Fuelling the Runner – Global Overview

What is "Fuel" for a runner?

- Runner → any individual who engages in running based activity, regardless of pace, distance, or setting, and includes but is not limited to recreational jogging, sprinting, trail running, long-distance running, and any forms of competitive racing
- Macronutrients → carbohydrates (CHO), protein, and fats

MACRONUTRIENTS



- Macronutrients serve to repair, allow us to function and provide fuel to optimise performance
- Importantly, macronutrient intake can vary for each individual because factors such as different types of activity, intensity, and personal goals can dictate macronutrient intake
- Our content primarily focusses on CHO as a fuel source for runners

Dietary Intake Guidelines for Carbohydrates

- The recommended CHO, fats and protein intake for a runner can vary depending on certain exercise/intensity e.g. endurance runners (Burke et al., 2011)
- Macronutrient recommendations are based on an amount per kg of body mass (BM) per day. For example: 3 grams of CHO per kg BM (g/kg)

Global Daily Intake Guidelines

Carbohydrates

- CHO intake can vary from 3 g/kg all the way up to 12 g/kg
- Use the following link or scan the QR code to calculate the amount of carbohydrate to consume during a given day of exercise or training!

Daily Carbohydrate Calculator

https://asluggett.github.io/Sport-Nutrition/global_CHO_daily_intake.html



What does this look like?

- While carbohydrates are key for fuelling the runner, maintaining a well-balanced diet supports optimal physical performance
- The **Australian Guide to Healthy Eating** is a great reference to use for recommended daily food consumption from different food groups!



Key Takeaways

- Prioritise nutrition quality across all food groups → make your plate as colourful as possible!
- Click on the following link for a guide for healthy meals from Sports Dieticians
 Australia →

https://www.sportsdietitians.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/A-Guide-to-Healthy-Meals-for-Active-People.pdf