

---

# Working Class Sport Organizations vs. Bourgeois Sport Organizations.

[Leaflet of the Workers' Sport Alliance of America, 1924]

Example in the Comintern Archive, RGASPI f. 515, op. 1, d. 410, l. 50.

Working men and women, fellow athletes and sport lovers, while you have been a member of one of those sport organizations that are supposed to be neutral as far as class interests or politics are concerned, did you ever stop to think — why it is that the factory in which you work has a baseball or some other sort of athletic team organized by the management? Why it is that the YMCA, the YWCA, YMHA, and the YWHA get \$50,000 presents from some Rockefeller or Gary? Why is it that the American Amateur Athletic Union has at its head a rich industrial or a banking magnate to supervise the activities of the organizations to which thousands of young workers belong? Is it because the bosses are interested only in the development of their workers? Do they, the bosses, really care for the workers' health? No! They do it because their class (the capitalist class) interests are served by the athletic and sport movement that is supposed to be neutral but in reality is a tool of the master class.

“How can this be explained?” you may ask.

The capitalist class finds that by sports they are able to draw the young workers into the sphere of patriotic propaganda that teaches that it is unpatriotic to go on strike, etc. And by making the more advanced athletes or the stars the ideals or heroes of every young man or woman they are able through their newspapers to raise the athletic enthusiasm to such a high pitch that the sport lovers become like maniacs that

care for nothing else than their favorite sport, and if they are athletes themselves all their thoughts are busy with the problem, “how would I be able to become as famous as my hero?” that gets pages of propaganda from the capitalist press. Thus the capitalist class has profited by diverting the thoughts of their workers away from the exploitation that they are subject to and makes them blind to the economic conditions that confront them. Thus the term neutral sports really means neutralizing the workers in the class struggle.

Workers, join and build up the workers' sport movement by joining the Workers' Sport Alliance, whose object it is to make the working class of this country healthy physically and also mentally by making them class-conscious. Thus making them able both physically and mentally to oppose the attacks of their foes, the capitalist class and its lackeys and stool-pigeons. In the Workers' Sport Alliance you get a chance to participate in your favorite sport, as well as a chance to become familiar with the economic system of society that you live under.

BELONG TO A SPORT ORGANIZATION  
CONTROLLED BY THE WORKERS!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WORKERS' SPORT ALLIANCE OF AMERICA.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2006. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*

*The content of this document is reproduced with permission of the Reference Center for Marxist Studies (RCMS), New York, NY.*

*For additional reprint information, please contact RCMS.*