

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Title:**

Club affiliation and rankings in competitions organized by FAČR for age categories U16 - U19 in the period 2018/2019-2023/2024.

### **Objectives:**

To find out the rankings of Club Academies in selected youth competitions from the 2018/2019 season to the 2023/2024 season.

### **Methods:**

In this study, a comparative historical research was used to analyse and compare the development of the rankings of football clubs in the U16 to U19 categories in the period 2018/2019-2023/2024. The data was collected through a systematic analysis of secondary documents from official FAČR information sources and portals. The comparison was made on the basis of the rankings in each category and the points gained over the period under review.

### **Results:**

Research shows that clubs with the status of Club Academy 1 according to FAČR achieve the best rankings in youth competitions in the long term. The best stability of placements has been demonstrated by AC Sparta Praha and SK Slavia Praha, whose teams have regularly ranked in the top positions of the U17 and U19 category tables. In the U17 category, SK Slavia Praha was the most successful club reaching of 1.3 points, followed by AC Sparta Praha with 2.8. Between the clubs with the status of Club Academy 2, FC Zbrojovka Brno showed the best stability reaching 7.0 points in the U17 category and 6.2 in the U19 category. From the amateur clubs, SK Petřín Plzeň achieved the best results in terms of ranking. This club reached 87.8 points in the U17 category and 89.5 points in the U19 category. The work also confirms the importance of the FAČR Club Academies certification system as a tool for evaluating the level of club education and performance in the criterion of ranking in competitions.

**Key words:** youth football, youth categories, Club Academy, football competitions