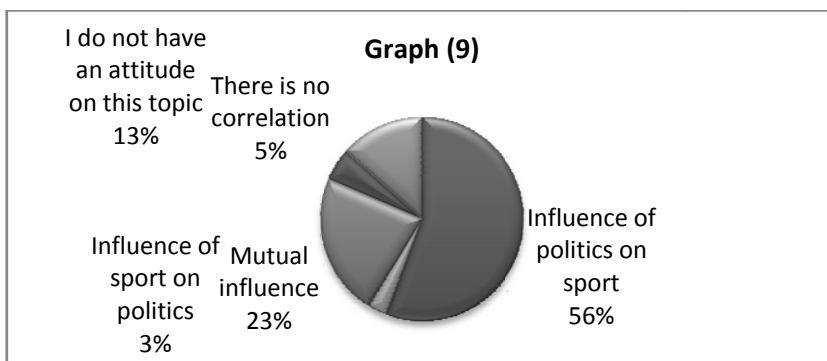


Graph (8). Do you think that it is possible for sport to exist without the influence of the politics?



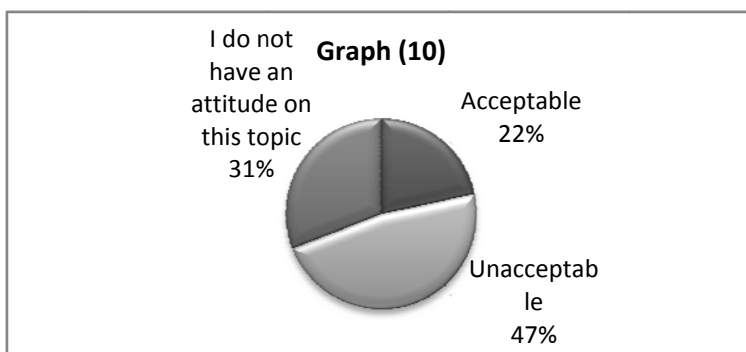
Total results obtained show that more than 2/3 of the subjects think that sport can exist without politics, while less than 1/3 of the subjects believe that sport cannot exist without politics.

Graph (9). The presence of politicians in sports clubs is:



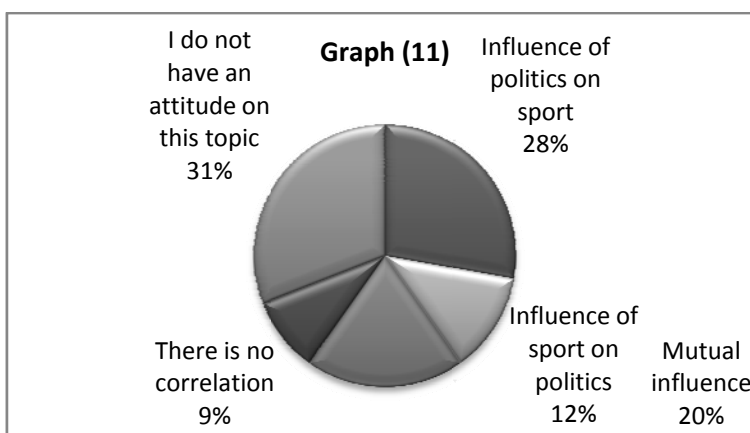
Total results obtained show that the majority of the subjects (more than half of them) have opted for the answer that the presence of politicians in sports clubs characterizes the influence of politics on sport.

Graph (10). The presence of politicians in sports clubs is according to your opinion:



Total results obtained show that almost half of the subjects think that the presence of politicians in sport is unacceptable, while the other half mainly does not express their attitude or thinks that this is unacceptable.

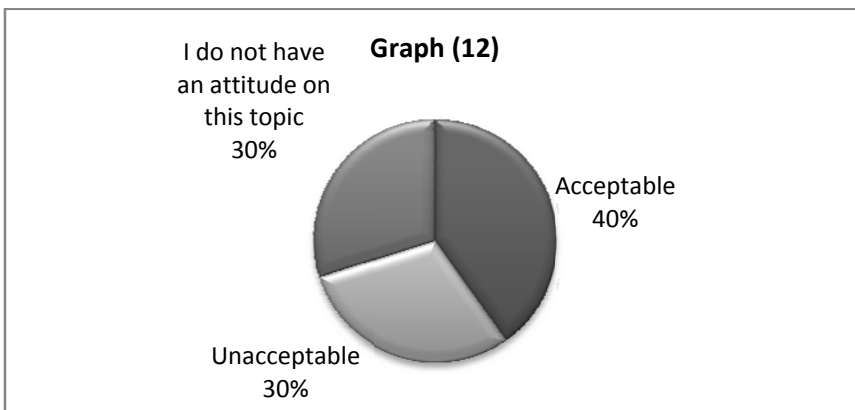
Graph (11). Membership of athletes in the political parties represents:



Total results obtained show that larger number of students does not express their opinion, or that they think that the membership of athletes in the political parties characterizes the influence of politics on sport. Large number of students does not express their opinion on this question, and smaller number of

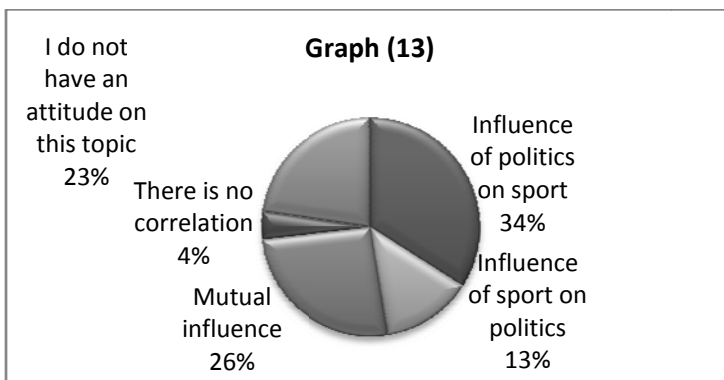
them thinks that it characterizes the influence of politics on sport, or that there is no connection between them whatsoever.

Graph (12). Membership of athletes in the political parties is according to your opinion:



Total results obtained show that students opinions are varied, that the same number of students have formed the opinion that the membership of athletes in the political parties is unacceptable or that have not formed any opinion on this question, and there is somewhat larger number of students who think that the membership of athletes in the political parties is acceptable.

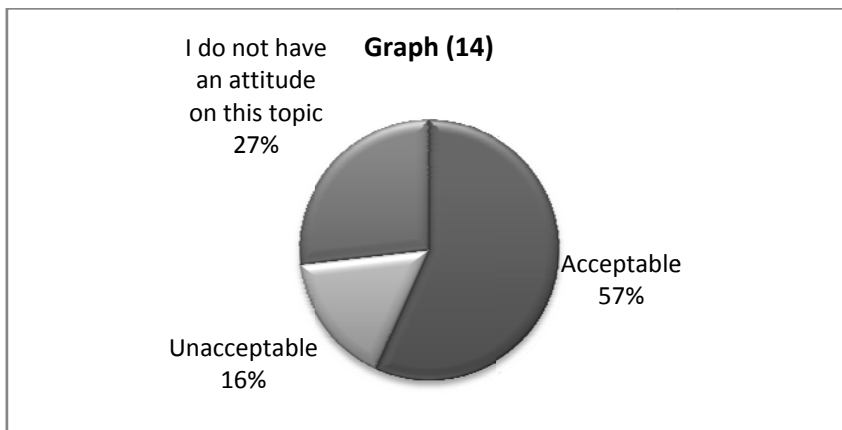
Graph (13). Official receptions organized by the politicians for the athletes represent:



Total results obtained show that the largest number of students thinks that the official receptions organized by the politicians for the athletes represent a direct influence of the politics on sport, and smaller number of students are of the

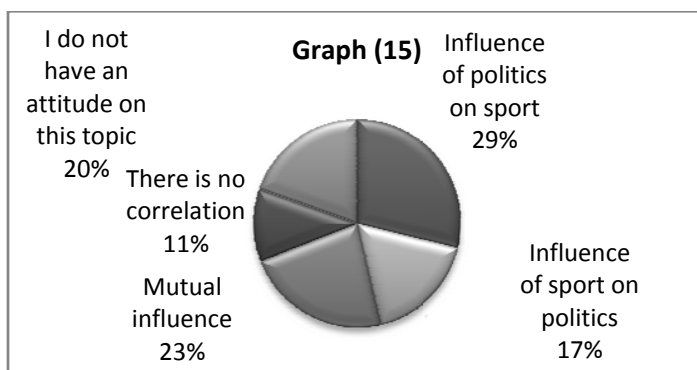
opinion that the influence is mutual, or they do not have the attitude to this topic. Small number of students thinks in this way sport is influencing the politics.

Graph (14). Official receptions organized by the politicians for the athletes are according to your own opinion:



Total results obtained show that large number of students (more than half of them) thinks that the official receptions organized by the politicians for the athletes are acceptable. There are also students without the explicit attitude on this topic and also those who do not consider this topic acceptable, but this number is a negligible one.

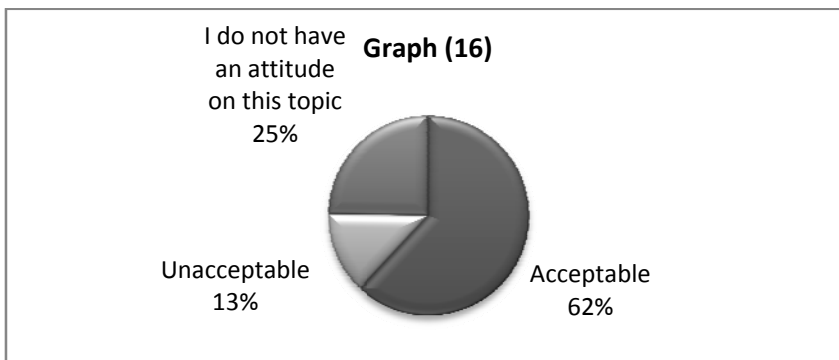
Graph (15). The presence of politicians at the sports manifestations is:



Total results obtained show that students' opinions are mainly varied. The largest number of students thinks that the presence of politicians at the sports manifestations is characterizing the influence of politics on sport, somewhat smaller number of students is of the opinion that the influence is mutual, but there

are also students who think this is the influence of sport on politics, there are also students who have not formed any opinion on this question.

Graph (16). The presence of politicians at the sports manifestations is according to your own opinion:



Total results obtained show that the largest number of students thinks that the presence of politicians at the sports manifestations is acceptable as compared to those who think this is an unacceptable phenomenon. There is a large number of students who did not express their opinions, namely, almost one quarter of the students have not formed any attitude towards this phenomenon.

DISCUSSION

The main objective of this study was to acquire knowledge about the phenomena that represent the correlations between politics and sport, as well as to examine the attitudes of certain populations and their perception of these links.

On the basis of the set objective, subjects and research tasks, as well as the research results we can derive the following conclusions:

- *The prevailing attitude is that there are correlations between politics and sports* (based on subjects' answers to the survey questions no. 1, no. 4), whereby subjects consider it to be one of the hallmarks of modern sport (answers to question no. 2), but that during history politics did not so much influenced sport as it is influencing it nowadays (answer to the question no. 3). Also, the subjects consider that this relationship is more pronounced in countries with higher economic standards (answers to question no. 5) and that the existence of sport is possible without the involvement of politics (answers to the question no. 8).

- *The prevailing attitude is that politics exerts influence on sport* (based on the subjects' answers to the survey question no. 7), and that to this mostly

contributes the managerial staff of the clubs - club owners, club managers and politicians (answers to questions no. 6, no. 9).

- *Attitudes are divided or they are not formed regarding the involvement of politicians in clubs and sports events as well as the participation of the athletes in the activities of political parties* (based on the subjects' answers to the survey questions 10-16), with the subjects being more tolerant to and more accepting the participation of athletes in politics and events related to politics, than the participation of politicians in most of the events that are related to sports.

CONCLUSION

Based on the obtained research results it can be concluded that the subjects in this study have the perception of the fact that politics and sport are correlated, that they are mutually connected and influenced, which leads to the conclusion that although sport is basically valuable and positive, nowadays it is burdened with numerous negative phenomena. This is the result of the pursuit of a greater income and in this way sport becomes more and more abused. Results of this study are consistent with the results obtained in similar studies suggesting that there is a connection between politics and sport although it is constantly emphasized that politics should not be present and should not interfere in sport.

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ОТНОШЕНИЕ ВУЗОВСКИХ УЧЕНИКОВ ПО ОТНОШЕНИЮ ПОЛИТИКИ И СПОРТА

РЕЗЮМЕ

Спорт и физическая активность играют важную роль во всех областях человеческой жизни. Физическая активность оказывает положительное влияние на утверждение здорового образа жизни, улучшает здоровье и качество жизни. Спорт это имя для всех физических мероприятий, которые человек выполняет по различным причинам. Некоторые из этих причин относятся к времяпрепровождению, телосложению, повышению квалификации, соревновательному духу, и т.д.

К сожалению, сегодня мы наблюдаем увеличение профессионализации спорта, с тем, чтобы достичь высоких результатов и материальную выгоду, другими словами, олимпийский дух - "важное участие" часто забывается, а увеличивается давление к детям и спортсменам с новым лозунгом "важно победить".

Связь политики и спорта явление которое можно рассматривать с различных аспектов чтобы могли лучше ее понять и объяснить. В этой статье на основании отмеченных моделей и различных примеров описывается связь политики и спорта

Ключевые слова: спорт, политика, ученики

СТАВОВИ СРЕДЊОШКОЛАЦА О ВЕЗАМА ПОЛИТИКЕ И СПОРТА

САЖЕТАК

Спорт и физичка активност имају важну улогу у свим подручјима људског живота. Физичка активност позитивно утиче на усвајање здравог начина живота, унапређује здравље и квалитет живота. Спортот називамо физичке активности које човек изводи из различитих разлога. Неки од разлога могу бити разонода, развијање тела, побољшање способности, такмичарски дух итд.

На жалост, данас смо сведоци све веће професионализације спорта са циљем постизања врхунског резултата и материјалне добити, односно све се чешће заборавља дух олимпизма „важно је учествовати“, а повећава се притисак на децу и спортисте с поруком „важно је победити“.

Повезаност политике и спорта је појава коју морамо посматрати са више аспеката како би је што боље разумели и објаснили. У овом раду се помоћу регистрованих модела, кроз различитих примера, описао начин повезаности политике и спорта. Током прикупљања и обраде података, на основу добијених резултата у истраживању дошло се до закључка да иако је спорт у

основи вредан и позитиван, данас је у њему више негативних ствари које су последица настојања да се оствари што већи приход, и да је на тај начин спорт постао поље политичке малверзације.

Кључне речи: спорт, политика, ученици
