Reviewer’s report

Title: Do weight management programmes delivered at professional football clubs attract and engage high risk men? A mixed-methods study

Version: 1 Date: 8 October 2013

Reviewer: Emma George

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions.

Background (paragraph 3). The authors briefly describe the FFIT program, explaining that community coaches were trained in diet, nutrition, physical activity and behaviour change techniques to a standard protocol. Are the authors able to provide some information on the standard protocol?

Results (paragraph 5). Given that physical activity was one of the program components (reference 36) and that sports such as football involve and promote physical activity, were participants’ perceptions of physical activity explored in relation to their involvement in or attraction to the FFIT program? If so, please provide results related to physical activity.

Results (paragraph 6 and 7). The inclusion of quotes throughout the results section really illustrates participants’ perceptions of, and involvement in the program. In some instances, however, the authors refer to an extract in a table rather than including a direct quote. For consistency, are there any quotes that can be included in the text in these instances?

Discussion (Overall). It seems that the “pull” factor of being involved in a program run at their chosen football club was a major incentive for many participants who joined the FFIT program. As men are often underrepresented in weight loss programs, the authors may wish to consider providing greater discussion on the potential of football clubs, in terms of recruiting male participants to weight loss programs and the implications for future studies targeting male participants.

Discretionary reviews.

Background (paragraph 2). NHS to be written in full in first instance (Minor issues not for publication).

Results (paragraph 1). A brief introductory section explaining how the results will be presented would be beneficial. For example, the results appear to be discussed separately for several broad themes and the participants’ football club was included after each quote.

Results (paragraph 6). In the sentence beginning with “Indeed many man” – “man” to be replaced with “men” (Minor issues not for publication).
Discussion (paragraph 3). Can the authors please provide a brief explanation of what is meant by the term “masculine capital”?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.