



GATORADE SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE

CARBOHYDRATE: PREMIUM FUEL FOR ATHLETES

WHAT FOODS ARE CARBOHYDRATE?

Bagels, bread, pretzels, crackers, pasta, rice, potatoes, beans, vegetables, fruit, fruit juice, pancakes, waffles, cereal, granola bars, sports drinks, sports chews

WHAT FOODS AREN'T CARBOHYDRATE?

Meat, chicken, fish, eggs, bacon, tofu, nuts, peanut butter

HOW MUCH CARBOHYDRATE SHOULD I EAT EVERY DAY WHEN I'M TRAINING REGULARLY?

Eat some with every meal and snack. Make sure about 2/3 of each meal is carbohydrate.

1/3 CARBOHYDRATE

1/3 PROTEIN

1/3 CARBOHYDRATE



PERFORMANCE CARBOHYDRATE TIMELINE

If you're hungry or want to start getting your during exercise fuel, eat a small amount of carbohydrate before you start

Include carbs in your recovery snack

HELPS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE & RECOVERY

Eat a meal focusing on carbs several hours before game/practice time

Eat 30-60 g each hour of training or competition



TOTAL CARBOHYDRATE 25 G 25 G 35 G 56 G 60 G

For example, during a basketball game eat a pack of chews at halftime and drink a 20 oz. bottle of Gatorade throughout the game. Or drink a 32 oz. bottle (or larger squeeze bottle) of Gatorade throughout the game, sipping at every timeout and halftime.

The information in this document is grounded in sports nutrition science, translated for athletes.