

THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

**CANDIDATE
FOR THE AWARD**

**„EUROPEAN CITY
OF SPORT 2026“**

BID FILE



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FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK



Dear Sir and Madam,

Warm greetings from Šibenik, the first native Croatian city on the Adriatic coast. There are few cities that, like ours, can boast such a rich history, two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, ancient fortresses, palaces and sacral buildings, but also extraordinary natural beauty of the National Parks in our surroundings. We are building the future by preserving tradition and heritage, without neglecting modern living standards. We are a city of tourism, but also of all other forms of economy and entrepreneurship based on green technologies, well-developed transport and communal infrastructure, higher education and ecology. This is precisely why Šibenik is a city tailored to all generations of its inhabitants.

Šibenik is also a city of sports. In a wide range of sports disciplines, the people of Šibenik achieve national and global successes, but, regardless of sports arenas and venues, they choose sport as a way of life. We are a city of athletes who have gained world fame with long-standing clubs that have been writing history for more than a hundred years. We are happy that the idol of many generations, one of the best and most important European basketball players of all times, was born and achieved his first basketball successes in our city. We are proud of the successes of the national water polo team, but also of all the other individuals and clubs who make our city a healthy sports environment.

By applying for the European City of Sport, Šibenik 2026 wants to realize the full meaning of its commitment, and capitalize on the result of numerous activities undertaken to raise the quality of life and improve the health of its citizens, promote its promising athletes, create prerequisites for younger generations to engage in sports, and open the door to investments in sports and touristic infrastructure.

MAYOR
Željko Burić, MD.



FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY SPORTS THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK



After eleven full years as the head of the umbrella sports organization in the City of Šibenik, I am proud of everything accomplished during this period and pleased with how the Community Sports the City of Šibenik has shaped itself into an organization that creates sports in the City of Šibenik, works on its progress, and provides absolute support to all its members.

Šibenik has a rich sports tradition, a significant top-tier pedigree in many sports, and an endless source of talent across all sports. We are proud of all our clubs and sports professionals who work diligently to ensure the survival and maintenance of our clubs, so they remain competitive and their tradition continues.

The Community Sports the City of Šibenik, in collaboration with the City of Šibenik, works every year to strengthen the financial stability of its members through the implementation of various programmes and activities. We are confident that this approach will reflect in the future through even better results for Šibenik sports at all levels. The sports facilities where our clubs operate have been renovated, and today we have much better conditions for our athletes. The City of Šibenik is working on creating new plans for the construction of additional facilities, which should serve as a new generator for good sports results, and this genuinely excites us.

Recreational sports and the increasing participation in recreation as part of the overall sports activity in the City of Šibenik show us that people's awareness regarding active participation in sports has changed, and that sports have become a way of life for our fellow citizens. Organised sports for vulnerable groups in society and athletes with disabilities is a special level of sport that has made significant progress in the City of Šibenik, and we will continue to support it, ensuring that these athletes receive the treatment and support they deserve.

The City of Šibenik's candidacy for European City of Sport 2026 is proof that we are ready for a new step forward in our future. I view this act as a comprehensive recognition of our past efforts and a great responsibility to continue even more strongly in the interest of sports in our city.



Joško Jurić
Community Sports
the City of Šibenik, President

SUPPORTING LETTER OF MR IVICA TUCAK, CROATIA MEN'S NATIONAL WATER POLO TEAM HEAD COACH



As an athlete, I have experienced a lot throughout my active career, met many athlete friends, and lived in various environments. Life hasn't always been easy, but my love for sports and my hometown always gave me strength. As the coach of the Croatian water polo team, together with my colleagues and players, I have won numerous medals, but I have never forgotten where I started and that my Šibenik was the beginning of everything beautiful that has happened to me in my career.

Whenever possible, I always emphasize that Šibenik is the most beautiful city in the world and that it is a privilege to live in this small gem of the Adriatic. Šibenik is proud, and I always love to highlight the verse of an old well-known Šibenik song that, in my opinion, best describes my city: "It is a city that doesn't take harsh words against you, it takes pride in its children, that's Šibenik". (*To je grad što grube riči ne uzme za zlo, on se svojom dicom diči, Šibenik je to*)

Šibenik is rich in sports talent, and it is a pleasure for me to see how Šibenik athletes progress. I am happy when I see my Water Polo Club Solaris make a step forward, but also all other sports, as they represent the identity of Šibenik. No one promotes the name and interests of our city as well as athletes do. The tradition of sports in Šibenik is enormous, and there are few cities in Croatia that have had as much influence on the creation of Croatian sports as Šibenik.

When I heard that the City of Šibenik wanted to apply for the award of European City of Sport 2026, I was absolutely excited and believe that this title will further position Šibenik on the sports map of Croatia and Europe, as well as provide additional motivation for all new challenges. I truly support this initiative of the City of Šibenik and the Community Sports the City of Šibenik, and I am confident that I will be one of the first to congratulate the Mayor of Šibenik when the Šibenik flag flies in the European Parliament in Brussels.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ivica Tucak'.

Ivica Tucak
Croatia men's Water polo
National team, head coach

SUPPORTING LETTER OF MR DARIO ŠARIĆ, CROATIA MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM & NBA BASKETBALL PLAYER



In its long and rich history, the city of Šibenik will certainly be remembered as a city where sport is an integral part of its history.

It is the city where I was born, the city where I took my first basketball steps, the city of our Dražen Petrović – an eternal, special, and indescribable inspiration to all athletes, including myself.

Due to his untimely passing, I was unable to watch Dražen's games live, but I listened stories about him, like every young athlete. Perhaps even more than others because I come from a basketball family and my father was Dražen's teammate during the golden days of Šibenka.

The city of Šibenik is a city where every sport has its orange story of community and attitude, from the excitement of competition to the fun and connection that sports provide.

Today I play, as they say, in the strongest basketball league in the world, but my most beautiful feeling is to play basketball or "throw the football ball" in my hometown, to feel its "bounciness" and unique charm at every corner.

Šibenik is a city that, along with beautiful sports stories, carries the wealth and intensity of historical beauty, music, and cultural heritage.

Therefore, it is a great honor for me personally to support the candidacy of the City of Šibenik for the title of European City of Sport 2026.

I will always proudly carry the name of the City of Šibenik, and I hope that the award of European City of Sport 2026 will inspire new generations to embark on their own sports adventures and realize their own potential.

Dario Šarić

Croatia men's National team
& NBA basketball player

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Šarić', written in a cursive style.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION OF THE CROATIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



As the umbrella organization for sports in the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Olympic Committee is pleased to support the candidacy of the City of Šibenik for the title of European City of Sport 2026.

The City of Šibenik has always been a city where sport is an important part of the culture of living, continuously developing all the necessary conditions for sport in all its segments, while ensuring the needs of professional competitive sports and recreation for all city residents are met. Special emphasis is placed on sports programmes aimed at the younger population with the goal of increasing the number of children and youth involved in sports.

The City of Šibenik is the oldest Croatian city on the Adriatic, a city that blends historical beauty, festivals, and a dynamic sports rhythm. Šibenik offers a wide range of sports activities not only to its residents but also to all of its visitors.

It is also the city of basketball Mozart – Dražen Petrović, and has always been a city of brilliant basketball, a remarkable rowing tradition lasting over 100 years, indispensable quality football and water polo teams, as well as other sports clubs that are bearers of tradition and competitive excellence, both in senior and junior categories.

In addition to this, Šibenik has always been a successful organizer of sporting shows and events, both at the national and international levels. This has been contributed to by continuous investment in sports infrastructure, which is an essential factor for the development of sports and the achievement of top sports results.

The City of Šibenik, through the Sports Associations of the City of Šibenik, participates in projects of the Croatian Olympic Committee – the Croatian Olympic Day, the International Olympic Plan, From Sports School to the Olympic Games, Choose Your Sport, and the Olympic Festival of Kindergartens.

The promotion of sports through events and competitions, a rich sports heritage, achieving top sports results, and continuous investment in the sports system serve as a strong foundation for the Croatian Olympic Committee to support the City of Šibenik to receive the title of EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT 2026.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'K' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Siniša Krajač, M.Sc
Secretary General

ŠIBENIK - CITY OF SPORTS, CITY OF BASKETBALL, CITY OF DRAŽEN PETROVIĆ

This is a chapter from the story of how sports have always been a part of the city of Šibenik, its history.

This chapter contains just a few notes about the man whose name represents a synonym for perseverance, inexhaustible inspiration, who has indebted us all with his work and life and who has found an eternal home in our hearts and minds.

The one who told the most beautiful basketball story and was beloved and respected among opposing players, fans, teammates... among all of us.

It is enough to say **DRAŽEN!**

Dražen Petrović, born on October 22, 1964, in Šibenik, is one of the greatest Croatian and



world basketball players and athletes, referred to as the **"basketball Mozart"** due to his sporting genius.

From the very first days, he showed incredible talent along with immense diligence and responsibility. He began his basketball journey at the age of twelve in the Basketball Club Šibenka. He continued his basketball career in the clubs Cibona, the Spanish Real Madrid, and in the NBA with the Portland Trail Blazers and New Jersey Nets.

Throughout his entire career, Dražen regularly represented national basketball teams. He was the first captain of the Croatian national basketball team and is considered a leader of the wave of European basketball players





in the American professional league (NBA). In his successful sports career, Dražen participated in world, European, and national championships with numerous successes. One of the most striking achievements is certainly the silver medal won in 1992 at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. This wonderful success has additional value because the Croatian national team played the final against the American team, then the strongest team in the history of basketball, for which the best representatives of the NBA played. His charisma was cut interrupted by a car accident in which Dražen lost his life in 1993. The highest possible honor in the basketball world was posthumously awarded to Dražen in 2002 when he was inducted into the **Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**.

The Croatian Olympic Committee established an award in his name in 2006, intended exclusively for young athletes, both male and female, as well as teams for outstanding sports achievements and development.

By setting a monument in Baldekin, the City of Šibenik thanked Dražen in the most beautiful way for everything he gave to his city as a basketball player and as a person.

A replica of Dražen Petrović's jersey, measuring seven by five meters, is displayed during the celebration of Dražen's birthday on the building of the city administration. This is the legendary jersey with It is about the legendary jersey with the **number 4** that Dražen wore while playing for **Šibenka**.



“

**“Basketball is my life.
I’ll never stop
loving basketball.”**

Dražen Petrović

”

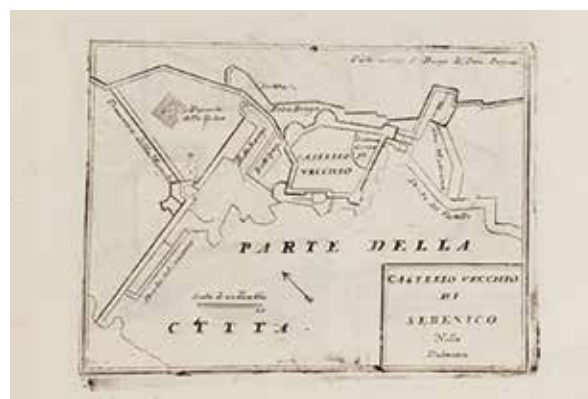


1.

■ 1. A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

The city of Šibenik is the oldest native Croatian city on our coast, first mentioned in history in the deed of gift by the Croatian King Petar Krešimir IV on Christmas Day in 1066. Thus it is traditionally also called Krešimir's City. While other cities along the Adriatic

coast were founded by the Illyrians, Greeks, and Romans, Šibenik, established by the Croats, began to develop from a settlement beneath the Fortress of St. Michael, which rises on a steep cliff above the city. It was granted city status in 1169.



The Fortress of St. Michael served as the main stronghold of the city's defense system and was built in various phases from the 13th century until the late 16th century. After being closed for centuries, it opened its doors in 2014 as a restored and adapted open-air stage, becoming a must-see stop on every tourist visit. The fortress owes its name to the church within it, dedicated to Archangel Michael, who has been the city's heavenly patron since the earliest period.

Until the plague epidemic in the mid-17th century, it was the largest city on the entire eastern Adriatic coast.

Throughout its rich and intense past, ancient Šibenik played a significant role in every era of national history and remains to date a city that captivates with its picturesque old town core, consisting of 24 churches,

17 palaces, 6 monasteries, 2,851 stone city steps, the largest number of Baroque organs, museums, galleries, portals, vaults, promenades, and parks filled with numerous specific details and vivid stories.

As part of its cultural, historical, artistic, and monumental amenities of inestimable value, two monuments on the **UNESCO's World Heritage List** hold a special place. These are the magnificent and globally renowned **Cathedral of St. James**, the most significant architectural achievement of the 15th and 16th centuries on the territory Croatia - the only cathedral in Europe built entirely of stone, and the unique **Fortress of St. Nicholas**, constructed in the mid-16th century as the only Venetian military fortress situated exclusively on the sea. This recognition makes Šibenik the only city in Croatia and one of just five in the world with two UNESCO-listed





In addition to the Fortress of St. Nicholas as the city's maritime guardian, Šibenik is also "embraced" on land by the fortresses of St. Michael, Barone, and St. John. Furthermore, Šibenik is a city located in the most protected natural harbor, within a

vast bay at the submerged mouth of the Krka River, and connected to the open sea through the picturesque, narrow, and winding St. Anthony Channel, further highlighting its unique position among Croatian cities.

Its distinctive historical character is also confirmed by the fact that it served as a filming location for certain scenes of the globally popular series "Game of Thrones".



Alongside its rich cultural and historical heritage, Šibenik's natural attractions are further enriched by two stunning national parks in its vicinity and one nature park.

Krka National Park covers an area of 109 km² along the most beautiful stretches of the Krka River and the

lower course of the Čikola River. In addition to its breathtaking natural scenery, the park boasts a wealth of cultural and historical heritage, including archaeological sites, ramparts, a museum featuring the world's smallest book and 15th-century editions of Aesop's fables, an amphitheater, and more.





Kornati National Park, as the most indented island ecosystem in the Adriatic Sea, spans approximately 220 km² and includes a breathtaking archipelago of 89 islands, islets, and reefs, with a total coastline of about 238 km.

Vransko Lake Nature Park, which administratively also belongs to Zadar County, is the largest natural lake in Croatia.



Šibenik became the first city in the world to have alternating electric current and the first city in Croatia with **public lighting** when, on 28 August 1895, the Jaruga Hydroelectric Power Plant was built and put into operation on the Krka River. It is the second oldest hydroelectric power plant in the world and the first in Europe.

In addition to numerous festivals, a kind of trademark of Šibenik is the **International Children's Festival**. It was first held in 1958. During its maintenance during June and July, all the squares and streets come to life and the city is completely dominated by children from different parts of the world.



Šibenik is also the hometown and native place of numerous significant figures from various fields of work and creativity on a global scale, whose presence is still felt today. It is the city of Croatia's first saint, Nikola Tavelić, as well as inventor, lexicographer, and scientist Faust Vrančić, best known for his concept of Homo Volans – the Flying Man, among whose most famous inventions are the parachute, the suspension bridge, and the cable car. Šibenik was also home to botanist and physician Roberto de Visiani, Croatia's first historian Dinko Zavorović, and many other humanists, writers, inventors, musical and sports legends.

It is also the birthplace of the Mozart of basketball – **Dražen Petrović**, the first captain of the Croatian national basketball team, who is considered one of the greatest Croatian and

global athletes of all time.

In Šibenik, there is a Memorial Room dedicated to him, created by converting the apartment where he once lived. Dražen's room remains untouched, just as he left it, while the rest of the apartment features exhibition cases thematically presenting his private life, ranging from personal items from different stages of his youth to objects celebrating his sporting achievements. In addition, video projections display highlights from Dražen's career. The Memorial Room was opened in 2011, and in the same year, near the sports hall where he took his first basketball steps, a statue of Dražen Petrović was erected, depicting him sitting on a bench with a basketball between his feet. This site has become an essential tourist stop for all basketball enthusiasts visiting Šibenik.



When it comes to sports, Šibenik traditionally and proudly holds the title of the “City of Sports”, thanks to its large number of sports associations and clubs, professional

and recreational athletes, well-developed sports infrastructure, and remarkable achievements on the national, European, and global levels.

NATURAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND METEOROLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Šibenik is the administrative, political, educational, transportation, cultural, and economic center of Šibenik-Knin County, located in southern Croatia. It is the 12th largest city in Croatia and the third largest in the historical region of Dalmatia.

Šibenik lies in an amphitheater-like formation around the Šibenik Bay, one of the best natural harbors on the Adriatic, nestled on the slopes of Trtar, not far from the mouth of the Krka River.

The littoral area has a distinctly Mediterranean climate, which also significantly influences the inland region. The coastal area enjoys a very high annual average insolation (2,710 hours), while the level of solar insolation decreases further inland. The climate has shaped the development of Mediterranean

vegetation, and its cultivation forms the foundation of agriculture in this region (olive growing and viticulture). The landscape is characterized by a highly indented coastline and a karst relief in the hinterland.

The climate, along with the long coastline of the Šibenik area, has contributed to the development of tourism, particularly due to the large number of beaches, ranging from the city beach of Banj in Šibenik to the beaches in suburban areas (Brodarica, Jadrija, Solaris, Grebaštica, and Žaborić).

The specific features of the local climate (the sea) and favorable weather conditions support the development of numerous sports, especially the “water” ones, as well as the fact that outdoor sports fields are generally in use year-round.



TRANSPORT POSITION

From a tourism - geographical perspective, Šibenik enjoys a strategic transport position, as it lies at the transition from Northern to Central Dalmatia, that is, between two important economic and tourism regions - Zadar and Split.

In the Šibenik area, road transport is the most prevalent and important mode of transportation in terms of network length.

Šibenik is connected to the cities of Zadar and Split by motorway, the Adriatic Highway, and a railway line. Local ferry routes connect Šibenik and surrounding places along the central Adriatic coast with nearby islands.

Šibenik is home to the third-largest port in Croatia. The Šibenik commercial port is one of six ports open to public traffic that hold special (international) economic significance for the

Republic of Croatia.

The bay offers numerous mooring options for boats. In addition to the city promenade and the newly expanded passenger terminal at Vrulje Pier, D-Marin Mandalina Marina hosts Croatia's only docking location for mega yachts up to 140 meters in length.



DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2021 Census results, Šibenik has 42,599 inhabitants and has recorded negative growth compared to previous censuses. The average age is 46.1 years, and the aging index is 189.4.

Like many other cities and countries worldwide, Šibenik too faces the challenges of an aging population, with the number of elderly residents continuously increasing.

Approximately 40% of the total population of Šibenik-Knin County resides in the Šibenik urban area.

Natural population decline, combined with the trend of

economic emigration of young families with school-age children, as well as relocation to other counties and/or abroad, has also impacted the trend of a shrinking sports base. This demographic shift presents an ongoing challenge for the City of Šibenik, which is working on strategic planning with a focus on young people and children, which strategies include access to quality activities and education, cultural and social interactions, and attracting business investments to create new jobs and retain existing ones.



2.

■ 2. THE HISTORY OF SPORTS IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

In Šibenik, founded by our ancestors over a thousand years ago, sports have always been a constant companion in the lives of its residents. Perhaps not always with the same intensity, but the continuity has never been broken.

The development of modern sports in the city of Šibenik began after 1877, during a period when economic progress also influenced the city's social life, including the establishment of societies promoting physical exercise and sports.

For the period before that, there are several records mentioning sports activities in the **15th and 16th centuries**, such as javelin throwing, horse racing,



youth races, boat regattas, archery, and ball games.

In 1887, the Imperial and Royal Navy Boys' School (Naval Non-Commissioned Officers' School) began operating. Its cadets had swimming, rowing, and sailing as part of their curriculum, and on holidays, they organized rowing and swimming competitions as well as sailing regattas.

In 1899, the Hrvatski Sokol (Croatian Falcon) gymnastics society/club was founded as a reflection of the social needs of the time. As the leading force in the city's sports life, its professional work encouraged citizens to engage in sports activities, and it is considered the cradle of most sports.

In the beginning, sports activities took place at various locations and available spaces (such as private courtyards, St. Michael's Fortress, etc.) due to the lack of sports facilities (halls).

With continued efforts and growing interest, conditions were created for the establishment and development of Sokol clubs across the wider city area, as a result of the awareness of the benefits of physical exercise and the creation of various forms of recreation.

This club is thus credited with laying the foundations for gymnastics and athletics in Šibenik and, through its further activities, for other sports that later became independent.

Apart from exercising, Hrvatski Sokol in Šibenik also organized **various sports**, cultural, and entertainment events.

In addition to all of the above, the club played a particularly significant role in the recognition and development of women's physical exercise and the introduction of women into the world of sports. By involving women in public life and sports activities, the idea of gender equality was affirmed, although at the time, this caused considerable backlash due to the unacceptability of women exercising in sportswear alongside men.

The establishment of the Lower Real Gymnasium in 1909, which included gymnastics in its curriculum, also significantly contributed to the richness and development of sports life in Šibenik.

Even at that time, we can see the structuring and organization of sports through the formation of a sports system pyramid. To ensure coordination and improve the quality of work, Sokol clubs united into districts, and districts into the Union.

Krešimir's District was founded in 1908 as an association of Sokol clubs from the Šibenik area. In honor of its founding, a slet (mass gymnastics) was held in the Poljana city square, featuring athletes of Sokol clubs from various cities. It is particularly delightful

that the women's youth division of the Šibenik Sokol Club garnered the most admiration in the sports program.

Due to social and political changes, Sokol club continued their work and activities under different names over the years, carrying on the tradition of organizing and participating in competitions, as well as various events, excursions, dances, and more. Among the most significant athletes, the one from 1930 stands out, when Milan Filipi became the national champion in rope climbing. In 1934, the Sokol Center was officially

opened, the predecessor of today's Miminac Hall. It featured training halls with accompanying facilities and offices, as well as an outdoor exercise area.

Between the two world wars, a range of new sports emerged, including basketball, handball, water polo, and table tennis. After World War II, sports saw rapid development and have remained an important part of daily life for the city's residents, along with the continuous expansion of sports events, disciplines, and sports infrastructure.

FOOTBALL

Mentions of "ballplaying" in Šibenik **date back to the 15th century** in the work of Šibenik writer Juraj Šižgorić, indicating that some form of football was already played in Šibenik during the Renaissance.

Since the members of the Naval Non-Commissioned Officers' School, who were also versatile athletes, had a proper football field in the Mandalina city district, the lack of football fields in other districts of Šibenik prompted young people eager to train in football to collaborate with the naval cadets.

It is believed that this collaboration contributed not only to the development of football but also to the growth of other sports in Šibenik.



Football began to be played in Šibenik on makeshift fields on the eve of World War I, primarily among "wild", that is, unregistered clubs. This continued until the early 1930s, when the Workers' Sports Club "Šibenik" (today's Croatian Football Club "Šibenik") and the Citizens' Sports Club "Osvit" were officially registered with the relevant football authorities. Both clubs left a deep mark on the football of Šibenik and the development of the sport, already serving as an inexhaustible source of young, talented players at that time.



The Citizens' Sports Club "Osvit" quickly built a strong team, becoming three-time champions of the Split

Football Sub-Association. According to some sources, they **even defeated Liverpool's team** in an unofficial match in Zagreb in 1936. The club also established a track and field section, essential for players' conditioning, along with the cycling and házená (Czech handball) sections.

Within the Workers' Sports Club "Šibenik," in addition to football, there were also Esperanto and chess sections, as well as handball, boxing, swimming, and athletics sections.



Football was initially played on the central city square of Poljana, but later, home football matches were played on the field in Šubićevac (for Osvit), or the field in the city district of Crnica, which was opened in 1936.

During the Italian occupation of Šibenik, football activities ceased, and the clubs stopped operating. After World War II, GŠK Osvit did not resume its activities, while the Croatian Football Club Šibenik continued operating to this day (under its current name since 1992).

In 1946, construction began on the football field at Šubićevac, where home matches are still played today. In 2014, the Croatian Football Club Šibenik was transformed from a legal form of association into a sports joint-stock company. Over more than nine decades of existence, despite fluctuations in results and various challenges, the club remains a sort of city institution and the immense love of its fans.

Alongside HNK Šibenik, other football clubs and academies operate in the city, including the Football Club "Škola nogometa Šibenik", the Croatian Football Club "Mihovil", and the Football Club "Škola nogometa Joso Bego".

BASKETBALL

The first record of basketball in Šibenik is found in the preserved documents of the Real Classical Gymnasium for the 1938/39 school year, while the first hoops were installed in the Gymnasium hall in 1937. Most students did not know the purpose thereof, as basketball was not played at the time. Modern Šibenik basketball was born in

1947, when the **first public basketball game** was held. The match was played between the teams of students from the Šibenik and Zadar Gymnasiums. Before the men's game, the first Šibenik women's basketball team appeared on the court and played a promotion match against the women's team from Zadar.

The beginning of organized basketball in Šibenik was recorded in the early 1950s, when a more serious and systematic approach to the sport emerged. With the opening of the **“Baldekin” Sports Hall**, a dedicated space for training and competitions was established, which also reflected on the quality of play for both men's

and women's basketball teams. The Women's Basketball Club “Šibenik” is one of the most successful Croatian women's basketball clubs. The Basketball Club “Šibenka”, which changed its name several times throughout its existence, became one of the most respected basketball clubs.



One of the most memorable years marked by basketball "madness" was undoubtedly 1983, when the Basketball Club Šibenka played against Basketball Club Bosna in the final match of the State Championship. After free throws by Dražen Petrović, the club won the Championship. On that day, 9 April 1983, the city erupted in an extraordinary celebration organized by its fans, and the date is now considered the founding day of the fan group "**Šibenski Funcuti**" fan group.

Street basketball (streetball) is also popular in the city, with Šibenik athletes

winning titles and accolades at world championships.

Today, Šibenik is home to several men's and women's basketball clubs, including the Citizens' Basketball Club "Šibenka", the Women's Basketball Club "Šibenik", the Youth Basketball Club "Dražen Petrović", which works exclusively with younger age groups, the Basketball club Academy Anđela Jelavić, the Basketball Club "Galeb", the Wheelchair Basketball Club "Šibenik", and the Student Basketball Club "Šibenik".

GYMNASTICS

The origins and development of gymnastics in Šibenik are tied to the establishment and activities of the Sokol movement in the late 19th century.

Gymnastics was the backbone of sports activities and, as such, was a mandatory **part of the physical education system in schools.**

Gymnastics was also an indispensable discipline and activity at all Sokol slet events, where gymnasts demonstrated a high level of skill in various exercises. At the beginning of the 20th century, two gymnastics professors of Czech origin awakened the greatest interest in this sport among young people of Šibenik. Through their experience and intensive work, they produced several outstanding gymnasts who participated in numerous (national) competitions across multiple disciplines.

On 6 November 1904, the Croatian Gymnastics Federation was founded, initially as the Union of Croatian Sokol Clubs, laying the foundation for modern gymnastics competitions, in

which Šibenik gymnastics also left its mark.



By the late 1970s, all elementary schools had modern sports halls, shifting the initiative for gymnastics activities to physical education teachers.

In Šibenik, gymnastics activities saw a slight decline until the early 1990s, when sports gymnastics clubs were established.

Today, three gymnastics clubs operate in the City of Šibenik: the Gymnastics Club "Šibenik-Dalmacija" and the Gymnastics Club "Nebo", both focused on rhythmic gymnastics, and the Gymnastics Club "Dišpet", whose program is primarily oriented towards artistic gymnastics.

ATHLETICS

Athletics has a long and rich history, and the first written traces of athletic competitions in Šibenik can be found in the records of Šibenik historian Dinko Zavorović on **sports activities from the 16th century**, which mention that, inter alia, running races for young men and women were organized as part of fairs. The first formal athletic activities are also associated with the Sokol societies. At the beginning of the 20th century, in Šibenik, in addition to members of the Sokol society, young versatile football players who were not members of the society also practiced athletics. The first light-athletic competitions were organized at that time, along with the first football matches.

In the mid-1930s, various sports sections

were formed at the clubs, including athletics, and the first organized Šibenik athletics championship was in 1936, in which students from several high schools participated.

The city of Šibenik then produced several outstanding athletes, some of whom were in the national teams of the then state, but they gained their affirmation and best results in other environments.

Athletics is thus a sport whose tradition in Šibenik was interrupted.

Today, there is one athletics club operating in Šibenik: "Athletes' Club "Šibenik", founded in 2007, which has advanced to the first league level and achieved prestigious results in national and world competitions.

ROWING

Rowing, along with sailing, is one of the **oldest sports in Dalmatia**. Preserved records from the 16th century mention the boat regatta organization. At that time, women from the Šibenik also demonstrated their maritime skills by actively participating in rowing. This is primarily related to the custom of the time where women rowed on an equal footing with men in large boats called *gejata* while going to fields that were far from their place of residence (islands or the city surroundings).

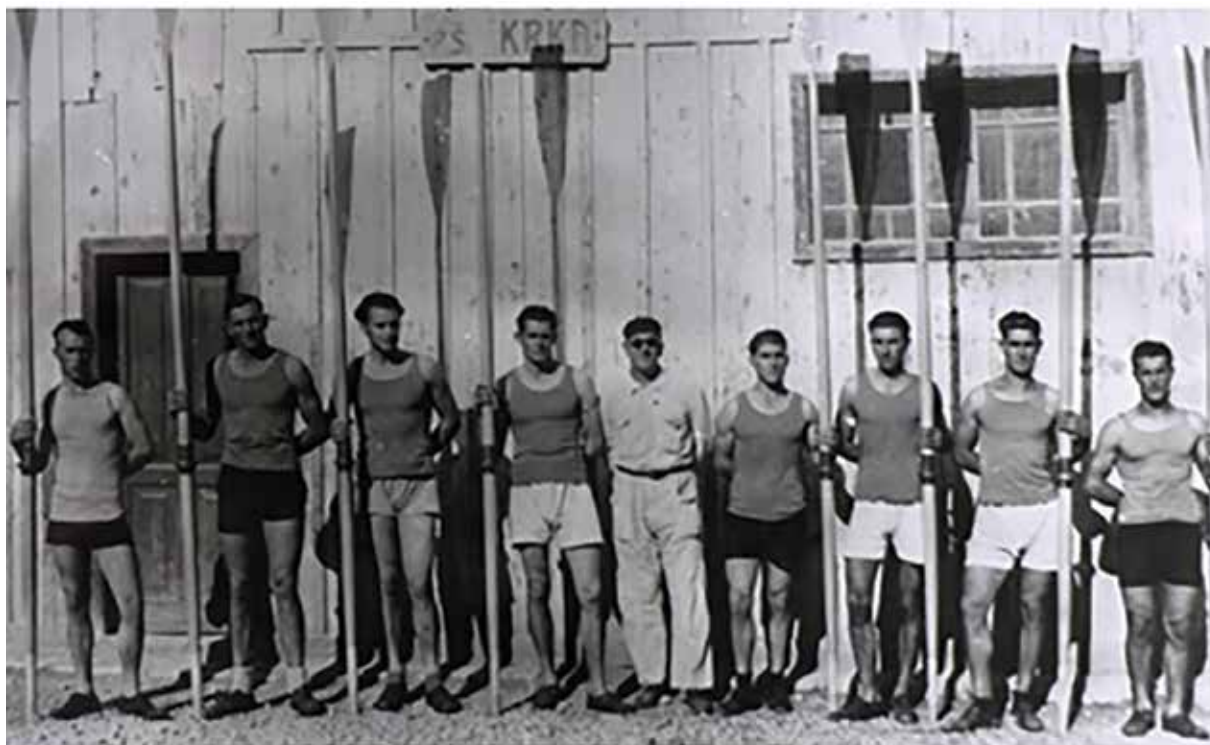
Organized rowing in Šibenik began in 1887 when the Naval Petty Officer School was opened, but it was mainly attended by students from that school. It was only about thirty years later that the residents of Šibenik began to engage in sports rowing.

Sports rowing ambitions and enthusiasm for rowing led to the establishment of the Maritime Sports Club Krka (today the Rowing Club Krka). The club was founded on 01 November 1923, and has recorded many demanding races in all rowing disciplines through its rich sports history. The uncertainty and tension of each stroke in these races brought valuable results and put Šibenik rowers at the top of the world rowing map. The desire for success and enthusiasm did not wane even when a fire in 1936 quickly consumed part of the water park and the barracks that presented the rowing club's clubhouse and hangar.

This "centenarian" has recorded many successes of which there were 39 national championship titles

until World War II, the first of which was in 1924 at the Dinghy National Championship in Split, where they won four for novices, and in 1933 they won seven disciplines at the national championship and a bronze medal at the European Championship in Budapest

(Hungary). The importance of Šibenik as a prominent rowing town is also evidenced by the fact that at the annual general meeting of the then state rowing association, it was decided that the headquarters of the national association would be moved to Šibenik.



In addition, the rowers of **the VK "Krka" were the first rowers from Šibenik to compete in the Olympic Games.**

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the club's founding, a national

championship was organized in Šibenik in 1953. VK "Krka" won the titles of national champions in the section of eight rowers and four rowers with a coxswain.





An unforgettable long-distance regatta of 6.5 km was also organized that year, in which the eight of Krka and the eights of the famous English universities of Oxford and Cambridge competed. **The eight of the VK "Krka" won, while Cambridge took the second place and Oxford the third.** This exceptional regatta was watched by

around 15,000 spectators, which is a unique case in rowing competitions in our region.

The rowing club "Krka" in all age categories wins numerous championships, both national and international, which places it among the most successful clubs in the city of Šibenik.

SWIMMING

Like other water sports, organized swimming in Šibenik began in 1877 with the opening of the Naval Petty Officer School as part of the curriculum.

From preserved documents, we know about the first (civilian) competition of Šibenik swimmers at the fifth All-Slavic meeting in Prague in 1906, in which ten competitors participated, and in the 100 m freestyle they won second place.

In 1922, the Maritime Sports Club Jadrija was founded on the initiative

of students who spent the summer in their hometown, under whose initiative swimming competitions (swimming, diving, long-distance diving) were organized, and which later became part of the newly founded rowing and swimming club of the Maritime Sports Club Krka.

Thanks to the many enthusiasts of that time, an enviable swimming activity developed in Šibenik with successful performances by both male and female swimmers.

In 1927, the Swimming Club Šibenik

was founded, but its activities were short-lived due to the lack of (material) conditions for more serious work, so the swimming section's activities were carried out under the Maritime Sports Club "Krka".

Swimming activities were interrupted by World War II.

A more serious engagement in water sports began in the early fifties of the last century with the establishment of a swimming section. The year 1953 is considered the founding year of the Swimming Club Šibenik. Alongside it, the Swimming Club "More" and the Swimming Club for persons with disabilities "Riba" also operate in Šibenik today.



WATER POLO

Water polo began to be played in in Šibenik shortly after World War I, mainly by high school students and students who returned to their hometown in the summer. The matches, which were played on improvised courts, were always regularly attended by a large audience and were played against clubs from neighbouring towns, and teams from domestic and

foreign warships that were visiting Šibenik.

Official water polo playing in Šibenik began in 1953 in improvised pools marked by floating barrels. Water polo was played in those years during the summer, exclusively in the sea until the construction of the open pool Crnica in 1960 and the open pool in the tourist complex Solaris in 1972. After the demolition of the pool in Solaris, Šibenik water polo players tirelessly traveled for training to other cities (as well as during the Homeland War) – Split and Zagreb. Numerous generations have successfully trained in Šibenik, and many have become **national representatives**. In Šibenik, alongside the men's Water Polo Club "Solaris", there is also the Women's water polo club "Viktorija".



SAILING

The first organized sailing school and sports regattas in Šibenik were organized by the Naval Petty Officer School. These events attracted many lovers of wind and sea to start taking up this sport more seriously. The first historical participation of a Šibenik sailing boat in a regatta was recorded during competition organized in Split in 1926.

The popularization of this sport led to the founding of the Sailing Section of the Adriatic Guard in Šibenik in 1928, and seven years later, to the founding of an independent sailing society called the Sailing Club "Val", which still operates under the same name. Since the same people founded both, the Sailing Section and the Sailing Club "Val", the year 1928 is taken as the year of the founding of this club,

making it the second oldest sports club in Šibenik. This also testifies to the rich tradition of sports sailing in Šibenik and the love for this sport. Numerous successes have been achieved in the rich history of the club.

In addition to the Sailing Club "Val", the Sailing Club "Šibenik" and the Windsurfing Club "Jadrija" operate in Šibenik.



VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball appeared in Dalmatia in the **early 1930s** and was played exclusively within the Sokol clubs. In the competitions of that time, both men's and women's teams from Šibenik achieved significant results.

Volleyball officially began to be played in Šibenik around 1960. It was first played by men's and women's teams of Šibenik high school students. From the school volleyball sections, men's and women's volleyball clubs were formed, which have been participating in competitions since the 1970s, and have since left a

special mark on this sport. The men's volleyball club has given Croatian volleyball about twenty players who played for the cadet or junior national team.

There are two volleyball clubs in Šibenik: Volleyball club "Šibenik 91", within which there is also an organized volleyball school with about a hundred children of different ages, Women's volleyball club "Šibenik", founded in 1989 by separating from a joint volleyball club in which men's and women's teams played.

TENNIS

The Tennis Club Šibenik was founded in 1928. The matches were initially held on an improvised court in Šubićevac, and at that time, it was considered a gentleman's sport and was played by members of wealthy Šibenik families. Already in the first half of the 20th century, **international tennis tournaments** were organized in Šibenik.

Over time, courses were organized with the aim of popularizing tennis. As in other sports, the beginning of World War II also interrupted tennis activities in Šibenik.

In 1980, the Tennis Club Šubićevac was founded, along with a tennis school within the club. During those years, Šibenik also organized strong international tournaments. The Walt Disney Company donated tennis balls for one of the tournaments.

The tradition of organizing

international tennis tournaments in Šibenik continues, in which young members of the club also participate.



TABLE TENNIS

A table tennis section was established in Šibenik in 1928. After that, there were no significant activities until 1953 when a new surge of table tennis began. Table tennis was then played in elementary and high schools as well as in some church

spaces.

Table tennis was played intensively in Šibenik until the Homeland War, and the resumption of activities that continues to this day began in 2012 with the establishment of the Table Tennis Club "Šibenik."

CHESS

Chess was initially played in Šibenik in homes and reading rooms. The first chess club existed in Šibenik as early as 1922, and since then, it has become a favourite sport, especially among students and pupils. For many years, great names in world chess have also visited Šibenik.

Since its beginnings, the Šibenik Chess Club has won numerous championships, and has one of the most beautiful sports stories.

In addition to this club, the Brodarica Chess Club also operates in Šibenik.



BOCCE (BALOTE)



Bocce is a favourite Mediterranean folk game, also called the game of ball or boule. In the beginning, it was played with round stone balls, then with balls made of baked clay or wood (boule), and then with wooden balls with nails, which are still used in some places in the Dalmatian hinterland.

The motive for winning was usually a brunch, and today this sport is mostly practiced recreationally by the third generation.



3.

■ 3. STRUCTURE, SYSTEM, AND ORGANISATION OF SPORTS

3.1. SYSTEM, ORGANISATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Sports activities are regulated by international conventions, legal acts, as well as customs, rules, and principles of sports. The key documents defining sports within the legislative framework are the Olympic Charter (2011), the European Commission White Paper on Sport (2007), the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, the Declaration on Sport (which was annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997 and the Treaty of Nice in 2000), and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), which for the first time granted sports a place in the primary law of the EU. The primary law regulating sports activities in the Republic of Croatia is the Sports Act (Official Gazette, no. 141/22), along with other laws and by-laws that directly influence the implementation of sports activities.

The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia and the Sports Act define sports as an activity of special national interest. As an **integral part of modern society**, sports are essential not only for individuals but also for the development of every community, at the national, regional, and local levels, from social, educational, health, social, and economic perspectives.

For this reason, the system,

organisation, and management of sports, as established by the Sports Act, have a significant general and specific impact on the quality of sports life and society as a whole, regardless of the different levels.

The organisation and structure of sports in most European countries, including the Republic of Croatia, are based on the so-called European Sport Model, characterised by a pyramidal organisational structure of sports, founded on the freedom of association (non-governmental sector) and a well-developed system of institutions and organisations.

The foundation of the Croatian sports pyramid consists of sports clubs (both amateur and professional) and associations.

In legal terms, the vast majority of sports clubs in the Republic of Croatia are organised as associations, while only a small number of clubs are legally structured as sports joint-stock companies.

Clubs unite into local and/or national professional sports federations as well as local sports communities, which form the middle of the pyramid.

At the top of the sports system pyramid are the umbrella sports associations, which serve as the highest national and non-governmental sports bodies, as follows:

- **Croatian Olympic Committee (COC),**
- **Croatian Paralympic Committee (CPC),**
- **Croatian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA),**
- **Croatian Academic Sports Federations (CASF) i**
- **Croatian School Sports Federation (CSSF).**



Hrvatski akademski
sportski savez
Croatian Academic
Sports Federation

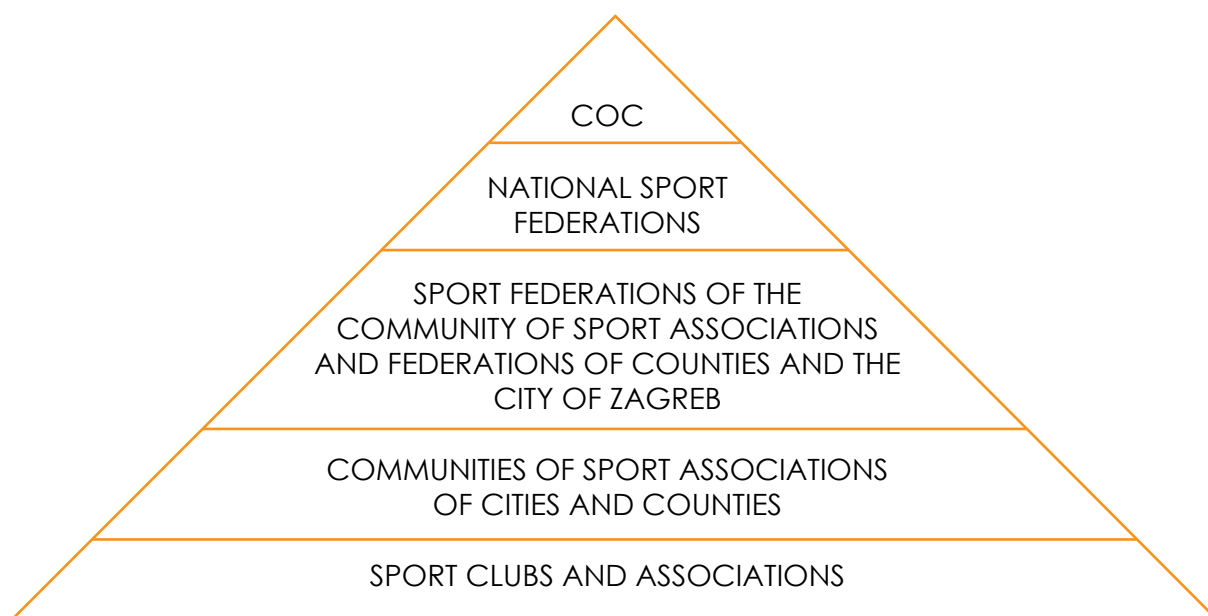


The umbrella sports associations, each with its own tasks and role, have their own separate pyramids and build their respective sports systems. These associations also form the core structure responsible for implementing the National Sports Programme and serve as proposers and implementers of measures and activities included in the National Sports Programme and

Action Plan.

Part of the sports system also includes school sports clubs, school sports federations, student sports associations, institutions for conducting sports activities, commercial companies for public sports facilities, and higher education institutions for training sports professionals.

Sports System in the Republic of Croatia



Source: Bartoluci, M., Škorić, S.(2009). *Characteristics of Managers in the Management of Sports Organisations. Methodical Organisational Forms of Work in the Fields of Education, Sports, Sports Recreation, and Kinesitherapy. Zagreb (Karakteristike menadžera u upravljanju sportskim organizacijama. Metodički organizacijski oblici rada u područjima edukacije, sporta, sportske rekreacije i kineziterapije. Zagreb)*

The pyramid of public (state) support for the sports system consists of county administrative departments responsible for sports, as well as relevant offices/ departments of local and regional self-government units (municipalities, cities) in charge of sports affairs, the Sports Directorate at the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and the National Council as the highest expert body responsible for the development and quality of sports in the Republic of Croatia.

Sports activities in Croatia encompass various segments: physical education, competitive sports, sports preparation, coaching and training, sports recreation, sports for persons with disabilities, the organisation and management of sports competitions, and the management and maintenance of sports facilities.

Each of these segments has its own specific characteristics in terms of organisation and activities, which are tailored to different user groups with varying purposes and participation goals.

3.2. THE SYSTEM AND ORGANISATION OF SPORTS IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

One of the many factors that, to a greater or lesser extent, strongly influences the development of sport is the structure, organisation, and management of sport at the local level.

The foundation of the sports pyramid, just like at the national level, is formed by sports clubs, associations, organisations, and the citizens themselves. Sports clubs unite into local (county-level) professional sports federations, as well as Community Sports the City of Šibenik, which serves as the umbrella organisation for sports in Šibenik (full members of the association).

Community Sports the City of Šibenik,

together with Public Institution "Sports Facilities" – Šibenik, proposes the **Programme of Public Needs in Sports**, which is a strategic document at the city local community level and is submitted for adoption to the City Council of Šibenik via the Administrative Department of Social Activities of the City of Šibenik.

The Programme, for which funds are secured in the city budget, defines the public needs in sports, i.e. the activities, tasks, and operations that are significant for the City of Šibenik. The Programme encompasses the following programme areas/activities:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scholarships for top athletes2. Operation of sports associations3. General and health protection of athletes4. Operation of the Sports Association5. School sports activities6. Other sports programmes | } | COMMUNITY SPORTS
THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Maintenance and construction of sports facilities8. Operation of the Public Institution "Sports Facilities" – Šibenik | | |

- *Scholarships for top athletes* is an activity aimed at stimulating athletes to remain in the city and contribute to the development and popularisation of sport through a financial sports scholarship. A contract is signed with the athletes, outlining their mutual rights and obligations upon the conclusion of the public invitation.
- The activity *Operation of sports associations* co-finances the activities of associations – full members of the Association with the aim of developing, improving, and enhancing the quality of a specific sport. This particularly applies to sports associations with well-structured youth programmes and senior teams competing at the highest level, ensuring continuity and improvement of sports results, as well as promoting the city of Šibenik. Sports associations submit an application to the public invitation. After the applications are evaluated, in accordance with the internal acts of the

Association, and based on the decision of the Executive Board, i.e. the decision of the Mayor of the City of Šibenik regarding the distribution of funds from the budget of the City of Šibenik, contracts are signed with the associations.

- General and health protection of athletes includes a periodic medical examination at a sports clinic that registered athletes undergo every six months. One of the assessments of the **healthcare system** for athletes has shown that Šibenik is one of the few cities that, as part of the Programme of Public Needs in Sports, offers athletes a medical examination for free.

In addition to providing athletes – users of the Programme of Public Needs in Sports with free medical examinations, a high-quality, long-term monitoring system is being established, serving as a sort of “data registry” for each athlete.

- The activity *Operation of the Sports Association* is primarily regulated by the provisions of the Sports Act, as the fundamental legal act governing the sports system, and by the provisions of the Association's Articles of the Association.

The fundamental task of the Association is to oversee the planning, organisation, promotion, and control of sports activities. Through its professional service, the Association carries out programming, expert, analytical, and accounting-financial tasks.

- The goal of the School Sports Activities programme is to promote sports participation among **school-aged children** to improve their health status while encouraging recreational sports at all levels. School sports activities are implemented through school sports competitions for primary and secondary schools, organised by the Federation of School Sports Associations of Šibenik-Knin County.
- The users of the *Other Sports Programmes* programme are sports associations whose activities and operations are of broader interest and exceptional significance for sports and the local community. These activities do not fall under the regular activities outlined in the Programme of Public Needs in Sports of the City of Šibenik for the current year (activity: Operation of Sports Associations) or could not be planned in advance by the associations when applying for the public invitation due to the nature of the sport.

The goals of this activity are focused on **promoting local sports** and competitions, indirectly improving quality of life and promoting a healthier lifestyle; developing the social aspect, promoting values of sport, strengthening the capacity of sports associations, and enhancing the overall quality and popularity of sports beyond the regular activities of sports associations; preserving the autonomy of Šibenik's sports scene through the improved functioning of sports associations in the city; fostering connections between the sports sector and other sectors, particularly tourism.

The goals of the *Other Sports Programmes* programme are also reflected in the (co-)organisation of (traditional) sports events and ceremonies

related to celebrating sports achievements, sports events and/or projects, as well as activities aimed at promoting sport values and popularising sports, all serving the development of sports in the City of Šibenik.

- The *Maintenance and Construction of Sports Facilities* activities highlight the need for continuous investment in sports infrastructure through construction, reconstruction, renovation, and refurbishment, as well as the responsible management of infrastructure owned by the City of Šibenik.
- Funds are provided for the *Operation of the Public Institution Sports Facilities – Šibenik* activity to support its regular activities.



The activities of Community Sports the City of Šibenik are defined by the provisions of the Sports Act, and accordingly, the Articles of Associations of the Association specifies the activities through which it achieves its goals, programmes, and tasks. The primary activities of Community Sports the City of Šibenik include:

- **encouraging and promoting sports** in the City of Šibenik, particularly sports for children, youth, students, and people with disabilities,
- participating in defining and implementing the **development policy for sports** in Šibenik,
- consolidating and coordinating **sports programmes** and proposing the Programme of Public Needs in Sports to the relevant administrative department of the City, as well as participating in its implementation,
- conducting **sports activities for children and youth**
- creating conditions for the improvement of sports for children and youth
- caring for categorised athletes in accordance with the adopted acts that regulate the scope and manner of exercising their rights
- participating in creating conditions for the **preparation of athletes** for the Olympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games, World Cup and European Championship and Cup competitions, the Mediterranean Games, and other significant international competitions
- organising and/or participating in the organisation of sports events and activities of significance for the City of Šibenik
- creating conditions for the improvement of sports **recreation**, coordinating the network of sports associations in Šibenik, and increasing participation in sports activities
- cooperation in implementing programmes of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, the Croatian Olympic Committee, and other umbrella organisations,
- encouraging scientific and development programmes in sports
- combatting the use of illicit stimulants,
- other tasks prescribed by general acts.





Community Sports the City of Šibenik, aware of the importance of engaging in sports and recreational activities, independently or in co-organisation with other (sports) stakeholders, organises and implements various programmes throughout the year for all individuals, regardless of age and status, such as:

- **Croatian Olympic Committee Programmes:** the Olympic Festival of Kindergartens in the City of Šibenik, the International Olympic Day and the Croatian Olympic Day, the programme "Choose Your Sport".
- The ceremony for declaring the **best athletes of the City of Šibenik** (annual event)
- Special periodic ceremonies and receptions related to the achievements and successes of Šibenik athletes
- **European Week of Sport** with an emphasis on School Sports Day
- Šibenik City Cycling Tour

- Activities of significance for parasport in collaboration with other institutions and associations
- Recreational sport race “Runesco” and other sports activities related to recreational sports
- Matches and sports events with clubs from the twin cities of **Voiron** (France) and **Herford** (Germany), including both international away matches and home matches organised by the Association
- Projects and educational programmes focused on improving **athlete health** care, nutrition, and proper diet for athletes
- All other activities significant for sports and its strengthening in the City of Šibenik.



These programmes, in addition to developing and enhancing the effectiveness of sports, also contribute to local economic and social development as part of the strategy to integrate sports with other activities. The Public Institution "Sports Facilities" – Šibenik, founded by the City of Šibenik, within the framework of encouraging and promoting sports, performs the following activities:

- management of sports facilities and their maintenance,
- sports training,
- sports recreation,
- participation in sports activities.

The City of Šibenik has adopted the study **Strategy for the Development of Sports and Sports Infrastructure of the City of Šibenik 2020.-2027.** as the

fundamental strategic and planning development document for the sports sector in the upcoming eight-year period, after which the success of the activities implemented within the outlined goals can be assessed.

The strategy records and analyses the current state of sports and sports infrastructure, defines strategic goals, and proposes a sports development programme for the City of Šibenik and its surrounding settlements, as well as activities needed for the implementation of these goals, with deadlines, responsible parties, and measures for monitoring implementation.

The strategy represents an integral part of the overall development policy of the city, aiming to provide a long-term plan for the sustainable development of sports and sports infrastructure, with the joint integration of the sports system with the education, healthcare, and tourism systems.





4.

■ 4. ELITE, PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR SPORTS IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

4.1. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OF SPORTS CLUBS AND THEIR FINANCING

According to legal provisions, a sports club is a legal entity registered for conducting sports activities, sports training, and participation in sports competitions of a particular sport, as well as preparation, recreation, education, organization, and management of sports competitions, and the management and maintenance of sports facilities.

According to their organizational form, clubs can be registered as associations of citizens or sports joint-stock companies and can thus have the status of professional or amateur sports.

Regarding the organization of professional clubs, two models are applied. One, under which clubs have the freedom to choose the organizational form in which they will conduct sports activities. The other, according to which clubs are required to organize themselves as sports joint-stock companies.

The City of Šibenik co-finances sports activities with funds from the city budget through the Public Needs Program in Sports. The partnership between the city and the Sports Community of the City of Šibenik and the Public Institution "Sports Facilities" - Šibenik, which propose the Public Needs Program in Sports, should result in the implementation of all activities.

Sports clubs that have become **full members** of the Community according to the Statute of the Sports Community of the City of

Šibenik participate in the Program of public needs of the City of Šibenik in the activity: Operation of sports associations, by applying to the Public call within a specified deadline and requested conditions, in accordance with legal regulations. As part of its efforts to reduce administration in the application and management process of association programs, applications are submitted through a digitized system (SOM application). Other sports clubs and associations can achieve funding for their programs and projects through activities: Other sports programs. Co-financing of programs and projects depends on the available budget funds for individual activities and the quality of the submitted programs, and after the public call is completed, based on the decision of the Executive Board of the Community and the Conclusion of the Mayor of the City of Šibenik on the distribution of funds, a co-financing contract will be signed with full members for a specific calendar year.

The realization of the right to financial resources from Other sports programs is based on the application of a program or project. The quality of the program and the possibility of its implementation are the basis for the decision of the Executive Board regarding its implementation from budgetary funds. The Sports Community of the City of Šibenik has adopted the Regulation on the calculation of the value and

classification of sports in the City of Šibenik. The Regulation ranks sports clubs based on four criteria from the Regulation:

1. Sports of sports-strategic importance for the City of Šibenik;
2. Public status of the sport;
3. Quality of the sport;
4. Development of the sport.

Based on the points earned according to the criteria, the

allocation of funds to individual clubs is made, on which the decision is made by the Executive Board of the Sports Community and submitted to the mayor for the adoption of a Conclusion on the distribution of funds. In the Budget of the City of Šibenik for 2023 and 2024 and the plan for 2025, the allocations for sports in nominal amounts have a positive trend while the share in the total amount remains the same.

The allocation of funds for sports from the budget of the City of Šibenik

YEAR	BUDGET OF THE CITY (€)	BUDGET FOR SPORTS (€)	SHARE OF ALLOCATIONS FOR SPORT (%)
2023.	61.044.200,99	2.479.073,25	4,06
2024.	74.820.000,00	2.912.662,00	3,89
2025.	99.948.000,00	3.878.216,00	3,88

With careful planning, allocations in the Public Needs Program in Sports for all activities are on the rise this year. The larger planned amount for 2025

is accompanied by slightly higher allocations per capita, in accordance with the planned amounts for investment in sports infrastructure.



4.2. SPORTS CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

According to the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia and other available registers, a total of 162 sports entities operate in the administrative area of the City of Šibenik.

Part of the sports system within that number consists not only of sports clubs but also other legal entities engaged in sports activities. Among them, the following operate in the administrative territory of the City of Šibenik:

The Community of Sports of Šibenik-Knin County, the Community of Sports of the City of Šibenik, the Association of School Sports Societies of Šibenik-

Knin County, 10 county federations of various sports (football, basketball, volleyball, handball, gymnastics, chess, darts, bocce, auto karting, sea sports fishing), the Parasports Federation of Šibenik-Knin County, the Association of School Sports Societies of Šibenik-Knin County, the Sports Association of Students at the Polytechnic of Šibenik, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service Station Šibenik, the Center for Volunteer Promotion and Support for Vulnerable Groups, the Universal Sports School, associations of coaches, sports judges, and fans.

FOOTBALL	CROATIAN FOOTBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK
	CROATIAN FOOTBALL CLUB MIHOVIL
	FOOTBALL CLUB FOOTBALL SCHOOL ŠIBENIK
	FOOTBALL CLUB FOOTBALL SCHOOL JOSO BEGO ŠIBENIK
	FOOTBALL CLUB FOOTBALL SCHOOL SEBENICO CITY
	FOOTBALL CLUB POLET 2008. ZABLAĆE
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB CRNICA
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK 1983
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB USKOK BIRANJ
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB OLD CITY PARKING ŠIBENIK
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB SPORTS CENTER MANDALINA
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB GOLDEN FISH
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB BARUTANA
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB LITTLE JAPAN RAŽINE
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB ŠUBIĆEVAC 08
	MINI FOOTBALL CLUB DUBRAVA
	FUTSAL CLUB PERKOVIĆ
	FUTSAL CLUB BANZOGO

BASKETBALL	CIVIL BASKETBALL CLUB ŠIBENKA
	YOUTH BASKETBALL CLUB DRAŽEN PETROVIĆ
	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK
	BASKETBALL CLUB ACADEMY ANĐA JELAVIĆ
	BASKETBALL CLUB GALEB
HANDBALL	HANDBALL CLUB ADRIATIC
VOLLEYBALL	VOLLEYBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK 91
	WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CLUB ŠIBENIK
TENNIS	TENNIS CLUB ŠUBIĆEVAC
	TENNIS CLUB ZATON
TABLE TENIS	TABLE TENNIS CLUB ŠIBENIK
RUGBY	RUGBY CLUB ŠIBENIK
SWIMMING	SWIMMING CLUB ŠIBENIK
	SWIMMING CLUB MORE
WATER POLO	WATER POLO CLUB SOLARIS
	WOMEN'S WATER POLO CLUB VIKTORIA
	WATER POLO CLUB BRODARICA-KRAPANJ
	WATER POLO CLUB VETERANS OF ŠIBENIK 20
ROWING	ROWING CLUB KRKA
SAILING	SAILING CLUB VAL
	SAILING CLUB ŠIBENIK
	SAILING CLUB SPUŽVAR
	YACHT CLUB ZLARIN
WINDSURFING	WINDSURFING CLUB JADRIJA ŠIBENIK

DIVING	DIVING CLUB ŠIBENIK
GYMNASTICS	GYMNASTICS CLUB ŠIBENIK-DALMATIA GYMNASTICS CLUB DIŠPET RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CLUB NEBO
MOUNTAINEERING	CROATIAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB ST. MICHAEL CROATIAN MOUNTAINEERING SOCIETY KAMENAR ŠIBENIK MOUNTAINEERING ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION STRIBOR
SPORT CLIMBING	SPORTSKO PENJAČKI KLUB TETON
KARATE	KARATE CLUB OSVIT KARATE CLUB ŠIBENIK KARATE CLUB ŠIBENIK 1066 KARATE CLUB ŠIBENKA
JUDO	JUDO CLUB ŠIBENIK
WRESTLING	WRESTLING CLUB ŠIBENIK WRESTLING CLUB ŠIBENIK 022
KICKBOXING	KICKBOXING CLUB DALMATINO ŠIBENIK KICKBOXING CLUB PETAR KREŠIMIR IV.
TAEKWONDO	TAEKWONDO CLUB JURAJ DALMATINAC TAEKWONDO CLUB SOLARIS
JU-JITSU	JU-JITSU CLUB ŠIBENIK
AIKIDO	AIKIDO CLUB FUDO MYOO ŠIBENIK
BOXING	BOXING CLUB ŠIBENIK BAUER BOXING CLUB

SPORT FISHING AT THE SEA	PRIMORSKO SPORTSKO RIBOLOVNO DRUŠTVO VRNAŽA ŠIBENIK
	SPORT CLUB FOR FISHING AT SEA MOJAĆ ZABLAĆE
	SPORT CLUB FOR FISHING AT SEA GAUNE
	SPORT FISHING CLUB AT SEA ŠIBENIK
	KORNATAR SPORT FISHING SOCIETY
	BRODARICA SPORT FISHING SOCIETY
	ARBUN SPORT FISHING SOCIETY
MOTORING	AUTOMOBILE CLUB MIHOVIL ŠIBENIK
	KARTING CLUB DUBRAVA-ŠIBENIK
	KARTING CLUB CINA RACING KART ŠIBENIK
	AUTO KARTING CLUB ŠIBENIK
	AUTO KARTING CLUB BALDEKIN ŠIBENIK
	AUTO KARTING CLUB STARI GRAD
MOTORCYCLING	MOTO CLUB OBA DVA ŠIBENIK
CYCLING	CYCLING CLUB FORTICA
	CYCLING CLUB FAUST VRANČIĆ
ATHLETICS	ATLETIC CLUB ŠIBENIK
POWERLIFTING	POWERLIFTING CLUB ŠIBENIK
BODYBUILDING	BODY BUILDING I FITNESS KLUB "RITAM KORAKA"
	BODY BUILDING KLUB VETERANA SPECIJALNE POLICIJE "ORCINUS"
TRIATLON	TRIATLON KLUB ŠIBENIK
CHESS	CHESS CLUB ŠIBENIK
	CHESS CLUB BRODARICA
BILLIARDS	BILLIARDS CLUB SAINT MICHAEL

DARTS	DARTS CLUB VRPOLJE
	DARTS CLUB CLUB 57 KONJEVRATE
	DARTS CLUB "BANZOGO" ŠIBENIK
BOWLING	BOWLING CLUB ŠUBIĆEVAC ŠIBENIK
BOCCE SPORT	BOCCE CLUB SOLARIS 2015
	BOCCE CLUB ŠUBIĆEVAC
	BOĆARSKI KLUB ŠIBENIK 2020
	BOĆARSKI KLUB ROTO DINAMIC
	PETANQUE KLUB DALMATINO ŠIBENIK
	PETANQUE KLUB ŠIBENIK
	PETANQUE KLUB KREŠIMIROVA GRADA ŠIBENIK
	PETANQUE KLUB VINSKE MUŠICE
ARM WRESTLING	ARM WRESTLING CLUB ANGIR
SKIING	SKI CLUB ŠIBENIK
	SKI CLUB RECREATIVO
EQUESTRIAN SPORT	EQUESTRIAN CLUB KOLAN - ASSOCIATION FOR ACTIVITIES AND THERAPY WITH HORSES
PARA SPORTS ASSOCIATION	
PARA-KARATE	PARA-KARATE CLUB KRKA ŠIBENIK
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL	BASKETBALL CLUB FOR DISABLED PERSONS ŠIBENIK
PARA-SWIMMING	SWIMMING CLUB FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RIBA
PARA-BOWLING	CLUB PARA BOWLING ŠIBENIK-KNIN COUNTY
ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES	SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS ŠIBENIK-KNIN COUNTY

SPORTS RECREATION

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION SPORT FOR ALL 08 FORZA

SPORTS RECREATION ASSOCIATION RECREATIVO

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION FEEL THE POWER

ŠIBENIK RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION ŠIBENIK 022

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION THE MOVEMENT

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION STUDIO BALANCE

SOCIETY FOR SPORTS RECREATION WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE ŠIBENIK

ASSOCIATION FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION ROVANJ

AUTO MOTOR SOCIETY ŠIBENIK

ASSOCIATION "FOR SPORT" OF THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION STUDIO FIMES

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION DIVINE YOGA STUDIO

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION ELEKTRA ŠIBENIK

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION ŽIŽULA

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION ROADS ŠIBENIK d.o.o.

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION F

SOCIETY OF SPORTS RECREATION RED ZONE ŠIBENIK



Athletes in the City of Šibenik by age categories

SPORT	AGE CATEGORIES						TOTAL
	SENIORS	JUNIORS	CADETS	YOUNGER CADETS	YOUNGER PIONEERS	BEGINNERS	
FOOTBALL	27	31	51	72	133	189	503
FUTSAL	20	25	22	25	23	38	153
BASKETBALL	44	29	65	92	199	333	762
VOLLEYBALL	25	17	49	66	40	18	215
HANDBALL	0	0	28	35	38	25	126
RUGBY	38	0	0	0	0	0	38
WATER POLO	30	29	31	22	29	33	174
SWIMMING	14	35	38	131	77	341	636
ROWING	3	9	5	13	5	29	64
SAILING	41	9	15	12	0	0	77
DIVING	25	0	0	0	0	0	25
CYCLING	61	5	8	7	15	0	96
GYMNASTICS	0	28	33	55	29	255	400
CHESS	45	1	18	3	2	0	69
BOWLING	35	1	7	0	0	0	43
BOCCIA	158	2	0	0	0	0	160
KARATE	4	11	58	51	79	88	291
KICKBOXING	55	35	25	15	24	0	154
WRESTLING	3	8	10	20	28	21	90
TAEKWONDO	7	31	18	74	15	6	151
JUDO	0	0	4	25	5	10	44
JIU-JITSU	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
AIKIDO	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
ATHLETICS	35	0	5	3	10	5	58
MOTORSPORT	38	0	0	0	0	0	38
KARTING	3	5	5	1	5	4	23
MOTORCYCLING	15	7	0	0	0	0	22
HIKING							0
SPORT CLIMBING	18	2	0	0	0	0	20
TENNIS	0	18	38	35	8	5	104
TABLE TENNIS	8	5	9	11	12	33	78
TRIATHLON	22	5	3	1	0	0	31
POWERLIFTING	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
BODYBUILDING	25	0	0	0	0	0	25

SPORT FISHING AT SEA	38	2	0	0	0	0	40
BILLIARDS	39	6	0	0	0	0	45
DARTS	22	8	0	0	0	0	30
EQUESTRIAN SPORT	8	3	0	0	0	0	11
PARA-KARATE	0	8	2	0	0	0	10
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL	22	2	0	0	0	0	24
PARA-SWIMMING	10	5	0	0	0	0	15
PARA-BOWLING	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES	28	1	5	0	0	0	34
TOTAL	1007	384	552	769	776	1433	4921

REGISTERED ACTIVE ATHLETES 4,921

RECREATIONAL PARTICIPANTS (REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED): 8,750

TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE CITIZENS (ATHLETES AND RECREATIONAL PARTICIPANTS): 13,650 - 32%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CITIZENS IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK: 42,599

*It is estimated that the **sportsmanship rate in the City of Šibenik is 32%**, i.e. it is percentage of citizens (athletes plus recreational participants who are engaged in different types of sports recreation 2-3 times a week) in the City of Šibenik is 32%. The estimation is based on the records and assessments of the Community Sports the City of Šibenik, NGO's, i.e. different associations that gather recreational participants and on the increase in the number and attendance of various forms of sports recreation in the City of Šibenik.

Every sports club has its own network of volunteers who are, for example, younger members of the sports club, parents, other sports enthusiasts, etc. Some larger events have already established a network of volunteers who help organize the events on a regular basis. Sports clubs and organizers of sports events often seek additional volunteers through Facebook or other online channels.





4.3. FIRST DIVISION SPORT CLUBS





5.

■ 5. FROM PRE-SCHOOL SPORTS TO ACADEMIC SPORTS

5.1. SPORTS PROGRAMMES IN KINDERGARTENS

Sports programmes for early childhood and preschool education play an important role in the systematic organisation of appropriate exercise programmes, encouraging children to engage in physical activity and later guiding them towards a particular sport in accordance with their preferences and abilities.

Thirteen regional facilities operate within the network of two public kindergartens, with a total of 59 educational groups (19 nursery groups and 40 kindergarten groups) that are carefully structured to meet the needs of children of various age groups. In the City of Šibenik, there are also three private and two Catholic kindergartens.

This aspect of child development is approached with special attention, where sports activities are not only a means for development of the child's physical, psychological, and intellectual characteristics, but also serve as a platform for learning social skills, such as teamwork, fair play, and self-confidence, as well as establishing work and hygiene habits.

In some kindergartens, an integrated sports programme is conducted for preschool children from the age of 3 until they start school. The programme

is implemented by masters of kinesiology in collaboration with teachers in multipurpose sports halls and outdoor playgrounds. Children participate in various sports activities outside the kindergarten. In addition to the kinesiologist, some activities involve teachers who have received additional training for this type of programme and who continuously pursue professional development. Also, cooperation with parents is of particular importance for the effective implementation of the programme and the child's development.

Along with developing and improving the child's natural movement skills, the programme aims to positively impact the child's overall development, promote a healthy lifestyle, and foster personality development by creating a positive self-image.

All kindergartens in the City of Šibenik, along with their preschoolers, participate annually in the Olympic Festival of Kindergartens organised by the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik.



As part of the planned sports activities, city kindergartens collaborate with clubs whose players aim to bring sports, healthy eating, and generally an active lifestyle closer to the little ones. The Civil Basketball Club Šibenka has a beautiful tradition in this collaboration, as its players have been visiting children in kindergartens for years. In addition to stories about sports and its history and benefits, they do warm-up and stretching exercises together with the children and play basketball on the kindergarten playgrounds or in the kindergarten gym.



OLYMPIC FESTIVAL OF KINDERGARTENS

The Olympic Festival of Kindergartens is a traditional event that promotes sports and Olympic ideals among the youngest members of Croatian society, such as respect for the rules of the game and for fellow competitors and officials, teamwork, friendship, self-discipline, non-violence, and fair play. In doing so, it also encourages the harmonious development of the child's physical, psychological, and intellectual characteristics.

This event is organised annually by the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik for the area of the City of Šibenik and its suburban areas. Each kindergarten is represented by a team consisting of preschool-age girls and boys.

The organisation of the competition includes several preparatory steps, such as submitting an application for the organisation of competition to the Local Sports Programme Office at the Croatian Olympic Committee, sports training for young competitors under professional guidance, and educating them about the Olympic movement.

Each kindergarten participates in futsal and athletics competitions. The athletics competitions include four disciplines: (1) 50-meter sprint, (2) 4 × 25-meter relay, (3) ball throw, and (4) long jump.

The concept of the Olympic Festival of Kindergartens is similar to the Olympic Games and includes a solemn march, in which all kindergartens participate with their teams accompanied by teachers, an opening ceremony where the Olympic flag is raised and the Olympic Festival oath is recited alongside the Croatian national

anthem, and the lighting of the Olympic flame. This is followed by the competitions, the awards and diploma ceremony, and the closing ceremony of the event.

Every child receives a diploma for participating in the Olympic Festival, while medals are awarded to the top three finishers in each discipline, and trophies are given to the winners of first place. Also, a trophy is awarded to the overall competition winner (the kindergarten with the highest number of points) and for fair play to the kindergarten that has demonstrated the greatest respect for the rules, opponents, and the spirit of sportsmanship.

Every year, around 500 preschool children participate in this event.

The Croatian Olympic Committee, as the co-organizer, initiator, and founder of the festival, provides each child with a T-shirt and a cap featuring the Olympic Festival and the Croatian Olympic Committee logos, as well as diplomas.

The Sports Association of the City of Šibenik, as the organizer, provides funding for the competition, covering expenses such as water for participants, the engagement of an ambulance with a doctor and driver in case of injury or accident of the participants, the procurement of medals and trophies, the purchase of sports equipment, the preparation of sports fields, a sound system, and other organisational costs.

The participation of volunteers adds extra significance and spirit to this event, providing them not only with the opportunity to develop new skills but also with enjoyment and engagement in exciting activities.



TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NON-SWIMMERS

The “Croatia Swims” non-swimmer training programme is implemented based on a curriculum developed in collaboration with the Croatian Swimming Federation and co-financed by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

The training for non-swimmers is designed for children aged 4 and older who are unable to stay afloat on their own. The training is conducted through play, water enjoyment, and age-appropriate exercises.

The goal of this programme is not only to prepare the child for the

joys of the sea and pool through the development of motor and coordination skills but also to positively influence the balanced psycho-physical development of the child. The programme in the City of Šibenik is implemented by the Swimming Club More and the Swimming Club Šibenik. The swimming club “More” has, in collaboration with the Sports Community of the City of Šibenik, since 2022, as the main bearer, launched the Swimming Integration program into the education system to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.



5.2. SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SPORTS

There are ten primary schools and nine secondary schools in the City of Šibenik and its surrounding settlements. Among higher education institutions in Šibenik, the Polytechnic of Šibenik offers undergraduate programmes (Tourism Management, Business Informatics, Administrative Law, Traffic, Nursing) and graduate programmes (Management, Administrative Law), as well as a university study programme of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources as a branch of the University of Zagreb.

The Sports Association of the City of Šibenik, within the Programme of Public Needs in Sports – School Sports Activities, promotes sports participation among school-age children and raises their awareness of the importance of daily physical

exercise and a healthy, active lifestyle. The implementation of these activities is carried out by the Federation of School Sports Associations of Šibenik-Knin County.

School sports activities are carried out through the organisation and implementation of sports activities for pupils as part of the school's extracurricular content, encouraging the participation of as many pupils as possible in these activities, especially pupils with disabilities.

Professional sports work with pupils throughout the year is reflected in sports competitions for boys and girls from primary and secondary schools in several sports: basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, futsal, handball, table tennis, badminton, chess, cross-country, and sports dance.



These activities provide an ideal opportunity for the development and improvement of a whole range of skills that are important in early childhood and for later life development. With these activities, primary goals such as the development of physical fitness and a variety of skills are achieved, which serve as a foundation for promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for children and youth, as sport should be a way of living and thinking.

Various sports activities in primary schools also celebrate the Croatian Olympic Day, dedicated to the founding date of the Croatian Olympic Committee, promoting the importance of engaging in sports.

The Sports Association of the City of Šibenik promotes university academic sports through organisation of various competitions under the "Other Sports Programmes" programme.

The Sports Association of the Polytechnic of Šibenik is an associate member of the Croatian Academic

Sports Federation, the umbrella organisation for university sports, which encourages students to balance the challenges of studying and sports activities through competitions, socializing through sports, and representing the Polytechnic in Croatia and the region. The sports in which students participate include football, basketball (men's and women's), volleyball (men's and women's), table tennis, and badminton.

A large number of pupils and students, in addition to being involved in regular sports activities, also engage in sports within sports clubs.

The "Šibenik" Student Basketball Club operates in Šibenik and achieves notable results.

Special emphasis is placed on pupils who are not active in sports outside of school and pupils with developmental disabilities, encouraging them to engage in the world of sports and physical activity through organised active excursions in nature, outdoor recreation, and similar activities.

UNIVERSAL SPORTS SCHOOL

Universal sports schools are established with the aim of promoting physical activity among children and developing their motor skills from an early age. The motor activities are selected based on the children's age and abilities. The goal is for children to acquire basic skills that will help them in their further sports development and healthy lifestyle by playing in an engaging and age-appropriate pedagogical and kinesiological manner.

The work of universal sports schools is

an integral part of the school sports society's activities. The sessions are held twice a week in school gyms and last for 45 minutes.

The Universal Sports School "Šibenik" operates in Šibenik, offering various sports for children aged three to ten years. The programme is accredited by the Ministry of Science and Education and is led by masters of kinesiology.

Many children who go through the programme of the school later continue their training by focusing on

a specific sport, which helps expand the base for sports development. The school also aims to maintain and improve children's health and promote a healthy lifestyle through

education on proper nutrition. Additionally, universal sports schools who work with the youngest participants are established within certain clubs.



UNIVERSAL SPORTS SCHOOL

Šibenik has ten primary schools and ten branch schools, as well as nine secondary schools, almost all of which have a sports gym. The gyms are used for regular physical education classes and

extracurricular activities. In the evenings and on weekends, the gyms are primarily used by city sports associations for club activities (training) and competitive activities for children and youth.

SCHOOL DAY

The School Day (27 September) is part of the #BeActive campaign during the European Week of Sport, which takes place from 23 to 30 September. The goal of the School Day is to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle among pupils. To achieve this, schools organise various sports activities,

competitions, and workshops. In addition, the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik, together with the county sports association, organises various sports activities, including presentations of different sports by local sports clubs that work with children and youth.



OTHER SPORTS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The International Children's Festival is a multi-day international festival of children's art held in Šibenik in June and August, uninterrupted since 1958. Although the festival is a cultural event,

during its duration the city becomes one big children's playground where at various locations young athletes from sports associations showcase their skills.



PLAZMA YOUTH SPORTS GAMES

The Plazma Youth Sports Games is the largest amateur sports event in Europe, aiming to promote healthy lifestyle habits through socializing and sports. Its activities, in addition to promoting sports, inclusion, tolerance, and a sporting lifestyle among children, youth, and communities, also include the implementation and improvement of sustainable practices in environmental protection.

The Plazma Youth Sports Games provides an opportunity for primary and secondary school children to participate for free in top-organised competitions in ten sports from

January to September. Last year, their season began at the Šibenik Meterize Primary School, which traditionally participates with its teams. The right to participate is open to all individuals and freely formed teams, fans of a healthy lifestyle and socializing, not just children who actively engage in sports.

Among the significant achievements, we highlight the girls' basketball team, which was undefeated at the national finals of the Plazma Youth Sports Games in 2021 in basket (street basketball), and won a silver medal in the regional finals.

FREE SUMMER SPORTS SCHOOL

Various sports clubs, in cooperation with the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik, organise summer schools

that include around 300 children. A large number of children have stayed in the club for the regular programme.



CHILDREN RACE RUN

In the organization of sports associations with the support of the Community Sports the City of Šibenik, athletic races are organized for children, some of whom also have an educational character related to the location, person or event on the occasion of which the race is held.

A traditional children's race to mark Dražen Petrović's birthday was organized for kindergarten children and schoolchildren from 1st to 4th grade.

The sports-recreational race „Runesco“ also has its traditional character.



“CITY FOR YOUTH” CERTIFICATE

Demographic Incentives and Measures, Employment and Housing, Mobility, Health and Sports, Work With Youth and Culture, Education, and Information.

The certificate, as recognition for dedicated work in creating conditions for the quality life and personal and professional growth of its youth, was first awarded to Šibenik in 2021.

In the thematic area of Health and Sport, through the Programme of Public Needs in Sports, the City of Šibenik renovates sports infrastructure, encourages the development of sports, and co-finances associations that engage in sports activities. Additionally, it actively participates in improving the mental health of youth in collaboration with associations and external partners, and engages in various programmes aimed at preventing violence among young people.

The organisations and institutions involved in the decision-making

process for awarding the certificate are: the Central State Office of Demography and Youth, the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, the Croatian Youth Network, the Federation of Societies “Naša djeca”, and the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia.

The certificate awarding process has received support from the Representation of the European Commission in Croatia, the European Parliament Office in Croatia, and the UNICEF Office for Croatia.





■ 6. SPORTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Modern society promotes a system of human rights, part of which, as an extremely vulnerable group, are people with various types of physical and mental impairments.

The City of Šibenik has adopted the Strategy for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities of the City of Šibenik in order for people with disabilities to be more actively involved and integrated into the social life of the community. Inclusion in a supportive society through engaging in various physical activities has a direct impact on both the physical and mental components as well as the quality of everyday life.

According to data from 2021, a total of 7,744 people with various forms and degrees of disability live in the City of Šibenik. Of this number, 4,484 are male (58%) and 3,260 are female (42%). Looking at age, as many as 52% of the total number of people with disabilities are between 55 and 79 years old, while about 7% are children.

The parasports program has a significant place in the Public Needs Program of the City of Šibenik, for which funds are provided for the organization and implementation of program activities with the aim of integrating as many para-athletes as possible into sports activities and successful resocialization into society.

Children with developmental disabilities are also included in physical education classes and participate in school sports days, competitions and events. In

addition, workshops are held to raise public awareness of the needs and rights as well as the challenges faced by people with disabilities or children with developmental disabilities, while advocating for human rights and dignity. Children are also introduced to these topics, as we highlight the example of the Elementary school Petar Krešimir IV, where the workshop „I help others, I help myself“ was held as part of the Children's Rights Festival, where fourth-grade students learned about forms of volunteering, developed a sense of tolerance and empathy towards people with disabilities, and understood that they too can make a positive difference in society.

In order to promote sports activities among members of veterans' associations in Šibenik, sports activities are organized for Croatian veterans and disabled Homeland war veterans.

As part of sports and recreational activities, in addition to swimming, activities with rich content in sports halls and outdoor playgrounds are held such as basketball, bowling, fitness, with the use of the gym as well as outdoor equipment.

In the part of sports infrastructure, an electric ramp for the disabled was installed in the Baldekin Sports Hall. City beaches were adapted by installing ramps for people with disabilities to enter the sea (Brodarica beach, beach in Minerska bay), and the Elementary school Juraj Dalmatinac in Šibenik has received an access ramp for people with disabilities and reduced mobility.

CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING “ŠUBIĆEVAC”

The Center for Education and Training “Šubićevac” is a social welfare institution that implements programs of primary and secondary vocational education according to a special program for children and youth with developmental difficulties and provides social welfare services to children with developmental difficulties and adults with disabilities. As a part of kinesitherapy and sports-recreational activities for the students of the Center, sports competitions are organized among the children with regular participation in city, inter-county, and state competitions.



The city of Šibenik, on the initiative and with joint donations from a local motorcycle club and in cooperation with the Šubićevac Centre for Education and Upbringing, completed the construction of a new children's playground adapted

for children with special needs in Šubićevac park forest in 2020. This is a unique playground in the Šibenik administrative area. This project ensured additional facilities for quality outdoor time and a more active lifestyle.

ASSOCIATION FOR EQUINE ASSISTED ACTIVITIES AND THERAPY - EQUESTRIAN CLUB “KOLAN”

Since 2012, the Association for Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy - Equestrian club “Kolan” (at the Happy Horse Farm) has been providing

therapy and sports programs using horses to children with developmental disabilities and people with disabilities. From a medical point of view, this

discipline is recognized, and the association is the leader in the Republic of Croatia in terms of the number of therapies performed as well as passing national and European competitions from the European Social Fund. In addition to constant education, volunteers are continuously involved

in the association work.

The farm also organizes horse riding competitions with adapted categories, depending on the capabilities of the users, although spending time in nature and socializing is one of the most beautiful forms of therapy.



ASSOCIATIONS IN PARA-SPORT COMPETITIONS SYSTEM

The Para Sports Association of Šibenik-Knin County aims to develop and improve para sports in the area of Šibenik-Knin County; improve the health, rehabilitation and sports recreation of people with disabilities through para sports activities; develop and improve mutual cooperation between associated members; expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in various

forms of competitions and sports recreation in para sports and their access to training programs with the aim of improving motor skills.

Para sports competitions are activities whose purpose is to develop and improve para sports, achieve the best possible results and sporting achievements, while affirming para sports and all participants of the para sports system.

There are four para sports clubs in Šibenik:

Karate Club for People with Disabilities Krka

Basketball Club for Disabled Šibenik

Swimming Club for People with Disabilities "Riba"

Para-Hanging Bowling Club of Šibenik-Knin County

of which the first three clubs are full members of the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik.

The most significant sports results in domestic and international competitions were achieved by the Karate Club for People with Disabilities Krka and the Swimming Club for People with Disabilities "Riba", whose athletes are also the winners of awards in the category of the best para-athletes of the City of Šibenik every year.





7.

■ 7. CITIZEN SPORTS RECREATION

In today's hectic pace of life, sports recreation has become part of everyday living and an important component of leisure time for all age groups.

The goal of recreational programs is to improve health and integrate those programs into the lifestyle of all those who do not engage in organized sports in associations, from children, youth, and individuals of all age categories, especially older adults.

Natural diversity and favourable climatic conditions in the Šibenik region have enabled numerous outdoor recreational activities. The greatest advantages of outdoor sports recreation are the benefits gained from spending time in nature, as nature itself creates a sense of well-being.



Construction and investment in sports infrastructure have secured additional sports and recreational facilities. By increasing the availability of sports and recreational facilities, year-round sports participation is enabled, along with the utilization of different environments for various physical activities.

The City of Šibenik, with the Community Sports the City of Šibenik, supports programmes and projects of sports associations and sports recreation societies through the Programme of Public Needs in Sports.

As stated in the strategic documents of

the city, one of the goals is to support the well-being and health of our citizens. Also, one of the strategic goals is to have healthy and socially active people while respecting family values. According to some available data, older individuals highlight socializing as an advantage in their recreational activities, so creating additional activities and support leads to better socialization of older citizens, thereby improving their quality of life.

Moreover, older people are active and independent, ready to contribute as volunteers and participate in various community-related activities. To achieve this, activities are organized by associations and organizations that care for the elderly, especially by the city's retiree association.

Along with daily socializing and various workshops, in the sports and recreational part, retirees enjoy excursions and weekly medical gymnastics. From sports activities, they prefer simple activities such as swimming, Nordic walking, hiking, fast walking uphill (tracking), yoga.

The joint activities of sports recreation societies and civil society organisations are significant, especially those of pensioners' associations in various initiatives such as environmental cleanup and similar actions.







■ 8. SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1. SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

Sports infrastructure is one of the key elements in promoting and developing sports and a generally healthy and active lifestyle, which contributes to economic development, especially the city's tourist offer, and to increased competitiveness of the city on the tourist map of Croatia.

The City of Šibenik has **sports and recreational facilities (indoor and outdoor), spaces for sports and recreational activities, playgrounds for children**, halls as part of primary school education that primarily serve for regular physical education classes and extracurricular sports school activities, including club activities (training) and competitive activities. The City of Šibenik regularly performs investment maintenance and equipping of sports facilities, especially through co-financing the costs from grants provided by ministries or through EU projects.

The largest part of the sports infrastructure in Šibenik is under the expert and professional management of the Public Institution "Sports Facilities" - Šibenik (hereinafter: the Public Institution), founded by the City of Šibenik, which, within the framework of encouraging and promoting sports, performs the following activities:

- management of sports facilities and their maintenance,
- sports training,
- sports recreation,
- participation in sports activities.

Funds for the management and maintenance of facilities are provided in the budget of the City of Šibenik through the Programme of Public Needs in Sports, and part of the required funds is provided by the Public Institution through its own (commercial) activities. This creates the prerequisites for achieving the goals of the Public Institution's plan and programme related to maintaining and improving the quality of conditions for carrying out sports and recreational activities. Continuous investments in the development and modernisation of existing capacities bring concrete **benefits to the entire community through the diversity of spaces for practicing sports and recreational activities**, as well as by improving the safety, health and development of all stakeholders.

In the facilities it manages, the Public Institution creates the preconditions for holding sports activities, from training and recreational activities to championship matches and the use of facilities by sports teams from other cities and countries and national teams of various sports as part of sports preparations and holding tournament competitions, as well as for implementing a special programme for people with disabilities and holding regular physical education classes for secondary school pupils.

Within the scope of its activities, the Public Institution manages and takes care of the following sports and recreational facilities owned by the City of Šibenik:

- GRAD (THE CITY) SPORTS CENTRE

BALDEKIN SPORTS HALL (indoor playground)

- in use since 1973
- playground dimensions: 40 x 20 cm
- capacity: 900 seats + 826 (prefabricated stands)
- users: basketball, volleyball, indoor football, handball, secondary school physical education classes and occasional commercial programmes
- catering: coffee bar

The Baldekin Sports Hall is the “Šibenik sports temple”, **a place where history was written by the greatest athletes**, including the best Croatian basketball player of all time - Dražen Petrović, with the Basketball Club “Šibenka”. The hall is located near another symbol of Šibenik, the most famous Šibenik skyscrapers - the Red and the Blue, which offer a view of the Šibenik Bay.

In 2015, the City of Šibenik, using grants from the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund and allocating a certain part of the budget funds, implemented a project to increase the energy efficiency of the sports hall. The energy efficiency project activities included an investment in replacing doors and windows along with the renovation of the facade, thermal and hydro insulation along with the repair of the flat roof, the renovation of the hall's foundation and the renovation of auxiliary rooms and sanitary block. In addition to its functional and energy-efficient character, the hall has also been given a new exterior look.

At the renovated hall opening ceremony, in honour of Dražen Petrović, a picture and jerseys in which Dražen played for the Šibenka Basketball Club and the Croatian national team were displayed, and the hall was put into sports use with a match between young Šibenik basketball players from the Youth

Basketball Club “Dražen Petrović” and the BC “Split” Basketball School.

The Baldekin Sports Hall is a place to celebrate club successes in indoor sports, especially basketball, and among the many sporting events held in the Baldekin Hall, notable ones are two European basketball semifinals in the 1980s, the Croatian Basketball All-Star Game in 2014, the Krešimir Ćosić Cup final in 2016; in 2023, 2024, the Golden Fight 6 martial arts spectacle (kickboxing, MMA, Thai boxing and attractive boxing without gloves) with numerous domestic, international and national team matches of all ages.

Apart from sports activities, the hall also hosts many cultural and artistic events, gatherings and other events.





As part of the Dražen Petrović memorial complex, called "Dražen's Corner", in 2013 an outdoor basketball court was opened next to the Baldekin Sports Hall, which, according to some media sources, is considered one of the most beautiful sports courts in Croatia. The court was built in the second phase of the development of this complex next to the Dražen Petrović sculpture, which was installed in October 2011. It was painted in the traditional Šibenik colour - orange and, in an architecturally unusual solution, was

erected in full dimensions above the parking lot of the existing garage. The court came to life as an urban place for street basketball and gatherings of all generations who can never get enough of basketball. Appropriate lighting was installed next to the court so that basketball could also be played in the evening hours. Two EuroBaskets were promoted there and numerous tournaments were played there, including wheelchair basketball.



- MIMINAC SPORTS HALL

- the building has been used since 1934 and, in addition to sports facilities, it also includes office premises
- it consists of a large hall (dimensions approx. 300 m²), two small sports halls (each 14x5 m, approx. 70 m²) and an outdoor playground (27 m x15 m, approx. 400 m²)
- users: karate, gymnastics, judo, aikido, wrestling, physical education classes and occasional commercial programmes



The “Miminac” sports complex in the Varoš city district, the construction of which began in 1931, was then the centre of practically all sports in Šibenik (except football), especially gymnastics and athletics. The Charter was laid in the foundation stone at that time, which is still there today. It was officially opened on 1 December 1934 as the “Sokolski dom” (Falcon’s Hall) and contained a gymnasium, reading room, café and other facilities on the first floor, offices on the second floor, while the third floor housed rooms for members of the Sokol society who were involved in musical and artistic activities. A beautifully landscaped fenced area was built in front of the building. Due to the popularity and interest in all activities, a balcony for spectators was built in the main hall. After World War II, the hall was named “Partizan” and became the centre of development of volleyball, handball and especially basketball. In the second half of the 1950s, an additional wing was built that served for residential and administrative purposes, as well as an outdoor playground that was a new step



forward in the modernisation of sports activities in the City of Šibenik. In 2016, the City of Šibenik, using grants from the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund of the Republic of Croatia, began an energy efficiency project for this sports facility, the works of which included the replacement of external joinery, the repair and insulation of all roofs and external walls and the hall’s

attic, the complete reconstruction and construction and tradesman renovation of the entire basement of 400 m² and the entrance to the hall, along with the replacement of all electrical, mechanical, plumbing and sewage installations, and the renovation of the parquet flooring in the inner hall. With the reconstruction of the basement, the hall also gained five new changing rooms and a small hall. By removing the dilapidated outdoor stands and installing outdoor exercise equipment (street workout), the complex also got a new exterior look.

On the iconic outdoor playground, where basketball has been played for generations, the concrete has been replaced by a rubber anti-stress

surface, which, along with other exterior improvements, will complete the renovation and modernisation of the complex in 2023.

Users will receive a renovated space that will continue to serve as an important gathering place and place for sports activities.

In addition to the outdoor sports area, the Miminac sports complex consists of a sports hall and two smaller halls with supporting rooms on two floors and a four-story administrative building in which the office premises of the Sports Association of the City of Šibenik, the Sports Association of the Šibenik-Knin County, the County Basketball Association and the Public Institution Sports Facilities – Šibenik are located.



- CRNICA SWIMMING POOL SPORTS CENTRE
 - INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
 - in use since 2004
 - users: water polo, swimming, recreation
 - swimming pool dimensions: 33 m x 25 m x 2.2 m
 - capacity: 400 seats
 - catering facilities: coffee bar and pizzeria
 - OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL
 - in use since 1960, and completely repaired in 2009
 - users: water polo, swimming, recreation (citizens)
 - swimming pool dimensions: 50 m x 25 m x 2.20 m
 - capacity: approx. 1500 seats
 - GYM
 - 24 work units

The Crnica Swimming Pools are the **only facility in the Šibenik-Knin County** for water sports activities that include various competitions, training processes and preparations for sports associations, recreational programmes and other programmes for water sports enthusiasts.

The building includes an outdoor and indoor pool and a gym. There is also a parking area in front of the complex. The outdoor pool has been used since 1960 and was completely renovated in 2009 when the World Junior Water Polo Championship was held in Šibenik, where the Croatian junior



water polo team won the title of world champions.

The investment in the reconstruction of the existing building was made from the budget of the City of Šibenik. In addition to the planned and existing technical and technological conditions, the pool, has additional heating and lighting. The dimensions of the outdoor pool are 50x25x2.20 metres, which are consistent with Olympic standard pools and the standards of all types of world competition categories.

The indoor pool, measuring 33x25x2.20, belongs to the category of pools adapted for sports swimming competitions and water polo matches. It has been used since

2005 and was entirely financed from the budget of the City of Šibenik. It is also suitable for organising swimming schools and training for non-swimmers, water kindergarten programmes, recreational swimming and other similar programmes for all lovers of swimming and an active lifestyle.

Indoor and outdoor pools, according to their technical characteristics (pool dimensions), meet the technical requirements for organising water polo and swimming competitions.

The pools are used throughout the year by about 570 users, from competitors to recreational swimmers, sports associations for the disabled, citizens and other occasional users.



- LJUBICA SPORTS CENTER
 - GRASS FOOTBALL STADIUM
 - built in 1960
 - users: football, occasional commercial programmes
 - field dimensions: 102.29 m x 67.03 m
 - MARTIAL ARTS SPORTS HALL
 - users: kickboxing, karate, taekwondo, boxing
 - OUTDOOR CONCRETE FOOTBALL FIELD AND BASKETBALL GROUND
 - built in 1960
 - users: football, basketball, recreation and occasional commercial programmes
 - field/ground dimensions: 40 m x 20 m

The “Ljubica” sports and recreation centre in the Crnica city district consists of a martial arts hall and an outdoor playground and a grass football stadium.

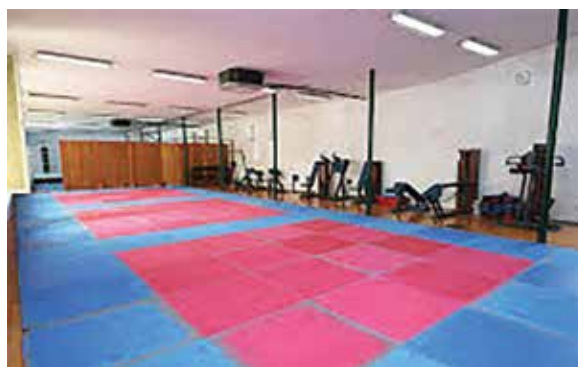
The martial arts hall, built on the foundations of a former bowling alley, was reconstructed into a martial arts hall in 2005. This has satisfied the need for functional spaces that enable the implementation of activities due to the popularisation and increase in the number of members of martial arts. The hall is now in use for almost all martial arts in the City of Šibenik.

The outdoor sports field (dimensions 40x20 m) with concrete stands and spotlights has been renovated and has been in full use since 2017. The users of the space are football and basketball

schools, as well as citizens of all ages who use it for recreational activities.

The grass field next to the concrete field is used mainly for preparations and training of the younger age categories of the Šibenik Football Club and for commercial purposes.

It is also the most common place where the Olympic Festival of Kindergartens of the City of Šibenik is organised.



- ŠUBIĆEVAC FOREST PARK
 - TRIM TRACK
 - OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The users of these facilities are athletes, recreationalists and citizens of all ages and interests.

In 2021, a project financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development renovated an existing 630-metre-long track. A sports surface was installed, as

well as educational boards and benches for rest with educational panels about Mediterranean forests, which improved its functionality as a combination of sports, education and ecology, and awareness of the importance of forest preservation and environmental protection.



- "RAŽINE DONJE" SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE
 - INDOOR FOOTBALL COURT
 - BASKETBALL COURT
 - OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Centre covers an area of 2,175 m² and consists of an outdoor basketball court and a football field with artificial grass, as well as secondary facilities. Between the sports fields there is a space for outdoor fitness equipment. The sports fields have protective fences with appropriate lighting and part of the area is horticulturally landscaped with paths connecting the facilities.

In the secondary building, two changing rooms and two pairs of sanitary blocks with showers have been built, as well as an auxiliary space with a boiler room for preparing hot water via solar collectors positioned on the roof of the building. Installing **solar collectors** is a combination of energy

savings, environmental benefits and long-term financial advantages as they represent an inexhaustible resource through the use of free infinite amounts of renewable (solar) energy and enable a return on investment within several years.

In front of the entrance to the Centre there is an asphalted parking area for 10 cars.





- TENNIS COURTS IN ŠUBIČEVAC

The Šubičevac Tennis Centre has a capacity of ten clay tennis courts, three of which have lighting, which allows playing in the evenings. Part of the court is under concession. The court users are **registered players and recreational players** of all age categories.

They regularly host domestic and international tournaments for all categories, of which the 2021 finals

of the Šibenik Open, an ITF tennis tournament that counts for the world ATP list, and the 2024 ITF World Tennis Tour Šibenik in the W75 category stand out.



- **ZABLAĆE FOOTBALL FIELD**
The football field was given to the Football Club "Football School Joso Bego"
- **SPORTS FIELDS OF THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK** (fields in city settlements, districts and local boards).

Apart from the facilities managed by the Public Institution Sports Facilities - Šibenik, there are also other facilities in Šibenik owned by

individuals or those under lease/concession and regulated legal relations between public and private legal entities.

FOOTBALL FIELDS

ŠUBIĆEVAC FOOTBALL STADIUM ("ŠUBIJA")

The Šubićevac Stadium is a **multi-purpose stadium** that was officially opened in 1948. Construction began two years earlier, and during that period, the difficult and rocky terrain was overcome, a football field was arranged, a concrete fence was erected, and a section of concrete stands with 640 seats was built. The work continued over the years with the installation of fire hydrants, the expansion of the stands for another 1,360 seats, the construction of an athletics track, fences, and auxiliary fields. Major works were carried out in 1979, when the eastern stand, the administrative building, and a canopy were erected on the western stand. That year, part of the VIII Mediterranean Games was held in Šibenik, including a football competition. It is interesting to note that on 21 September 1979, a football match between the national team of the then country and the Egyptian national team was played in front of 21,000 spectators, setting a record for attendance at the stadium that has not been broken to this day. In 2000, seats were installed on the western side of the stadium. That year, a match was also played between the youth national teams of Croatia

and Spain.

The youth national teams also had their qualifying matches at the Šubićevac stadium in 2014 with a match against the **Turkish national team** (U-19) and in 2019 against the **Scottish national team** (U-21).

In 2016, an auxiliary football field with artificial grass was built next to the main field, mostly due to the large number of children playing football, which achieved maximum quality, i.e. the standard of meeting the quality certificate of the field. In this way, both the children and the senior teams were provided with a sufficient number of training sessions, regardless of the weather conditions or the number of users, because the artificial grass can be used practically 24 hours a day in top conditions.





In 2020, the stadium **hosted the final of the Croatian Football Cup.**

The stadium is 100% owned by the City

of Šibenik, and under a contractual relationship it is given to the use of the HNK Šibenik.

LOZOVAC FOOTBALL FIELD

The field is located in the Lozovac settlement and is owned by the City of Šibenik. It is currently not in use,

and its renovation and use is one of the new investment projects in sports infrastructure.

MANDALINA SPORTS CENTRE (FOOTBALL FIELD)

The Mandalina Sports Centre is privately owned. It contains a football field with a closed fence with accompanying catering and other

facilities.

The field is most often used for matches of the Šibenik recreational Minifootball League.

ŠUBIĆEVAC BOWLING ALLEY WITH BOCCE COURT

A renovated bowling alley with six modern lanes was opened on the foundations of the old bowling alley in 1989. The bowling alley was completely renovated in 2011 and in its new form received **the license** required to hold competitions in accordance with the provisions of the **International and Croatian Bowling**

Associations.

There is an outdoor bocce court within the bowling alley.

The facility is owned by the City of Šibenik, and in 2011 it was handed over to the management of the Šibenik Bowling Club.

The users of this facility are athletes and recreational athletes.

ROWING CLUB "KRKA" FACILITY

This facility has been in the same place since its inception, from the

appearance of a club cottages and hangar (the first cottage

burned down in a fire in 1936, a new one was built in 1937 during the national rowing championship) and a solid-building material facility was renovated in 1979 when the Mediterranean Games were held in Šibenik.

The facility has been renovated several times and consists of a ground floor and first floor with a fenced

parking lot. The ground floor consists of a hangar, a rowing room, a gym, a changing room with a toilet and a boiler room. The first floor consists of office space and a meeting room, as well as a large hall with a terrace, which is currently out of use and has been made available through a public call for rental of the premises by the VK "Krka" (Krka Rowing Club).



"VAL" SAILING CLUB FACILITY

The "Val" Rowing Club uses a facility that was built in 2016 on the same site

where the cottages used to be built in 1936.



ROWING HANGAR IN ZATON

The rowing hangar in the Zaton settlement was built in 1979 for the needs of the Mediterranean Games.

Today it has a commercial function and serves as a marina and for the preparations of individual rowing clubs.

BASKETBALL HALL IN THE RAŽINE SETTLEMENT

The basketball hall is privately owned. The hall is used for recreational sports

activities and hosts matches of the Šibenik Recreational Basketball League.

SPORTS RECREATIONAL ZONE JADRIJA

The zone contains an outdoor basketball, volleyball, and soccer field, a tennis court, and outdoor exercise equipment. Part of the sea surface is designated

exclusively for recreational activities related to water sports, especially surfing, due to the ideal conditions this beach provides for that sport.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION GYMNASIUMS

Regular physical education and health education classes, extracurricular activities, and instructional programmes and other sports programmes for children and youth are provided by city sports associations within the school facilities. The City of Šibenik, through its constant investments in school gymnasiums, enables and maintains the quality of sports, given that the target group of users is not only pupils but also recreational athletes, as well as professional athletes.



SMALL SPORTS PLAYGROUNDS

The City of Šibenik is continuously working on the renovation and construction of children's playgrounds in city settlements and districts. In the last four years, in addition to the

renovation and construction of ten children's playgrounds, a unique playground for children with special needs in the Šubićevac district has also been renovated.



In 2022, by applying to the Public Call of the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds and in order to improve the quality of life on the islands and reduce regional development inequality, the City of

Šibenik completed the project of construction and development of a children's playground, basketball court and bocce court on the island of Žirje, the largest and the most remote island in the Šibenik Archipelago.

BOCCE COURTS

In Šibenik, as in other Dalmatian cities, bocce is an extremely developed sport.

Although bocce is a **national sport of all generations**, recreational

bocce is most represented in the sports activities of senior citizens, with a satisfactory number of bocce courts in city districts and suburban settlements.

OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES

Many city beaches have sports facilities intended primarily for recreational players and visitors looking for an active vacation.

Next to the city beach Banj there is an outdoor workout, a beach volleyball court and a basketball court with catering facilities.



On Brodarica beach there is a basketball court, a beach volleyball court, a street workout, a ramp for disabled people to enter the sea, a

covered children's playground, a green belt separating the promenade from the parking lot and catering facilities.



In addition to the listed sports infrastructure, Šibenik also has sports and fishing platforms in the port, sailing plateaus in the port, as well as various facilities for unorganised (recreational) sports such as walking and cycling paths, various forms of commercial organisations on the market (fitness centres).



WALKING AND CYCLING PATHS

Increasing the number of walking and cycling paths contributes to reducing environmental pollution and increasing the quality of life and creating everyday habits of using bicycles and walking. This can ultimately significantly affect the reduction of the use of motor vehicles, as primary air pollutants. Within the project "Development of rest areas on the cycle tourist routes Zlarin and Brodarica - Jadrtovac -

Donje Polje", ten rest areas have been developed on two cycle paths. The innovative nature of the rest areas is represented by multi-purpose benches with an **integrated system for collecting rainwater** and watering trees and ornamental plants (drip system) and a bicycle rack. In this way, environmental protection, nature conservation and the development of sustainable tourism are promoted.



The pedestrian and bicycle path "Our Peace" is another project of the City of Šibenik with a total value of €172,397.80. The project was co-financed by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund in the amount of €66,361.40. The path is two kilometres long and along it the existing macadam road, a rest area and sunbathing area, waste disposal and information boards, a video surveillance system and ramps have been arranged. The goal is to connect the path with other adequate areas to create a unique recreational and touristic entity accessible to all excursionists and recreationalists.



In addition, the 388 kilometres of cycling routes through the "Krka" National Park are special, which are formed as circular routes in the environment of protected nature and unique cultural and historical heritage to enable the user to return

to the starting point, while generally avoiding returning along the same route. Within the Krka National Park there are also educational hiking trails, which allow visitors to enjoy the magnificent beauty of nature with all their senses.



All of the foregoing, and especially the sports events hosted by Šibenik, are proof of the success of all activities that the City of Šibenik invests in the continuous development of sports, especially the cycle of investments in sports infrastructure, in accordance with the Strategy for the Development of Sports and Sports Infrastructure in the City

of Šibenik 2020 - 2027.

During the construction and renovation of sports facilities, attention was paid to ensuring that their functionality suits all users: children, young people, people with disabilities, pensioners and all athletes, and also that their technical and technological characteristics meet the standards for organising competitions.

8.2. ACHIEVED INVESTMENTS AND PLANNED INVESTMENTS IN SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

The City of Šibenik allocates significant financial investments in sports every year, which includes the construction and renovation of sports-recreational infrastructure and an increase in budget funds for public sports needs. Significant investments in sports infrastructure began in 2015 with the renovation of the Baldekin Sports Hall amounting to €185,499.50 using non-repayable funds from the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund. Investments continued in 2016 with the energy efficiency project of the Miminac sports and recreational center, in which the fund co-financed funds amounting to €69,546.75. The renovation was completed in 2023, and the total invested funds amounted to nearly €400,000.

In 2016, an auxiliary football field with artificial grass was built next to the

main football field, relieving the field in the Crnica district. In addition to the renovation, a sports and recreation center was built in 2017 in the Ražine city district, with construction costs amounting to €323,850.65. In 2023, works worth €170,000 were carried out in the sports hall of the Meterize Primary School, part of which was co-financed by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports in the amount of €107,000. Furthermore, the City of Šibenik continuously works on the renovation and construction of children's playgrounds in city districts and settlements, the arrangement and construction of pedestrian and bicycle paths, and revitalization projects for the islands. All projects are **co-financed** by various institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, or through European Union projects.



In strengthening the foundations for the further development of sports, investments in sports infrastructure continue in 2025 through the energy renovation of the Ljubica Sports Center and three elementary schools amounting to €326,980.32 (installation of photovoltaic power plants, including the construction of the city administration), the expansion of the Šibenski tići Kindergarten, and the construction of an accompanying sports hall amounting to €500,000.00. The implementation of the project began in October 2024 for the arrangement of the infrastructural areas of the city bathing area Jadrija, which will create a modern bathing zone. A project for the construction of a sports hall for the Brodarica Elementary School is also in the pipeline.

In addition, as part of the unique urban regeneration project "Batižele", a multifunctional sports hall would be built alongside other facilities. The area covers 28 hectares of land in

the city center, and investments are estimated at around half a billion euros. In 2024, a conceptual design for the construction of a **new football stadium** with a capacity of 8,000 spectators at the site of the existing football stadium was presented. Its construction is estimated at €50 million and should be realized over a period of five years from various sources of funding, primarily from the European Regional Development Fund.



One of the biggest investments in the history of Šibenik sports is certainly the **Jamnjak Sports and Recreation Zone**, which encompasses the project of building a modern sports center on the site of the former barracks, where appropriate infrastructure for recreational exercise as well as professional sports will be provided. The total area of the Jamnjak zone is 190,378 m². The project includes the construction and reconstruction of preserved facilities for various sports such as a **multifunctional and gymnastics hall, a trim track, a boxing and kickboxing hall, an athletics track, a table tennis hall, a bowling alley, a**

squash hall, and sports field zones.

Along with these facilities, a children's playground and training area, catering facilities, changing rooms, a relaxation area and sauna, an administration building, a reception, and an information point will also be built. The final conceptual solution for the Jamnjak sports and recreation zone is awaiting amendments to the spatial plan. The commitment of the City of Šibenik to continue investing represents a favorable impact not only on the local community but also contributes to the further international recognition of Šibenik as a city of sports.





■ 9. LOCAL, REGIONAL AND (INTER)NATIONAL COOPERATION

The City of Šibenik and the Community Sports the City of Šibenik have built strong local, regional, national, and international partnerships.

At the city level, the Community Sports the City of Šibenik closely collaborates with local sports clubs and local organizations to optimize existing projects and create new ones.

Cooperation with clubs is primarily achieved through activities defined in the Public Needs in Sports Program, for which funds are secured in the city budget. The importance of the program area for co-financing the work of associations is also reflected in the fact that, in addition to competition costs, the costs of the work of professionals in sports - coaches - are covered. This approach is the foundation for the development of sports, especially in those clubs that work with younger age categories.

In organizing events and competitions of national and international character, it collaborates with national federations along with the club in whose sport the competition is organized. The city of Šibenik also develops initiatives with other Croatian cities and municipalities. In this context, a **Charter of Friendship**, strengthening relations, sports cooperation, and exchange of experiences was signed with the **Sports Community of the City of Đakovo**.

The Community Sports the City of Šibenik has established cooperation with the **Croatian Olympic Committee** in organizing sports events, procuring sports equipment, and other projects.

The Community Sports the City of Šibenik, together with the sports communities of other cities, participates in the Program of Public Needs in Sports at the national level, implemented by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Partnership at the international level is primarily shaped through mutual sports meetings with clubs from the sister cities of Voiron (France) and Herford (Germany).

To ensure the success of local sports policies, it provides various instruments, such as awareness-raising campaigns, calls for projects, and educational training (Erasmus Sport+, campaigns "Voice of Women in Sports").

Under the award "European City of Sport 2026", the city has encouraged local sports clubs to enhance existing partnerships or bring new events.





10.

■ 10. ORGANIZATION OF SPORTS EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

The City of Šibenik and the Community Sports the City of Šibenik in order to develop sports and promote sports values, especially among young people, traditionally participate in the (co)organization of sports events and competitions together with other stakeholders in sports, especially with local sports associations.

At the national level, the Community

Sports the City of Šibenik has established cooperation with the Croatian Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports in organizing sports events, campaigns, and projects.

The Sports Community has continuously participated in the (co) organization of several local, state, and international sports events held in the City of Šibenik:

2021. Women's European Junior Water Polo Championship

2021. Final of the Šibenik Open, an ITF tennis tournament that counts towards the world ATP rankings

2022. International basketball tournament Dražen Petrović Cup, for players born in 2011/2012, (the main organizer is the Youth Basketball Club "Dražen Petrović") - held every year

2022. International sailing regatta Civitanova – Šibenik (the main organizer is the Sailing Club Val) - held every year

2023. International 3x3 Basketball Tournament (final of the second season) PRO 3x3 Tour 2023,

2023. Croatian Swimming Championship for Cadets

2023. Friendly Tournament of U20 National Teams (Croatia, Canada, Montenegro, and Czech Republic)

2023. Final Tournament of the Republic of Croatia Championship for Girls Under 13

2023. Final Tournament of the Republic of Croatia Championship for Boys Under 13

2023. Open International Petanque Tournament (main organizer is the pensioners' association)

2024. Croatian Championship in ITF Taekwondo

2024. Final tournament (national championship) of the 1st Croatian futsal league for juniors and cadets

2024. Regional wrestling championship

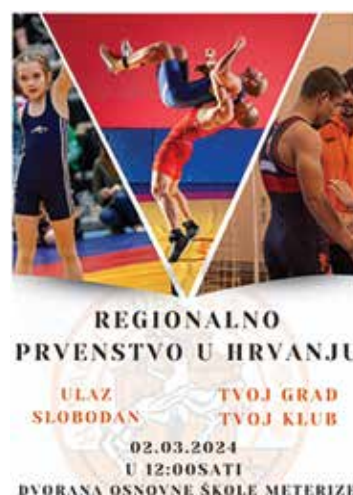
2024. ITF World Tennis Tour Šibenik in the W75 category

2024. Official friendly water polo match between the Croatian and American national teams

2024. First international match of the European Football League (American football)

2024. Martial arts spectacle Golden Fight 6 - twice

2024. International women's basketball tournament "Cup of the City of Šibenik"



The sports community, as a coordinator and partner, continues to implement program activities with stakeholders at all levels. The City of Šibenik's candidacy for the European City of Sport 2026 helps **promote the importance of the sports** sector and its impact on other areas such as social, educational, and economic. This creates conditions for increased international cooperation and new opportunities for our local sports clubs. In long-term planning, all projects continue in collaboration with the Croatian Olympic Committee – organizing the Olympic Festival of

Kindergartens (May), celebrating International Olympic Day (June) and Croatian Olympic Day (September), European Mobility Week (September). In their work plans, clubs have included the organization of international tournaments and national championships, which always have the support of the community throughout the year. The candidacy of the City of Šibenik for the City of Sport 2026 should help **increase international cooperation, with an impact on other areas** such as economic, educational, and social.



11.

■ 11. SPORTS TOURISM IN THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK

In modern tourism, sport in all its forms is becoming an important part of a tourist's stay in a certain destination. Visitors want to be active participants in various sports and recreational activities. One of the reasons lies in the hectic lifestyle with emphasis on work and income generation, excessive sitting, especially of children (time spent in classes, entertainment on the computer), which impairs the quality of life and health. Recreation, sports activities or just spending time in nature has become increasingly forgotten and neglected due to lack of free time.

The development of sports tourism

has created many opportunities and advantages that this form of tourism provides to tourist destinations in the form of social and economic effects. In addition to resort tourism, the city of Šibenik also focuses on developing sports tourism as one of **the attractive forms of tourism**. The entire Šibenik region is a natural phenomenon of exceptional spatial diversity and, as such, is attractive to tourists by offering various tourist activities and locations. Natural beauties invite you **to explore** every corner of the picturesque coast, impressive mountainous hinterland and enchanting secluded islands with a wide range of activities.

For tourists looking for challenges and adrenaline, part of the adventure offer includes

- **bungee jumping** from the 40 m high Šibenik Bridge
- **zip line** over the Čikola River Canyon
- **climbing destinations** such as the Čikola River Canyon, Promina Mountain and the island of Zlarin. Each of these locations offers unique challenges and experiences for climbers of all levels.

A particularly attractive new type of hiking is the Via Ferrata trail in the Čikola Canyon, which allows you to pass through the canyon all year round. Then, under the guidance of experienced and professional hiking guides, it is possible to hike above the river, its waterfalls and beauties, that cannot be seen and experienced in any other way.





“Sea” sports activities include

- all types of **diving activities**, from scuba diving to free diving, for which the Šibenik archipelago offers the best conditions, with its clear sea and rich ecosystem, especially in the caves of the Kornati archipelago, and the islands of Krapanj, Prvić and Zlarin;
- **kayaking**,
- **sea skiing**,
- **sailing**
- **surfing for all age groups**, especially at the Jadrija city beach, one of the favourite surfing destinations on the Adriatic. The moderate maestral and tramontane winds in summer provide ideal conditions for beginners and less experienced surfers, while in spring or autumn, strong winds allow more experienced surfers to enjoy adrenaline-pumping challenges



The **beaches in the City of Šibenik** and its surrounding areas represent the main tourist potential because they are suitable for swimming due to the cleanliness of the sea and additional sports facilities - an outdoor gym, equipped playgrounds for various sports. Banj Beach is a popular pebble beach located near the city centre. In addition to the “pleasures

of the sea” and sports playgrounds along the beach, visitors can enjoy a unique view of the old city centre. “Banj” Beach carries the Blue Flag for beaches.

Every year, a **New Year's swim** is held on Banj Beach, the only one that always carries a message. On 01 January 2025, 11 white doves, symbols of peace, were symbolically

released into the air with the message "Peace in the World". Those who are not brave enough to jump into the cold sea, gather in support of this traditional event organized by the Sailing Club "Val" and the Tourist Board of the City of Šibenik.

The iconic city beach Jadrija, located 14 km from the city center, is ideal for families with children and for water sports enthusiasts due to its well-maintained beaches and a very rich and diverse offer that includes skiing, sailing, windsurfing, diving, swimming, and sport fishing.

The city of Šibenik is also a perfect starting point for **nautical routes** from the protected area of the bay, sailing from island to island where the nearby islands (Zlarin, Prvić, Kaprije, Žirje) have their own piers that enable further sailing towards the Kornati National Park.

The growing trend of cyclotourism in the world over the past ten years has become a significant tourist offer in the Šibenik region. The city of Šibenik has recognized the importance of cyclotourism as a form of sustainable use of space and a generator of creating a year-round tourist package and has invested in the cyclotourism modernization and infrastructural equipment.

Šibenik **is the first city in Dalmatia** to launch a public bicycle system. **Public bicycles** are a supplement to public city transport and, in addition to significantly reducing the use of motor vehicles, they help reduce traffic congestion, solve parking problems, contribute to environmental protection, enrich the tourist offer, position Šibenik as a desirable cyclotourism destination, extend the season and generally

improve the quality of life in the city. Many small private tourist rentals also contribute to the development of cyclotourism, by offering bicycles that their guests can use.

The variety of bicycle paths can satisfy even the most demanding cyclists.

The cycling path "Promenade in the St. Ante Canal" is a cycling route that offers spectacular views of Šibenik and the St. Ante Canal. Besides being very fun to ride, it is also very educational.

There are a total of twelve bicycle trails in the Krka National Park, of which three are MTB or mountain biking trails, three are Road trails and six are Track trails for a pleasant family ride.

Within the project "Development of rest areas on the cyclotourism trails Zlarin and Brodarica - Jadrtovac - Donje Polje", ten rest areas on two cycle paths were developed. The value of the project amounted to €35,047.12, and the Ministry of Tourism co-financed the project with €17,877.76.

As part of the development of **innovative cyclotourism** in the area of the City of Šibenik, 4 bicycle rest areas/viewpoints, 10 information boards and 100 signposts were installed on 10 cycle tourist trails. In the development of innovative tourism in the area of the city of Šibenik was invested €79,650.21, part of which was co-financed by the Ministry of Tourism in the amount of €57,787.51. The "Our peace" pedestrian and bicycle trail is a project implemented in 2021, with a total value of €172,397.80 and co-financed by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund in the amount of €66,361.40.



In the Dubrava area, just outside the city, is the Happy Horse Farm, an ideal place to relax and socialize with farm

animals. Day trips to the farm also include pony riding for children and playing on sports fields.



Sports tourism also provides an opportunity for adding value to **sports medicine and nutrition** for those visitors whose travel is motivated by experiences that enrich both mind and body. They enjoy the offer of hotels with spa facilities, nature

escapes, fitness-oriented health resorts.

Wellness and spa “world”, in addition to elegant accommodation units, contain hotels such as D-Resort Šibenik in the Mandalina district and Resort Amadria Park in the Solaris area.



The resort includes five hotels, located on a peninsula with a five-meter-long beach that stands out for its spaciousness, amenities and quality of the sea. The fitness area, in addition to indoor pools, contains all the equipment necessary for cardio training and a gym. The Amadria Park hotel complex offers bicycle and ball rentals and has a variety of different courts and playgrounds for football, basketball, beach volleyball, tennis, table tennis, badminton and

street workout available to its guests. There is also an interesting mini golf course that can be enjoyed by all age groups, with visual and sound effects that keep players “awake” and motivated. The green courts have lighting so that activities can be enjoyed in the evening hours as well. The hotel complex also has an **Aqua Park**, which, with all its facilities, offers fun for all age groups, and its heated indoor part is available to visitors throughout the year.





Šibenik is increasingly being visited by fans of **historical sports tourism**, as confirmed by the numerous competitions, events and activities that take place throughout the year, but most of all by the fact that it is the city where Dražen Petrović was born. He is, as they call him in Šibenik, our "little guy from Baldekin" who will eternally live in this city and all its inhabitants.

An unavoidable tourist spot, and not only for basketball lovers who visit Šibenik, is the Monument to **Drazen Petrovic** next to the Baldekin Sports Hall where he took his first basketball steps, the square that bears his name, and the Memorial Room and the Basket in Preradovićeva Street, the street where he spent his youth.

The bronze Dražen monument shows

him in the first phase of his career sitting on a bench with a basketball between his legs. The free space on the bench "invites" everyone to sit down, "chat" and hug the legendary athlete, with the inevitable photo opportunity. Behind the monument, on the outdoor playground, visitors can also play basketball recreationally.

Dražen Petrović Square, which houses a three-dimensional basketball and a bronze cast of Dražen's sneakers from the time he played for Šibenik, is designed as a combination of sport and art.

On the stone pedestal in the square are "QR codes" through which visitors can virtually visit the Dražen Petrović Museum and Memorial Center and related facilities in the City of Šibenik.



30 godina bez Dražena

*Košarka je moj život.
Nikad neću prestati
voljeti košarku.*




Turnir za kadete 2007./08.
Šibenik, 9. - 11. lipnja 2023.

Petak, 09.06.2023.	Subota, 10.06.2023.	Nedjelja, 11.06.2023.
Otvoranje turnira	SD Balšćkin	Dvorana OŠ Matulice
13:15 sat	10:30 sat	9:00 sat
SD Balšćkin	KK G. Puntarića	Utakmica za 5. mjesto
OKK Dražen Petrović	Pino Dragani Fejzić	11:00 sat
Pino Dragani Fejzić	15:00 sat	Utakmica za 3. mjesto
	OKK Dražen Petrović	SD Balšćkin
	KK G. Puntarića	13:30 sat Finale
	Dvorana OŠ Matulice	
	10:30 sat	14:30 sat
	KK Pazin - KK Alkar	Dodjela priznanja i zahvalnice
	12:45 sat	turnira
	KK Pazin - KK Zadar	
	15:00 sat	
	KK Zadar - KK Alkar	

On the occasion of Dražen Petrović's birthday and the anniversary of his death, a **basketball tournament** for younger ages is organized every year. The tournament dedicated to the memory of the great Croatian and world basketball player is organized by the club that bears his name - the Youth Basketball Club "Dražen Petrović".

Also, on the occasion of Dražen's birthday, **races** are organized - the 10-kilometer race the "Šibenik Ten", and the four-kilometre race "Dražen's Four", and a children's race run by kindergarten children and schoolchildren from 1st to 4th grade.



12.

■ 12. HEALTHCARE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ATHLETES

Healthcare for athletes includes measures to protect physical and mental health, improve and maintain the level of health in relation to their sports activity and sports environment. Engaging in sports activities can also pose potential risks, as an athlete's body is subjected to increased physical and mental stress during sports activities and competitions. Therefore, some athletes may have increased risk for health. In such cases, effective diagnosis of risk factors and their elimination are crucial for a positive health outcome.

Regular periodic medical check-ups for registered athletes in the City of Šibenik are conducted every six months at a designated healthcare facility. Currently, the check-ups are carried out at the Šibenik Health Centre, with which the Community Sports the City of Šibenik signs a contract for the provision of healthcare services.

General healthcare for athletes is one of the activities within the Programme of Public Needs in Sports of the City of Šibenik, providing athletes with

regular medical check-ups for free. In addition to assessing the general health status of athletes, these check-ups also allow for monitoring biological maturity in younger age groups in relation to chronological age, as well as evaluating their future potential in sports activities.

Regular physical activity plays a significant role in maintaining and improving mental health and is often used as a therapeutic approach in treating various psychological disorders and stress.

In addition to regular sports activities, a balanced and proper diet, along with dietary supplements, is essential for maintaining good health. Nutrition should be tailored to an individual's gender, age, genetics, the sport they practice, as well as the type, intensity, and duration of training, and the athlete's actual needs.

The Sports Association of the City of Šibenik organises and participates in projects and educational programmes that cover topics such as **improving athlete health care, nutrition, and proper athlete diet.**

“

It is health that is
real wealth.
And not pieces of gold
and silver.

Gandhi

”

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PROJECT “SHOW YOUR HEART”

The Community Sports the City of Šibenik participated in the socially responsible project “Show Your Heart”, which was created with the **support of the Croatian Football Federation** and PSK, the Institute for Sports Medicine and Health Improvement, and the Life Polyclinic.

The project was created with the aim of raising awareness and improving health care for all athletes through orientated educations,

including providing first aid with rapid resuscitation.

The project provided young professional and recreational athletes with free and detailed sports examinations, including a doctor's final opinion and a certificate of fitness for sports activities. Additional specialist examinations were recommended for some athletes. The project has the support of numerous Croatian athletes.



CO-ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS WITH THE CITY SOCIETY “RED CROSS ŠIBENIK”

The Community Sports the City of Šibenik participates in many projects of various organizations and civil society associations. “World First Aid

Day” in 2024 was held under the slogan “First Aid and Sports”. This event encouraged all athletes to participate in first aid training.



14.9.2024. (SUBOTA) U 10:00 SÄCI | PERIVOJ ROBERTA VISIANIJA



13.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SPORT

Nowadays, we are increasingly aware of the highly present interaction between humans and the environment, as well as the harmful effects on biological and landscape diversity. All of this impacts human health and quality of life.

Therefore, every activity, including sports, should be conducted in a way that takes into account environmental protection and sustainable development.

The main objectives of sustainable development and environmental priorities of the City of Šibenik are

outlined in the primary spatial planning documents (Spatial Plan of the City of Šibenik, Master Plan of the City of Šibenik) to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit and quality of life of current and future generations.

The City of Šibenik systematically takes care of environmental protection and sustainable development through its projects, which are co-financed by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, supporting initiatives aimed at preserving the environment.



As environmental protection elements must be integrated into every sector, including sports, the City of Šibenik is an example of how investments in sports infrastructure respect the concept of sustainable development as a means to drive economic progress and social well-being, while maintaining environmental balance.



Through programmes co-financed by the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, the City of Šibenik has implemented **energy efficiency** projects in sports halls and

primary schools. In one of the sports centres, solar collectors were installed on the buildings, which represents a combination of long-term financial and ecological benefits.



to building and continually investing in walking and cycling paths, it is the first city in Dalmatia to launch a public bicycle system.

Additionally, the city organised **volunteer actions** for cleaning the underwater areas of Šibenik's beaches, coastline and surrounding environment.

Volunteer environmental cleaning and reforestation actions have also been organised by sports clubs and

The City of Šibenik has recognised the importance of cycle tourism and invested funds in modernising and equipping the cycling tourism infrastructure. In addition



civil society organizations, with the support of the Šibenik City Tourist Board.

Through all these activities, the City of Šibenik has confirmed that sport and environmental protection naturally go hand in hand.





14.

■ 14. THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK AS “EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT 2026”

14.1. THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK AS “EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT 2026”

Goals of candidature of the City of Šibenik for the award: “European City of Sport 2026”. The objective of our candidature for the award: “European City of Sport 2026” is that we would like the City of Šibenik to be recognized at the European level since such an European award will provide to the City of Šibenik a lot of national and international visibility.

Such visibility will promote and enhance greater participation of our citizens in sports activities in the City of Šibenik and will make our citizens and professional athletes feel proud of their efforts to be engaged in different sports.

In the case of winning the award: “European City of Sport 2026”, the City of Šibenik will further improve existing sports infrastructure and programmes, while we will be open to new cooperation in order to promote not only sports but also economic and touristic potential of City of Šibenik at the European level. Following the experience of other European cities & regions awarded in the previous years, City of Šibenik considers that the expected impact for Šibenik would be:

- Increase in the sports practice of all our citizens and all age groups.
- Promoting sports in the part of the population with less participation and more difficulties.
- Encourage private contributions and private capital in the promotion & funding of sport.
- Improve the position of the City of Šibenik across Europe, through the international recognition of our sport activities, infrastructure and policies.
- Participate in ACES Europe network of sport cities and regions across Europe learning from their experiences and generating added value in the possible joint projects and collaboration.
- Bringing international sport events to take place in the City of Šibenik.
- Promotion of the City of Šibenik to the foreign tourists interested in “active & sport holidays”.

In conclusion, the award: “European City of Sport 2026” would contribute to the improvement of our sports policies and activities, helping us to be more successful and efficient.

From the economic side, the City of Šibenik is expecting to get additional benefits that will come through the national and international promotion of the City of Šibenik as a nice place to work and live, as an interesting tourist destination and as a place with investment opportunities for Croatian and international investors.

The City of Šibenik will support ACES Europe family with the enthusiasm of our citizens and athletes who use sport as a fundamental source of health, participation, growth, integration, and collaboration.

14.2. THE CITY OF ŠIBENIK ACHIEVING THE FIVE MAIN AIMS OF THE MANIFESTO OF ACES EUROPE

Development of sports in the City of Šibenik has been defined by the strategic documents of City of Šibenik and ZSGŠ (Sport Association of the City of Šibenik) and involves all the main objectives of the Manifesto of ACES Europe.

Enjoyment of exercise

The City of Šibenik has been considered to be one of the very active sport city. There are a lot of sport events happening in our City throughout the year with the participation of athletes, citizens and tourists. Besides the events indoor in the city sport halls, a lot of sport activities are taking place on the water and outdoors and are a combination of sports, physical activity, nature and entertainment. Citizens of the City of Šibenik are very active and use various sports programs and sports infrastructure-playgrounds with the sole purpose of enjoyment in different sports.

Willingness to achieve goals

The City of Šibenik as "European City of Sport 2026" will work hard to promote sport and everyday physical activity as the right way of life, especially among the children and young people. Our City is supporting sports associations and sports clubs in all their activities; however, the award: "European City of Sport 2026" will be of great help to the stronger promotion and visibility of sport in the City of Šibenik.

Sense of community

Sport is bringing people together, and it is difficult to find another human activity that connects entire communities stronger than sport. Thanks to the variety of sport programs developed and offered by the City of Šibenik, all our citizens have a stronger sense of belonging to the community.

Sport is an area that doesn't understand the word "different". Sport unifies people irrespective of their social status, disability or state of health, ethnic background, or religion. The City of Šibenik is taking care of its citizens of all ages, from the youngest to the oldest, and has developed programs and infrastructure capacities for organized sport activities in our community.

Learning fair play

High standards of sports behavior are mandatory for all sport clubs and NGOs in the City of Šibenik, especially promoted at Croatian Olympic Day (HOD – Hrvatski olimpijski dan) celebrated every year on September 10th all over Croatia.

One of the main goals of the City of Šibenik is strong promotion of fair play through sports among the young generation so they can build a sense of

responsibility, connectivity, unselfishness, and acceptance of victory or defeat with dignity.

Improvement of health

We believe that as “European City of Sport 2026” we can raise the awareness of the citizens of our City about the necessity to include sports activities in one's daily life even more, as well as to maintain an active lifestyle. Doing sports is a very good way of disease prevention, especially in the difficult times of pandemic and post-pandemic. The City of Šibenik is conducting different campaigns for all age groups for active and healthy way of life.

Sport and physical activity are, maybe, the cheapest way to prevent health problems. Investments in sports and sport-related infrastructure are helping the healthcare system in prevention and in curing addictions like drugs, alcohol, etc.



14.3. PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION OF ACES EUROPE AWARD

In 2026, the City of Šibenik as “European City of Sport 2026” wants to get all citizens, visitors, sports clubs and other local/national/international stakeholders involved in the activities of this project through inviting and motivational communication.

We are planning to use a mix of online and offline communication channels. The award: “European City of Sport 2026”, will be the center of this communication. It is planned to appear all over the City: on street banners and flags, in the sports facilities, on digital info screens, the award “European City of Sport 2026” will be very much promoted across our City.

The City of Šibenik is planning to conduct the following activities in order to promote and present the award:

- Press conferences, media releases and promotional content.
- Round tables & conferences on the relevant topics.
- Official FB page and social media engagement.
- Special website for The City of Šibenik - European City of Sport 2026.
- Promotional materials: brochures, posters, banners, digital screens, gadgets and other promotional materials.
- Participation in media and other public events with the additional promotional video production (YouTube and other video channels) for broader outreach. The project will be promoted on the local and regional media (internet portals and alike).

The promotion of this award will bring to the City of Šibenik multiple benefits, especially through the initiatives to develop new sports activities, to develop new sports facilities and to involve in sports more citizens of all age groups.



GRATITUDE

We would like to thank everyone who enabled the use of content and photographs in the preparation of materials, especially the Šibenik City Tourist Board, Krka National Park, Kornati National Park, Amadria Šibenik Public Institution "Sports Facilities" - Šibenik, Drazen Petrovic Museum - Memorial Center and all sports associations and people involved in sports of the City of Šibenik.

PREPARED & DEVELOPED BY:

Community Sports the City of Šibenik

PHOTOGRAPHS:

City of Šibenik

Community Sports the City of Šibenik

(except those provided by institutions in gratitude)

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

Design Vision, Šibenik

