Reviewer’s report

Title: Sport and ageing: A systematic review of the determinants and trends of participation in sport for older adults

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Juliet Harvey

Reviewer's report:
I enjoyed reading this well written manuscript. It is important to determine why older adults participate or continue to participate in sport, so that we can support engagement in these activities for all the health and social benefits they provide. I have some suggestions/comments:

Title:

I note the age range of the included studies, I feel that describing the populations included as 'middle to older age' would better cover the findings.

Abstract:

Clear & concise. If word count allowed, it would be valuable to the reader to have an idea of the age range and that both qualitative and quantitative studies were included.

Introduction:

Good, P4L75-78 could be clearer.

Method:

Clearer definition of aims, especially determinants:

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)60735-1/abstract

Please write CINAHL in full.
Definition of older adults, as with my comment in the title, I would recommend terming older adults as over 60 in keeping with the WHO definition:

http://who.int/ageing/global-strategy/en/

Figure 1 & 2 would be better placed in the results section.

P8L163-169 requires clarity for the reader - I would recommend after 'not applicable' inserting (N/A) and actually stating that the n/a's were excluded from the quantitative studies final score by[insert P8L165-166]. I feel that the symbols would be better replaced by words to make it easier for the reader, for example replace - with minus, etc. And finally, stating there was no n/a option for the qualitative section.

Results:

P9L201 P<0.00, has this been rounded?

Table 2 - Extra line space in 'Health Determinants' row

Table 2 - Subthemes for competition - value, enjoyment…?

Table 2 Sport Type - should this box be merged with the one below?

P14L308 - "Majority" but n=2 for Germany and n=2 for Belgium

Discussion:

Results and discussion are interesting.

I was surprised that environmental factors did not feature in the results, perhaps this should be included in the recommendations for more research in socio-demographic factors P20L437-L446.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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