

Basketball

The two performance nutrition keys for basketball are minimizing carbohydrate depletion and staying adequately hydrated. Carbohydrates are the primary fuel source in basketball due to the stop and go nature of the game.

Good Carbohydrates

bananas, oranges, dried fruits, carrots, peas, pastas, baked potatoes, whole grain breads and granola bars.

Pre Game

The second key in basketball is maintaining adequate hydration before, during, and after practices and games. Dehydration can happen to a player before he/she realizes the effects. Symptoms such as thirst, fatigue, headaches, and muscle cramps are often felt after it's too late.

Hydration Keys

Drinks 16 oz of water 2 hours before practice/game
Drink another 4-8oz 30 minutes before practice/game

During Game/Practice

Hydration

4-8 oz every 15-20 minutes (1 gulp is about 1oz). Players should consume about 32-64oz during a 2 hour practice.

Players competing at high levels and that see a lot of minutes should also not be afraid to consume a small portion of solid food at halftime to help reload carbohydrate energy used in the first half.

Good Choices

granola bar, orange wedges, fruit snacks, fig bars, jelly beans.

Post Game/Practice

Recovery nutrition couples the two key performance nutrition components, carbohydrate and fluids, with a small window of time. Players should strive to consume approximately half of their body weight in grams of carbohydrate within 30 minutes immediately following practice and games.

Example

- A 140 pound player should be aiming to get in at least 70 grams of carbohydrate in the 30min window.
- A 200 pound player should be aiming to get in at least 100 grams of carbohydrates in the 30min window.



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Basketball

*Healthy eating tips
to maximize your
performance*



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Diet for athletic Performance

The training period offers you an excellent opportunity to establish sound eating practices that will benefit you on the playing field as well throughout life.

Make Snacks Count

Choose snacks that contain more than just calories. When you eat out with friends, choose something nutritionally sound, like a cheeseburger with a slice of tomato and lettuce leaf. How many food groups are present in this sandwich? What might you eat along with this sandwich to make an even better snack?

Look for Extra Food Energy

Teenage athletes burn up more calories than non-athletic teens. You can fill this requirement by eating more food from all food groups. Carbohydrates are the most efficient fuel for your body during strenuous exercise. Get most of your extra energy from foods like starchy vegetables and whole grain or enriched bread cereal, rice, or pasta instead of from fatty foods. For example, on an athlete's plate, a baked potato should get the nod over fries.

Eat Regularly

Breakfast is especially important because you need food to start the day. Your body begins the day in a low-energy, fasted condition. Teens who eat breakfast score higher on physical fitness tests. Breakfast can be made up of any combination of nutritious foods that you enjoy eating. Spaghetti and meatballs, together with an orange juice and a glass of milk, is a nutritionally sound meal for any time of the day—even breakfast!

Check Your Diet Frequently

Spot-check your daily diet at least once a week. Are you eating at least the minimum number of servings from each food group each day? How can you use the food guide pyramid as a tool to make improvements?

How can you tell if your diet is stacking up? Nutritionists have developed a food-guide system in the shape of a pyramid that can help you rate or evaluate your diet. This guide divides food into five groups on the basis of the nutrients each group provides. By eating the recommended amounts of food from each group daily, you can greatly increase your ability to get all the nutrients your body needs--and that will improve your ability on the playing field.

Athletes come in different sizes and shapes, and follow different types of training programs. While they may all follow these nutritional rules, their meals may look quite different. Athletes who train strenuously for many hours each day will need to eat large amounts of carbohydrate and calories. Big tall athletes will need to eat more than petite athletes such as gymnasts. Many athletes need to organize their meals to fit around their training or competition schedules.

Keep yourself in shape with a body fat level that suits your sport--eat the right amount of calories for your body size and training program.

Keep your muscles fueled for training and competition by eating plenty of carbohydrate foods. Make room for these foods by reducing the amount of fat.

Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods to provide yourself with all the protein, vitamins, and minerals that your body needs. Your need for some of these nutrients will increase because of your heavy exercise program.

Look after fluid needs. Drink before, during, and after exercise sessions to prevent yourself from becoming dehydrated.

For more information go to:
<http://usm.maine.edu/athletics/>