

Those who have seen the film *Wall-E* ("Best Animated Feature" at this year's Oscars) have realised, more or less, what lays in store of us...

Signals that we want to chose the correct path for our children and grandchildren are both many and promising; we do not have anything else to do but copy the "success recipe" from our European neighbours; in many countries from Europe and from the rest of the world, children have a much more dense schedule of physical education; although we may accept as an apology from some people the economic level, we find that it is a problem more linked to mentality than anything else, of how we find the future as concerns the health state - as it is one of the many challenges at a global scale.

"To do or no to do physical education classes?" is a question with just one correct answer:

"As much as possible!"

## Romanian Volleyball in deadlock? Till when?

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### Abstract

Even if it was the subject of some analysis which has to identify the degradation causes of volleyball in Romania, the most expected revival didn't happened, the same drawbacks as 25 years ago being emphasized. We can't put everything in the back of the after-December evolution of the Romanian society, but one thing is certain: from all the sportive games volleyball is in the most concerning situation, and the immediate perspective doesn't seem to be on the will of those (as many as they still are) who still care for volleyball.

**Key words:** *romanian volleyball, crisis*

### Rezumat

Deși a făcut obiectul unor analize care să identifice cauzele degradării voleiului din România, revirimentul mult așteptat nu s-a produs, accentuându-se aceleași neajunsuri semnalate în urmă cu aproape 25 de ani. Nu putem pune totul pe evoluția post-decembristă a societății românești, dar un lucru este cert: dintre toate jocurile sportive voleiul prezintă cea mai îngrijorătoare situație, iar perspectiva imediată nu se anunță a fi pe placul celor care (atâția câți mai sunt) încă mai pulsează pentru volei.

**Cuvinte cheie:** *volei-ul românesc, criză*

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The volleyball game has aroused and will arouse large-scale passions, materialized in a world wide organization ways, with obvious repercussion on the relation of forces in the major competitions.

Known as the sportive game with the greatest number of volleyball practicers, volleyball covers in every country ranges more or less wanted, beginning with initiation and finishing with the great performance. Even if it was the subject of some analysis which has to identify the degradation causes of volleyball in Romania, the most expected revival didn't happened, the same drawbacks as 25 years ago being emphasized. We can't put everything in the back of the after-December evolution of the Romanian society, but one thing is certain: from all the sportive games volleyball is in the most concerning situation, and the immediate perspective doesn't seem to be on the will of those (as many as they still are) who still care for volleyball.

The selection and primary instruction doesn't respect not even from the point of view the rigors of these processes. The sportive units furthest responsible for tracking down and bringing up the young performers, in volleyball, are the School Sportive Clubs (CSS), which aren't missing in every district of our country. Even if there have been made serious investments in the material base, the results are from year to year, more concerning.

Shared on age echelon: minivolleyball (11-12 years old), advanced I or hopes (13-14 years old), advanced II or cadets (15-16 years old) and junirs (17-18 years old), the competional system on child and junior level doesn't assure the value consistency of each age period.

The fewness of sportsman from each club leads to make up some teams from sportsman with different ages and different ways to express, pursuing most of the time to participate in official

competition and not in the least reaching the training and performing proposed objectives.

At the senior level, the internal competition system is structured on two value levels: Division A1 (12 feminine teams and 12 masculine teams) and Division A2 with two series A2 East (7 feminine teams and 8 masculine teams) and A2 West (7 feminine teams and 7 masculine teams). The value of the sport grouping from the senior level reflects the potential and the implication of the sponsors and local communities in achieving (usually) immediate objectives, without any long-term strategy (with some exceptions). Hence, the apparition or the disappearance over night one of a team, the progress or the regress of another.

Unfortunately, junior finishing means for the most of young players also the ending of the competing activity. The reasons are many:

- there is no senior team in the place where he lives or continues his school.
- he does not adapt to performance rigors on senior level;
- the lack of motivation to continue the sportive activity;
- in the hurry of getting immediat results, the sponsors are not in the mood to invest in growing up and promoting a young sportsman, they rather prefer to bring skilled players (Romanian or foreigner) for short interspaces;
- the prevalent university crews, doesn't represent any more a power.

I have hope that the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) will carry into effect the restrictive measures in the matter of limitation the foreigner players' number. Therefore, starting 2009-2010 season, the restrictions will be: maximum 4 players in the crew, from among at most 2 in the field, while 2010-2011, maximum 3 foreigner players in the crew and 2 in the field. The sport clubs from

European Union will be able to use Union players one more season (2009-2010), the limitation being applicable only for the players outside the Union. However since 2010, there will be no difference between Union and outside Union Volleyball players. Personally, I welcome this measure because in this way the Romanian players background will be supported, and the investments will be focused on native players, capable of a consistent representation in the international competitions.

Starting from here, it's more than binding to make a reconsideration of a notion which is more than ever actual in the real context of the Romanian Volleyball: the mass background for the performance's volleyball.

I do not want to dramatize, but I'd liken the volleyball to a disappearing species from the sportive "kingdom" in Romania. Therefore, if nothing concrete and important will be done at national level, we'll have to appeal to history when it comes about volleyball.

Being indulge in sterile discussions and passing responsibilities, from one to another, we will have to wait the Romanian volleyball enlivening. Questioning ourselves about: "What do we have to do?" and the answer should be "If we have to do something, why do we do it?" we'll deepen more and more in the failures 'darkness.

I know the volleyball phenomenon from Romania for more than 35 years, being involved as sportsman and coach, and having relationships with different successful volley schools from Europe, I think that the initial point in an action served to lead in overtaking the actual malaise consists in attracting children, from the primary school in different ways of volleyball practice, in the same time with the development of the general motility and creating an optimal psycho-pedagogy climate for personality manifesting for every child, partly.

The ways for this project implementation I'll intend to do starting with the next school year, engaging in it teachers, students or ex-volleyball players.