

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACQUIRING A TEACHING QUALIFICATION FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT. Due to the importance and social significance of the problem in this publication, we set out to look in more detail at the opportunities for acquiring a teacher's qualification in physical education as well as for further continuing education. As per analytical review of the current regulatory base in this direction as well as of the practice at the National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski" the two main options for acquiring the professional qualification "Teacher of Physical Education" are outlined - according to the conditions of Bachelor's degree and the conditions of the Postgraduate Qualification Center. The possibilities for acquiring a master's degree in the subject "Physical Education" are also considered. For all three types, the structure of the curriculum is indicated. At the end of the article, the basic requirements for the acquisition of Vocational-qualification degrees by teachers as a result of the attained level of qualification and their participation in continuing education are also stated.

Keywords: physical education, teacher training, training, continuing education, professional qualification degrees, curriculum and programs.

ВЪЗМОЖНОСТИ ЗА ПРИДОБИВАНЕ НА УЧИТЕЛСКА КВАЛИФИКАЦИЯ ПО ФИЗИЧЕСКО ВЪЗПИТАНИЕ И ЗА ПРОДЪЛЖАВАЩО ОБУЧЕНИЕ

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Поради важноста и социалната значимост на проблема в настоящата публикация си поставихме за цел да разгледаме по-подробно възможностите за придобиването на учителска квалификация по физическо възпитание, както и за продължаващо обучение. Чрез аналитичен преглед на действащата нормативна база в тази посока, както и на практиката в Национална спортна академия „Васил Левски“ са посочени двете основни възможности за придобиване на професионална квалификация „Учител по физическо възпитание“ – в условията на ОКС „Бакалавър“ и в условията на Центъра за следдипломна квалификация. Разгледани са също и възможностите за придобиване на магистърска степен по специалността „Физическо възпитание“. И при трите вида обучения е посочена структурата на учебния план.

В края на статията са посочени и основните изисквания за придобиване на професионално-квалификационни степени от учителите като резултат от достигнатото равнище на квалификация и участието им в продължаващо обучение.

Ключови думи: физическо възпитание, учителска квалификация, обучение, продължаващо обучение, професионално квалификационни степени, учебен план и програми.

Introduction

In previous publications (Tzolov and Tzolova, 2016; Tzolov, Gavrillov and Tzolova, 2017) we looked at the opportunities for obtaining bachelor's and post graduate degree in sport. One of the aspects of the analysis, however, which was discussed very briefly, was the possibility of acquiring a teacher's qualification in physical education.

Because of the importance and social significance of the problem, we have set our sights here to look more closely at the opportunities for acquiring professional qualifications in this profession as well as on continuing education. In this connection, we analyzed in more detail the practice at the National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski" (NSA), which is one of the leaders in training of physical education teachers.

Teacher training in physical education is well regulated. There are several normative acts that are directly relevant to it. These are the Higher Education Act, the Pre-school and High School Education Act, the Ordinance on the State

Requirements for Acquiring the Professional Qualification "Teacher" and the Regulation №12 on the Status and Professional Development of Teachers, Principals and Other Pedagogical Specialists. Teacher training in physical education, as known, is for people with higher education. In the Bachelor's degree it can be acquired at the NSA "V. Levski" and at the pedagogical faculties in the following universities: "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University of Veliko Turnovo, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Plovdiv University "Paisij Hilendarski", "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen and Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The training is based on accredited curricula and programs in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training on... (Physical Education) with ETCS 240 hours. The duration of the training is 4 years for full-time and 5 for part-time students. The structure of the curriculum includes two groups of compulsory disciplines - general theoretical and special, two groups of electives - theoretical and sport-pedagogical, facultative disciplines, pedagogical practice and training courses. A highly indicative of the interdisciplinary nature of the training is the curriculum

for acquiring the qualification at the NSA "V. Levski". The structure of its content is shown in Fig. 1.

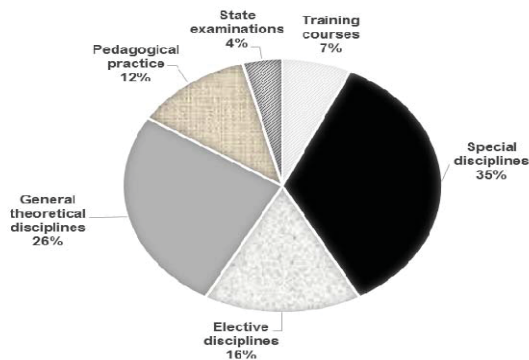


Fig. 1. Structure of the curriculum in Educational qualification degree "Bachelor", NSA "V. Levski" (in %), total 240 ECTS

Teachers' qualifications for persons with higher education can also be acquired in these schools through postgraduate training. Those wishing to acquire an additional (or new) „Teacher of Physical Education" qualification at the Postgraduate Qualification Center at the NSA "V. Levski" are trained in 18-month part-time specialization following a specialized curriculum and curricula. The training corresponds to the current ordinance, reflecting the requirements for acquiring a teacher's qualification. It includes a 60 ECTS course (1620 academic hours plus hours for the state exams - theory and practice, Fig. 2).

The students who have acquired the professional qualification "Teacher of physical education" have the opportunity to study also in the higher educational-qualification degree „Master", major "Physical education". There are 12 majors in this Master's program: "Sports in School and Leisure Time", "Physical Education and Sport in Basic Education", "Physical Education and Sport in Secondary Education", "Physical Education and Sports in Ministry of Interior and BA", "Athletics in the Educational System", "Gymnastics in the Educational System", "Basketball in the Educational System", "Volleyball in the Educational System", "Handball in the Educational System", "Swimming in the Educational System", "Prevention and Correction of spinal distortions" and "Physical education in preschool". The structure of the curriculum is shown in Fig. 3.

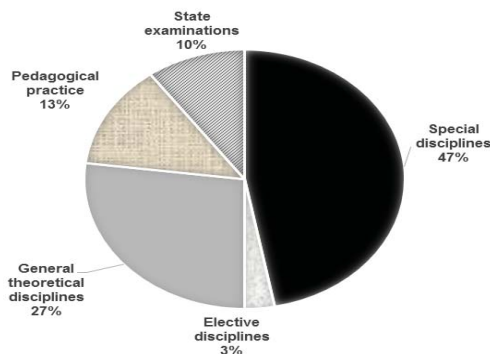


Fig. 2. Structure of the curriculum in Postgraduate Qualification Center of the NSA "V. Levski" (in %), total 60 ECTS

The training qualification includes prioritization of knowledge and development of skills for the application of different scientific approaches for organizing and conducting the educational process according to the specifics of the child, school and youth age.

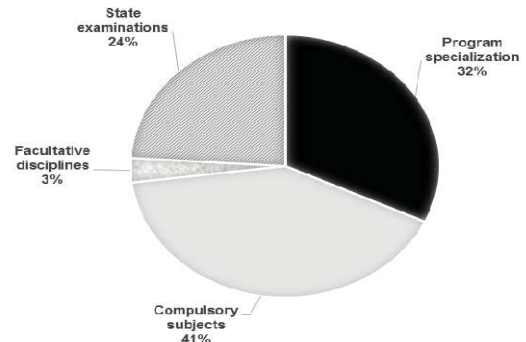


Fig. 3. Structure of the curriculum in Educational qualification degree "Master", Specialty of Physical Education, NSA "V. Levski" (in %), total 62 ECTS

Master's degree graduates are given the opportunity to study in the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

An important element in the qualification process of physical education teachers is their continuing education. This is regulated by the Pre-school and High School Education Act, as well as by Regulation №12 on the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists. In Art. 221 (3) of the Act is mentioned that the pedagogical specialists are obliged to increase their qualification on a yearly basis in order to improve the quality of their work and the quality of the students' preparation. The following Art. 222 (3) states that this must be done for a minimum of 48 academic hours (3 qualifying credits) for each appraisal period, that is, four years. Considering these requirements, the Postgraduate Qualification Center at the NSA "V. Levski" has developed and endorsed a number of curricula with a workload of 1 and 2 qualification credits for physical education teachers. The theme of these trainings, which started at the beginning of this year, is quite varied – "Innovative Approaches to Physical Education and Sport", "Scientific Applied Studies in Physical Education and Sport", "Olympism and Olympic Principles in the Educational System", "Operational Psychoactivity and Psychic Impacts", "Pedagogical Communication in Sports Activity", "Management of Sports Activity in the Educational System", "Kinesiotherapy in Common Diseases in Children's Adolescence", "Methodological Approaches in School Basketball Training", "Children's Athletics in School", "Bulgarian Folk People and Dances in Physical Education Lessons", "Innovative Approaches in Training in Activity Games" and others.

In addition to the training, it should be clarified that, based on the level of qualification attained, pedagogical specialists can acquire Vocational-qualification degrees (VQD) for each of which there are certain requirements. For them NSA "V. Levski" has been preparing for the development of a system and technology for the awarding of different qualification degrees to teachers, something which is regulated both by the Law and by the secondary legislation. Specifically in regard to the acquisition of a third VQD it is necessary that the

candidates have completed a one-year professional-pedagogical specialization with an average score at least "Very Good 4.50" and a diploma work with good pedagogical practice. The purpose of the specialization is to increase the professional and pedagogical competence of the trainees according to the occupation. It is conducted on a curriculum in which at least 50% of the course is for studying subjects related to the pedagogical, psychological or methodical training of the specialists or to the management of education. The academic curriculum must be at least 200 academic hours, at least 50% of which are attended. In relation to this, a training documentation for a one-year professional-pedagogical specialization "Innovations in physical education and sports training" was developed by the Postgraduate Qualification Center. At the moment, educational documentation for other similar specializations is also being developed.

Conclusion

As far as other professional qualifications are concerned, the basic requirements for their acquisition by applicants are related to:

- for V VQD – to have acquired additional professional competences from participation in training courses for increase of the qualification with a total duration of not less than 1 qualification credit and successfully passed a conspectus oral exam with a score no less than "Good 4.50".
- for IV VQD – to have acquired additional or new professional competences from participation in training courses for increase of the qualification with a total duration of not less than 1 qualification credit and successfully passed a written examination with a score of at least "Very Good 4.50" on a problem from the specific professional area in which the candidate works.
- for the II VQD - to have acquired additional or new professional competences from participating in training courses for increase of the qualification with a total duration of not less than 2 qualification credits and to achieve a score of at least "Good 4.50" on a writing paper related to the analysis of the results of a diagnostic procedure.
- for the I VQD - to have acquired additional or new professional competences from training courses with a duration of not less than 3 qualification credits and to complete a written work with an innovative character related to the pedagogical practice of the applicant. In any case, they will present no less than two publications on issues related to the topic of writing. Pedagogical specialists holding a degree have the right to acquire a first VQD under the following conditions: 1. If they have at least 2 years of teaching experience as a pedagogic specialist in a kindergarten, school or center for personal development support; 2. Have a PhD or a Doctor of Science degree in pedagogy, psychology or in a scientific field corresponding to the completed specialty of the higher education diploma

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