



**Košarkarski
Superšolar**

WHAT IS KOŠARKARSKI SUPERŠOLAR (‘BASKETBALL STAR PUPIL’)?



KZS

KOŠARKARSKA
ZVEZA
SLOVENIJE

SCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Providing additional opportunities to engage in sports activities, school sports competitions have for several decades been an indispensable part of the Slovenian school system, which in this respect stands apart from other European as well as non-European school systems. School competitions represent an expansion of the regular curriculum, bringing together students, teachers, parents, schools and local bodies responsible for sports, sports societies and professional associations. They are open to students who are already engaged in a regular training process as well as to those who to whom the pursuit of sports does not yet represent a major part of life.



KOŠARKARSKI SUPERŠOLAR (formerly Pionirski Festival)

Organized jointly by the Basketball Federation of Slovenia and the Planica Sports Institute, the Košarkarski Superšolar basketball competition (known up to this year as the Pionirski Festival) is one of the oldest organized school competitions involving team sports in Slovenia, having been organized for older boys for the first time back in 1966. Since then, it has become an exemplary model for other sports disciplines in the area of school sports in Slovenia and has maintained a strong reputation for bringing together large crowds of people to socialize and mingle on the playing courts.



THE COMPETITION SYSTEM

For both girls and boys, the competition includes three age categories, namely the categories U14 (students aged between 12 and 14), U12 (students aged between 10 and 12), and U10 (mixed teams of players under 10 years of age; held only on the municipal and regional levels). It is further divided into three stages. First, teams face off at the municipal level, and then at the regional level. The top 36 teams in each category then advance to the national level which is managed by the Basketball Federation of Slovenia alone. The competition is based on a tournament system.



KOŠARKARSKI SUPERŠOLAR IN NUMBERS

Each year, over 5000 primary school students from more than 250 schools (over half of all Slovenian primary schools) take part in the competition. The majority of Slovenian national team players represented their schools when they were young and still cherish fond memories of their first true basketball battles. And each year, all of us have the opportunity to observe the future stars of basketball dashing across the courts.

- Over 250 Slovenian primary schools
- Covering a large share of Slovenian territory – 16 regional centres
- Over 5000 players (boys and girls)
- More than 150 single tournaments
- 15.000 spectators and supporters – boys and girls
- 250 principals, 250 physical education teachers, 250 coaches
- 500 tournament organizers

- 300 referees
- 700 matches
- 16 regional champions
- 4 final spectacles – 4 national champions
- Infinite fun and excitement



KOŠARKARSKI SUPERŠOLAR – THIS SCHOOL YEAR

The Basketball Federation of Slovenia is aware of the enormous significance of this school competition for the development of promising and aspiring young basketball players. For this reason, we decided to gradually bring the popular and nearly half a century old Pionirski Festival up to date, and to take the initial steps in this direction in the present school year.



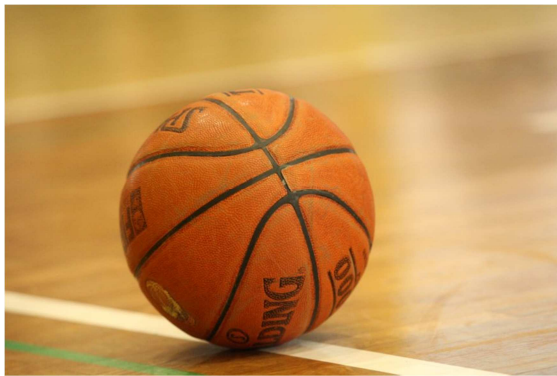
First, we have introduced a new name – Košarkarski superšolar (‘Basketball Star Pupil’), a new visual identity and a slightly different competition system...



- ... in the future, we plan to:
- Introduce exciting awards for participating players and schools (e.g. the chance to attend a practice session of the national team, have national team players visit schools, take part at basketball camps organized by the Basketball Federation of Slovenia, or to win attractive prizes provided by the KZS's partners – an agreement regarding the last item has already been made with Sony)...



- Hand out balls and uniforms provided by Spalding to participating schools...



Employ up-to-date methods to raise the competition's profile in the media ...

- launching a TV show...
- setting up a website...
- creating Facebook and Twitter profiles...



- Offer a rich side program to accompany the competition...



Košarkarski Superšolar undoubtedly has vast potential, which should be harnessed to increase interest in basketball, to strengthen the foundations of the basketball pyramid, and to teach children that sports can truly be the best thing in life.

