



# USCAK

UKRAINIAN SPORTS CENTRAL (FEDERATION) OF AMERICA AND CANADA

## BYLAWS

Revised November 2017

# UKRAINIAN SPORTS CENTRAL (FEDERATION) OF AMERICA AND CANADA

## USCAK

### Bylaws

#### 1. *General*

- 1.1. Name – The name of the organization is “Ukrainian Sports Central (Federation) of America and Canada.” The organization may also do business as “USCAK” (which is based on the phonetic translation of the Ukrainian acronym).
- 1.2. Status – The Ukrainian Sports Federation of USA and Canada shall be incorporated as a nonprofit and educational organization in the United States.
- 1.3. Location
  - 1.3.1. Registered Office
    - 1.3.1.1. The USCAK Registered Office will be based in the State of New Jersey, USA where the organization is incorporated.
    - 1.3.1.2. The street address of USCAK’s Registered Office and the name of its registered agent shall be as stated in USCAK’s Articles of Incorporation.
  - 1.3.2. Operational Office
    - 1.3.2.1. The USCAK Operational Office address will be used for regular business purposes.
    - 1.3.2.2. The USCAK Operational Office will be designated by the Executive Board and may be, but is not limited to, the home address of the president, secretary, or any other executive board member.
- 1.4. Purpose
  - 1.4.1. Vision – A vibrant network of Ukrainian athletes throughout North America and the world.
  - 1.4.2. Mission – Coordinate and facilitate sports activities within the Ukrainian communities of the United States and Canada in a way that promotes healthy citizenship, good sportsmanship, and Ukrainian culture.
  - 1.4.3. Objectives
    - 1.4.3.1. Provide a centralized mechanism for communicating between Ukrainian sports clubs and athletes.
    - 1.4.3.2. Organize regional, national, and international sports competitions and trainings.
    - 1.4.3.3. Document and archive the activities of all members.
    - 1.4.3.4. Maintain relationships with sports federations in Ukraine and other countries.
- 1.5. Language – USCAK is a multilingual organization and will utilize Ukrainian, English and French languages, with an emphasis on teaching and preserving Ukrainian.
- 1.6. History – Please see Attachment I appended to these Bylaws and made a part hereof.

## 1.7. Definitions

- 1.7.1. Athlete – A person who is trained in or excels at sports, games, or exercises that require skill and / or physical ability (strength, speed, agility, etc.).
- 1.7.2. Sports Club – A club for the purpose of playing one or more sports. Synonymous with sport club, athletic club, sport association, and other similar terms.
- 1.7.3. National Organization – National Organizations are organizations with multiple branches across a wide geographic area, allowing branches to effectively operate as an individual Sports Clubs. While sports need not be the main focus of the National Organization, it should be an important part of its Mission.
- 1.7.4. Ukrainian - Originating from or descended from that region of the world recognized as the country of Ukraine at the time that these Bylaws are adopted. As used in the context of these Bylaws, Ukrainian shall refer to individuals, clubs, organizations and institutions committed to preserving and / or participating in activities (especially including competitive and athletic activities) involving Ukrainian culture, language, heritage and / or traditions.

## 2. Organization

### 2.1. Board of Directors (also called "Board") shall consist of:

- 2.1.1. President
- 2.1.2. Executive Vice-President (a.k.a. 1st Vice President)
- 2.1.3. Regional Vice-Presidents
  - 2.1.3.1. Eastern USA Vice President
  - 2.1.3.2. Western Vice-President
  - 2.1.3.3. Eastern Canada Vice-President
  - 2.1.3.4. Western Canada Vice President
- 2.1.4. Secretary
- 2.1.5. Treasurer
- 2.1.6. Organizational Director ("Orhanizatsinij")
- 2.1.7. Marketing Director
- 2.1.8. Social Media Director
- 2.1.9. Press Secretaries (up to three, based on language and/or geography)
  - 2.1.9.1. Ukrainian, English and/or French
  - 2.1.9.2. USA, Canada
- 2.1.10. Members At Large ("Vil'ni Chleny")
- 2.1.11. Sports Directors – for each of the Sports Divisions

### 2.2. Executive Board - The Executive Board is a Subset of the Board of Directors and is made up of the President, Executive Vice-President, Regional Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Organizational Director (Orhanizatsinij).

### 2.3. Sports Divisions

- 2.3.1. Soccer (Indoor, Outdoor and/or Beach)
- 2.3.2. Volleyball (Indoor, Outdoor and/or Beach)
- 2.3.3. Track and Field
- 2.3.4. Swimming
- 2.3.5. Tennis
- 2.3.6. Table Tennis
- 2.3.7. Skiing and Snowboarding
- 2.3.8. Basketball
- 2.3.9. Chess
- 2.3.10. Golf
- 2.3.11. Ice Hockey
- 2.3.12. Karate
- 2.3.13. Softball and Baseball
- 2.3.14. Fencing

2.4. Addition/Elimination of New Sports Divisions - Sports divisions may be added or disbanded as needed.

### 2.5. Arbitration Committee ("Tovariskij Sud")

- 2.5.1. The General Elections will elect three to seven members of USCAK to the Arbitration Committee for the purposes of hearing grievances filed pursuant to the Bylaws.
- 2.5.2. The Arbitration Committee election is to be made at the General Elections or at the first Board Meeting.

### 2.6. Auditing Committee

- 2.6.1. The General Elections will elect three to seven members of USCAK to the Auditing Committee.
- 2.6.2. The chair of the Auditing Committee shall have financial experience.
- 2.6.3. The Auditing Committee shall perform an independent audit of the financial accounts and transactions of USCAK to be presented at the General Elections.
- 2.6.4. The Auditing Committee may also perform other audits at any time.

### 2.7. Regions

- 2.7.1. USCAK has the following four (4) administrative, geographic regions: Eastern USA, Western USA, Eastern Canada and Western Canada.
- 2.7.2. Every USCAK sports club, in good standing, shall automatically be a member of the region within whose geographic boundary it is located.
- 2.7.3. Compositions of Regions:
  - 2.7.3.1. Eastern USA – the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and also Washington DC.
  - 2.7.3.2. Western USA – the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and all points West.

- 2.7.3.3. Eastern Canada – the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and also the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island).
- 2.7.3.4. Western Canada – the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- 2.7.4. New Regions – USCAK is open to changing or expanding the boundaries of existing regions or creating new regions if deemed necessary.
- 2.8. General Elections
  - 2.8.1. Election Frequency – General Elections for all positions on the Board of Directors shall occur every two years.
  - 2.8.2. Election Location and Date – The exact location and date of the General Election shall be selected by the Executive Board and communicated to all members at least 30 days prior.
  - 2.8.3. Nominating Process – The Executive Board shall appoint a General Election Nominating Committee made up of 3-7 USCAK members prior to the General Elections. The General Election Nominating Committee shall research its nominations for all positions on the Board of Directors prior to the General Election meeting.
  - 2.8.4. Election Presidium – The proceedings of the General Elections shall be overseen by the Election Presidium, which is elected at the General Elections by voting members and nominated by the Nominations Committee.
  - 2.8.5. General Election Voting Rules
    - 2.8.5.1. Every Member Sports Club in good standing is allowed up to three votes.
    - 2.8.5.2. Every Member National Organization in good standing is allowed up to three votes.
    - 2.8.5.3. Individual Athlete Members and Honorary Members are not allowed to vote.
    - 2.8.5.4. Any member in attendance can only vote once, even if that member is affiliated with more than one club, national organization, and/or board position.
    - 2.8.5.5. Proxies are not permitted at the General Elections.
    - 2.8.5.6. All board members are entitled to one vote, in which case they may not vote as one of three votes for their club/organization. Their club/organization still retains three votes.
- 2.9. Board Meetings
  - 2.9.1. Board Meetings are called by the President, striving for at least one per quarter.
  - 2.9.2. Board Meeting Attendance – Any and all USCAK members can attend for discussion purposes.
  - 2.9.3. Board Meeting Voting – Only Board Members can vote on Resolutions.
- 2.10. Responsibilities of Board of Directors Positions
  - 2.10.1. The President of USCAK shall :
    - 2.10.1.1. Serve as the chief executive officer of USCAK;
    - 2.10.1.2. Administer all the affairs of USCAK with the concurrence of the Executive Board;
    - 2.10.1.3. Serve as chairman of all meetings of the Executive Board and Board of Directors;
    - 2.10.1.4. Establish and appoint USCAK Committees;
    - 2.10.1.5. Nominate replacements for Board of Directors vacancies;
    - 2.10.1.6. Provide an annual report at the Annual Meeting;

- 2.10.1.7. Represent (or delegate someone to represent) USCAK at other functions;
  - 2.10.1.8. Disperse USCAK funds, with transparency to Treasurer;
  - 2.10.1.9. Perform other responsibilities assigned by the Executive Board.
- 2.10.2. The Executive Vice-President of USCAK shall:
- 2.10.2.1. Carry out direction as given by President and Board and assume the responsibilities of the President when the President is absent, cannot act, refuses to act or is removed from office;
  - 2.10.2.2. Perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.
- 2.10.3. The Regional Vice-Presidents of USCAK shall:
- 2.10.3.1. Represent their respective geographical areas on the National Board;
  - 2.10.3.2. Assist the President in the performance of the President's responsibilities;
  - 2.10.3.3. Perform other responsibilities assigned by the Executive Board or the President.
- 2.10.4. The Secretary of USCAK shall:
- 2.10.4.1. Give proper notice of all USCAK meetings;
  - 2.10.4.2. Ensure that minutes of Board Meetings are taken and published;
  - 2.10.4.3. Ensure the proper custody of the records of USCAK;
  - 2.10.4.4. Ensure that a record is kept of the name and address and other information of each Board Member and USCAK Member Organization;
  - 2.10.4.5. Perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.
- 2.10.5. The Treasurer of USCAK shall:
- 2.10.5.1. Have charge of the funds and financial records of USCAK;
  - 2.10.5.2. Oversee the preparation of the proposed annual budget for submission to the Board of Directors;
  - 2.10.5.3. Oversee the preparation of financial statements when needed;
  - 2.10.5.4. Provide access for any audits performed by the USCAK Auditing Committee;
  - 2.10.5.5. Perform other responsibilities assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.
- 2.10.6. Organizational Director ("Orhanizatsinij") shall:
- 2.10.6.1. Provide direct service and support to individuals or member clubs by handling issues, conducting needs evaluations, or resolving complaints;
  - 2.10.6.2. Establish and maintain relationships with other clubs and organizations in the community to meet community needs and to ensure that services are not duplicated;
  - 2.10.6.3. Evaluate the work of staff and volunteers to ensure that programs are of appropriate quality and that resources are used effectively;
  - 2.10.6.4. Research and analyze member and community needs to determine program directions and goals;
  - 2.10.6.5. Participate in the determination of organizational policies regarding such issues as participant eligibility, program requirements, and program benefits;
  - 2.10.6.6. Establish and oversee administrative procedures to meet objectives set by the Board of Directors;

- 2.10.6.7. Speak to community groups to explain organizational purposes, programs, and policies.
- 2.10.7. The USCAK Marketing Director shall:
  - 2.10.7.1. Facilitate electronic communications to USCAK members;
  - 2.10.7.2. Market and advertise the Organization, utilizing traditional and social media.
- 2.10.8. The USCAK Social Media Director shall:
  - 2.10.8.1. Manage the information content and technical aspects of the USCAK website, Facebook page and other social media outlets;
  - 2.10.8.2. Continually investigate and utilize new media tools to help USCAK execute its organizational goals;
  - 2.10.8.3. Assist the Marketing Director in creating content.
- 2.10.9. The USCAK Press Directors shall:
  - 2.10.9.1. Prepare organizational publications for internal and external audiences, including newsletters, journals, and books;
  - 2.10.9.2. Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of the media;
  - 2.10.9.3. Respond to requests for information about USCAK from the media;
  - 2.10.9.4. Draft articles with photos and disseminate to media outlets regarding impending tournaments, happenings, and general interest;
  - 2.10.9.5. Generate materials in the Ukrainian, English and French languages, as appropriate;
  - 2.10.9.6. Draft advertisements to disseminate to media outlets, as appropriate, with the permission of the Executive Board.
- 2.10.10. Member-at-Large (Vil'ney Chlen) shall:
  - 2.10.10.1. Attend all board meetings of the organization;
  - 2.10.10.2. Coordinate relationships with liaisons;
  - 2.10.10.3. Share ideas, guidance, and expertise with the Executive Board;
  - 2.10.10.4. Assist the Executive Board as requested.
- 2.10.11. Sports Directors shall:
  - 2.10.11.1. Direct athletic activities;
  - 2.10.11.2. Coordinate athletic events and manage athletic budgets;
  - 2.10.11.3. Participate in revenue development planning and fundraising;
  - 2.10.11.4. Serve as liaisons with sports league / conference / division administrators;
  - 2.10.11.5. Maintain a Rule Book in their particular sport and issue to each member club / athlete with the prior permission of the Board;
  - 2.10.11.6. Provide a copy of the rules and regulations to each club / athlete participating in an USCAK-sponsored event;
  - 2.10.11.7. Organize at least one tournament per calendar year in each of their particular sport.

## 2.11. Removal

- 2.11.1.1. The Executive Board by two-thirds vote, may remove an officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to the Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of USCAK. Such a decision by the Executive Board shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the Executive Board by two-thirds vote.
- 2.12. Ad Hoc Committees – USCAK may establish ad hoc committees for the purpose of dealing with certain issues. Ad hoc committees shall be established by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.
  - 2.12.1. Ad Hoc Committee membership shall be open to any member of USCAK.
  - 2.12.2. Ad Hoc Committees may be disbanded by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
  - 2.12.3. Ad Hoc Committees shall be considered to be committees of the Executive Board and shall report directly to the Executive Board.
  - 2.12.4. Ad Hoc Committee Chair(s) must be a member of the Board.
  - 2.12.5. At least one other Board Member shall serve as a member of any Ad Hoc Committee.
- 2.13. Auditing Committee shall:
  - 2.13.1. Ensure that the organization understands and complies with its own governing document, relevant laws, contractual obligations and the requirements of any regulatory bodies;
  - 2.13.2. Maintain and regularly review the organization's system of internal controls, performance reporting, policies and procedures. The management committee/board must ensure that it upholds and applies the principles of equality and diversity and that the organization is fair and open to all sections of the community in all of its activities.
- 2.14. Arbitration Committee shall:
  - 2.14.1. Hear grievances, disputes and appeals filed pursuant to the Bylaws.

## 3. *Membership*

- 3.1. Eligibility – The membership of USCAK is open to all Ukrainian-American and Ukrainian-Canadian athletes without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.
- 3.2. Membership Categories
  - 3.2.1. National Organization
  - 3.2.2. Sports Club
  - 3.2.3. Associate Individual Member
  - 3.2.4. Honorary Member
- 3.3. Admission to Membership
  - 3.3.1. Any sports club or individual desiring to become a Sports Club Member of USCAK must complete and submit an USCAK Membership Application Form to the Executive Board; specify the category of Organization Member being applied for; and if possible, include with the application copies of its charter or articles of incorporation, Bylaws, rules, regulations, any rules of play, and other governing documents appropriate to understanding the structure and activities of the organization.
  - 3.3.2. Acceptance Process – the Executive Board will, by a simple majority vote, accept new members.



### 3.3.3. Term of Membership and Renewal

3.3.3.1. The Term of Membership shall be one year.

3.3.3.2. If the Member is in good standing, their membership shall automatically be renewed upon payment of Annual Dues.

3.3.4. General Member Responsibilities – Be generally active, pay dues, follow laws, respect guidelines requirements

3.3.5. Dues – At the first meeting of the newly-elected Board dues will be set by the Board.

### 3.3.6. Suspensions, Fines, or Expulsions

3.3.6.1. Any Member or Member Organization may be suspended, fined, or expelled from affiliation with USCAK by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of present of the total voting power of the Executive Board.

3.3.6.2. Suspension, fines, or expulsion may result from, but is not limited to, the following actions:

3.3.6.2.1. Violations of the provisions of these Bylaws,

3.3.6.2.2. Unconscionable actions during USCAK activities,

3.3.6.2.3. Actions contrary to the fundamental objectives, integrity or best interests of USCAK,

3.3.6.2.4. Evidencing a pattern of allowing or encouraging teams or individuals associated with the Member Organization to act as described above.

3.3.7. Resignations – Any member may resign from USCAK by submitting a written resignation to the USCAK Executive Board. The resignation need not be accepted by USCAK to be effective. A member's resignation does not relieve the member of any obligation to pay any fees that had been accrued and were unpaid before the effective date of the resignation.

3.3.8. Reinstatement – A suspended member of USCAK may submit a written request for reinstatement to the USCAK Executive Board. The USCAK Executive Board may reinstate the membership of a suspended member on reasonable terms that the Board considers appropriate.

## 4. *Administrative*

4.1. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all USCAK meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest authorized edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

4.2. Accounts, Books, Records – The member clubs shall have the right to inspect the books of the Association provided they give one month written notice of their intention.

4.2.1. Auditing committee can audit the books at any time.

### 4.3. Indemnification

4.3.1. The Association declares that any person who serves at its request as a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association shall in such capacity, be subject to indemnification under the provisions of this Article in accordance with and to the fullest permitted by the provisions of New Jersey, as hereafter amended from time to time, and the corresponding provisions of any subsequent law (for purposes of this Article referred to as the "Act" and the indemnification provisions of which are incorporated herein by this reference). Any such person shall be indemnified by or on behalf of the Association against expenses (including attorney's fees), liability, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative

or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Association) by reason of such service if such person (i) conducted him/herself in good faith; (ii) reasonably believed, in the case of conduct in an official capacity with the Association, that the conduct was in the best interests of the Association and, in all other cases, that the conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Association; and (iii) in the case of any criminal proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful.

4.3.2. Each member sports club and athlete, on behalf of his or herself and any minor children, must sign an indemnification and hold harmless agreement and agree to release, hold harmless and indemnify USCAK, their employees, officers and agents, from any loss, cost, damage and/or expense of any nature, including all attorneys' fees and costs which they may have resulting either directly or indirectly, from their participation in any USCAK-related programs or activities.

#### 4.4. Liability Insurance Policy

4.4.1. Amateur Youth and Adult Sports Liability Insurance coverage is mandatory and must provide \$1,000,000 of liability protection per occurrence, with a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit per activity. The policy covers judgments and awards, as well as legal fees and court costs. The policy provides coverage for lawsuits for bodily injury, property damage and personal injury (i.e., defamation of character, libel, slander, false arrest). Participant liability must be secured. The policy should provide coverage for lawsuits brought against USCAK by players or participants who may have been injured. Because the liability plan must provide coverage for participant liability, it is a requirement that each organization have accident medical coverage in force for all participants.

4.4.2. Nothing herein shall constitute members of the Association as partners for any purpose. No member, Officer, Director, agent or employee of the Association shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any Officer, Director, agent or employee of the Association; nor shall any members, Officers, Directors, agents or employees be liable for their acts or failure under these Bylaws except for actions or failures to act arising out of their willful malfeasance.

### 5. *Sanctioned Events*

5.1. Sanctioning Process – Any member seeking to have an activity sanctioned by USCAK, must submit a written request to the Executive Board for review.

### 6. *Grievances, Disputes, and Appeals*

6.1. Resolution of Disputes - A dispute between or among Organization Members shall be resolved by a special commission of the Board of Directors as follows:

6.1.1. Any Organization Member involved in a dispute between or among Organization Members shall submit a written petition to the Board of Directors for the resolution of the dispute.

6.1.2. Within 30 days of receiving the petition, the President of USCAK, in consultation with the Board of Directors, shall assign to the Arbitration Board (Tovariskiy Sud).

6.1.3. Arbitration Board may prescribe appropriate procedures for resolving the dispute, except that a hearing shall be conducted within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and a written decision or resolution shall be issued within 120 days of receipt of the petition.

6.1.4. The decision of the Arbitration Board is final and binding on all parties.

6.1.5. The President may require the disputing parties to participate in mediation before the Arbitration Board, in which case the deadlines are extended by not more than 30 days.

6.2. With respect to all other disputes, USCAK

6.2.1. Favors the resolution of disputes through mediation whenever possible;

6.2.2. Shall provide for the prompt resolution of disputes;

6.2.3. Shall prescribe policies to carry out this section.

**7. Amendments to Bylaws**

7.1. Amendments require previous notice first to Bylaws Committee (if exists), then to Board of Directors, then to the general membership.

7.2. Amendments to Bylaws require previous notice prior to general membership and a two-thirds vote at a General Membership Meeting or Elections Meeting.

**8. Liquidation of USCAK**

8.1. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the remaining Voting Members at the General Elections is required to dissolve the organization.

8.2. The finances after payment of all outstanding obligations are to be disbursed equally among remaining sports club members.

Recommended by the Bylaws Committee consisting of:

Myron Bytz, Chairman

Mark Howansky, Secretary

Approved at: National Convention, dated \_\_\_\_\_

Presidium Chairman

Presidium Secretary

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## ATTACHMENT I

### USCAK MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO UKRAINIAN SPORTS (1955 – 2005)

The Ukrainian Sports Federation of the USA and Canada, better known by its Ukrainian acronym USCAK, was founded on December 24, 1955 in Toronto, Canada, as an umbrella organization of Ukrainian sports associations, including the sports divisions of Ukrainian youth societies in North America.

On that date, 23 representatives of Ukrainian sports clubs as well as the SUM and Plast youth organizations, elected the first governing board of USCAK: Ivan Krasnyk – President; Yaroslav Chorostil – Vice President; Volodymyr Levycky – Secretary and Treasurer; Roman Prypchan – Director of Sports and Refereeing; Roman Sawczak – Director of Discipline and Verification. Also elected was a Sports Council chaired by Dr. Edward Zarsky, and an Auditing Committee.

According to its Bylaws, USCAK became the highest sports authority in North America, to which all Ukrainian sports activity was subordinated. Some of the declared objectives of USCAK were: to coordinate sports activity internally, within the Ukrainian community, and represent Ukrainian sports externally; to organize annual championships for Ukrainians in North America in a variety of sports; to maintain a registration of teams as well as individual players and referees; to issue rules and regulations; to select all-star teams that would represent Ukrainians in international competition. Above all, the founders of USCAK felt that by cultivating not only physical, but also spiritual qualities of the youth within the Ukrainian sports organizations; they would ensure the vitality of the Ukrainian people as these youths would eventually develop into full-fledged members of a free Ukrainian community.

The establishment of USCAK represented the culmination of an organizational process in the Ukrainian sports in North America that had started roughly in 1948 with the arrival to these shores of a wave of post-World War II immigrants, refugees from Communism, now referred to as the “third wave”. These new arrivals quickly formed a multitude of new civic, educational, professional, cultural, youth and sports organizations within the Ukrainian communities throughout the U.S. and Canada, in addition to joining those which had already existed there, primarily the churches and fraternal associations.

At that time, the only functioning Ukrainian sports club in all of North America was the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association “Chornomorska Sitch” in Newark, New Jersey, which has existed since 1924. Soon the new immigrants rejuvenated the ranks of “Chornomorska Sitch”, expanding considerably the range of its sports and community activities.

Everywhere else, the immigrants of the third wave established new sports clubs: in New York city – the Ukrainian Sports Club (“USK”) and the Carpathian Ski Club (“KLK”); in Yonkers, New York – the sports club “Krylati”, affiliated with the Ukrainian Youth Association of America (“SUMA”); Ukrainian sports clubs sprang up also in Rochester and Syracuse, New York. In New Jersey, new sports clubs were founded in Elizabeth (“Sitch”), Perth Amboy (“Berkut”), Trenton (“Strila”), and Passaic (“Ukrainian Center”). In Connecticut it was “Dovbush” in New Haven and the “Ukrainian Sports Club” in Hartford. In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the sports center “Tryzub” was established, which later became well-known in mainstream American sports for its champion soccer teams, named “Ukrainian Nationals”.

In the Midwest, two Ukrainian sports clubs were founded in Chicago – “Levy” and “Kryla” – as well as one each in Cleveland (“Lviv”) and in Detroit (“Chernyk”).

In Canada, sports clubs named “Ukraina” were founded in both Toronto and in Montreal, as well as the Carpathian Ski Club (“KLK”) in Toronto. The Ukrainian youth associations SUM and Plast, both in the US and Canada, also took part in organized sports activities.

The first move towards an organizational superstructure came in 1953, when the Ukrainian sports organizations from the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania united into an "Association of Ukrainian-American Sports Societies – East", known by its Ukrainian acronym "SUAST – East". With its headquarters in New York City SUAST – East was headed by Dr. Edward Zarsky. In the Midwest, a similar association united the states of Illinois, Michigan and Ohio, with its headquarters in Chicago. It was called SUAST – West (SUAST – North in some sources) and was headed by Ivan Krasnyk. The final step in the consolidation was the joining of the two regional SUAST associations with the Ukrainian sports organizations of Canada to establish the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the USA and Canada, USCAK.

Throughout its 50-year history, USCAK has been most successful in staging the annual Ukrainian championships of North America in several sports, among them most consistently in men's and women's volleyball, tennis and swimming, and in men's chess (since 1966), as well as less regularly, in skiing and table tennis. Very recently USCAK championships have begun to include soccer. Track and field competition has been staged at the Annual Youth Games run by the youth organization SUMA under the aegis of USCAK.

USCAK fulfilled its other mandate – of external representation – by organizing the all-star teams and individual athletes who presented Ukrainians in the two Free Olympiads, in 1980 and 1984, which were held in Etobicoke, Canada. The Free Olympiads were staged by the captive nations of the Soviet Union, with the participation of Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Two very successful Ukrainian Sports Olympiads, in 1988 and in 2000, both hosted by "Tryzub" Philadelphia, were also staged under the aegis of USCAK. The 1988 Olympiad was dedicated to the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine.

A special chapter in the history of USCAK has been defined by its moral and financial support for sports in Ukraine since that country's declared independence in August 1991. Shortly before the independence, in June 1991, a large delegation of USCAK athletes and officials, led by USCAK President Myron Stebelsky, went on a tour of Western Ukraine. They were invited by the Ukrainian Sports Association and the "Karpaty" soccer club of Lviv to a joint celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the once famous "Ukraina" sports club of Lviv, Ukraine.

For the trip to Ukraine, USCAK assembled the following all-star squads: three soccer teams – men's, junior and old boys – men's and women's volleyball, tennis and swimming teams, as well as a men's chess team. About 120 players and coaches and nearly 300 tourists made the trip. The competition, which took place at various venues throughout Western Ukraine, lasted some 10-12 days. The USCAK tour, however, reaped benefits that have transcended sports. In their numerous interviews and patriotic public speeches, which received heavy media coverage, USCAK representatives emphasized the rebirth of Ukraine and the unity of Ukrainians on both sides of the Atlantic. This moral support coming from their brethren from North America provided extra impetus to the already growing movement towards national independence among the Ukrainian people.

Unrelated to this trip, USCAK established a working relationship with the National Olympic Committee and a number of Sports Federations of Ukraine. These fledgling sports organizations of the newly independent country were in desperate need of the hard currency required to enter the international arena. USCAK came to the rescue by launching in 1991 a fundraising campaign within the Ukrainian-American and Ukrainian-Canadian communities, channeling the donations mainly into the Fund for the Rebirth of Sports in Ukraine as well as some smaller ad hoc funds. The patriotic Ukrainian community of North America responded admirably, so that over the years USCAK was able to raise in donations and to disburse nearly \$400,000 for the needs of sports in Ukraine.

Initially the money was spent on the membership fees of about 40 Sports Federations of Ukraine in the corresponding European and World Federations. Later, USCAK made major financial contributions in support of Ukraine's teams at the 1994 Winter Olympiad in Lillehammer, Norway, and at the 1996 and 2000 Summer Olympiads in Atlanta, Georgia and Sydney, Australia, respectively.

There were too many individual grants by USCAK to enumerate here, but one can mention their biggest recipients: Oksana Baiul, the Olympic champion Ice-skater; the scholarship fund for the students at the Lviv State Institute of Physical Culture; the Soccer Federation as well as the swimming and bobsledding teams of Ukraine. Furthermore, USCAK co-sponsored three Stepan Popel Memorial International Chess Tournaments in Lviv, and provided one-time grants to several Ukrainian child prodigies in chess. In 2002, one of the former USCAK grant recipients, Ruslan Ponomaryov, became the first-ever Ukrainian chess champion of the world.

At the time of this writing, in 2005, most of the founders of USCAK are no longer with us, but there is no doubt that they would be proud of how much the leadership and the rank-and-file members of today's USCAK have accomplished for the good of Ukrainian youth and sports on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The legacy of USCAK demonstrates just how much can be achieved by hard-working and dedicated people who volunteer their time, energy and skills to a worthy cause without seeking any material gain in return.

Therefore, as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USCAK and its major contribution to Ukrainian sports, let us salute all those people who made this success story possible. The honor roll starts with the USCAK Presidents in chronological order: Ivan Krasnyk (2 terms), Volodymyr Levycky, Yaroslav Chrostil, Dr. Mykhaylo Snihurovych, Yuriy Kosachevych, Volodymyr Kizyma, Roman Kucil (8 terms) and Myron Stebelsky (1989 – to present).

Special recognition, however, is due to those USCAK executives whose far-sighted initiatives and tireless efforts provided the crucial financial and moral assistance to sports in Ukraine, beginning in 1991. Let us salute this remarkable group of activists who made it happen. All of them are currently members of the USCAK executive board: Myron Stebelsky, President; Irenaeus Isajiw, Vice President; Omelan Twardowsky, Press Officer; Alexander Napora, Financial Secretary, and Roman Pyndus, Secretary.

Indeed, their contributions have been recognized in Ukraine. Thus, Myron Stebelsky was awarded a certificate signed by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma for his "significant personal contribution to the development and strengthening of the Ukrainian state". Messrs. Stebelsky, Twardowsky and Orest Popovych (USCAK Chess Director) were honored with gold medals as "Builders of Ukraine" by the Kyiv-based all Ukrainian society "Prosvita". The above trio was joined by Messrs. Napora and Pyndus in receiving certificates from the Lviv State Institute of Physical Culture, which recognized them for the "many years of fruitful work directed towards the development of the Ukrainian sports and educational movement beyond the borders of Ukraine".

The name of USCAK has been immortalized in the Museum of Sports Glory in Kyiv, Ukraine, by a permanent exhibition titled "Diaspora – USCAK", displaying documents and mementos related to Ukrainian sports activity in North America.

Of course, the USCAK leadership could not have accomplished all of this alone. So, as we congratulate them in this Jubilee Year, let us also salute all those Ukrainian clubs which organized and hosted the annual USCAK championships in various sports, providing their facilities and financial support. Let us salute the countless tournament organizers, directors, referees, and above all – the competitors, many of which had to travel long distances to USCAK events, usually at their own expense. It cannot be overemphasized that all of the people involved in USCAK activities – certainly hundreds and perhaps thousands of them over a period of half and century – have been volunteers, who donated their time, energy and expertise, not only without any financial or other material remuneration, but often incurring considerable out-of-pocket expenses in the process. For example, those who went on the USCAK tour of Ukraine in 1991 paid their own way. Finally, let us salute the generous donors within the patriotic Ukrainian community of North America whose contributions made it possible to USCAK to help finance the first baby steps of the sports establishment of newly independent Ukraine.

Petro Bezpalko, a Kyivan journalist and a student of sports in the Ukrainian Diaspora, described USCAK as a unique phenomenon, for which there are no analogs amount the diasporas of other nations.

A unique institution deserves to be well documented and its memory well preserved. Some steps in that direction have been taken already. Published in 1980 was the "Propamyatna Knyha" ("Commemorative Book") of USCAK, followed in 1997 by "Na Olimpiyskykh Khvylakh" ("On the Olympic Waves") and in 2002, by a compilation of publications "USCAK and Sports in Ukraine". All of these books are in Ukrainian, although the last compilation does contain 10 articles in English.

The present "Jubilee Almanach" complements the existing historical record, providing future researchers of Ukrainian sports with a treasure trove of information, and ensuring the remarkable legacy of USCAK a well-deserved place of honor in Ukrainian history. It is hoped that this impressive record will provide added inspiration to present and future generations of Ukrainian sports activists in North America and will energize them to new achievements in the tradition of their predecessors.

While some of the clubs that existed at the time of the founding of USCAK are now defunct, several new ones have sprung up to take their place: "Poltava" – Rochester, NY; "Vatra" – Long Island, NY; "Karpaty" – Ontario, Canada; and the "Stepan Popel Chess Club" – Buffalo, NY. In 2005 there were 16 sports clubs and youth associations affiliated with USCAK, attesting to its vitality. May the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the USA and Canada continue to flourish for another 50 years and beyond!

To be continued .....

Dr. Orest Popovych, USCAK Chess Director