

40 - STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF FIGURE SKATING IN SLOVAKIA

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Introduction

Figure skating is defined as an aesthetic-coordinating sport and many authors consider it one of the most beautiful and sweetest sports, which is close to a work of art (Hrádzka, 2006; Choutka, 1978; Mayerová 1982). Figure skating has two types in which to compete. The first is an individual sport, where they compete in solo women's figure skating and solo male figure skating. The second type is considered a group sport, which has three disciplines, namely dancing pairs, sports couples and synchronized figure skating. At the European Youth Olympic Festival, they compete only in individual disciplines. Overall, we see a problem in figure skating in finding a sufficient number of boys who could be part of pair skating. Adams (2011) deals with this issue, where a smaller number of boys attribute it to finger pointing for homosexuals. Also, an article by Georgiou et al. (2018) deals with the perception of homosexuals and their non-participation in sports activities in terms of revealing their sexual orientation.

Figure skating has very deep roots. In the distant past, skating was used as transportation, and only later did elements begin to form and transform into figure skating as we know it today. In the territory of the Slovak Republic, excavations of skates have been found, the age of which we estimate is 5,000 years old (Fukatsch, 2011). The evaluation system has also gradually evolved and undergone many changes. Since 2003, there has been a new system, which is again a bit fairer (Marshall, 2018).

Figure skating in the Slovak Republic developed together with the Czech Republic in the period of Czechoslovakia. Prague as the capital was the control centre for the figure skating association and thus all management was concentrated in the Czech Republic. On the other hand, important skaters in this period were competitors from Slovakia such as Ondrej Nepela and Jozef Sabovčík (Waic 2014). The Slovak national team member became the Champion of the Czechoslovak Republic for the first time in 1954 and it was Karol Divín. Since this year, Slovak figure skaters have been at the forefront of the men's category. This phenomenon was confirmed by Rastislav Vnučko at the last Czechoslovak Championships, which he won. Based on the positive results, the Centre for Top Sports in Bratislava was established in 1975. The centre fulfilled its purpose on the basis of statistics which show that by 1986 Slovak figure skaters had won 32 medals at ISU championships. The last medal was won by Jozef Sabovčík at the European Championships in 1986. Since that year, medal positions have been declining, which is also associated with the termination of the Centre for Top Sports, as well as the termination of the careers of many representatives. Gradually, the conditions for figure skating are starting to deteriorate, many qualified coaches are going abroad and work with children is also underestimated. (www.kraso.sk/ss/)

Based on these facts, we decided to analyse the situation that arose and find out the reasons for figure skating in the Slovak Republic in such a situation as it is, even though previously figure skaters in Slovakia were successful athletes. As part of the article, we studied many materials that dealt with figure skating in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, reviewed the results of competitions and compared the performances of individual figure skaters from both countries, and finally conducted interviews with sports experts from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Based on the interviews, we created analyses that point us to the state of figure skating in both countries. Thanks to the given analyses, we provided innovations that could be applied to figure skating in Slovakia to improve the performance of the competitors in the future.

Methods

In the article, we analysed the situation after the collapse of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and what consequences this political situation had on both countries. We researched the study of materials such as books, articles, laws, official websites of figure skating associations and associations on the issue and interviews with sports experts in Slovakia and the Czech Republic in the field of figure skating.

From the individual interviews, we analysed the weaknesses, strengths, opportunities and threats separately for the Czech and Slovak environment, from which we defined the SWOT analysis, IFE and EFE matrix. SWOT analysis is a tool for analysing marketing and management through the external and internal environment (Jakubíková 2013). In sports, the creation of a SWOT analysis is essential due to the perspective planning of sports entities to support strengths and opportunities and eliminate weaknesses and threats (Duchoslav, 2010; Valentina, 2006). The IFE and EFE matrix is a strategic tool based on the internal and external environment of society. We use the IFE matrix to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and it is used to evaluate and identify relationships within the organization. The EFE matrix provides an insight into the external environment and an analysis of opportunities and threats from an economic, cultural, social, political and demographic point of view (Katsioloudes 2011).

In Slovakia, we interviewed a coach who is a national team coach, a judge who decides international competitions, European and World championships, as well as the Olympics, the president of the Slovak Figure Skating Association and a coach who coached representatives during Czechoslovakia. In the Czech Republic, we conducted interviews with a technical specialist who decides on international competitions, European and World championships, as well as the Olympics, and with an official at the Czech Figure Skating Association.

Because the Czech respondents did not want to cooperate with us to the extent necessary for the results of the SWOT analysis, EFE and IFE matrix, we described the individual items of the SWOT analysis based on interviews and study of materials.

In Slovakia, respondents also cooperated in assigning values in analyses. Respondents independently assigned points to the given items in the SWOT analysis. Then we averaged the individual values of the items and created one SWOT analysis for figure skating in Slovakia from the averaged values. Based on the SWOT analysis, we determined the strategy for the relevant environment.

Based on the interview, we also created an EFE and IFE matrix. Each respondent filled in the IFE and EFE matrix based on which we were able to evaluate how the external and internal environment appears. Each respondent assigned weights and points to individual items, which, after multiplication between each other and subsequent addition, determined the value.

Results

In the period around 1989, the whole society gets into motion and changes, and figure skating reacts in the same way. Officially, in 1990, an independent Slovak Figure Skating Association and the Czech Figure Skating Association were established. After the division of the country, the performance of figure skaters in Slovakia declined greatly, mainly due to lower competition. As very few competitors can train in the senior categories since 2007, they have started to organize joint championships with the Czech Republic. Poland has joined in 2009 and Hungary since 2014. Subsequently, these joint Championships increased not only the level of the race but also the desire of individual competitors to run their best programs. In table no. 1 we have shown results from individual championships.

Table 1: Results of the Republic Championships, source: Slovak Figure Skating Association

| 2006/2007 Championship of Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in Figure skating | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. slovak | 3. czech | 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. czech |
| 2007/2008 Championship of Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in Figure skating | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. slovak | 3. czech | 1. czech | 2. slovak | 3. czech |
| 2008/2009 Internationals Championship of Czech Republic 2009 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish | 1. slovak | 2. czech | 3. slovak |
| 2009/2010 3 Nationals 2010 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish | 1. slovak | 2. czech | 3. czech |
| 2010/2011 3 Nationals Championship 2011 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. czech | 1. polish | 2. slovak | 3. czech |
| 2011/2012 Internationals Championship of Czech Republic 2012 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish | 1. slovak | 2. slovak | 3. polish |
| 2012/2013 3 Nationals 2013 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish | 1. polish | 2. slovak | 3. czech |
| 2013/2014 4 Nationals 2014 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish | 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. polish |
| 2014/2015 4 Nationals 2015 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. czech | 3. czech | 1. slovak | 2. hungarian | 3. czech |
| 2015/2016 4 Nationals 2016 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. polish | 3. czech | 1. slovak | 2. hungarian | 3. hungarian |
| 2016/2017 4 Nationals 2017 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. czech | 2. polish | 3. polish | 1. hungarian | 2. slovak | 3. czech |
| 2017/2018 4 Nationals 2018 | | | | | |
| Men seniors | | | Woman seniors | | |
| 1. polish | 2. czech | 3. czech | 1. czech | 2. hungarian | 3. hungarian |

Every championship except for the last one was won by Czech competitors in the men's category. Only two Slovak competitors took second place twice and not once in third place. From the given results we can see that in 12 years of the joint championships the Slovak competitors achieved second place only twice. The women's category was much more successful. They won first and second place in five years and third in one year. The total balance of medals is shown in table no. 2.

Table 2: Balance of medals for joint champions, source: own

| Woman seniors | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Place | place | place | place |
| Czech Republic | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Slovak Republic | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Man seniors | | | |
| Place | place | place | place |
| Czech Republic | 11 | 8 | 6 |
| Slovak Republic | 0 | 2 | 0 |

In the figure no. 1 shows the individual items of the SWOT analysis, which we compiled based on interviews with the president of the association, the arbitrator and the coach operating in the Slovak Republic.

For a better understanding of the individual items in the SWOT analysis, we will take a closer look at some of them. We understand change of employees as an exchange of employees who have benefited from new proposals and a different view of issues. The possibility of several representatives arose based on the division of the country and leaving the same number of seats at important races for one country. By union external employees we mean that the union has only one internal employee for whom this is his main job. Other officials in the association have their jobs. Failure to know the required elements leads to a possible incorrect skating technique. Because required elements have a technical basis in every single element of figure skating. Clarifying the speed of performance tests is important given that during children's testing, even individual trainers do not know how fast children should move. Subsequently, the test passes unnecessarily. Increasing the number of clubs in one ice ring is a big brake on children's skating development. Children get on the ice less times, because the number of hours the stadium will provide for figure skating must be divided between the clubs. There are also several children's performances in individual clubs, which could motivate each other in the case of joint trainings.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of employees in the association • Change of decision – making system • Possibility if more representatives • Competition system • Performance test system • Connection of the Senior Championships with other countries | <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union external employees • Loss of communication with the Czech union • Financial and time consuming • Weak education of sports professionals • Coaches are not interested in self-education • Coaches do not know the required elements • Presence of active coaches in the jury • Few members of technical panel • Lots of young referees and coaches • Lack of qualified referees to be send abroad • Absent talent management system • Lack of hours on the ice • Not all areas of Slovakia covered |
| <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More internal employees in the union • Union coach • Expand the education for sports professionals • Retraining with final exams • Renewal of specialization at Sport university • Specification of the speed of elements on the required tests • Referee meeting after the competition • Checking children from an early age • Create an academy • Posting coaches abroad • Sponsorship, advertising, marketing | <p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent absence of sponsors • Non – implementatio of changes in the union • Increasing the number of clubs in one ice ring • Departure of important referees • Failure to pass the criteria for the departmental sports centers • The parent is the master • Finishing with figure skating in puberty |

Figure 1: SWOT analysis of Figure Skating in Slovakia, source: own

In table no. 3 we have a SWOT analysis, which is created by averaging points of each respondent who gave us an interview. Their statements differ slightly in some matters. The differences are the result of each of them being influenced by their professional activities, with the arbitrator mainly monitoring decision-making matters, the coach in training and the president in leading and running the association.

All three Slovak experts agreed that the organization of joint championships was a necessary matter and is of great importance for figure skating in Slovakia. The same coincidence

occurred with the time and money requirements of figure skating, which unfortunately cannot be changed, but it must be handled wisely. The time and money required has a big impact on the size of the membership base, which is not enough, given that after realizing how much money and time figure skating will take, parents will think about whether it is a suitable sport for their children. Another weakness in which they agreed is that not enough hours are provided for figure skating on ice. Respondents had a great deal of agreement on 2, 3, 4 and 5 opportunities. All four opportunities dealt with coaches' education. All three consider it very important to employ a union methodology, to renew the specialization in FTVŠ, to introduce post-course examination and, in general, to expand the coaches' education. The only threat that weighs equally on all respondents is that the parent is the master today, which has an impact on all subjects in figure skating. The coach is in daily contact with the parent and due to the high membership fees, the parent checks what he puts money into. Many times, the referee also comes into contact with the parent, when the parent requires an explanation directly from the referee.

Table 3: SWOT analysis of figure skating in Slovakia based on the average evaluation of respondents, source: own

| | Strengths | Points | | Weaknesses | Points |
|----|---|---------------|-----|--|---------------|
| S1 | Change of employees in the association | 4 | W1 | Union external employees | 3 |
| S2 | Change of decision – making system | 4 | W2 | Loss of communication with the Czech union | 3 |
| S3 | Possibility if more representatives | 4 | W3 | Financial and time consuming | 5 |
| S4 | Competition system | 4 | W4 | Weak education of sports professionals | 4 |
| S5 | Performance test system | 4 | W5 | Coaches are not interested in self - education | 4 |
| S6 | Connection of the Senior Championships with other countries | 5 | W6 | Coaches do not know the required elements | 4 |
| | | | W7 | Presence of active coaches in the jury | 3 |
| | | | W8 | Few members of technical panel | 4 |
| | | | W9 | Lots of young referees and coaches | 3 |
| | | | W10 | Lack of qualified referees to be send abroad | 5 |
| | | | W11 | Absent talent management system | 4 |
| | | | W12 | Lack of hours on the ice | 5 |
| | | | W13 | Not all areas of Slovakia covered | 3 |
| | Overall | 25 | | Overall | 50 |
| | Opportunities | Points | | Threats | Points |
| O1 | More internal employees in the union | 3 | T1 | Persistent absence of sponsors | 5 |
| O2 | Union coach | 5 | T2 | Non – implementation of changes in the union | 4 |
| O3 | Expand the education for sports professionals | 5 | T3 | Increasing the number of clubs in one ice ring | 4 |
| O4 | Retraining with final exams | 5 | T4 | Departure of important referees | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|----------------|--|-----------|
| O5 | Renewal of specialization at Sport university | 5 | T5 | Failure to pass the criteria for the departmental sports centres | 4 |
| O6 | Specification of the speed of elements on the required tests | 4 | T6 | The parent is the master | 5 |
| O7 | Referee meeting after the competition | 4 | T7 | Finishing with figure skating in puberty | 4 |
| O8 | Checking children from an early age | 4 | | | |
| O9 | Create an academy | 4 | | | |
| O10 | Posting coaches abroad | 4 | | | |
| O11 | Sponsorship, advertising, marketing | 4 | | | |
| Overall | | 47 | Overall | | 29 |

Based on the determined and subsequently assigned points for individual items of the SWOT analysis, we can determine the strategy. After counting the points and calculating according to the formula to determine the strategy, we came up with the WO strategies.

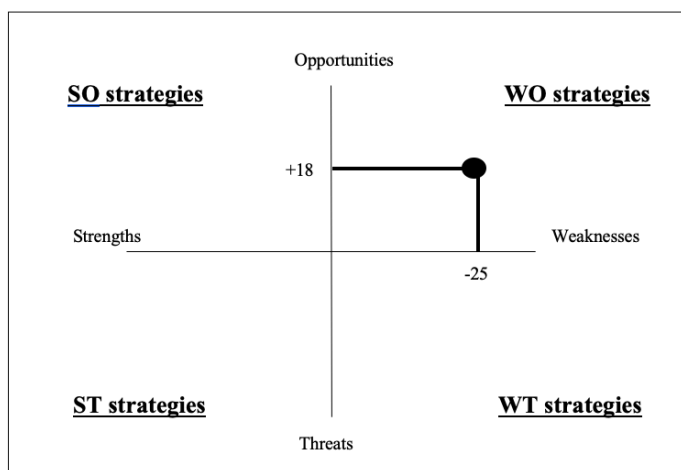


Figure 2: Results of SWOT analysis of figure skating in Slovakia based on average evaluation of respondents, source: own

In the figure no. 2 shows the WO strategies created based on the average values of the respondents. The WO strategies is also known as well as the strategy of weaknesses and opportunities, as these attributes exceeded the most. Weaknesses are more significantly rated over strengths, and opportunities outweigh threats. This strategy is recommended when the situation is such that the internal strength is very weak and opportunities need to be seized to gradually increase the position.

Based on the interviews, we evaluated the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Every single respondent evaluated with points and weight every single item on the basis of which we evaluated the IFE and EFE matrix. In table no. 4 we have displayed the resulting values of IFE matrix and in table no. 5 of EFE matrix.

Table 4: IFE matrix of figure skating Slovakia

| S/W | Description | Weights | Rating | Evaluation |
|-----|--|---------|--------|------------|
| S1 | Change of employees in the association | 0,030 | 3 | 0,090 |
| S2 | Change of decision – making system | 0,065 | 4 | 0,260 |
| S3 | Possibility if more representatives | 0,035 | 4 | 0,140 |
| S4 | Competition system | 0,070 | 4 | 0,280 |

| | | | | |
|------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| S5 | Performance test system | 0,070 | 4 | 0,280 |
| S6 | Connection of the Senior Championships with other countries | 0,075 | 4 | 0,300 |
| W1 | Union external employees | 0,065 | 1 | 0,065 |
| W2 | Loss of communication with the Czech union | 0,050 | 1 | 0,050 |
| W3 | Financial and time consuming | 0,085 | 1 | 0,085 |
| W4 | Weak education of sports professionals | 0,090 | 1 | 0,09 |
| W5 | Coaches are not interested in self - education | 0,065 | 1 | 0,065 |
| W6 | Coaches do not know the required elements | 0,055 | 1 | 0,055 |
| W7 | Presence of active coaches in the jury | 0,030 | 2 | 0,060 |
| W8 | Few members of technical panel | 0,025 | 2 | 0,050 |
| W9 | Lots of young referees and coaches | 0,015 | 2 | 0,030 |
| W10 | Lack of qualified referees to be send abroad | 0,060 | 1 | 0,060 |
| W11 | Absent talent management system | 0,045 | 1 | 0,045 |
| W12 | Lack of hours on the ice | 0,050 | 1 | 0,050 |
| W13 | Not all areas of Slovakia covered | 0,020 | 2 | 0,040 |
| IFE | | 1,000 | | 2,095 |

Table 5: EFE matrix of figure skating Slovakia

| O/T | Description | Weights | Rating | Evaluation |
|------------|--|--------------|--------|--------------|
| O1 | More internal employees in the union | 0,070 | 4 | 0,280 |
| O2 | Union coach | 0,070 | 4 | 0,280 |
| O3 | Expand the education for sports professionals | 0,100 | 4 | 0,400 |
| O4 | Retraining with final exams | 0,055 | 3 | 0,165 |
| O5 | Renewal of specialization at Sport university | 0,020 | 3 | 0,060 |
| O6 | Specification of the speed of elements on the required tests | 0,050 | 4 | 0,200 |
| O7 | Referee meeting after the competition | 0,065 | 3 | 0,195 |
| O8 | Checking children from an early age | 0,065 | 4 | 0,260 |
| O9 | Create an academy | 0,020 | 3 | 0,060 |
| O10 | Posting coaches abroad | 0,060 | 3 | 0,180 |
| O11 | Sponsorship, advertising, marketing | 0,035 | 3 | 0,105 |
| T1 | Persistent absence of sponsors | 0,040 | 2 | 0,080 |
| T2 | Non – implementatio of changes in the union | 0,075 | 1 | 0,075 |
| T3 | Increasing the number of clubs in one ice ring | 0,005 | 2 | 0,010 |
| T4 | Departure of important referees | 0,010 | 2 | 0,020 |
| T5 | Failure to pass the criteria for the departmental sports centers | 0,075 | 1 | 0,075 |
| T6 | The parent is the master | 0,100 | 1 | 0,100 |
| T7 | Finishing with figure skating in puberty | 0,085 | 1 | 0,085 |
| EFE | | 1,000 | | 2,630 |

The internal environment of figure skating in Slovakia, which is evaluated by the IFE matrix, represents an average value of 2,95. The best-rated environment reaches 4, the worst-rated environment value of 1 and the average rated environment value of 2.5 (Fotr, 2012). The indoor environment evaluated by us reaches a value of 2,095, which is still one third below the average. This indicator is also confirmed by the SWOT analysis, where we have visibly more weaknesses than strengths. Likewise, when comparing the points in the SWOT analysis, it is clear that the weaknesses outweigh the strengths. From this we can evaluate that figure skating in Slovakia has a lot of work ahead of it to improve.

The external environment is determined by opportunities and threats. Based on the SWOT analysis, we see that the opportunities outweigh the threats, which suggests that figure skating in

Slovakia has the potential to develop. Nevertheless, the EFE matrix from the averaged values of our respondents expresses a moderately strong position of the external environment. The average EFE value is 2.630, which is only 0.163 above the average.

Based on interviews and material studies, we also proceeded to create a SWOT analysis of figure skating in the Czech Republic. The items of the SWOT analysis are shown in the figure no.3.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good education system to receive the qualification of coaches • A good education system to receive the qualification of referee • Sufficient qualified referee and members of the technical panel for abroad • Required test – continuity of elements • New decision – making system • Persistent interest in figure skating • IDP project with ISU • Joint Senior Championship • Youth Sports Center • PRTM a PPRTM project • Functioning resort centers | <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few top athletes • Few trainings on the ice • Weak self – education of coaches • Difficult communication with parents • Few referee and members of technical panel to cover Czech competitions • Gradual increase in administration after the split of the ČSSR • Multiple clubs in one ice ring • Great differences between regions and cities |
| <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self - education • A comprehensive view of figure skating by coaches • Referee meeting after competition • Final exams after education • Practical education with children • Greater responsibility on the part of the younger generation • The newly establish National Agency of Sport | <p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent absence of sponsors • Increasing financial costs • A growing number of coaches with ignorance of required tests |

Table 6: SWOT analysis of Figure Skating in Czech Republic, source: own

We will also take a closer look at some of the items from the SWOT analysis in the Czech Republic. By the follow-up of the elements in the required tests, we mean the smooth transitions of individual elements during the testing of children. This change took place in the 2019/2020 season, so it is very fresh. In our strengths, we have several projects and centres in which children can increase their performance. It is a youth sports centre with three detached workplaces in Prague, Ostrava and Brno. Furthermore, adult athletes can be included in the departmental sports centre within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Physical Education in the University Sports Centre. Younger competitors are involved in the Talented Youth Development Project and the Talented Youth Development Project Pre project, which is managed by the union. The IDP project in cooperation with ISU is a project that annually educates children and coaches. These projects are done twice a year and are led by selected elite trainers from all over Europe. In 2019 and 2020, the Czech Republic was the host country for this project. In the Czech Republic, there are very large differences in the given regions. Sometimes there is even such corruption that the decision takes into account the region from which the competitor comes. By a comprehensive view of figure skating coaches, we understand that coaches need to realize that figure skating doesn't just take training on the ice, but it's a collection of different training sessions, such as dance, ballet, athletics, gymnastics, strengthening, regeneration, psychological training and many other hours off ice. If the coach does not take this into account and accept it, then the competitors can jump with big health problems.

Conclusions

Based on both SWOT analyses, we can deduce the consequence of the performance of figure skaters in Slovakia. When comparing the given strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, we see how big a shortcoming in figure skating in Slovakia there is.

One of the strongest strengths of the Czech Republic is sports centres. Competitors are able to achieve the criteria for the departmental centre of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and are therefore supported directly by the state. Another option is the University Sports Centre, where they currently have 8 athletes and 2 qualified coaches. Another option is the Talented Youth Development Project and the Pre-Project of the Talented Youth Development Project, which is targeted at talented children and youth of the Czech Republic and does not reach a sufficient age to be included in the University Sports Centre. Another option is the detached Youth Sports Centres in three Czech cities, namely Prague, Ostrava and Brno. Thus, the Czech Republic has its athletes located in three or four different sports centres, while the Slovak Republic does not have any such centre where athletes could reach the criteria. Figure skating is included in the National Sports Centre, but the representatives do not know how to achieve the criteria to be assigned.

Another big difference is the access to education for coaches and referees. The Czech Republic considers the education of coaches and referees as a strength, while the Slovak Republic has the education of sports professionals as a weakness, even rated at 4. It is very important that the education of sports professionals is improved, as the performance of athletes also depends on them. One of the opportunities that Slovakia could use is the employment of a union coach, who would be in charge not only of the representation but also of figure skating in Slovakia as a whole. He would go to individual clubs and monitor the children, record their progress and at the same time help the coaches. By having this union coach go to training in individual clubs and communicate with the coaches, they would be educated with him.

Other negatives that are unfortunately present in both countries are the financial, time and health demands of the sport. As far as health and time requirements are concerned, there is nothing that can be done about it if athletes want to maintain world-class performance. Based on this, categories A and B were created. Competitors can choose in which category they want to compete. If they do not have the ambition to compete in the A category, then they may be in the B category, where the difficulty is not so high and they also have a greater motivation to compare in performance with competitors who train in similar amounts. In Slovakia, we can define a system of competition and performance testing as a strength that has been constantly improving in recent years. As far as financial matters are concerned, it is a sport that is very costly and at the same time unattractive for sponsors. The biggest problem is that the country cannot provide any consideration to sponsors or investors. The financial demands are especially so high that renting an ice rink is demanding. The demand for ice rings is also high and the number of hours on the ice is not enough for adequate training.

Another weakness is the insufficient number of judges and members of the technical panel. Given that Slovakia currently has a majority of referees who are older and will not be able to decide for a few seasons on the basis of ISU rules, figure skating in Slovakia should focus on their replacement. Due to closer monitoring of potential arbitrators and members of the technical panel, as well as increased consultation with them, it would be possible to ensure their further growth. With their gradually increasing load and increasing demands on them, they can gradually rework into significant races.

Slovakia still has many shortcomings, based on which we have defined a strategy that reflects the analysis and matrices. In any case, figure skating in Slovakia is to be inspired and gradually introduced small innovations in order to improve the functioning of the association, which would gradually bring the higher performance of competitors

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Abstract

The article deals with the figure skating course of two countries that were a common state 30 years ago and operated based on one union with one management. Due to the political events in 1992, the country was divided and the centralized management of figure skating also had to disintegrate. From one union, which was run from Prague became two unions, operating independently of each other. Figure skating in Slovakia suffered from the first moment, mainly due to leaving the management of figure skating to the original association in Prague. Many sports experts and officials continued their activities for the Czech Republic. Despite the re-emerging association, the Slovak Republic strives for the best possible conditions not only for athletes but also for sports professionals. The study deals with the search for innovations and assistance to the Slovak Republic to find and eliminate shortcomings.

Key words: figure skating, Slovak Republic, SWOT analyses

El artículo trata sobre el curso de patinaje artístico de dos países que eran un estado común hace 30 años y operaban en base a un sindicato con una dirección. Debido a los acontecimientos políticos de 1992, el país se dividió y la gestión centralizada del patinaje artístico también tuvo que desintegrarse. De un sindicato, que se dirigía desde Praga, se convirtieron en dos sindicatos, que funcionaban de forma independiente. El patinaje artístico en Eslovaquia sufrió desde el primer momento, principalmente por dejar la gestión del patinaje artístico a la asociación original en Praga. Numerosos expertos y funcionarios deportivos continuaron sus

actividades para la República Checa. A pesar de la asociación resurgente, la República Eslovaca se esfuerza por lograr las mejores condiciones posibles no solo para los atletas sino también para los profesionales del deporte. El estudio trata sobre la búsqueda de innovaciones y la asistencia a la República Eslovaca para encontrar y eliminar las deficiencias.

Palabras clave: patinaje artístico, República Eslovaca, análisis FODA

O artigo trata do curso de patinação artística de dois países que eram um estado comum há 30 anos e operavam com base em um sindicato com uma gestão. Devido aos acontecimentos políticos de 1992, o país foi dividido e a gestão centralizada da patinação artística também teve que se desintegrar. De um sindicato, que era dirigido de Praga, tornaram-se dois sindicatos, operando independentemente um do outro. A patinação artística na Eslováquia sofreu desde o primeiro momento, principalmente devido a deixar a gestão da patinação artística para a associação original em Praga. Muitos especialistas em esportes e dirigentes continuaram suas atividades pela República Tcheca. Apesar do ressurgimento da associação, a República Eslovaca se esforça para obter as melhores condições possíveis, não só para os atletas, mas também para os profissionais do esporte. O estudo trata da busca de inovações e assistência à República Eslovaca para encontrar e eliminar deficiências.

Palavras-chave: patinação artística, República Eslovaca, análises SWOT