

## Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist

Developed from:

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No. Item	Guide questions/description		Reported on Page #
<b>Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity</b>			
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>			
1. Inter viewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	Caroline Bolling	Page 6- data Collection
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	PT, MSc	See Authors Information/ acknowledgements
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Junior Researcher	See Authors Information
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Female	See acknowledgements- page 20
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	Qualitative research methods, medical anthropology and comparative data analysis. She has also conducted several previous qualitative studies.	See acknowledgements- page 20
<i>Relationship with participants</i>			
6. Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	No	Not reported
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? E.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	General outlines of research as described in information letter sent by email.	Not reported
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the	Interviewer was a sports physiotherapist with extensive experience in elite sports	See acknowledgements- page 2)

	research topic		
<b>Domain 2: study design</b>			
<i>Theoretical framework</i>			
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis	Grounded theory/ a constructivist-interpretive paradigm	See study design- Page 5
<i>Participant selection</i>			
10. Sampling	How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	Inclusion criteria: Elite athletes, coaches, and physiotherapists from 8 Olympic sports participating in one or more international competitions in the 2016–2017 and/or 2017–2018 seasons competing/ working in Western Europe  Initially, maximal variance sampling on from different sports, from individual and team sports followed by theoretical sampling- in the ongoing data collection/ analysis.	See method – participants- Page 5 and 6
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email	By email	See participants: Page 5
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	19	See at data collection- Page 6
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	All approached subjects agreed to participate in this study	See participants: Page 6
<i>Setting</i>			
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace	Based on participants' availability. Six interviews were done face-to-face ( at home, at their work, at university) and 13 by phone or Skype	See at data collection- Page 6
15. Presence of non-	Was anyone else present besides the	No	Not reported

participants	participants and researchers?		
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date	Demographics presented: mean age, gender, sports and country	See participants: Page 6
<i>Data collection</i>			
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Interview guide, which was not pilot tested.	See data collection page 6 and appendix 2
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat inter views carried out? If yes, how many?	No	Not reported
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	Audiotaped	See data analysis- page 7
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the inter view or focus group?	Yes, during and after.	Not reported
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	The interviews lasted 28 minutes on average, ranging from 23 to 42 minutes.	See data collection page 6
22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Yes	See at data collection- Page 7
23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	No	Not reported
<b>Domain 3: analysis and findings</b>			
<i>Data analysis</i>			
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	CB and SDB coded 6 interviews. HRW supported with data coding during consensus meeting.	See at data collection- Page 7
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	Yes	See at Figure 2
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Derived from the data	See at data collection- Page 7
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	Atlas. ti	See at data collection- Page 7

28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	No	Not reported
<i>Reporting</i>			
29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number	Quotes presented to illustrate themes and findings Each quotation identified by participant number	See results tables- Pages 8-14
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes	See results Pages 8-14
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes, four major themes are clearly presented.	See at results Pages 8-14 and Figure 2
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Yes, the minor code related to the core categories are presented	See at results Pages 8-14 and Figure 2