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THE SOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION OF A CENTURY OF DEAF SPORT IN POLAND (1922–2022)

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Źródła i dokumentacja stuletniej historii sportu Głuchych w Polsce (1922–2022)

Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest analiza źródeł i dokumentacji stuletniej historii sportu Głuchych w Polsce w latach 1922–2022. Opracowanie ukazuje ewolucję form utrwalania aktywności sportowej osób niesłyszących – od kronik klubowych i prasy środowiskowej po współczesne archiwa cyfrowe. Zastosowano metodę historyczno-porównawczą, krytykę źródeł oraz analizę treści, łącząc perspektywę historyczną z kulturową. Podstawę badań stanowią materiały archiwalne, wydawnictwa jubileuszowe, periodyki Polskiego Związku Głuchych i Polskiego Związku Sportu Niesłyszących, a także zbiory prywatne i internetowe repozytoria. Analiza pozwoliła wyodrębnić trzy zasadnicze etapy rozwoju dokumentacji sportu Głuchych w Polsce: okres przedwojenny (1922–1939), powojenny (1945–1991) oraz współczesny (1992–2022). W każdym z nich sport osób niesłyszących pełnił funkcję nie tylko rehabilitacyjną, lecz także kulturotwórczą i integracyjną. Współczesna cyfryzacja źródeł otwiera nowe możliwości badawcze, umożliwiając szerszy dostęp do danych i rekonstrukcję nieznanych dotąd aspektów historii sportu Głuchych. Artykuł stanowi wkład w rozwój metodologii badań nad historią kultury fizycznej środowisk mniejszościowych. Opracowania źródłowe o charakterze referencyjnym, publikowane w latach 2021–2024 i uporządkowane chronologicznie, wraz z zawartymi w nich źródłami podstawowymi oraz indeksami nazwisk, stanowią podstawę dla przyszłych interdyscyplinarnych badań nad aktywnością sportową mniejszości Głuchych.

Słowa kluczowe: sport Głuchych, archiwa sportowe, źródła historyczne, Deaflympics.

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Abstract

The aim of this article is to analyze the sources and documentation related to a century of the history of Deaf sport in Poland, spanning the years 1922–2022. The study traces the evolution of how Deaf athletic activity has been recorded – from club chronicles and community press to contemporary digital archives. A historical-comparative method, source criticism, and content analysis were employed, integrating historical and cultural perspectives. The research is based on archival materials, anniversary publications, and periodicals of the Polish Association of the Deaf and the Polish Deaf Sports Association, as well as private collections and online repositories. The analysis identified three main stages in the development of Deaf sport documentation in Poland: the interwar period (1922–1939), the postwar period (1945–1991), and the contemporary period (1992–2022). In each of these periods, Deaf sport served not only rehabilitative but also cultural, creative, and integrative purposes. The digitization of sources today opens new opportunities for research, enabling broader access to data and the reconstruction of previously unknown aspects of Deaf sport history. This article contributes to the development of methodologies for studying the history of physical culture within minority communities. The chronologically organized reference works published between 2021 and 2024, together with the primary sources and name indexes included, constitute a foundation for future interdisciplinary research on the sporting activities of the Deaf minority.

Keywords: Deaf sport, sports archives, historical sources, Deaflympics.

Introduction

Deaf sport in Poland constitutes an important and integral element of the national history of physical culture, while simultaneously reflecting the social and cultural transformations of the Deaf community. Although the origins of organized Deaf sport date back to the early 1920s, scholarly interest in this field has remained limited. Existing studies are often descriptive, commemorative, or community-based, focusing mainly on the activities of individual clubs or associations. There is still a lack of comprehensive analyses that would situate the development of Deaf sport within broader contexts of Polish physical culture, social policy, or cultural identity. The aim of this article is to present, organize, and critically discuss the main sources documenting a century of Deaf sport in Poland (1922–2022) and to identify their research potential. The study seeks to determine:

- what kinds of sources exist and how they have evolved;
- how credible and complete these materials are;
- to what extent they reflect the processes of institutionalization, education, and cultural consolidation within the Deaf sports movement.

The source base of this study is diverse and includes archival documents, official reports, and manuscripts held in institutional and private collections, as well as printed and electronic publications. Particularly valuable are periodicals such as *“Świat Głuchoniemych”* (1927–1929), *“Świat Głuchych”* (1959–1982),

“Świat Ciszy” (1982–2000), “Sport Niesłyszących” (since 2008), which provide a direct insight into the organizational, athletic, and cultural life of the Deaf community. Complementary materials include jubilee monographs, club chronicles, photographic collections, and contemporary online repositories such as the digital archives of the Polish Deaf Sports Association and the International Committee of the Deaf. These materials, taken together with literature published between 2021 and 2024, offer a comprehensive picture of the evolution of Deaf sport as both a social practice and a manifestation of cultural identity.

Methods and Research Problems

The chronological scope of this study covers the period from 1922 – the establishment of the first Deaf sports club in Poland (Warsaw Sports Club of the Deaf) – to 2022, which marks the centennial of organized Deaf sport. The analysis employs a historical-comparative approach, supported by source criticism and content analysis. These methods, grounded in the framework of physical culture studies, allow the integration of historical, sociological, and cultural perspectives in examining the development of Deaf sport. The sources were categorized into five main types:

- archival materials – including documents from national and regional archives, club records,
- personal collections of activists and athletes;
- printed sources – such as monographs, jubilee publications, and commemorative volumes;
- periodicals – including nationwide and local community press documenting the activities of the Deaf;
- scientific publications – studies on the history, and sociology of Deaf sport;
- electronic resources – digital archives, online databases, and websites preserving and disseminating information on Deaf sports events.

The analysis of these materials reveals three fundamental stages in the development of documentation and reflection on Deaf sport in Poland:

- the interwar period (1922–1939), when the first clubs and organizational structures were established;
- the postwar period (1945–1991), characterized by reconstruction, expansion of community journalism, and growing institutionalization;
- the contemporary period (1992–2022), marked by digitization, autonomous activity of the Polish Deaf Sports Association, and the emergence of new documentary and research tools.

Despite significant progress in recent decades, research on Deaf sport continues to face methodological and practical challenges. These include limited ac-

cess to dispersed archives and private collections, insufficient digitization, incomplete or fragmentary data, and difficulties in verifying information due to communication barriers. Addressing these problems requires interdisciplinary collaboration combining the methodologies of history, cultural studies, sociology, and disability studies. The integration of digital tools and visual analysis techniques opens new perspectives for understanding the multifaceted relationship between sport, cultural identity, and social integration within the Deaf community.

Results and discussion

Pre-second war period (1922–1939)

The oldest sources on the history of Deaf sport in Poland date from the interwar period (1922–1939). They concern the activities of sports clubs for Deaf individuals in Warsaw,¹ Lviv, Poznań, Bydgoszcz, Kraków, Wejherowo, Nowa Huta, and others, as well as the relations with the Deaflympics Games in the years 1924–1939. Valuable information is contained in community periodicals, among them the magazine “Świat Głuchoniemych” (1927–1929) and “Sport i Kultura Fizyczna Głuchoniemych” (1935–1937) – published as a socio-sport monthly, the organ of the Polish Deaf Sports Union. This is how the first issue of the magazine “Świat Głuchoniemych” read²:

From the first moments of independence, among the Deaf youth, work is in full swing. Societies and sports clubs are organized, associations and unions are formed. And among all this activity one domain has hitherto been neglected. We lacked our own periodical. [...] At the outset, we will publish all news concerning the life of the Deaf in the country and abroad, social and scientific articles [sport-related – author’s note].

The complement to the news about Deaf sport was the information contained in the Poznań periodical “Przewodnik Głuchoniemych” (The Deaf-Mute’s Guide) from 1933.³

Data contained in the aforementioned periodicals, as well as in the monograph “Głuchoniemi w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej” (The Deaf-Mute in the Republic of Poland) (1930)⁴ and the “Kalendarz-Informator Głuchoniemych” (The Deaf-Mute Calendar- Informant) (1933–1934)⁵ constitute not only factual sources but

¹ *Życie sportowe*, „Kurier Warszawski”, 8 November 1922, no. 307, p. 9.

² 1927 „Świat Głuchoniemych” 1927, no. 1, p. 1.

³ „Przewodnik Głuchoniemych”, Poznań 1933, no. 1–8, unpaginated, publisher: Polsko-Katolickie Towarzystwo Głuchoniemych w Poznaniu and Polski Związek Towarzystw Głuchoniemych.

⁴ K. Włostowski, S. Rysiński (eds.), *Głuchoniemi w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, Polski Związek Towarzystw Głuchoniemych, Warszawa 1930, pp. 31.

⁵ J. Sapiejewski, K. Włostowski, H. Łabęcki, W. Dobrowolski (eds.), *Kalendarz-Informator Głuchoniemych Polskiego Związku Towarzystw Głuchoniemych na lata 1933–1934*, Warszawa 1933, pp. 112.

also evidence of the shaping of social and cultural identity of the Deaf community. These documents describe the creation and functioning of the first structures of Deaf sport in Poland—clubs, associations, and delegates' congresses—but also Deaf education.

An important link in the knowledge about the socio-sporting activity of Deaf people were documents of an institutional and organizational nature – among them, a small number of reports from the Polish Deaf Sports Association and from Deaf sports clubs.⁶ The preserved materials record the names of organizations – sports clubs – the dates of sporting and organizational events, the surnames of Deaf sport pioneers, the operating principles, as well as relations with foreign organizations such as the International Committee of the Deaf Sport.

The initiators of the creation of periodicals and the authors of articles were well-educated Deaf activists and athletes, originating from the Institute of the Deaf and Blind in Warsaw, including Kazimierz Włostowski, Henryk Łabęcki, and Henryk Konrad. A particularly valuable source is the family album of Henryk Konrad – founder and first president of the Warsaw Deaf Sports Club.⁷ This high personal archival value ensures a very high source credibility.

Publication activity was significantly hindered due to a lack of financial resources for journalism (especially during the Great Depression) and a lack of readership, illiteracy and deaf-muteness-related unemployment.

The analysis of sources encountered certain limitations due to incomplete or non-preserved club archives, the fragmentary nature of available data (often in the form of brief notices and announcements), and missing personal data, e.g., the first names of athletes and activists.

Postwar period (1945–1991)

This period saw intensive development of organizational structures within the Deaf community in Poland. During this time, the Polish Association of Deaf-Mute Sports was reactivated based on the model developed in the interwar period. In 1947, changes began to be introduced to the system of managing physical culture in Poland. By a resolution of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party on September 28, 1949, the Main Committee for Physical Culture was established, which remained under the direct supervision of the party apparatus.⁸ In 1950, as a result of reorganizing the

⁶ *Sprawozdania z zebrania Zarządu Polskiego Związku Sportowego Głuchoniemych*, „Świat Głuchoniemych” 1927, no. 1–12.; *Księga kasowa*, Polsko-Katolickie Towarzystwo Głuchoniemych w Bydgoszczy 1925–1950, unpaginated; *Sprawozdanie Zarządu Koła PZG w Bydgoszczy z lat 1965–1966*, Archiwum PZG Oddział w Bydgoszczy, 26 march 1966, p. 6.

⁷ Henryk Konrad– Commemorative family album 1922–1946, unpaginated.

⁸ J. Chełmecki, S. Wilk, *Wybór źródeł i materiałów do dziejów kultury fizycznej w Polsce w latach 1944–1984*, AWF Warszawa 1986, pp. 65–75.

autonomously operating Polish Sports Association of the Deaf-Mute, a Sports Association “The Deaf-Mute” was created, modeled after Soviet organizations. From 1952, Deaf sports were initially incorporated into the Polish Association of the Deaf-Mute and Their Friends (1946–1955), and subsequently into the Polish Association of the Deaf (from 1955). These organizations played a key role in combating illiteracy among deaf people, in integrating the community, and in promoting sport.

An important source of information about this period are the periodicals published by the aforementioned organizations: “Informational Bulletin of the Polish Association of the Deaf-Mute and Their Friends” (1954–1958)⁹, “Świat Głuchych” (1959–1982), “Świat Cisy” (1982–1997; od 2000), “Nowy Świat Cisy” (1998–1999).¹⁰ Valuable source materials also include anniversary publications of the Polish Association of the Deaf and of local sports clubs, containing reports of activities, competition result summaries, and photographic documentation, e.g. “WKSG Chronicle 1945–1985,”¹¹ “Księga kasowa Polsko-Katolickiego Towarzystwa Głuchoniemych w Bydgoszczy” (1925–1950),¹² or “50 lat Sportu Inwalidów Słuchu” (1972).¹³

From 1959 to 1970, a key figure in documenting the history of Deaf sports was Kazimierz Włostowski,¹⁴ the author of over 70 articles published in Polish Association of the Deaf periodicals. In the next decade, Szczepankowski made a significant contribution to the development of socio-sport journalism.¹⁵ In the years 1970–1990, he published about 20 articles devoted to the history and socio-cultural aspects of the lives of Deaf people. In 1976, he published a series of

⁹ https://polona2.pl/search/?filters=contributor-Corp:Zarz%C4%85d_G%C5%82%C3%B3wny_Polskiego_Zwi%C4%85zku_G%C5%82uchoniemych_i_Ich_Przyjaci%C3%B3%C5%82_Instytucja_sprawcza_Wydawca,public:1,hasTextContent:0, Accessed: 20.09.2025.

¹⁰ Availability: National Library (Biblioteka Narodowa); Main Board of the Polish Association of the Deaf in Warsaw (Zarząd Główny PZG w Warszawie).

¹¹ *Chronicle Warsaw Deaf Sports Club (WKSG)* (photograph collection) – Main Board of the Polish Association of the Deaf, Warsaw, unpaginated.

¹² *Księga Kasowa. Polsko-Katolickie Towarzystwo Głuchoniemych w Bydgoszczy 1925–1950*, unpaginated.

¹³ K. Włostowski, J. Klimczewski, *50 lat Sportu Inwalidów Słuchu*, 1972 [unpublished work, unpaginated].

¹⁴ A. Szulc, *Kronika 100-lecia sportu głuchoniemych, głuchych i niesłyszących w Polsce*, vol. 2: 1992–2022, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2024, 504 p.; A. Szulc, *Chronicle of the 100th anniversary of deaf-mute, deaf and hearing impaired sport in Poland*, vol. 1: 1922–1992, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2025, 551 p.

¹⁵ A. Szulc, *Chronicle of the 100th anniversary of deaf-mute, deaf and hearing impaired sport in Poland*, vol. 1: 1922–1992, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2025, pp. 551.

short notes titled "Z kart stulecia"¹⁶ in the pages of the monthly magazine "Świat Głuchych".

International activity was documented by materials of the International Committee of Deaf Sport in the form of reports from the congresses.¹⁷

Published articles and preserved documents constitute a key source of knowledge about the organizational history of Deaf sports in Poland. They confirm that sports activity was not only a tool of social and health rehabilitation but also a manifestation of cultural and communal identity. The limitations in publication-archival activity resulted from very poor premises, numerous relocations, the liquidation of many sports clubs, which led to the destruction or loss of archival documents.¹⁸ Staff shortages in club administrations and the low skill in archiving documentation and photographic material led to insufficient archiving of documents. The factual value is incomplete due to the inability to precisely determine dates, surnames, given names, and the structure of events. Descriptions of photographs are missing: place, year, people's names.

Contemporary period (1992–2022)

The contemporary period encompasses three decades of development of Deaf sport in Poland – from the phase of separating sport from the structures of the Polish Deaf Association and the start of autonomous activity by the Polish Association of Deaf Sports, to the financial-legal problems of the Association (1997–2003),¹⁹ up to the dynamic activity of the successor – the Polish Deaf Sports Federation (Polish: Polska Federacja Sportu Niestyszących) (2004–2010), transformed into the Polish Deaf Sports Association (Polski Związek Sportu Niestyszących) (since 2010). The headquarters of the PFSN and the PZSN are located in Lublin.

Until 2009, sports results, reports from competitions, and announcements of sporting events were published mainly in the monthly "Świat Cisy" and in TVP Teletext (1993–2005).²⁰ Based on notes posted in the TVP Teletext, the notes by Edward Szwertner and Jarosław Janiec have survived, constituting

¹⁶ B. Szczepankowski, *Z kart stulecia*, "Świat Głuchych" 1976, no. 1, p. 20.; B. Szczepankowski, *Z kart stulecia*, "Świat Głuchych" 1976, no. 2, p. 20.; B. Szczepankowski, *Z kart stulecia*, "Świat Głuchych" 1976, no. 3, p. 20.; B. Szczepankowski, *Z kart stulecia*, "Świat Głuchych" 1976, no. 4–5, p. 21; B. Szczepankowski, *Z kart stulecia*, "Świat Głuchych" 1976, no. 12, p. 21."

¹⁷ *Minutes*, 33rd Congress ICSD, Sofia, Bulgaria 1993, unpaginated.; *Minutes*, 30th Congress ICSD, Groningen, Holland, 1990, unpaginated .

¹⁸ K. Siniarski, *Historia i kultura Głuchych we Wrocławiu, 1948–2018*, Polski Związek Głuchych Oddział Dolnośląski, Wrocław 2018, p. 6 (85 p.).

¹⁹ *Sprawozdanie z działalności statutowej PZSG w okresie od 22 listopada 2003 do 25 marca 2006 roku*, p. 1 (p.7).; *Kierunek Tajpej*, "Sport Niestyszących" 2008, no. 1, p. 4.

²⁰ Jarosław Janiec– self-authored, based on: Telegazeta TVP .

a valuable source of information for contemporary research.²¹ Krzysztof Michałczuk made a significant contribution to the documentation of the sport movement.²² From 1993 to 2008, he published over 40 articles devoted to the activities of local sports clubs, chess and checkers tournaments, and sporting events both in Poland and abroad. Concurrently, from 1992 to 1997, Sławomir Łubiński conducted extensive journalistic work,²³ authoring over 40 reports from sporting events published in the community press.

Since 2009, after the self-dissolution of the Polish Deaf Sports Federation, the Polish Deaf Sport Association has been publishing the journal "Sport Niesłyszących,"²⁴ offering reports from sporting events, summaries of sports results, information about the Association's activities.

A significant source of knowledge about contemporary national and international sporting events can be also found in the chronicles of the Warsaw Deaf Club Sports Club (Mazovian Branch of the Polish Deaf Sports Association) and documents kept by the Main Board of the Polish Association of the Deaf in Warsaw. In these sources, the materials predominantly concern the Warsaw sports community, whose members often held organizational and representative roles.

Supplementing the knowledge about the social and sporting activities of deaf people are book publications and monographs, including: "Vademecum sportu niesłyszących" (1997),²⁵ "Wielkopolski Klub Sportowy Głuchych – Poznań, 75 lat sportu inwalidów słuchu w Wielkopolsce," Poznań 1925–2000,²⁶ "Dzieje ruchu społecznego głuchych w Wejherowie" (2017),²⁷ "Historia i kultura Głuchych we Wrocławiu" (2018).²⁸

²¹ Edward Szwertner – source created by the author.

²² A. Szulc, *Kronika 100-lecia sportu głuchoniemych, głuchych i niesłyszących w Polsce*, vol. 2: 1992–2022, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2024, p. 577 (624 p.).

²³ A. Szulc, *Kronika 100-lecia sportu głuchoniemych, głuchych i niesłyszących w Polsce*, vol. 2: 1992–2022, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2024., pp. 575–576 (624 p.).

²⁴ "Sport Niesłyszących", Wydawca: Polska Federacja Sportu Niesłyszących/Polski Związek Sportu Niesłyszących, (since 2008).

²⁵ M. Cichosz, M. Grajek, *Vademecum sportu niesłyszących*, vol. 1: *Historia sportu niesłyszących 1922–1997*, vol. 1–3, Warszawa 1997.

²⁶ Wielkopolski Klub Sportowy Głuchych – Poznań, *75 lat sportu inwalidów słuchu w Wielkopolsce*, Poznań 1925–2000, unpaginated.

²⁷ T. A., Świderski, *Dzieje ruchu społecznego głuchych w Wejherowie w latach 1932–2017*, Koło Terenowe Polskiego Związku Głuchych w Wejherowie, Wejherowo 2017, pp. 47.

²⁸ K. Siniarski, *Historia i kultura Głuchych we Wrocławiu, 1948–2018*, Polski Związek Głuchych Oddział Dolnośląski, Wrocław 2018, 85 p.

A valuable source of information also remains in private and institutional archives run by Aleksander Kubin,²⁹ Katarzyna Malinowskaj,³⁰ Marek Pater,³¹ Włodzimierz Adamiak,³² Jarosław Janiec.³³ and other Deaf sports activists.

The contemporary period is characterized by the digitization of source materials and the development of new forms of documentation. Key roles are played by online services, digital archives, and portals devoted to sports of Deaf people. Of particular importance are resources from public institutions such as the National Digital Archives (Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe),³⁴ National Archives in Łódź³⁵ and Poznań³⁶ and Digital Local Repository CYRYL,³⁷ containing scans and descriptions of materials documenting the social, educational, and sporting history of Deaf people.

Since 2012, the Polish Deaf Sports Association online archive has been collecting and making available information about sports events and competition results organized by the Association.³⁸

In the international dimension, the resources of the Deaflympics International Committee, i.e. Deaflympics.com,³⁹ hold a particular value, enabling verification of data on the participation of the Polish team in the Deaflympics. This site serves as the central digital archive of the Deaflympics movement, providing access to competition results as well as personal and historical data. The portal's resources are unique in that they constitute the only cohesive repository documenting Poland's participation in the global Deaflympics movement, and thus a key tool in research on Deaf sports. Pinchas's monographs make a significant contribution to documenting the history of world sport.⁴⁰

²⁹ Aleksander Kubin – Chronicle of the Deaf Sports Club "Znicz" Rybnik [manuscript, unpaginated, private archive].

³⁰ Katarzyna Malinowska – Photo-chronicle of the Educational and Care Center no. 2 for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing in Wejherowo, unpaginated.

³¹ Marek Pater – self-authored: Association of Deaf People TON, Poznań.

³² Włodzimierz Adamiak – Photo-chronicle of the Inter-school Deaf Students' Sports Club, Poznań, unpaginated.

³³ Jarosław Janiec – president, Secretary General of the Polish Deaf Sports Association in Lublin

³⁴ Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe, archive reference number: 3/1/0/14/49, and other.

³⁵ Archiwum Państwowe w Łodzi, <https://www.lodz.ap.gov.pl/>, archive reference number: 39/166/0/-/1272, and other.

³⁶ Archiwum Państwowe w Poznaniu, <https://poznan.ap.gov.pl/> archive reference number: 53/296/0/2.30/1190.

³⁷ Cyfrowe Repozytorium Lokalne CYRYL, <https://cyryl.poznan.pl/>, archive reference number: CYRYL_17_0_2_2_0001.

³⁸ <http://www.archiwum.pzsn.pl/>; <https://www.pzsn.pl/aktualnosci>. Accessed: 20.09.2025.

³⁹ <https://www.deaflympics.com/>. Accessed: 20.09.2025.

⁴⁰ R. Pinchas, *The History of the Deaflympic Games 1924–2018*, 2nd Edition, Kaykov Media, New York 2018, 371 p.

Archival Sources in Research and Publication Practice of Deaf Sport Studies

The previously mentioned source materials were used to develop and publish, between 2021 and 2024, a monograph summarizing a century of Deaf sport in Poland.

Published by the Publishing House of the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, the monograph by Pięta titled “Tennis in the World of Silence”⁴¹ summarized organizational and sports data related to table tennis competitions – both club and national teams – at the national and international levels, including the participation of Poles in the Deaflympics. To illustrate the sports results and descriptions of sporting events, the author used over 300 photographs, four monographs devoted to Deaf sport, materials from periodicals “Sport Głuchoniemych,” “Świat Ciszy,” “Świat Głuchych,” “Gehörlosen – Sport,” and the organizers’ reports from Deaflympic Games in Copenhagen (1997), Melbourne (2005), Taipei (2009), as well as World Championships (Sofia, 2008), European Championships (Ramat Gan, 1995; Częstochowa, 2011; Baden, 2015; Albena, 2019). An important documentary basis was Pięta’s own materials documenting his life experience as a coach of the Polish Deaf national team and players (Marek Rutkowski, Iwona Żyła) as well as chronicles, including those by Aleksander Kubin.⁴² Including a list of tables, photographs, and an index of names would increase the scholarly value of the monograph. Conversely, Szulc published the two-volume monograph “Chronicle of the 100-Year History of Deaf-Mute, Deaf, and Hearing-Impaired Sports in Poland. vol. 1: 1922–1992” (2021)⁴³ and “Chronicle of the 100-Year History of Deaf-Mute, Deaf, and Hearing-Impaired Sports in Poland. vol. 2: 1992–2022” (2024).⁴⁴ The author of both volumes used information contained in nearly 1,700 source materials, including archives, manuscripts, reports and communiqués, normative acts, and in compact and occasional publications, as well as periodicals of the Deaf community. A literature review up to 1939 showed that 190 articles appeared in the periodicals “Świat Głuchoniemych” (World of the Deaf), “Przewodnik Głuchoniemych” (Guide for

⁴¹ W. Pięta, *Tenis w świecie ciszy*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Humanistyczno-Przyrodniczego im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie, Częstochowa 2021, 273 p.

⁴² A. Kubin, *Kronika Klubu Sportowego Niesłyszących “Znicz” Rybnik*, unpaginated.

⁴³ A. Szulc, *Kronika 100-lecia sportu głuchoniemych, głuchych i niesłyszących w Polsce*, vol. 1: 1922–1992, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2021, 532 p.; A. Szulc, *Chronicle of the 100th anniversary of deaf-mute, deaf and hearing impaired sport in Poland*, vol. 1: 1922–1992, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2025, 551 p.

⁴⁴ A. Szulc, *Kronika 100-lecia sportu głuchoniemych, głuchych i niesłyszących w Polsce*, vol. 2: 1992–2022, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2024, 624 p.

the Deaf), and "Sport i Wychowanie Fizyczne Głuchoniemych" (Sport and Physical Education of the Deaf). After 1945, from the journals: "Biuletyn Informacyjny Polskiego Związku Głuchoniemych i Ich Przyjaciół" (Information Bulletin of the Polish Deaf Society and Their Friends), "Świat Głuchych" (World of the Deaf), "Świat Ciszy" (World of Silence), and "Nowy Świat Ciszy" (New World of Silence), 986 articles were used, covering topics such as:

- Deaf sports: basketball (reports from I and II PZG leagues, international matches), chess (reports from Deaf World Championships, PZG Championships, successes of Polish chess players), sport shooting, athletics, swimming, football, table tennis, and skiing;
- youth and sports education – school championships, youth swimming competitions;
- Deaf Olympics and international congresses;
- records and achievements: world and Polish records of the Deaf, successes of athletes and teams;
- history and development of sport for the Deaf in Poland;
- analyses and commentaries – reflections on results, team successes and defeats;
- special events – organizational reports, anniversaries, obituaries notes.

Both volumes of the "Chronicle of the 100-Year History..." are enriched with several dozen written testimonies or materials from Deaf and hard-of-hearing activists and athletes. The author used 544 online references to archival materials of the Polish Deaf Sport Association and the International Committee of Deaf Sport. Descriptions of sporting events are illustrated with 1,030 photographs and engravings depicting the Deaf sport and education community up to 2022. The information contained in 30 tables provides a detailed account of sports results, club structures, and winners of sports competitions. In total, the author memorializes approximately 5,000 individuals in the index of names who were involved in Deaf sport. In the English edition of the "Chronicle of the 100-Year History...", many names were supplemented based on recently acquired source materials, and surnames present in the Polish edition were standardized. An analysis of both monographs indicates that archives, community press, and the personal materials of Deaf athletes and activists constitute a crucial base for research on Deaf sport. Their systematic compilation and publication contribute not only to preserving the memory of athletic activity but also to developing methodologies for studying the culture and history of minority communities. They also help to fill gaps in Polish history of physical culture. The next thematic monograph is "Outline of the History of Deaf Athletics in Poland 1923–2023."⁴⁵

⁴⁵ A. Szulc, R. Śliwka, *Zarys historii lekkoatletyki niesłyszących w Polsce 1923–2023*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz 2023, 416 p.

Over 416 pages, the events of Deaf athletics competitions – Polish championships, European, World Championships, and Deaflympics – are documented in chronological order, with results compared to those of hearing athletes. The historical background of Deaf sport competition in Poland and worldwide is presented. The history of competition is based on 160 non-self-contained works, numerous monographs and occasional publications, as well as manuscript materials and reports. The work is enriched by about 70 online sources. The illustrative material and its captions come from roughly 40 written reports transmitted via social communication channels. The monograph includes 426 highly described photographs. The index of surnames memorializes over 1,200 organizers and participants associated with Deaf sport in Poland.

As for research problems, despite collaboration with the Boards of the Polish Deaf Sport Association and the Polish Association of the Deaf, the author faced difficulties in accessing institutional and private sources. Archives and private collections are dispersed across Poland. The lack of digitization and descriptions of photographs hindered or even made it impossible to reconstruct events and their protagonists. There are still gaps in reports from certain sports competitions. The absence of verbal contact hindered data verification.

Conclusion

The development of sources documenting Deaf sport in Poland reflects the organizational, technological, and cultural evolution of this community. From prewar internal publications and postwar club bulletins and chronicles, through environmental periodicals and anniversary publications, to modern digital archives and online repositories – each era left a characteristic imprint on the history of the sports movement of Deaf people. Of particular note are works that systematically organize and disseminate knowledge about the achievements of the Deaf community: W. Pięta's monograph "Tennis in the World of Silence", which provides a comprehensive picture of the development of table tennis for Deaf athletes at national and international levels, and Adam Szulc's two-volume "Chronology of 100 Years of Sports for the Deaf-Mute, the Deaf, and the Hearing Impaired in Poland" (vol. 1: 1922–1992; vol. 2: 1992–2022), the most extensive source to date on the history of Deaf sport in Poland. Both publications are based on a broad corpus of archival, press, and iconographic materials, including documents from the Polish Deaf Sport Association, the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf, and private collections of activists and athletes. The analysis of monographs indicates that archival materials, community press, and photographic documentation constitute a key base for research on Deaf sports. Their systematic processing and publication contribute not only to preserving

the memory of athletic activity but also to the development of methodologies in studies of culture and history of minority communities, filling important "white spots" in Polish sports history. However, the present study is not without its limitations. This work primarily draws on sources from within the Deaf community itself, consciously adopting a monographic perspective that focuses on the institutional development initiated by the Polish Sports Association of the Deaf-Mute. Consequently, the activities of potential Deaf athletes within sports clubs of national minorities (e.g., Ukrainian or German) in the Second Polish Republic were not explored here, as they represent a distinct and separate line of inquiry. Furthermore, the research has highlighted the significant challenges and fragmented nature of the archival base. While official state archives (such as the Central Archives of Modern Records or the State Archives in Łódź and Katowice) hold valuable but often sparse institutional records, the most comprehensive collections often remain in the form of unarchived, private "community archives" within local branches of the Polish Association of the Deaf (PZG). A full-scale, systematic query across all major state archives, though recognized as a fundamental next step, extends beyond the scope of this initial synthesis. Similarly, the underutilization of the daily press, both national and regional, is acknowledged as a constraint, primarily due to its limited digital availability and the labor-intensive process required for its manual review. Contemporary research on Deaf sport must therefore adopt an interdisciplinary approach that combines physical culture studies, history, sociology, cultural studies, and disability studies.⁴⁶ The integration of research methods from these diverse disciplines, alongside the future application of comprehensive archival queries and press analysis, allows for a fuller understanding of the complex relationships between sport, cultural identity, and social processes within the Deaf community.⁴⁷ Ultimately, the inclusion of digital tools, AI-based analysis, and visual methodologies offers new and essential opportunities for preserving, interpreting, and presenting Deaf sport as a vital component of Poland's cultural heritage.

⁴⁶ P. Kawalec, *Metody mieszane w kontekście procesu badawczego w naukoznawstwie*. "Zagadnienia Naukoznawstwa" 2014, 50/1(199), pp. 3–22, Toruń 2014; P. Rydzewski, *Materiały dydaktyczne dla studentów Wydziału Filozofii i Socjologii oraz doktorantów Szkoły Doktorskiej Nauk Społecznych UMCS* (<https://mojebadania.wordpress.com/2024/09/09/metody-badawcze-w-naukach-spoecznych-materialy-dydaktyczne/>). Accessed: 20.09.2025.

⁴⁷ A. Szulc, et al. *Model of the Performance Based on Artificial Intelligence-Fuzzy Logic Description of Physical Activity, Sensors* - 2023, 23 (3), no. 1117 (unpaginated).

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Adam Michał Szulc: Conceptualization, Methodology, Original Draft. Data Curation, Investigation, Review & Editing, Analysis, Visualization, Validation. The Author approved the final version of the manuscript.

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