Author's response to reviews

Title: Implementation of easily accessible sporting programs in the organized sports setting: factors influencing implementation

Authors:

Linda Ooms (l.ooms@nivel.nl)
Cindy Veenhof (c.veenhof@nivel.nl)
Nicolette Schipper-van Veldhoven (nicolette.vanveldhoven@nocnsf.nl)
Dinny H de Bakker (d.debakker@nivel.nl)

Version: 3
Date: 12 September 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Our manuscript is a full-length article describing the main factors facilitating and impeding implementation of easily accessible sporting programs in the organized sports setting. All authors agree with the contents of the manuscript and there are no competing interests to declare. We certify that the submission is original work and is not under review at any other publication.

The organized sports sector has received increased attention as a setting to promote health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) to the general population. Programs can only be effective in increasing HEPA levels when they are properly implemented. However, to date, no research has been conducted in this particular area. In this study, the main factors facilitating and impeding implementation of fourteen Dutch sporting programs, aimed at inactive population groups, and implemented by ten Dutch National Sports Federations (NSFs), were identified.

We believe that our findings are of interest to the readers of BMC Sports Science, Medicine & Rehabilitation because they give insight into the successes and challenges encountered when implementing HEPA programs in the organized sports setting, a research area that is still understudied. The results will support sports practitioners and policy makers when developing and implementing HEPA programs in this setting. We hope that the editorial board will agree on the interest of the study.

When performing the study, ethical guidelines were followed and informed consent was obtained of all participants. Approval by a medical ethics committee was not obligatory, as participants were not subjected to procedures, nor were they required to follow rules of behavior.

The editor of BMC Public Health felt that the article was out of scope of the journal BMC Public Health, but feels it suited for publication in BMC Sports Science, Medicine & Rehabilitation.

We hope the editorial board of BMC Sports Science, Medicine & Rehabilitation agrees on this subject.

Sincerely,

Linda Ooms, Msc

Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (NIVEL)
Linda Ooms
PO Box 1568
3500 BN Utrecht
The Netherlands
Telephone number: +31 302 729 811
Fax number: +31 302 729 729
E-mail: looms@nivel.nl