Figure 1: Flowchart diagram of search process

Records identified through database search  
(n = 6,625)

## Screening

## Included

## Eligibility

## Identification

Records identified through manual journal search  
(n = 194)

Records after duplicates removed  
(n = 4,979)

Records title screened  
(n = 4,979)

Records excluded  
(n = 3,786)

Articles assessed for eligibility  
(Abstract and full text review) (n =1193)

Articles excluded  
(n = 950)

Excluded if :-

Not published between 1980-2016

Not peer-reviewed journal article

Main focus not sport governance – based on Henry and Lee’s (2004) definitional criteria

Context not primarily sport

Full abstract or text not available in English

Studies included in final database  
(n = 243)