

Military Competitive Sports and the Future

Author: Navy Captain Bengt Nylander, Sweden

"To foresee your future you must know your history" This will be the backbone in my presentation where I want to find the signals from the past to predict the future.

Unfortunately our organisation is not strong in making its history accessible. The celebration of the 50:years may be a change in this for the benefit of the scientist.

The uncertainty in our history is partly based in the fluctuation of the quality and quantity of our top representation. The nations teams alternate a lot depending on the efforts of the delegations and the amount of elite athletes presence. Some times a nation has a team representing in swimming and the other year not. Sometimes the nation has its elite present and sometimes not. This create an uncertainty in the historical material unless it has a frequency.

How do we define our sports and what is the aim of the representation? Elite is the top and represents both civilian and military sports the same way. Its representatives has a international acknowledgement. Elite is also connected to the context of professional athlete that has their representation as a work..

Sometimes a nation is represented with their top of that sport. That means a representation under the performance of a elite, still on a high level and probably the best of that country. A representation under this level indicates usually as "the best we can get, but we are present and creating friends".

The choice of representation is up to the delegation and its priorities. This could be through a great variety of reasons, I will try to pinpoint some. To show capacity and /or quality. To be present because it is a normal military duty. To be the top team. To be part of. To show the nations flag and or the armed forces. The choice of representation is up to the delegation.

Regionally we can see great differences in goals and representation, for example the continents and there way of "using" CISM and its possibilities. In our organisation Europe is the dominant continent with approximately 80 % of the activities. This makes Europe to the guiding or leading continent in our organisation. The trends and changes in Europe effects strongly the future of CISM. This is also a weakens of CISM and something that should be handled in the future. It could be more important things then solidarity to give to other continents.

The future development in sports is based on where the nation (delegation) find its basis for work. The basis for a choice is sports for all, competitive sports or elite. This colours the nations representation in many fields. What kind of athletes do we send, how do they train, where to find the money? And so on.

The development of sports are individually different and time critical. In the more civilian oriented sports usually the development is not in the hands of the delegation. The connection between athlete and companies and the materialistic aspects are getting stronger.

This as a total gives a less national control over the athlete and the aim of the "owner" of the athlete will come higher than a national representation. As a total this makes it more difficult to control the representation from the delegation and the quality will fluctuate stronger.

The development of the military and the new structures of future armed forces effects all the sports but most the sports with "military" orientation. Professional armies with few conscripts establishes a different ground for sports then the past. Here we also have a growing influence of females in the armed forces. This compares to both athletes and leaders. . This sports development as a whole is usually in the hands of the delegations.

Future trend can be found in our history and this discussion.

- Team sports will have growing difficulties to find people and motivation for its participation.
- Elite sports will continue to fluctuate and not in the control of the delegation
- Sports with military connection will grow and find more alternatives
- The amount of regional and continental events will grow and require a stronger guidance.
- The aim of the nations representation will continue to be very different.
- The influence of female in the military sports will increase.