

National Fair Play Report  
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The Fair Play Club of the Polish Olympic Committee

Poland





### The 2019 and 2020 Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Awards

The 2019 and 2020 Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Award and Distinctions Ceremony was held at the Olympic Centre in Warsaw.

“The fair play attitude is one of the overriding values of the Olympic Movement, central not only on the sports arena, but also in daily life. Every year for the past several dozen decades, the Polish Olympic Committee has been celebrating athletes who prove that fair play is one of the central and undisputed values. I would like to congratulate all winners of awards and distinctions. I am convinced that your attitude and actions serve as a beacon for everyone who wants to follow your example. I would also like to thank our Sponsors and Partners without whom we would not be able to ultimately pursue our mission,” said Andrzej Kraśnicki, the President of the Polish Olympic Committee.

This year - because of the pandemic - the award and distinctions gala celebrated achievements in 2019 and 2020. Awards were presented to individuals whose attitude and activities promote fair play.

“Sport is all about victory, but claimed in line with fair play principles and not at any price. Sport is much more than just results and medals. Sport loses its meaning without fair play,” stressed Hanna Wawrowska, the Chair of the Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Club as the ceremony continued.



The laureates of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Fair Play Award of the POC, official guests, employees and sponsors of the Polish Olympic Committee

### **THE 53<sup>rd</sup> 2019 FAIR PLAY AWARD**

The honorary 2019 Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Award was presented to *Przegląd Sportowy*, Poland’s oldest sports daily and one of the oldest sports dailies worldwide. For a hundred years it has been covering and commenting on the biggest sports events, including the Olympic Games, championing the fair play attitude and achievements of Polish athletes.



On the picture from the left: Kamil Wolnicki, Paweł Wołosik – Przegląd Sportowy, Hanna Wawrowska – Chair of the POC Fair Play Club, Maciej Petruczenko (Przegląd Sportowy), Mieczysław Nowicki – Deputy Chair of the POC Fair Play Club

Professor Zofia Żukowska Fair Play Distinction for “promotion of fair play values” was presented to:

**HALINA BŁASZKIEWICZ** - canoeing: a former member of the canoeing section of Górnik Czechowice-Dziedzice club who flew the Polish flag on multiple occasions. After the end of her career, she became a coach at Stomil Olsztyn, Warta Poznań, and Górnik Czechowice-Dziedzice clubs. She collaborated with two-time Olympic winner, Grzegorz Kotowicz and others. She is the creator of Student Sports Club SET in the village of Kaniów where she is engaging children and youths in a new discipline - canoe polo. Working with her trainees, she has been always stressing the importance of fair play in sports and everyday life. For years, she has been involved in social activities within the Silesian Sports Federation and the Polish Canoe Federation.

**KAJETAN BRONIEWSKI** – rowing: a many time member of Team Poland in canoeing who holds a number of national championship titles under his belt. The Olympic bronze medallist in men's single sculls (Barcelona 1992) and the Bronze world champion (Vienna 1991). Regarded by his community as an extremely hard worker - an ambitious, reliable and disciplined contestant. After the end of his career, he became a coach (he graduated from the University of Physical Education) and worked for multiple sports institutions. For a decade, he has been

heavily involved in the programme "Prevention of aggression and dysfunctions among children and youths through sport". He sacrifices his own free time to visit correctional facilities and juvenile detention centres across Poland and deliver educational activities focused on sport and Olympism combined with sports competitions. Every year the programme ends with a gala staged at the seat of the PCO.

**ELŻBIETA NOWAK** - basketball: a many time Poland's champion and a member of the national basketball team. One of the core players of the team that won the European Championship title in Katowice in 1999. She played for many clubs, including: ROW Rybnik, Włókniarz, MTK Pabianice, and ŁKS Łódź. She made her name everywhere as an extremely diligent and popular person. After the end of her adventure with competitive sport, she became a coach at Łódź-based AKS SMS club and a PE teacher at a local primary school no 29. She is actively involved in promotion of sport and fair play and contributes to efforts of the Regional Olympic Council where she takes part in such initiatives like "A Great PE Lesson" or "The Olympic Łódź."



Andrzej Kraśnicki – President of the Polish Olympic Committee,  
Kajetan Broniewski, Hanna Wawrowska



**The Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Distinctions for the “lifetime sports career and a worthy life after its end” were presented to:**

**LESZEK CICHY** – one of the world's best Himalayan climbers. A surveyor by profession. Teamed up with Krzysztof Wielicki, he completed the first successful winter ascent of Mount Everest (8848 m) in February 1980. He later took part in numerous expeditions, and in 1999 he became the first Pole to complete the ascent of the Crown of the Earth, climbing the tallest summits on all continents.

**EGON FRANKE** – one of the most eminent Polish fencers. Excellent training has always been his signature, especially when it comes to his favourite weapon - the foil, but he also excelled in the sabre and the épée. He competed in three Olympic Games (Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964 and Mexico 1968). In the capital of Japan he claimed gold in the foil individual tournament, and won silver in the men's foil team event. Four years later, Team Poland won another bronze medal. He has been living in Italy and working as a coach since the late 1960s. He is the former coach of the Italian national team.

**KRYSTYNA JAKUBOWSKA-TABAKA** – Poland's leading volleyball player in the 1960s. A member of a team that rose to become Poland's multiple champion and Poland's championship medallists. She flew the flag for Poland from 1961 until 1969, taking part in 169 matches of the national team. As a two-time member of Team Poland (Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968) she won a bronze Olympic medal, a bronze World Championship medal (Moscow 1962) and two silver medals at the European Championship games (Constanța 1963, Izmir 1967).

**KRYSTYNA KRUPA-MALINOWSKA** – Poland's leading volleyball player in the 1960s, playing for Gdańsk-based club AZS. From 1962 until 1968 she played 131 matches for Team Poland. As a two-time member of Team Poland (Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968) she won a bronze Olympic medal, a bronze World Championship medal (Moscow 1962) and two silver medals at European Championship games (Constanța 1963, Izmir 1967).

**RYSZARD STADNIUK** – a many-time member of Team Poland in rowing, a multiple champion and medallist of national championships, a bronze medallist at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and the World Vice-Champion in Nottingham (1975). After the end of his sports career, he became a private entrepreneur and a sports activist. A long-standing President of Szczecin Olympic Club, a member of the Polish Rowing Societies Association since 1992 (and its President since 1996). Polish rowers claimed their biggest victories during his consecutive terms. Ryszard Stadniuk has been overseeing European rowing for 13 years and has been a member of the Polish NOC Board since 1997, serving as its Vice President from 2001-2005 and once more - from 2009.



Leszek Cichy, Aida Bella, Andrzej Kraśnicki, Tadeusz Tomaszewski, Hanna Wawrowska

**The Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Distinction for an “act of fair play” was presented to:**

**EWA TRZEBIŃSKA** - fencing: an épéist of AZS AWF Katowice club, a member of Team Poland, with medals of the World and European Championships to her credit. During team finals at the World Cup in Tallinn, she noticed that a player from the Russian team who was getting ready for the next round was not the player who should actually enter the piste according to the tournament schedule. The oversight, probably triggered by emotions that accompanied this fiercely competitive game from the very start, was corrected by the Russian team after a remark made by our champion and the meeting could be resumed. Poles claimed the victory (45:44), but as a result of g fair play on the piste and not disqualification after a walkover which was a viable threat, had it not been for Ewa Trzebińska’s intervention.



**The Fair Play Distinction of the Sports Journalists was presented to:**

**MARCIN GORTAT** – a basketball player who played for 12 seasons in the world’s premiere American-Canadian league NBA. He officially retired from competitive basketball in 2020, but while his career continued, he became the mastermind behind multiple charitable initiatives and activities promoting Poland on the other side of the Atlantic, including highly anticipated “Polish Heritage Nights.” He established The “Aim High” foundation which organises sports camps for young and talented basketball players and cooperated with four universities of physical education (Łódź, Kraków, Poznań and Gdańsk). He supports the 3x3 National Basketball Centre and commits himself to initiatives that distract young female and male Poles from dysfunctional threats, for instance, such campaigns like “Only weak guys reach out for legal highs.” In 2019,



he was distinguished in the “Great Pole” competition held by the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation “Teraz Polska.” He is the Knight of the “Order of Smile.”

**The 2019 EUROPEAN FAIR PLAY DIPLOMA for “outstanding determination and bravery” was presented to:**

**ADAM BIELECKI, JAROSŁAW BOTOR, PIOTR TOMALA, DENIS URUBKO.** These are members of the 2017/2018 winter expedition to K2 who tried to save Tomasz Mackiewicz and Elizabeth Revol atop Nanga Parbat in the Himalayas. A swift rescue operation, recognised as one of the most spectacular ones in the history of the Himalayan mountaineering, helped save Elizabeth Revol. Daring efforts of Poles were recognized with: the David A. Sowles Memorial Award presented by the American Alpine Club and awards: for Feat of the Year presented during the 84<sup>th</sup> Gala of *Przegląd Sportowy*’s Competition for the 10 Best Polish Athletes of 2018, the 2018 Icon of Sport and the 2018 Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Trophy.



Hanna Wawrowska, Piotr Tomala, Adam Bielecki, Mieczysław Nowicki

## THE 2020 EUROPEAN FAIR PLAY AWARD IN THE ‘FAIR PLAY SPIRIT’

### CATEGORY

**MAGDALENA REJF** - a long-standing secretary of the Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Club, an employee of the PCO’s Office who has been committed to efforts of the Fair Play Club for many years, but also strives to strengthen close bonds between the Olympic sport and culture and art where she identifies elements of fair play in works of selected artists.



Hanna Wawrowska presents EFPM Award to Magda Rejf’s family member – Bartosz Prusinowski

## THE 2020 POLISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FAIR PLAY DISTINCTION FOR OUTSTANDING ATTITUDE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC was presented to:

**KATARZYNA DULNIK** – a many time member of the Polish national basketball team, a member of the 1999 European championship team, and later a coach at Warsaw's Polonia club who makes sure that talented children are drawn to her favourite discipline - what is also ensured by a foundation she has established. When its activities were suspended in the wake of the pandemic, Katarzyna



joined the “Senior in Crown” campaign and teamed up with other volunteers she was delivering meals to recipients of social care services and helping some of them with their household chores.

**MICHAŁ KWIATKOWSKI** – one of the best Polish cyclists and the 2014 Road Cycling World Champion. He competed in the Olympic Games in London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016) and in 2018 won Tour de Pologne and the prestigious Tirreno-Adriatico cycle race. When the SARS-COV-2 pandemic reached Poland, Michał Kwiatkowski decided to support healthcare workers struggling with the rising number of infections. He declared that he would hand over his comfortable pad in Toruń to doctors, nurses, medical rescue workers and other individuals actively fighting with the coronavirus. *“Perhaps some healthcare workers are afraid to return home as they fear for the health of their loved ones. My doors are open for them,”* he wrote in social media.

**ANNA AND ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI** – unquestionably, one of the most celebrated sports husband-and-wife duos in Poland and Europe. Anna has been promoting active and sporty lifestyle for years. She’s a multiple Europe and world champion and Poland’s champion in traditional karate. She is also managing the Special Olympics Poland Association. Meanwhile, Robert Lewandowski is the captain of Poland national team, and is currently one of the best footballers worldwide, what has been confirmed by the Men’s Player of the Year title presented to him in 2020. For years, Anna and Robert Lewandowski have been engaged in charity and supporting the “Noble Gift” campaign. In March 2020, they won hearts of many Poles as they decided to donate one million euro to the Polish healthcare fighting the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, Anna developed and donated 5,000 meals to health workers from the Military Institute of Medicine battling the COVID-19 in Warsaw.

## THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FAIR PLAY AWARD

The history of the award goes back to 1963 when Tadeusz Olszański, the head of *Sztandar Młodych*'s sports section teamed up with Tadeusz Konwicki, Jan Strzelecki and Andrzej Ziemilski to launch a reader's competition for the "Gentleman of Sport" in association with the Sports Journalists' Association. Its first winner was the eminent Polish boxer, three-time Olympic winner and four-time European champion Zbigniew Pietrzykowski. Later, the "Gentleman of Sport" title was presented to: Egon Franke, Irena Szewińska, Waldemar Baszanowski, Ewa Kłobukowska, Józef Grudzień, Andrzej Bachleda, and Ryszard Szurkowski. In 1977, the Polish Olympic Committee established the Fair Play Committee which has been presenting annual awards to contestants, coaches, activists, fans and sports organisations in recognition of their outstanding contribution to promotion of the fair play principles. Previous winners include such celebrated and titled athletes like: Andrzej Grubba, Stanisław Macur, Janusz Darocha, Zbigniew Chrzęszcz, Bartosz Kizierowski, Adam Małysz, Łukasz Kubot, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and Jarosław Baran as well as individuals representing local clubs and communities who were only recently discovered by the Fair Play Club.

All these awards were presented in recognition of a commendable attitude or an act of fair play. The legitimacy of the decision to present the award has always been overseen by consecutive Heads of the Fair Play Committee/Club - Janusz Górski, Professor Zofia Żukowska, Professor Halina Zdebska-Biziewska and currently, and Hanna Wawrowska.



Andrzej Kraśnicki presents commemorative medal to Tadeusz Olszański – honorary Member of the POC Fair Play Club

The award is presented in the following 4 categories:

(1) The Polish Olympic Committee Fair Play Award - distinguishes acts of “fair play” carried out by a contestant, a sports team, a coach, or an activist. With this act, he or she helped others, and even sacrificed his or her own chances of winning, thus expressing his or her respect for the written and unwritten laws of sports and the humanistic attitude towards another human being.

(2) The individual award for lifetime achievements in sports and a worthy life after its end – presented to an athlete who has distinguished himself or herself in sports through fair play and worthy personal and professional life after the end of the sporting career - by engaging in activities that benefit youth people practicing in sports, etc.

(3) The distinction for promotion of Fair Play values - presented to individuals, associations or institutions promoting the idea of fair play and especially, active contribution to its promotion and implementation.

(4) The Sports Journalists’ Fair Play Distinction: for individuals or entities nominated in categories 1 and 3.





The Polish Olympic Committee (POC) is an autonomous, nationwide association of sports federations and organizations. Its head office is based in Warsaw. It ultimately organizes participation of the Polish Olympic Team in the Olympic Games, overseeing nomination, submission and ensuring participation of its members. The POC promotes Olympic ideals, principles, and values - respect, friendship, striving for excellence, ensures development of competitive sport, promotes sport for all, fights doping, champions the idea of fair play and conducts Olympic education. The POC holds the exclusive right to use and authorize the use of the Olympic symbols specified in the Olympic Charter, and the names “Olympic Games” and “Olympic Committee” in Poland.

