Reviewer’s report

Title: A Study Protocol for the Development and Internal Validation of a Multivariable Prognostic Model to Determine Lower Extremity Muscle Injury Risk in Elite Football (Soccer) Players, with Further Exploration of Prognostic Factors

Version: 0 Date: 05 May 2019

Reviewer: Ioanna Tzoulaki

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written protocol on the development and internal validation of risk prediction model for injuries in elite athletes. The protocol followed well the TRIPOD recommendations for reporting. I have minor comments.

Throughout the article ether is no information on sample size and number of events. I assume that the measurements have taken place, can the authors show some quantitative information? They state which measurements have been deleted as predictors due to QC and missing data but there is no quantitative information. How many athletes have been measured? If this is not completed, what is the estimated sample sizes and number of events?

The authors state the data will be assumed to be missing at random. Maybe it is better to check that this is missing at random and make informed choices?

Are the assessors glided to the status of the athletes when measurements are taking place?

The authors chose backward selection as their variable selection method. Could they also examine other variable selection methodologies that do not require the elimination of predictors to 10 but start with a higher number?

Level of interest

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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

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Acceptable
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