[Letter to the Editor: Response]

We are thankful for being given the opportunity to respond to this letter over concerns regarding our incidence rate calculation methodology. We are also grateful to Mr Larsen for being included in his review manuscript, and he should be commended for ensuring the veracity of the results reported in the papers he has chosen to include.

In response to the concern that errors were committed in the original calculations of incidence rates,¹ it appears that Mr Larsen has inadvertently selected the number of injured participants as the numerator in his incidence calculation rather than the number of injuries sustained. While 85 athletes did sustain injuries, it was possible for each athlete to report more than 1 injury, which was often the case. The calculation methods used by Mr Larsen, as described by Phillips,² are correct and, when used to calculate incidence using the number of injuries reported, yield the incidence rate (IR) shown below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IR per 1000 hours} \\ \text{of exposure} &= \frac{132 \text{ injuries}}{247 \text{ athletes} \times 200.6 \text{ mean} \\ &\quad \text{hours of exposure}} \times 1000 \\ &= \frac{132 \text{ injuries}}{49,548.2 \text{ hours of exposure}} \times 1000 = 2.6641 \end{aligned}$$

The difference between this method of calculation and the published incidence rate of 2.71 per 1000 hours can likely be attributed to rounding in the calculation of the per-athlete average hours of activity. A review of the original study data shows that the total number of athlete-hours at risk in this study was 48,746.8438. When this risk pool of person time is used to calculate incidence, the corresponding result is:

$$\text{IR per 1000 hours} \\ \text{of exposure} = \frac{132 \text{ injuries}}{48,746.8438 \text{ hours of exposure}} \times 1000 = 2.7079$$

My coauthor and I are hopeful that this provides clarity to Mr Larsen and his colleagues and wish them luck with their work on this review.

Respectfully,

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REFERENCES

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2. Phillips LH. Sports injury incidence. *Br J Sports Med*. 2000;34:133-136.

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