Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of a Healthy Welcoming Environment on participation in club sport by adolescent girls: a longitudinal study

Version: 0 Date: 08 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Susanna Geidne

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

In general I think this is a very interesting paper that adds knowledge on sports clubs as a health promoting setting due to the longitudinal design and using cohorts with girls of different ages (especially the older cohort is often understudied) which this multidisciplinary and quite new field will benefit from. The paper is overall well written and has adequate references. I have some comments that I hope will help to improve your paper. I also have to admit that I have reviewed this paper before for a different publication which will affect the comments, because I can see that you already reacted to many of them.

Comments:

In my earlier revision I emphasized that it was no totally clear what HWE was. This is made clearer in this revision. However I still have a suggestion for your abstract and that is to change the order you mention the connection between HWE and sports clubs health promotion. My suggestion is that you start with "This study investigated the perceived influence of (a) Healthy Welcoming Environment on participation…(continue as before). And then: HWE was defined by a set of hp policies…as a sports clubs health promotion practice, which included sports injury prevention…(continue as before)." Hope you see what I mean, you can work out the language and content better. I think this will change the focus and clearness of the start of the paper.

Then you end the background-part of the abstract with. "The aim was to…” Is this the overall aim of HWE? If it is it should be made clearer, because here it looks like another aim of the study.

I am still curious about why you chose to just include the current and the past SC participants in your analysis. Why did you not include the non-participants as a type of controls? The question can work for them too? I also think you should compare the answers of current, past and non-participants when it comes to your dependent variables. I was waiting for that comparison through the study and was disappointed not to get it. If it is hard to include the non-participants, at least a comparison between current and past participants will add some deeper knowledge.

It would also be interesting to find out if the answers differed among those girls who was still a sports clubs participant at the last wave, compared to those who dropped out.
I like your added section on sport- and health-based organisations not included in the last version. Important discussion.

**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.

No

**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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