

● On **18 November 2011**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation coins commemorating the Polonia Warszawa football club, with the following face values:

5 zł struck in proof finish, in silver,

2 zł struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency
of the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate
important historic figures and anniversaries, as well
as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture,
science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty**
coins, struck in **Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued
by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011

**These coins mark the start
of a new coin series dedicated
to the football clubs
with a long tradition.**

Information on the issue schedule can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/money
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold in the Kolekcjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)
at the following website:

www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 **KOLEKCJONER**

and at the NBP regional branches.

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

NBP

National Bank of Poland

COINS



POLISH FOOTBALL CLUBS

Polonia Warszawa



Polish Football Clubs: Polonia Warszawa

- Polonia Warszawa are one of Poland's oldest and most successful football clubs. In 2011, the club celebrates its centenary. This Warsaw side were one of the pioneers of football in Poland. Polonia finished as runners-up in the first national football competition in 1921, with Cracovia Kraków crowned the champions. Polonia Warszawa were also one of the founders of the Polish football league in 1927. The Warsaw side achieved its greatest successes in 1946 and 2000 when they won the league titles. Polonia football players are known as the Black Shirts, with the nickname deriving from the uncommon colour of their football shirts.
- Polonia Warszawa's 1946 victory in the first Polish domestic competition after World War II, called "the championship on the ruins of the capital city", was legendary and went down in the history of Polish sport. The players wearing all black shirts were underdogs due to the extremely difficult conditions in which their club operated in the ruined city. Their victory was perceived as the symbol of the reconstruction of Warsaw.
- The club has patriotic roots as it was founded during the period of the partitions of Poland. The Latin name of Poland, adopted as the name of the football club, and the crest in the form of a red and white shield were designed to promote the aspirations for freedom among Warsaw youths. The name of the club was coined by Wacław Denhoff-Czarnecki (1894-1927), an independence activist, member of the Polish Legions, a poet (the author of lyrics for the soldier's song *O mój rozmarynie rozwijaj się* [Oh, my rosemary, grow]). Warsaw's respected families, including the Gebethners and

Loths, were the leading founders of the club. Pastor August Loth (1869-1944), one of the spiritual leaders of the Polish Evangelical Church, was one of the first chairmen of KS Polonia. In the years 1928–1939, the club was headed by General Kazimierz Sosnkowski, the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces during WW2.

- A number of outstanding footballers played for Polonia Warszawa. One of Warsaw's squares has been named after the club's legendary player, Władysław Szczepaniak (1910-1979). He was associated with the Warsaw club throughout his football career, played in the Polish national team for nearly two decades, and was named its captain in 18 matches. He participated in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and in the FIFA World Cup in France in 1938. Jerzy Bułanow (1903-1980), the Polonia defender who was a member of the "white" Russian emigration, also captained the Polish national team many times.
- Two Black Shirts footballers, Jan Loth (1900-1933) and Artur Marczewski (1896-1945), played in the first match of the Polish national team against Hungary on 18 December 1921 (Poland lost 0:1). Polonia players have recently again been selected for the Polish national team. In 2002, Emmanuel Olisadebe scored to help Poland qualify for the World Cup in South Korea and Japan.
- In 1952–1991, the club was hit by a deep organisational and sports crisis, mainly on the back of the discriminatory policy of the authorities of the People's Republic of Poland. Polonia were perceived by communist authorities as a club linked in the past to the right-leaning Sanation movement and the Home Army, which

resulted in adverse decisions taken by the State, the only sports sponsor of that time. The reconstruction of the position of the Black Shirts in sports dates back to the critical year of 1989. In 1991, Polonia Warszawa were promoted from the third to the second tier, before returning to the top flight in 1993 (having stayed 41 years in the lower leagues).

- The turn of the 20th and 21st century was the most successful in the club's history as Polonia claimed their second league title, the runner-up title, and lifted the Polish Cup. Polonia represented Poland in a number of European competitions; in 2000, the club failed to advance to the Champions League by one goal only, after losing to Greece's Panathinaikos FC (2:2 and 1:2). Polonia Warszawa are currently one of the leading sides in the Polish top flight.

Jacek C. Kamiński
KS Polonia Warszawa

Domestic and international honours

- League title – 1946, 2000.
- Runner-up title – 1921, 1926, 1998.
- Polish Cup – 1952, 2001.
- Polish Super Cup – 2000.
- League Cup – 2000.
- Semi-final of the UEFA Intertoto Cup – 1999.

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FACE VALUE **5** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000** ■ finish **proof** ■ diameter **24.00 mm**
weight **7.07 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: A stylised image of the contour of a football. In the centre, against the background of the contour, an image of the Eagle established as the emblem of the Republic of Poland. Around the Eagle, a semi-circular inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland). At the bottom, notation of the year of issue: 2011. Underneath, the inscription: 5 ZŁ. The Mint's mark, M/W, below the Eagle and on the right-hand side.

REVERSE: A stylised image of a football player in football kit. On the right-hand side, the crest of the Polonia Warszawa football club. Above it, a semi-circular inscription: 1911-2011. On the left-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: POLONIA WARSZAWA.

Coin designer: **GRZEGORZ PFEIFER**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **800,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: An image of the Eagle established as the emblem of the Republic of Poland. At the sides of the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 20-11; below the Eagle, inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along the rim, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. The Mint's mark, M/W, below the Eagle.

REVERSE: A stylised image of a football player wearing football kit and kicking a ball. In the background, a stylised image of the front facade of the club building with the inscription: POLONIA. Above, the crest of the Polonia Warszawa football club. Underneath, inscription: 1911-2011. On the left-hand side, a semi-circular inscription: POLONIA WARSZAWA.

ON THE EDGE: The inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **GRZEGORZ PFEIFER**