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Possible reasons for the migration of top-ranked athletes to the USA

Current statistics show that migration processes are on the rise. In particular, the data on migration dynamics from Russia. Unfortunately, scientists, cultural workers, businessmen and sportsmen are leaving their homeland. The USA is often chosen as a country for permanent residence.

The question of migration is beginning to arise for many people aged 17-25 years, and this category includes students of higher education institutions, including high-level sporting activities and participation in international cups and championships. Immigration leads to problems associated with breaking the law, brain drain, racism, extremism, and so on. People leave their homes in an effort to obtain better living, living and training conditions, as well as opportunities to move from one level of sporting achievement to another [1,4].

This work has been done to find out the main reasons for such migration and to identify problems related to the immigration of athletes. The results of the study can be used to solve the problems of migration of highly qualified athletes and the possibility of changes in the development of sports in Russia as a whole.

Every child engaged in a sport gives priority to achieving a certain result or getting a grade. At the initial stage, the conditions in which training sessions and training camps are held may correspond to a good level. However, in the future, the coach and students may face a number of problems: lack of a place to conduct training, the necessary full sports equipment, low competition and insufficient travel to competitions.

In Russia, a child faces the existing problem of choosing a priority area: sports or study. Therefore, by the time he or she graduates from school, an athlete who has achieved good results is seriously thinking about continuing his or her sporting career and is considering moving abroad, particularly to the United States, where, unlike in Russia, he or she feels that sport and study are equal. At U.S. universities and colleges, students are given the opportunity not only to pursue higher education, but also to train for their national team. In the USA, university sport has been developing for a long time and represents one of the most important elements of national sport, while in Russia, university sport as a concept was legally established only in 2012 [2]. The advantage of studying abroad is to get a partial or full sports scholarship, covering the main expenses: accommodation, food, training camp and trips to competitions. A necessary condition is the availability of the sports category "Master of Sports" and in some cases - "Candidate for

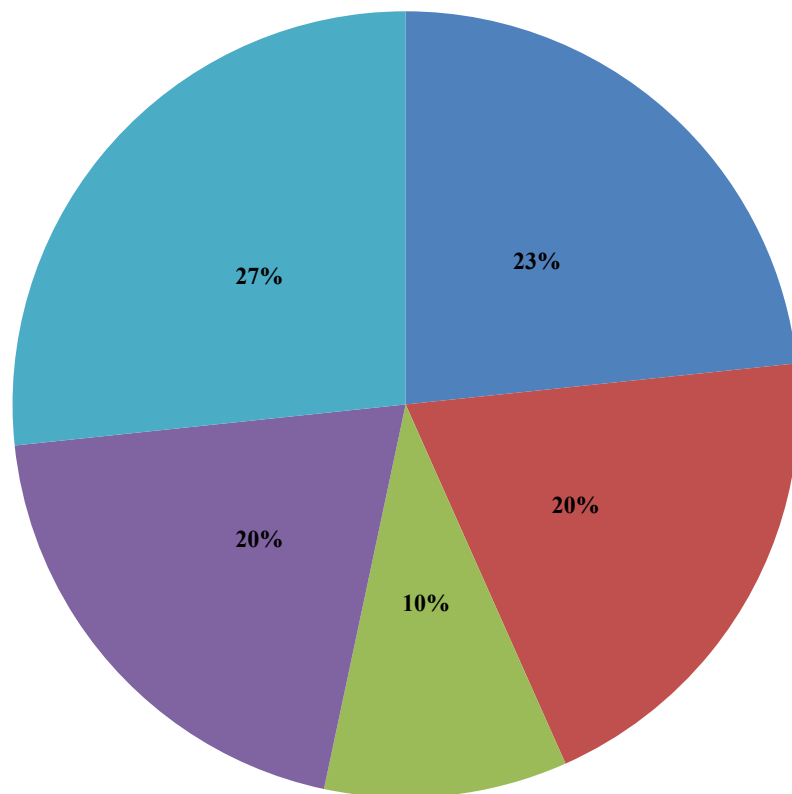
Master of Sports". The average amount of the scholarship is \$10,500, it is paid for the entire period of study of the student [3]. In Russia, winners and champions of Olympiads are paid a presidential scholarship of 52000 rubles.

Bright examples of those who leave Russia for the USA to build a sports career are hockey players (Nikita Kucherov, Vladimir Tarasenko), basketball players (Sergey Monya, Yaroslav Korolev), swimmers (Yulia Efimova, Vladimir Morozov), sports gymnasts and tennis players. Some go abroad for a certain period of time, but after returning home they continue to train and work only in big cities with all amenities [3,5]. Such cities include Moscow, St Petersburg, Kazan, Sochi and Yekaterinburg. For example, thanks to the Kazan 2013 Summer Universiade, 9 additional facilities were built: Universiade Village, Kazan Arena football stadium, Aquatics Palace, Tennis Academy, Ak Bars Wrestling Palace, Volleyball Centre, Boxing and Table Tennis Centre, Gymnastics Centre, Rowing Centre. Nowadays Russian and foreign sportsmen use these facilities as training bases. However, even the conditions provided in Russia do not limit coaches and students in obtaining visas to the USA.

In the course of the research, a survey was conducted to identify possible reasons for the athletes' migration from Russia to the USA. Respondents were 30 students from the Volga Region State Academy of Physical Culture, Sports and Tourism who have the following categories: Master of Sports, Master of Sports International Class and Honored Master of Sports and are thinking about immigrating to the United States to achieve higher sports results. The results of the study are shown in Figure 1.

Thus, it can be concluded that there is a tendency among athletes to migrate from Russia to the U.S., and the reasons for such migration are the following: lack of conditions for sports and the opportunity to study while playing sports.

- Lack of opportunity to play sports and study at the university equally
- Inadequate financial support
- Political system
- Lack of experience with trainers, lack of specialities, a different approach to organizing and conducting the training process
- Lack of conditions necessary for playing sports (training facilities and sports complexes, sports equipment)



Picture 1 - Reasons for athletes' migration from Russia to the USA

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