**APPENDIX 2: Characteristics of excluded studies and reasons for exclusion**

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| **Study** | **Study Design** | **Sample and/or Sport** | **Measures** | **Reason(s) for Exclusion** |
| Almutawa et al. (2014) | Pilot study | Saudi national team footballers  (n = 49) | Injury incidence, nature and severity; playing surface comparison | i. Study design: Pilot  ii. Data and statistics: Epidemiological and non-diverged to calf or lower leg sufficiently |
| Berson et al. (1981) | Retrospective | Squash players (n = 200) | Injury incidence, injury rate, severity, location; age, time to return to play, frequency of play | i. Study design: Retrospective  ii. Data and statistics: Non-specific to calf or lower-leg, epidemiological |
| Blacker et al. (2008) | Retrospective | Male and female Army recruits  (n = 13, 417) | Individual characteristics (age, height, mass, BMI, body fat %,), performance measures (static arm endurance, back extension strength | i. Data and statistics: Non-specific to calf or lower leg  ii. Study design: Retrospective |
| Brito et al. (2012) | Descriptive epidemiological | Youth soccer players (n = 674) | Injury incidences, match-play versus training incidences, injury type, injury location | i. Study design: Descriptive epidemiological, youth subjects only |
| Carling et al. (2011) | Prospective | Male professional football players (n = 46) | Injury incidences, incidence of recurrence, positional incidence, month of injury | i. Data and statistics: Non-specific or not sufficiently diverged to calf or lower-leg, descriptive epidemiological |
| Cielsa et al. (2015) | Prospective | Plus Liga Volleyball players (n = 90) | Injury incidences, injury location, injury frequency, training characteristics | i. Data and statistics: Non-specific and not sufficiently diverged to calf or lower leg |
| Cielsa et al. (2012) | Prospective | Plus Liga Volleyball players | Player characteristics (age, height, weight), training characteristics (volume, frequency), injury type, injury location | i. Study design: Abstract only |
| Colberg et al. (2015) | Prospective | Collegiate tennis players (n = 58) | Time-loss from injury, Injury cause(s) – primary and secondary, Injury location, type of injured tissue | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Decock et al. (2016) | Prospective | Competitve road cyclists (n = 4487) | Level of competition, injury incidences, injury severity, injury location | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Edouard et al. (2014) | Prospective | Track and field athletes (n = 1342) | General injury incidences and frequencies, time-loss from sport, specific diagnoses to body region, specific illnesses diagnosed, injury and illness by event(s) completed | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Fuller at al. (2011) | Prospective | Men’s international under-20’s rugby union players (n = 941) | Playing position, nature of injury, cause of injury, tissue injured, match activity when injured | i. Data and statistics: Non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors, non-satisfactorily diverged from other body regions |
| Gabbett (2003) | Prospective | Semi-professional rugby league players (n = 156) | Player position, match incidence, training incidence, time of season | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Gabbett & Ullah (2012) | Prospective | Elite team sport athletes (n = 34) | Running intensity, running velocity, GPS data, distances covered, playing positions, injury history | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Gissane et al. (1997) | Prospective | Rugby League forward and backs (n = 492) | Cause of injury or match activity, playing position, injury type, tissue injured, time-loss of injury | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological only and/ or non-specific to extrinsic or intrinsic risk factors |
| Grier et al. (2016) | Case series | United States army recruits (n = 1332) | Physical characteristics, fitness test results, shoe type worn | i. Study design: Case series analysis  ii. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Hagglund et al. (2006) | Prospective | Swedish male first division soccer players (n = 263) | Training or match injury incidences, injury severity, injury patterns, previous injury history, age, weight, BMI | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Hawkins et al. (1999) | Prospective | Professional and youth soccer players (n = 138) | Competition versus training injuries, injury frequency rate (IFR), time-point of season, injury type, injury location, re-injury rates | i. Data and statistics: Descriptive epidemiological and/ or Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Hegedus et al. (2016) | Prospective | NCAA athletes (n = 359) | Physical performance tests (active, motion, power, hip stability, flexibility, motor control), age, BMI, injury history, hypermobility | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Hector & Webner (2012) |  |  |  | i. Study design: Abstract only |
| Heir & Eade (1996) | Prospective | Male conscripts (n = 912) | Age, BMI, run time/ running performance, back dysfunction, lower limb dysfunction, mental health status | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Kuroda et al. (2002) |  |  |  | i. Study design: Non-English (Japanese) |
| Luke et al. (2002) | Prospective | Adolescent dancers (n = 39) | Injury location, injury severity, mechanism of injury, pre-participation clinical examination (height, weight, Marshall test, Scoliosis, Ankle dorsiflexion, Ankle plantarflexion, foot arch, foot type, first MTP angle, Hip external rotation, Hip internal rotation, Popliteal angle, Thomas test, Ober’s test, Q-angle, LLD, Foot/ thigh angle) | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Mallo & Dellal (2012) | Prospective | Spanish professional soccer players (n = 35) | Training and match exposure, injury severity, time-loss from injury, injury patterns, playing position | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological and non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Mallo et al. (2011) | Prospective | Spanish sub-elite soccer players from 1 section B team (injuries n = 313) | Training and match-play incidences, injury severity, injury location, playing position, time-loss from injury | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological and non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Monfort et al. (2016) | Descriptive epidemiological | High school basketball and soccer players (injuries n = 1643) | All injury mechanisms, contact versus non-contact injuries, sport played, injury location | i. Study design: Descriptive epidemiological, High school age only |
| Morgan et al. (2001) | Prospective | Major league soccer players (n = 237) | Training and match injury rates, time-loss from injury, injury locations, playing position, time of season | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological and non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Noya et al. (2014) | Prospective | First division Spanish soccer players (n = 427) | Injury location, injury severity, player exposures, injury type, training versus competition injury rates, tissue injured | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| O’Kane et al. (2016) | Prospective | Elite female youth soccer players (n = 351) | Previous general lower extremity injury, previous knee injury, maturation, age, race, competition level, years played, number of prior injuries | i. Study design: Age range 11-14 only  ii. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Orchard et al. (2004) |  |  |  | i. Abstract only |
| Ostenberg & Roos (2000) | Prospective | Female European soccer players (n = 123) | General joint laxity, functional tests (single leg hop for distance, vertical jump, square-hop), age, injured region, stage of training or game, aerobic capacity, knee extensor and knee flexor peak torques and total work at 60deg.sec and 180deg.sec | i. Data and statistics: Non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Rebella (2015) | Prospective | Collegiate pole vaulters (n = 135) | Injury location, injury type, injury incidence, competition versus training, mechanism of injury, | i. Data and statistics: Epidemiological and non-diverged or specific to calf or ‘lower limb’ soft tissue injury and/or risk factors |
| Roy et al. (2012) | Retrospective | Soldiers (n = 593) | Injury location, mechanism of injury, age, sex, time deployed, rank, time spent standing, average load worn, heaviest load worn, days/ week performing lifting task, strength session duration | i. Study design: Retrospective analysis  ii. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Ryan et al. (2014) | Prospective | Recreational runners (n = 103) | Footwear type, running program, running times, injury rate, | i. Study design: Not relevant to aims of systematic review |
| Shambaugh et al. (1991) | Prospective | Basketball players (n = 45) | Quadriceps and calf muscle girth, Q-angle, LLD, centre of mass behaviour; ankle, midfoot, and subtalar biomechanics | i. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Soderman et al. (2001) | Prospective | Female soccer players (n = 221) | Clinical examination, thigh muscle torques, balance/ postural sway, age, training and match exposure | i. Data and statistics: Other lower leg or calf clinical entities (‘achilles tendon rupture’, contusion, medial tibial stress) |
| Stanish et al. (1997) |  |  |  | i. Unable to access full-text |
| Steinberg et al. (2014) | Prospective | Talented young dancers (n = 806) | Demographics, anthropometrics, menstrual status, injury pattern, experience and injury, age, tissue injured | i. Data and statistics: Descriptive epidemiological and/ or Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Stretch et al. (2003) | Prospective | South African cricket players (n = 436) | Mechanism of injury, level of competition, age, injury type, player type | i. Data and statistics: Descriptive epidemiological and/ or Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Stubbe et al. (2015) | Prospective | Dutch professional male soccer players (n = 149) | Mechanism of injury, training and match incidences, injury site, injury type | i. Data and statistics: Descriptive epidemiological and/ or Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Trudelle-Jackson et al. (2014) | Prospective | Community-dwelling women (n = 886) | Injury incidence, flexibility/ hypermobility, type of physical activity exposures | i. Study design: Inappropriate aims and focus |
| Venturelli et al. (2011) | Prospective | Young soccer players (n = 84) | Previous injury, exposure data, age, playing position, height, mass, BMI, percentage body fat, static jump, countermovement jump, sit and reach, step yo-yo | i. Study design: Young soccer players (mean age 16.4 +/- 1.6 years) only  ii. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Walden et al. (2005) | Prospective | UEFA Champions League players (n = 266) | Injury incidence, training and match exposures, injury severity, country, level of competition, | ii. Data and statistics: Descriptive epidemiological and/or Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Wilkerson et al. (2012) | Prospective | Collegiate football players (n = 83) | Oswestry Disability Index, International Knee Documentation Committee Score, Foot and Ankle Ability Measure, Back extension hold, Side-bridge hold, Trunk-flexion hold, Wall-sit hold, Step-test, BMI, game exposures, previous knee and ankle sprains, | i. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Wilson et al. (2011) |  |  |  | i. Abstract only |
| Wood et al. (2013) |  |  |  | i. Abstract only |
| Woods et al. (2002) | Prospective | Professional English soccer players (Clubs n = 91, injuries n = 6030) | Injury site, injury incidences, injury type, time of season, tissue injured, mechanism of injury | i. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |
| Wunderlin et al. (2015) | Prospective | Swiss Army soldiers (n = 230) | Trunk muscle tests, injury incidence, nature of physical activity, type of injury, age, BMI, cigarettes, injury severity | i. Study design: Inappropriate aims and focus  ii. Data and statistics: Non-dichotomized to calf or ‘lower leg’ soft tissue injury and/ or risk factors |