

Text: Nicki de Villiers Registered Dietitian, hpe

- Eating on the day of the competition is important to prevent hunger before or during activity and to help supply fuel to muscles during the day.
- High-fat and high-protein foods should be avoided because they take longer to digest than carbohydrate foods and therefore can cause indigestion and nausea.
- Avoid excessive amounts of simple carbohydrates or sugars, e.g. sweets, candy and soft drinks before exercise. Complex carbohydrates will be a better choice, e.g. bread, pasta and crackers.
- In situations where nervousness or excitement decreases appetite, meal replacements or flavoured milk can be used as a liquid meal.
- Remember breakfast stays the most important meal. Try to eat your normal breakfast before leaving home. Remember to drink at least two cups of fluid with the meal.


## Breakfast Options

- Cereal with milk, fruit and yoghurt and a glass of juice
- Toast with peanut butter or low fat cheese and tomato with a glass of milk
- Toast fingers with boiled eggs
- Tinned spaghetti on toast with flavoured milk
- Banana and peanut butter on toast with a glass of milk
- Scrambled eggs with creamed corn on toast and a glass of juice
- Crumpets with honey and a tub of yoghurt with a glass of juice

- If you have to travel long distances or need to make an early start before a game, pack some breakfast-on-the-run foods.


## ON THE RUN BREAKFAST CHOICES

- Bokomo up and go
- Mix pronutro or future life with a lot of milk in a mug and use it as a drink
- Drinking yoghurt, flavoured milk or a box of milo
- Prepare a smoothie the night before - Blend fresh fruit, e.g. banana, yoghurt, milk and a tablespoon of honey together
- Bake whole wheat pancakes and keep in fridge; use cut banana with a tablespoon of honey as a filling
- Prepare snackwiches the night before and grab one on the way

- Check the time schedule of events and plan snacks and meals as follows:

No time between events: A sports drink only


Limited time - less than 1 hour between events: Take fluids - water and sports drink are important to include for hydration and an energy top up. A small amount of a low fat snack food may be included if hungry. Choose fruit (fresh, canned or dried) or a cereal bar; crackers or a small amount of jelly sweets.

Plenty of time - 1-2 hours between events: Include fluid water, sports drink, fruit juice, smoothie, liquid meal, but avoid soft drinks with bubbles. Snack on cereal bars, sandwiches, rice - or pasta salad or crackers.

Longer than 2 hours between events: Top up on fluids and include a more substantial snack or a light meal.

- Don't rely on the canteen or vending machines to supply suitable snacks and drinks, as healthy choices are not always available.
- Be prepared by taking your own snacks and drinks supply.
- Always pack two drink bottles - one for water and the other with sports drink.
- Take a top up supply of cooled water, juice and flavoured fluids.
- It is always a good idea to include a little solid food with fluids if time permits.


## Cooler Box Meal Ideas

An extra cereal or energy bar with fruit juice

- Crackers with cheese wedges and cordial
- Packet of popcorn or pretzels with a few biltong sticks and cordial
- Bread roll with peanut butter and a fruit
- Jaffles with low fat mince
- Chicken wraps
- Homemade burgers

Blend ripened, leftover fruits with 100\% fruit juice and freeze as ice lollies

- Trail mix - blend of unsalted nuts, seeds and dried fruits
- Melba toast with dips, e.g. avocado or low fat cottage cheese


## Cooler Box Snack Ideas

- Flavoured milk
- Liquid meal replacement, e.g.
- Ensure or Nutren Active
- Bokomo Up 'n Go
- Sports drinks or cordial
- Jelly sweets
- Water
- Jam or honey sandwiches
- Fruit juice
- Fresh fruits
- Raisins
- Bread roll with banana
- Cereal bars
- Banana or date loaf or muffins

- Make better choices from the food available

| IT IS A MATTER OF CHOICE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SWAP THIS |  | FOR THIS |  |
| Hamburger with salad, cheese, egg and bacon + small Chips + can of Soft Drink | 4535 kJ 56 g Fat | Hamburger with one Meat Patty and Salad + can of Diet Soft Drink | $\begin{aligned} & 1675 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 17 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ |
| Half a medium Pizza | $\begin{aligned} & 2510 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 26 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ | BBQ Chicken Wrap | $\begin{aligned} & 906 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 7 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ |
| Meat Pie | $\begin{aligned} & 1880 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 24 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Hot Dog | $\begin{aligned} & 1170 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 18 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ |
| 50 g Bag of Chips +55 g Chocolate Bar + Can of Soft Drink | $\begin{aligned} & 2860 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 30 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ | Ham Sandwich and Coffee | $\begin{aligned} & 1325 \mathrm{~kJ} \\ & 18 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{Fat} \end{aligned}$ |
| Sausage Roll and a can of Soft Drink | 2215 kJ 28 g Fat |  |  |

