

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

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No Item	Guide questions/description		Reported on
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity			
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>			
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	Caroline Bolling	Data Collection
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? e.g., <i>PhD, MD</i>	PT, PhD	Authors Information/ EDI section
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Postdoctoral Researcher/ Physiotherapist	EDI section
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Female	EDI section
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.	EDI section
<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., <i>personal goals, reasons for doing the research</i>	General outlines of research as described in information letter sent by email.	Participants
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g., <i>Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic</i>	Interviewer was a sports physiotherapist with extensive experience in elite sports	EDI section
Domain 2: study design			
<i>Theoretical framework</i>			
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g., <i>grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis</i>	Grounded theory/ Concepts of Grounded Theory were applied such as the theoretical sampling (maximum variance during data collection), the constant comparison analysis and the exploratory nature of the study from a constructive interpretivist paradigm.	Study design
<i>Participant selection</i>			
10. Sampling	How were participants selected? e.g., <i>purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball</i>	Main contact (JS) who worked closely with FIS recruited potential participants, being different stakeholders such as athletes, coaches, and healthcare providers, who met the eligibility criteria of either representing their country in elite-level competitions or	Participants

		participating in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.	
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.g., <i>face-to-face, telephone, mail, email</i>	By email.	Participants
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	11	Results
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	None.	Not reported
<i>Setting</i>			
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g., <i>home, clinic, workplace</i>	All interviews happened on a secure online platform according to the participants' availability.	Data collection
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	No	Not reported
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g., <i>demographic data, date</i>	Limited demographics presented: gender, stakeholder role, high-performance winter sports discipline, country or representing country.	Results
<i>Data collection</i>			
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	Topic list and interview questions (Table 1), which was not pilot tested.	Data collection and Table 1

18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews 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?	Audio-recorded	Data collection
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	Yes, during and after.	Not reported
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	The interviews had an average duration of 42 min (ranging from 32 to 56 minutes).	Data collection
22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	Yes	Data collection
23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	No	Not reported
Domain 3: analysis and findings			
<i>Data analysis</i>			
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	2 coders for initial open coding.	Data analysis and supplementary material 2
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	Yes	Data analysis and supplementary material 2

26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	Derived from the data	Data analysis
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	ATLAS.ti software (Scientific Software Development GmbH, Berlin, Germany; version 8.4.5)	Data analysis
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., <i>participant number</i>	Quotes were presented to illustrate themes and findings. Each quotation was identified by participant function and number.	Results tables 2-5
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes	Results
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes, four major themes are clearly presented.	Results, tables 2-5 and Figure 1
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Yes, the minor themes related to the core categories (in less detail) are also presented.	Results, tables 2-5 and Figure 1