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# OPTIMUM NUTRITION STRATEGIES FOR KICKBOXING PERFORMANCE



Namratha Pramod

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# WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS TODAY?

**BASICS OF NUTRITION**

**PRE, DURING, POST TRAINING MEALS, MATCH NUTRITION**

**WEIGHT CUTTING AND REHYDRATION, COMMON SUPPLEMENTS USED**

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# INTRODUCING OPTIMUM NUTRITION

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Nutrition: The process of obtaining the food necessary for health and growth

OPTIMAL Nutrition: Eating the right amounts of nutrients on a proper schedule to achieve the best performance and longest possible lifetime in good health.

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### POOR NUTRITION

Low-Nutrient Foods  
Large Portion Sizes  
Irregular Eating Times  
Dehydrated/Unhealthy Fluid  
Sources

VS

### OPTIMAL NUTRITION

Nutrient-Rich Foods  
Appropriate Portion Sizes  
Regular Eating Times  
Well-Hydrated/Healthy Fluid  
Sources

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# WHAT INFLUENCES ATHLETIC ABILITY?



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# CONSEQUENCES OF POOR NUTRITION

- Increased risk of fatigue, injury, and illness
- Loss of muscle mass
- Menstrual dysfunction
- Loss of, or failure to gain bone density
- Prolonged recovery
- Potential long-term consequences

Poor  
foundation

Poor Health

Compromise  
d  
Performance

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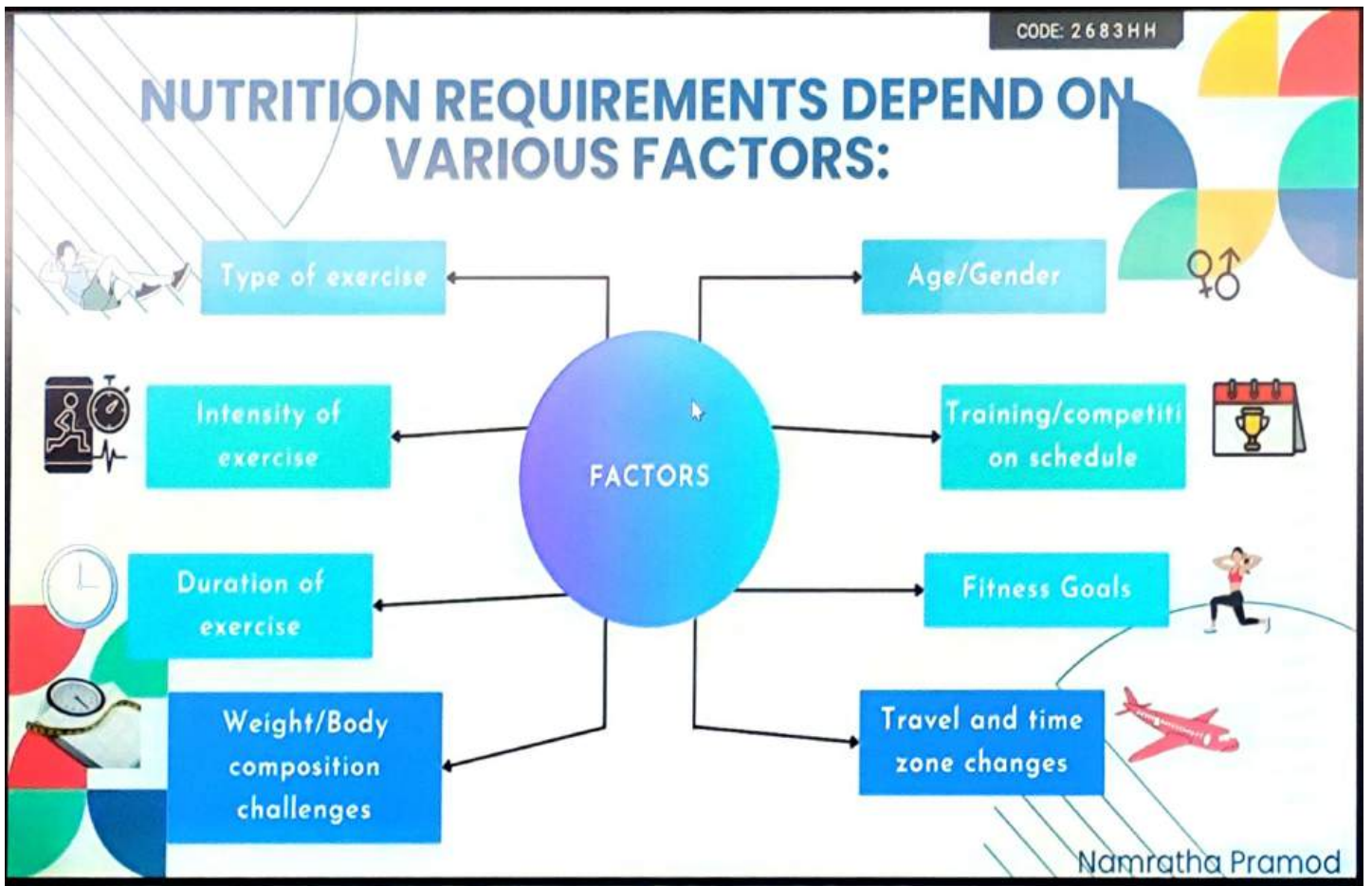
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# CONSEQUENCES OF PROPER NUTRITION

- Sufficient energy
- Desired body composition
- Optimum performance
- Promote rapid recovery & regeneration
- Faster & better injury repair
- Improved motor skills
- Disease prevention
- Overall health and wellness



# NUTRITION REQUIREMENTS DEPEND ON VARIOUS FACTORS:



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# KINDS OF FUEL TO OUR BODY

## HUMAN ENGINE

**FAT** = Endurance  
Fuel

**CARB** = High  
Intensity Fuel

**PCr** = Fast  
Accelerations

**PROTEIN** = Last  
Source Sports

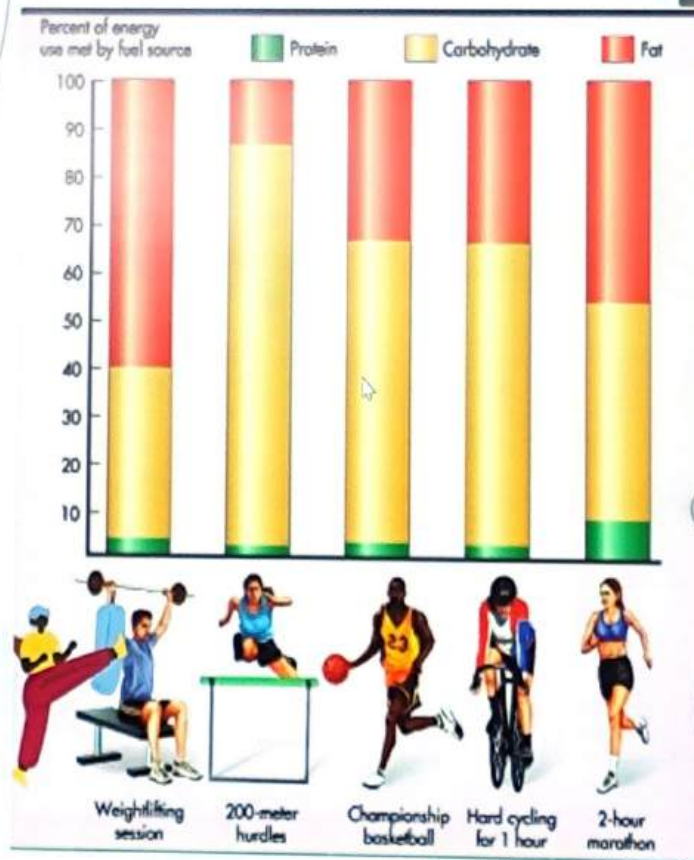
## CAR ENGINE

One Kind of  
Fuel



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# CARBOHYDRATES AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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Exercise Intensity increases

Increased reliance upon muscle glycogen

Low pre exercise muscle glycogen stores

Less time to exhaustion

High CHO diets

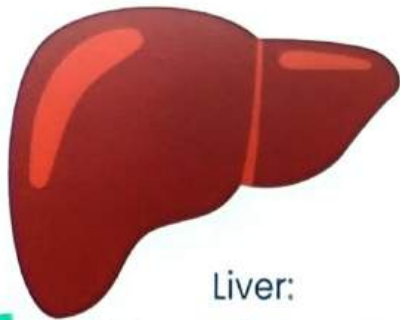
Increased muscle glycogen stores

Improved endurance capacity

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## LIMITED STORAGE OF CARBOHYDRATES



Liver:  
90gms of Glycogen  
(storage form of  
carbohydrates)



Skeletal Muscles:  
350gms of Glycogen  
(storage form of  
carbohydrates)

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## PROTEIN : DO YOU REALLY NEED EXTRA?

- Muscle hypertrophy
- Hormone synthesis,
- Immune function,
- Energy,
- Muscle repair,
- Prevention of injury



Approximately  
10-35 of the total energy should come from protein,  
depending on the actual energy intake

The requirement for protein can be met through a well  
balanced diet.



# PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS

Group	Protein Intake (g/kg/day)
<i>Sedentary men and women</i>	0.8-1.0
<i>Elite male endurance athletes</i>	1.6
<i>Moderate intensity endurance athletes</i>	1.2
<i>Power sports</i>	1.4-1.7
<i>Resistance athletes (early training)</i>	1.5-1.7
<i>Resistance athletes (steady state)</i>	1.0-1.2

Ex: 60 kg sedentary : 48 g protein

Athlete: Early Training: 102 g

Resistance training: 72 g

# FAT AS A FUEL

Prolonged exercise  
>>20 min

Fat becomes main  
fuel source

Intense activity (e.g.  
sprinting)

Fat is not a major  
source of fuel

Requires more  
oxygen for aerobic  
breakdown (than  
glucose)

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# PRINCIPLES OF NUTRITION FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

1. Eating Schedule
2. Key Nutrients
3. Food Selection
4. Portion Sizes
5. Hydration

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## EATING SCHEDULE



## 2. KEY NUTRIENTS

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# THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE STATES

- The Amount
- The Composition
- The Timing



Affects Sport Performance

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## 3. FOOD SELECTION

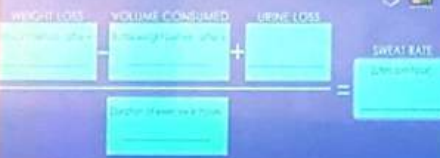
### Why Athletes Should Care About Gut Bacteria

- 
- Better insulin sensitivity
  - Less inflammation
  - Reduced anxiety
  - Quicker recovery
  - Less oxidative stress
  - More endurance
  - Improve energy expenditure

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### HOW TO CALCULATE SWEAT RATE



## 5. HYDRATION

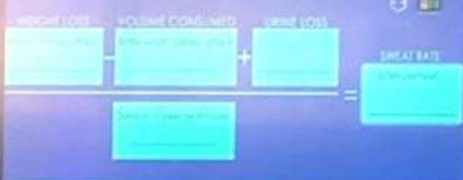


wearable sweat rate sensor



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### HOW TO CALCULATE SWEAT RATE



## 5. HYDRATION



**1 to 3: Hydrated**  
Pale, odourless and plentiful urine is often an indication that you are well hydrated.  
**Keep drinking at the same rate.**

**4 to 6: Mildly dehydrated**  
Slightly darker yellow urine can indicate that you need to drink more water.  
**Drink a glass of water now.**

**7 to 8: Dehydrated**  
Even darker yellow urine is often an indication that you are dehydrated.  
**Drink 2-3 glasses of water now.**



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## 5. HYDRATION

Some more math again

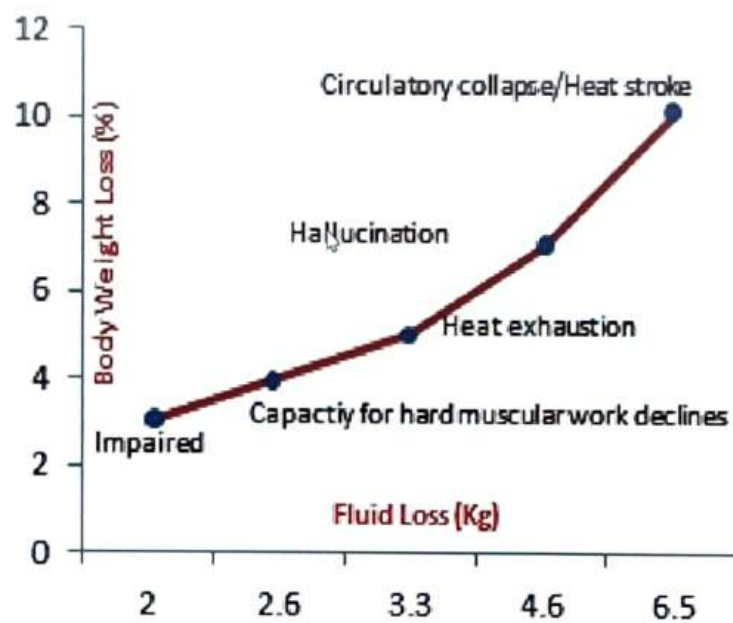
Body weight(Kg) x 30 ml = Water to be consumed per day.



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## EFFECTS OF DEHYDRATION

Effects of Dehydration (Bean 2004:24)



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## BENEFITS OF PRE EXERCISE SNACK

- Prevent Hypoglycemia
- Ward off hunger
- Fuel your muscles with CHO (converts to glycogen in advance)
- Fuel your brain ( CHO enters blood stream)
- Give peace of mind that you are well fuelled.

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## PRE EXERCISE SNACK

- Simple carbohydrate
- Fruit
- Bread and Jam (No butter)
- Dry fruits like raisins
- Rice / Pasta
- Coffee????

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## BENEFIT OF DURING TRAINING/COMPETITION SNACK

- Provide fuel early and often for better performance and recovery.
- Prevent dehydration by fluids.
- If the duration of rest is 1 min, carbohydrate drinks/mouth rinse help in fuelling and faster absorption.

## DURING TRAINING/COMPETITION SNACK

it is not reasonable to assume that the trainee will be able to take a snack break.

Therefore, should periodically sip small amounts of water or sports beverage between event throughout.

Choices (~6–8% carbohydrate)

- Lemon juice with salt and sugar
- Glucose/Honey rinse
- Electrolytes/ Sports Drinks

## WHY CARBOHYDRATE RINSE WORKS?

The carbohydrate receptors in the mouth activate the central nervous system, improving:

- Power output
- Reaction time
- Perceived effort

## BENEFIT OF POST TRAINING/COMPETITION SNACK

- Replace muscle glycogen.
- Replace losses.
- Increase muscle protein synthesis

Ideally, a small snack or a meal is to be consumed within 15-30 mins after the competition.

## POST TRAINING/COMPETITION SNACK

### **Immediate consumption:**

- Fruit milkshakes
- Carbohydrate dense snacks like chikki
- Whey protein fruit shakes
- Adequate fluids.
- Sports Drinks

### **Later**

Meals rich in carbohydrate and protein.

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## HOW A DIET PLAN CAN LOOK LIKE

- Pre Training:** Water and fruit  
**During training:** Lemon water/juice  
**Post training:** Nuts and dry fruits

**Breakfast :** Cereals - Indian breakfast, bread, cornflakes & accompaniments  
Fruits, Fresh juice, Milk, Eggs or Paneer.

**Mid morning:** Fruit/ sandwich

**Lunch:** Cereals - Wheat, Ragi, Brown rice, rice, millets  
Pulses - Dal, Rajma, Channa, sambar  
3 serving of vegetables - Salads, Sabzi, steamed vegetables  
Non veg or paneer or eggs  
Curd, buttermilk, lassi

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## HOW A DIET PLAN CAN LOOK LIKE

**Pre Training:** Snack/ Sweet potato Bread and jam

**During training:** Lemon water/juice

**Post training:** Recovery drink/ milkshakes

### **Dinner:**

Cereals - Wheat, Ragi, Brown rice, rice, millets

Pulses - Dals, sambar

3 serving of vegetables - Salads, Sabzi,  
steamed vegetables

Non veg or paneer or eggs

Curd, buttermilk, lassi

**Bed time :** Turmeric milk

**Note:** This is a sample outline of a diet plan.

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## THE DAY BEFORE THE MATCH

**Goal:** Optimize glycogen stores & hydration

**Meal composition:**

- Focus on carbohydrate-rich meals (6–8 g/kg body weight/day)
- Include lean protein & low-fat options
- Limit high-fiber and spicy foods to avoid stomach discomfort

**Hydration:**

Drink 2.5–3 L water/day  
Add electrolytes if sweating heavily

## MATCH DAY MORNING (3–4 HOURS BEFORE THE BOUT)

**Goal:** Fuel with easily digestible energy and maintain hydration

### **Meal Composition:**

- High in carbohydrates (1–4 g/kg)
- Moderate protein, low fat & fiber

### **Hydration:**

- 400–600 mL of water/electrolyte drink

## 60–90 MINUTES BEFORE MATCH

**Goal:** Top-up energy & prevent hunger during fight

**Snack Options:**

- Banana / Dates / Energy bar
- Small portion of white bread + jam
- Sports drink (carb-electrolyte mix)

## DURING THE MATCH

**Goal:** Maintain hydration & blood glucose

In multiple bouts or long event day:

- Optional: sports drink, gel, or fruit juice
- Sip 150–250 mL sports drink or water every 15–20 min

## IMMEDIATELY POST-MATCH (0-30 MINUTES)

**Goal:** Rapid recovery of glycogen, fluids, and electrolytes

Recovery ratio: 3:1 (Carbs : Protein)

- **Choices:**

- Chocolate milk or recovery shake
- Fruit smoothie with whey + banana
- Yogurt + granola + fruit

**Hydration:** Replace 150% of fluid lost (weigh before & after match to estimate)

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# HOW TO COMPLETE HEALTHY EVENT?

**PRE SNACK**



**HYDRATION  
AND FUELLING**



**RECOVERY**



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# SAFE WEIGHT MANAGEMENT & REHYDRATION STRATEGIES

## COMMON SUPPLEMENTS USED

## HABITS TO DEVELOP

### HABIT #1

A Right eating pattern

### HABIT #3

Adequate training

### HABIT #2

Sound Sleep

### HABIT #4

Required rest and recovery

## 2-3 HOURS AFTER MATCH

**Goal:** Full meal for repair & recovery

Balanced meal with:

- Complex carbs (rice, roti, potato)
- Lean protein (chicken, fish, paneer, tofu)
- Vegetables & fats (butter, ghee)

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## UNDERSTANDING "MAKING WEIGHT"

Kickboxers often need to meet strict weight categories before competition (usually 24–36 hrs before fight).

**The goal:** Reach target weight safely without compromising strength, focus, or recovery.

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## LONG-TERM WEIGHT MANAGEMENT (4–6 WEEKS BEFORE MATCH)

**Goal:** Gradual fat loss, not dehydration.

- ✓ Reduce total body fat slowly – aim for 0.5–1% body weight loss per week.
- ✓ Maintain high protein intake (1.6–2.2 g/kg) to preserve muscle.
- ✓ Emphasize complex carbs, lean protein, vegetables, and hydration.
- ✓ Avoid crash diets – they reduce glycogen, performance, and immune strength.

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## SHORT-TERM "CUT" (LAST 5-7 DAYS BEFORE WEIGH-IN)

Used only when athletes are close to target weight and supervised by a sports dietitian or coach.

### Techniques:

- Slight carb taper (reduces glycogen + water bound to it)
- Lower sodium intake for a few days to reduce fluid retention
- Maintain moderate training intensity
- Use **water-loading method** (carefully): increase water early in the week, then taper 1-2 days before weigh-in
- No long sauna or extreme dehydration – dangerous and performance-impairing

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## POST-WEIGH-IN REHYDRATION (WITHIN 4–6 HRS BEFORE MATCH)

**Goal:** Restore fluids, electrolytes, and glycogen for optimal fight performance.

### Stepwise Approach:

#### 1. Fluids:

- Drink 1.5 L per kg of weight lost during cut
- Use electrolyte solution (e.g., 500–700 mg sodium/L)
- Avoid overhydration (bloating) – sip steadily

#### 2. Carbohydrates:

- 1–1.2 g/kg/hour for 4 hours post weigh-in
- Choose easily digestible foods: rice, bread, banana, honey, oats, sports drinks

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## POST-WEIGH-IN REHYDRATION (WITHIN 4-6 HRS BEFORE MATCH)

### Protein:

- Moderate intake (~20-25 g per meal) to support recovery
- Sources: eggs, whey shake, yogurt, lean chicken

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# UNSAFE "CUTTING" PRACTICES TO AVOID

Diuretics



Use of Laxatives



Water Fasting/  
Restricting Fluids



Training with rubber/plastic suits



Skipping Meals



Increased Exercise



Sauna



## Key Takeaways

- ✓ Plan weight reduction weeks in advance, not days
- ✓ Rehydrate strategically, not excessively
- ✓ Prioritize performance, safety, and mental sharpness over rapid weight loss
- ✓ Work with a qualified sports nutritionist for individualized guidance

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## COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement :** Creatine Monohydrate

**Dosage:**

Loading: 20 g/day (5 g × 4 days) for 5–7 days

Maintenance: 3–5 g/day

**Benefits :**

- ✓ Increases muscle power, explosiveness, and strength
- ✓ Improves repeated high-intensity performance
- ✓ Aids muscle recovery

**Risk and limitation:**

Temporary water retention

Not ideal just before weigh-in

Some may feel bloated

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Beta-Alanine

**Dosage:**

3–6 g/day divided doses (with meals) for 4+ weeks

**Benefits:**

- ✓ Buffers lactic acid → delays fatigue
- ✓ Enhances endurance during rounds

**Possible Risks:**

Can cause tingling (paresthesia)  
Must be taken long-term for effect

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Caffeine

## **Dosage:**

3–6 mg/kg body weight 30–60 min before match

## **Benefits**

- ✓ Boosts alertness, focus & reaction time
- ✓ Reduces perceived exertion

## **Possible Risks:**

Excess can cause jitteriness, dehydration, anxiety, or insomnia

Avoid if sensitive

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Electrolyte Drinks

**Dosage:** As needed: 500–1000 mL/hr training  
Contains Na 400–700 mg/L

## **Benefits:**

- ✓ Prevents dehydration, cramps, and fatigue
- ✓ Replenishes sodium & potassium

## **Possible Risks:**

Overuse may cause bloating  
Some contain excess sugar

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## COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Omega-3 Fatty Acids (Fish Oil)

**Dosage:** 1–3 g EPA+DHA per day

### **Benefits:**

- ✓ Anti-inflammatory & joint protection
- ✓ Supports recovery and heart health

### **Possible risks:**

Can thin blood (avoid close to fight if cuts are a concern)  
Possible fishy aftertaste

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Vitamin D3

**Dosage:** 1000–2000 IU/day (check blood levels)

**Benefits:**

- ✓ Supports muscle function & immune health
- ✓ May aid bone strength

**Possible Risks:**

Risk of overdose if taken excessively  
Needs lab monitoring

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement** :BCAAs / EAAs

**Dosage** : 5–10 g before or during training

## **Benefits:**

- ✓ Reduce muscle breakdown during long sessions
- ✓ May reduce perceived soreness

## **Possible Risk:**

Limited benefit if protein intake is already adequate

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement :** Beetroot Juice (Nitrates)

**Dosage:** 300–500 mL (or 6–8 mmol nitrate) 2–3 hrs before match

## Benefits:

- ✓ Improves oxygen efficiency & endurance
- ✓ Natural performance enhancer

## Possible Risks:

GI discomfort in some  
Variable individual response

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# COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Multivitamin (Athlete-Specific)

**Dosage:** Once daily (as per label)

## Benefits:

- ✓ Covers micronutrient gaps
- ✓ Supports energy metabolism & immunity

## Possible Risks:

Overuse unnecessary if diet is balanced  
Risk of excess fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E, K)

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# PEAK PERFORMANCE PYRAMID



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## COMMON SUPPLEMENTS IN KICKBOXING

**Supplement:** Whey Protein

**Dosage:** 20–30 g post-training or as per protein needs (1.6–2.2 g/kg/day total)

**Benefits :**

- ✓ Promotes muscle recovery and repair
- ✓ Convenient protein source
- ✓ Aids lean mass maintenance during weight cuts

**Risk and limitation:**

Possible lactose intolerance in some  
Not a substitute for whole food

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# Decision Tree

Reference: IOC Consensus Statement

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