Reviewer's report

Title: The consultation of rugby players in co-developing a player health study: feasibility and consequences of sports participants as research partners

Version: 0 Date: 29 Sep 2016

Reviewer: Jack Nunn

Reviewer's report:

An interesting paper - thank you. I hope these comments are helpful:

Notes:

Abstract: consider consistency of terms to describe people involved - terms used in the abstract include 'public', 'patients', 'players' and 'sports participants'. Either of the latter two make sense to a lay reader but need to be used consistently to avoid potential confusion between 'participants' in research, sport and activity to involve people.

Use of the word 'fora' throughout is arguably not plain English (it is a Latin plural of forums) and I had to look it up to check I was correct. Similar to common uses of 'data' or 'agenda', although technically incorrect in Latin, in the vernacular, 'forums' would probably be more readable (one does not write agendum for a singular form of agenda). Sorry if this sounds picky - this may just be me. If defined it may be ok to use it in the paper, but I would suggest not in the plain English summary.

Consider rewording 'unique population' to describe rugby players as this is the final sentence but is not qualified elsewhere. It is explained in line 187 but without this important reference it seems an incongruous comment.

Line 120: typo - 'researcher(s)' or 'research'?

Line 133: 'Sports people' consider 'people who play sports' or use a consistent term (see abstract comments). Later on (153) 'athlete involvement' is used. This is perhaps the best term?
145: 'elite athletes' - consider 'professional' - this may be an accepted term but could be misinterpreted? 'Professional' is more of an objective description.

147: 'first-class injury management' is this an appropriate way to describe healthcare? Perhaps 'best-practice' or something less colloquial sounding? I may be wrong and this may be an accepted term in sport - but to a lay reader this potentially sounds elitist?

198: 'been impactful' - 'had impact'? This is a plain English rewriting

209 'Collaborative study management roles on the project steering group' I had to read this three times to understand it - it might just be me (!) but if there's a simpler way to write this maybe consider that

210: 'Scoping discussions with individual current and former' comma missing?

222: typo?: 'members of the [for a] involved in the design stages

304: a more detailed example might be of interest to some readers

356: 'PPI activities' I would write this as 'involvement' and use the consistent term you have decided on - e.g. athlete/sports person (see other comments) and consider not using this acronym as it is only the UK that uses this term - and in fact many people (including NIHR staff) now write it as PPIE (engagement)

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