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## **From the History of Rifle Association in the Cherkas Global University (1992–2022)**

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### **Abstract**

The paper examines the development history of sports shooting as part of the culture in the Cherkas Global University. The attention is paid to the characteristic features of the development of this sport, taking into account the legislation.

There were used as materials the “Vestnik Leib-Gvardii” newspaper files for 1996–1997, as well as the collection of documents “Cherkas Global University 1992–2022: Collection of Documents”. The photographs from the personal archive of A.A. Cherkasov were used as illustrative material.

The paper relies on the historical-chronological method, which allowed us to consider the events in their historical-chronological sequence and to identify the characteristic features of the development of sports shooting organization, taking into account time, regulatory and other features. A descriptive method was also used, which was naturally applied due to the absence of other publications about these events.

In conclusion the author states that shooting training has always been an integral part of the culture in Cherkas Global University. The first attempts to develop this sport were made already in the period of the creation of the cadet class in January 1993, then this work was well-practiced in 1996–1999. These classes were also carried out subsequently, but this training has reached to a qualitatively new level since 2020, when completely different equipment became available for classes.

On August 1, 2022, on the 30th anniversary of the Cherkas Global University, the Rifle Association was established, the Charter of the organization and its logo were published, and this means that the Rifle Association at the university has finally acquired its legal status. The creation of this organization was preceded by an almost 30-year history of shooting sports at the university, which clearly demonstrated the presence of deep roots of mass sports events in this scientific institution.

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### 1. Introduction

Sport is essential in the life of the youth community (university, school). Thanks to this, a competitive environment is formed, as well as the desire of young people to achieve certain successes. Shooting sports is one of these. The first attempts to introduce sports shooting in the Cherkas Global University as part of cultural and mass work with students date back to the time of the creation of the cadet platoon in January 1993. As is known, only boys aged 10 to 14 years were trained in the cadet platoon (Cherkas Global..., 2022: 8).

### 2. Materials and methods

There were used as materials the “Vestnik Leib-Gvardii” newspaper files for 1996–1997, as well as the collection of documents “Cherkas Global University 1992–2022: Collection of Documents” (Cherkas Global..., 2022). The photographs from the personal archive of A.A. Cherkasov were used as illustrative material.

The paper relies on the historical-chronological method, which allowed us to consider the events in their historical-chronological sequence and to identify the characteristic features of the development of sports shooting organization, taking into account time, regulatory and other features. A descriptive method was also used, which was naturally applied due to the absence of other publications about these events.

### 3. Results

The cadet platoon lasted only a few months (Taran, 2021: 1079), as a result, sports shooting had to be abandoned for a while.

The resumption of regular classes began in September 1996. Specially for these purposes, the Kalashnikov assault rifles and a 12-charge Crosman 1077 air rifle (Figure 1) with an optical sight were purchased.



**Fig. 1.** Crosman 1077 air rifle

It is important to note that the 12-charge Crosman 1077 air rifle with an optical sight allowed to achieve the amazing results in shooting.

The training program included the field exercises on rough terrain, material studies and sports shooting.

On September 6, 1996, the first field trip to the Semyonovsky Spire Mountain (996 m above sea level) took place.



**Fig. 2.** The first field exit. Shooting training classes on the Semyonovsky Spire Mountain. September 6, 1996

On November 17, 1996, the second field trip to the Semyonovsky Spire Mountain took place. The day before there was a fire on the mountain, the chestnut forests were burning, as a result, the ascent was in extraordinary conditions (Figure 3).



**Fig. 3.** The second field exit. Semenovsky Spire Mountain without green coating. November 17, 1996

During the second field trip, the tactical exercises were also held with training weapons on the mountain (Figures 4, 5).



**Fig. 4.** Tactical exercises during the second field trip



**Fig. 5.** Participants of the Second field exit under the Semyonovsky Spire Mountain

In the “Vestnik Leib-Gvardii” newspaper No. 10 for 1996 in the section “Weekdays and holidays of the district” it was noted that from September to November 1996 there were 3 field exits: two to the Semyonovsky spire and one to the Agur waterfalls. During field exits, fire training was carried out too ([Budni i prazdniki, 1996: 2](#)).

Usually sports shooting classes took place in enclosed spacious environments. The shooting was carried out from an air rifle with an optical sight at a distance of up to 15 m, with an open sight – at a distance of 10 meters. There were used two firing positions: standing and kneeling.

Indoor shooting classes began on December 24, 1996. There is a paper about this in the January issue of the “Vestnik Leib-Gvardii” newspaper, which reported: “... since December 24, regular fire training classes have been held. Over the past time (meaning until the end of January – Auth.), 5 shootings were carried out, including at speed using a 4.5 mm 12-charge gas cylinder rifle manufactured in the USA” (Budni i prazdniki, 1997: 2).

According to the “Vestnik Leib-Gvardii” newspaper No. 12 for 1997, the similar classes were conducted in February 1997, both as part of the educational process and in connection with the working visit of a representative from Nalchik city (Budni i prazdniki, 1997a: 2-3).



**Fig. 6.** During sports shooting classes. November 1996

Often, an optical sight was used during training with a rifle (See [Figure 6](#)), but cases of shooting with an open sight were also practiced ([Figures 7, 8](#)).



**Fig. 7.** Shooting with an open sight. January 1997

The organizers of shooting training also took part in the shooting with an open sight (Figure 8).



**Fig. 8.** Shooting organizer Aleksandr Cherkasov at the firing line. January 1997

Since 1997, the shootings, if the weather permitted, have often taken place in mountainous wooded areas (Figure 9). So, on March 2, the first field trip took place in 1997 around the Abazinka River. During the exit, shooting was also carried out, which showed a significant improvement in shooting results (Budni i prazdniki, 1997b: 2).



**Fig. 9.** The organizers of the shooting – Aleksandr Cherkasov (left) and Roman Nekhoroshev during the next field exit. March 1997

Firing lines were set up in various places, including other side of the river ([Figure 10](#)).



**Fig. 10.** Firing line. Targets on the other side of the river. July 1997

Here is an example of another firing line ([Figure 11](#)), as in Figure 10, the two shooting stances are used: standing and kneeling.



**Fig. 11.** Firing line during the next field exit

Firearms training was also carried out later, but they were more episodic in nature. During these classes, shooting techniques from the Saiga 410k smoothbore carbine were practiced ([Figure 12](#)).



**Fig. 12.** “Saiga” 410 K smooth-bore carbine

Unfortunately, this carbine did not differ by aimed shooting, the spread of bullets was significant. Nevertheless, fire exercises were conducted even in winter (Figure 13).



**Fig. 13.** Fire exercises. February 2005

Since 2020, the sport shooting has become permanent again in Los Angeles. For sports shooting, the rifles based on the AR-15 (Figure 14), as well as Glock and Beretta pistols, began to be used.





**Fig. 14.** On the firing line with an AR-15 rifle. March 12, 2020

The shooting was carried out with a standard NATO cartridge of 5.56 mm caliber ([Figure 15](#)).



**Fig. 15.** AR-15 rifle and ammunition

As for the Glock pistol, both 9 and 10 mm pistols were used during the shooting (Figure 16).



**Fig. 16.** The best target from a Glock pistol. March 23 , 2020

There were also used the open areas (shooting ranches) for practice (Figure 17).



**Fig. 17.** At the shooting range. October 2021

In 2022, a Glock pistol with a collimator sight was used in practical classes (Figure 18).



**Fig. 18.** Shooting from a Glock pistol with a collimator sight. August 2, 2022  
As well as shooting from an AR-15 with an open sight (Figure 19).



**Fig. 19.** Shooting lessons from an AR-15 rifle. August 15, 2022

In 2022, the average ammunition consumption was about 150 rounds for one lesson, often an AR-15 rifle and some kind of pistol are used during exercise. This allows the shooter to combine his occupation, switch to a different shooting distance.

On August 1, 2022, on the 30th anniversary of the Cherkas Global University, the Rifle Association was established. We believe it is possible to publish here the Charter of the organization without abbreviations:

## **CHARTER Rifle Association of the Cherkas Global University**

### **1. General provisions**

1.1. Rifle Association is the sports organization of Cherkas Global University, hereinafter referred to as the Rifle Association.

1.2. Rifle Association in its activities is guided by the Charter of Cherkas Global University.

The activities of the Rifle Association are based on the principles of voluntariness, equality of its members, self-governance and legality.

1.3. Rifle Association is not liable for the obligations of its members, just as members are not liable for the obligations of the Rifle Association.

### **2. MAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. ACTIONS**

2.1. The goals of Rifle Association are:

- development and popularization of bullet and bench shooting as a sport at Cherkas Global University;

- training of the safe use of sporting firearms;

- assistance in social protection of the rights and interests of employees of Cherkas Global University.

2.2. The objectives of Rifle Association are:

- creation of favorable conditions for the unification of specialists in bullet and bench shooting and the realization of the creative and scientific potential of members of Rifle Association, expanding the circle of people involved in shooting sports, improving the skills of athletes;

- increasing the role of shooting sports in the sports life of Cherkas Global University, the formation of skills for the safe use of weapons;

- organizing training and providing effective assistance to members of Rifle Association for participation in competitions;

- participation in the organization and financing of research and development work on the production of new types of sports equipment or facilities.

- development and strengthening of relations with sports and other organizations.

2.3. In order to achieve its goals, the Rifle Association carries out the following activities:

- carries out sports international relations within its competence and represents the interests of bullet and bench shooting;

- organizes lectures, conferences, seminars and events to improve the skills of specialists in bullet and bench shooting;

- carries out promotion of shooting sports through, including its own mass media;

- organizes the publication of methodological, sports information and other printed materials on issues of bullet and bench shooting;

- carries out publishing, advertising, information activities;

- ensures compliance with sports ethics by members of the Rifle Association and takes measures to prevent the use of prohibited means and methods in sports.

### **3. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

3.1. In order to attain its desired Charter objectives, the Rifle Association, in accordance with applicable law, has the right to:

- to represent and protect their rights, the legitimate interests of their members in state authorities, local governments and other organizations;

- actively disseminate information about their activities;

- convene and hold conferences, meetings, meetings and other events on issues within the competence of the Rifle Association;

- establish mass media and carry out publishing activities;

- assist in the organization of sports and entertainment events;

- dispose of own funds and property for the implementation of their activities;
- independently determine their internal structure, forms and methods of activity;
- have flags, emblems, pennants and other symbols of the Rifle Association.

3.2. Rifle Association is required to publish an annual report on the use of its property or make such report available for review.

#### **4. MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

4.1. Membership in the Rifle Association is voluntary.

Members of the Rifle Association can be students and employees of Cherkas Global University aging over 21 years old, who share the statutory goals and objectives of the Rifle Association, take part in its activities, provide effective assistance in the work of the Rifle Association, who have submitted an application in accordance with the law and this Charter.

4.2. Admission to the Rifle Association is based on a personal written application submitted to the local office or directly to the Council of the Rifle Association.

Admission and exclusion of Rifle Association members is carried out by the Council on the basis of lists of candidates from among individuals submitted by the local office, similar lists submitted by the Secretary of the Rifle Association, if such applications were submitted directly to the Rifle Association Council. The decision on admission and exclusion from the Rifle Association members are made by a simple majority of votes of the total number of Council members.

4.3. All members of the Rifle Association have the right to:

- make proposals to any bodies of the Rifle Association on issues related to its activities;
- receive information about the planned events of the Association and take part in them;
- receive information about the activities of the Rifle Association;
- voluntarily withdraw from membership of the Rifle Association;
- participate in the development and implementation of projects and programs, use the educational, methodological, scientific, informational developments of the Rifle Association.

4.4. Members of the Rifle Association are required to:

- observe the norms of the Charter of Rifle Association;
- to promote the development and popularization of bullet shooting and bench shooting;
- actively contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of Rifle Association, defined by this Charter;
- participate in decision-making, without which the Rifle Association cannot continue its activities in accordance with applicable law, if its participation is necessary for making such decisions;
- not to commit acts deliberately aimed at causing harm to the Rifle Association;
- take care of the property of the Rifle Association.

4.5. Membership in Rifle Association is disabled:

- upon voluntary withdrawal from the Rifle Association membership;
- when excluded from the Rifle Association membership.

4.6. A member of Rifle Association may be excluded from its membership for a number of reasons:

- committing actions discrediting Rifle Association, violation of the sports ethics;
- non-observance of the requirements of this Charter.

#### **5. CHANGING OR ADDING AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER**

5.1. Changes and amendments to this Charter are made by decision of the Council and are accepted if at least 2/3 of the participating members have voted for them. The new version of the Charter is adopted in the same manner.

#### **6. LIQUIDATION AND REORGANIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

6.1. The reorganization and liquidation of Rifle Association is carried out by the decision of the Rifle Association Council;

6.2. In case of the decision to liquidate the Association Liquidation Commission is created in accordance with the established procedure».

Furthermore, the Rifle Association logo was approved (Figure 20).



**Fig. 20.** Rifle Association Logo of the Cherkas Global University

Logo design. The company logo is based on the emblem, behind which the two images of M4 rifles were placed. At the top of the logo there is a decorative crown with a pattern and the inscription “Rifle”, and below the inscription “Association”, and even lower there is a decorative pattern.

#### 4. Conclusion

Summing up, it is important to mention that shooting training has always been an integral part of the culture in Cherkas Global University. The first attempts to develop this sport were made already in the period of the creation of the cadet class in January 1993, then this work was well-practiced in 1996–1999. These classes were also carried out subsequently, but this training has reached to a qualitatively new level since 2020, when completely different equipment became available for classes.

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