



# GYMNASTICS



## Athlete Training Guide



## Week 1

### Nutrition Focus

Eating right is important to your health and your sports performance. Eating right can be easy and enjoyable because there are many delicious healthy choices. Your goal is to eat at least 5 total fruits and vegetables every day! Here some examples of meals you can have for breakfast, lunch, and dinner that are packed with fruits and vegetables:

- **Breakfast:** Try making a parfait! Start with some yogurt and add in granola, nuts, and your favorite fruits and you have a quick and healthy breakfast!
- **Lunch:** Swap out your peanut butter and jelly sandwich for a peanut butter and banana sandwich. Not only will this satisfy a fruit serving, but it is also lower in fat, calories, and sodium. Add in a side of baby carrots for a well-rounded meal.
- **Dinner:** At dinnertime add in a side salad to get a wide variety of vegetables.

### Training

1. Warm-up
  - a. Walk for 5 minutes
  - b. Stretch
    - i. Arm Circles: 30 seconds forward, 30 seconds backwards. Start with small circles and slowly make them bigger and bigger
    - ii. Jumping Jacks: 20 regular jumping jacks
    - iii. High Knees: Jog in place while raising your knees to your waistline for 30 seconds.
    - iv. Butt kicks: 25 meters. Kick your heels back as far as you can! Try and touch your heels to your bottom.
    - v. Trunk Twists: Stand with feet slightly wider than shoulder width apart. Without moving your legs twist side to side at the waist turning your upper body as far to each side as possible.
2. Training
  - a. Working on strength and conditioning
    - i. Air Squats: 2 sets of 15 repetitions. Start with your feet shoulder width apart, bend your knees and lower your bottom until your knees are bent to 90 degrees (pretend like you are sitting down in a chair). Straighten your legs and repeat.
    - ii. Shuffle: For 30 seconds, shuffle from side to side for 30 seconds. If possible, shuffle at least 10 ft to each side.



- iii. Run forwards and backwards: Run forward 10 feet and then run backwards 10 feet. Repeat this 3 times.
  - iv. Jump Squats: 2 sets of 10 repetitions. Perform the squat exercise, but when you stand back up, jump!
  - v. Calf Raises: Stand up straight, then push through the balls of your feet and raise your heel until you are standing on your toes. Then lower slowly back to the start.
  - vi. Repeat this circuit 2-3 times
3. Cool Down
- a. Jog/Walk for 5 minutes.
  - b. Stretch
    - i. Standing Hamstring Stretch: Stand with your feet hip-width apart, knees slightly bent, arms by your sides. Exhale as you bend forward at the hips, lowering your head toward floor. Hold for 30 - 45 seconds. Bend your knees and roll up when you're done. Repeat 2-3 times.
    - ii. Standing Quad Stretch: Bend your left knee and use your left hand to pull your left foot toward your butt. Keep your knees together. If you need to, put one hand on a wall for balance. Hold for 30-45 seconds & repeat on the other leg.
    - iii. Shoulder Stretch: Take your right arm straight across your chest and curl the left hand around your elbow, gently pulling on the right arm to deepen the stretch in the shoulders.
    - iv. Calf Stretch: Stand facing a wall a bit more than arm's length away. Put one foot forward with a bent knee, and the other one back with a straight knee. Feet should point directly forward. Using your arms to brace yourself against the wall, keep your belly firm and lean until you feel the stretch in the calf muscle of your back leg. Try to keep both feet flat. Hold it for 20 to 30 seconds on each side.



## Week 2

### **Nutrition Focus**

Now you know fruits and vegetables are important for your health, but sometimes it can be difficult to know what other foods you should be eating. Here is a list of the other food groups and some great choices in each group that make up a healthy meal or diet.

- Grains:
  - Brown or Wild, or Unpolished Rice
  - Oatmeal
  - Whole Grain Bread & Pasta
- Dairy:
  - Low-fat or Skim Milk
  - Low-fat Cheese
  - Low-fat, unsweetened yogurt (watch the sugar!)
  - Cottage Cheese
- Protein:
  - Lean Meats
  - Eggs
  - Fish (frozen, fresh or canned)
  - Nuts

### **Training**

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    - v. Trunk Twists: Stand with feet slightly wider than shoulder width apart. Without moving your legs twist side to side at the waist turning your upper body as far to each side as possible.



## 2. Training

### a. Working on body skills

- i. Scale: Stand on one leg, lift a leg behind at a 45-degree angle or higher and hold. Hold for as long as you can. Repeat on each leg.
- ii. Side to Side Jump: While standing, start jumping side to side over a line. Do it at your pace for 30 seconds.
- iii. Ball Toss: Grab a ball and toss it in the air. Catch the ball, the repeat for 30 seconds
- iv. Vault: Keep both feet on the ground jump as far as you can and stick (execute a controlled landing with feet together without moving for three seconds). Repeat this move 5 times.
- v. Repeat this circuit 2-3 times.

## 3. Cool Down

### a. Jog/Walk for 5 minutes.

### b. Stretch

- i. Standing Hamstring Stretch: Stand with your feet hip-width apart, knees slightly bent, arms by your sides. Exhale as you bend forward at the hips, lowering your head toward floor. Hold for 30 - 45 seconds. Bend your knees and roll up when you're done. Repeat 2-3 times.
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## Week 3

### Nutrition Focus

Now that you know what types of foods to eat here is how to build a healthy plate for a meal or for a snack.

- Watch the amounts of food you put on your plate
- Save junk food like desserts, chips and sodas for special occasions.
- Make half of your plate fruits or vegetables (see diagram below).
- Fill the other half with foods like whole grains, dairy, and protein.
- Add more fruits and vegetables to your meals.
- Keep snacks healthy and small.



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2. Training
  - a. Working on Strength and conditioning
    - i. Pushups: In order to perform a legal push-up, the athlete must lower their head and upper body to the floor, touch the chest to the floor, and return to the starting position. The athlete's back must remain straight. Pushups may be modified by placing your knees on the ground. Do this for 30 seconds.



- ii. Sit-ups: Athlete starts in supine position with knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Athlete keeps arms folded across their chest with hands grasping opposite shoulders. To perform a complete sit-up, an athlete must touch one of their elbows to the thighs or knees. Do this for 30 seconds.
- iii. Air Squats: Start with your feet shoulder width apart, bend your knees and lower your bottom until your knees are bent to 90 degrees (pretend like you are sitting down in a chair). Straighten your legs and repeat. Do this for 30 seconds.
- iv. Bunny Hops: Stand and start jumping for 30 seconds. Start with your knees slightly bent, jump, land with knees slightly bent, and jump again.
- v. Jog and walk: If weather is permitting, jog for 20 seconds, then walk for 10 seconds. After the 10 second walk, immediately start jogging again for 20 seconds. Repeat this 3 times in a row.
- vi. Repeat circuit 2-3 times.

### 3. Cool Down

- a. Jog/Walk for 5 minutes.
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  - i. Standing Hamstring Stretch: Stand with your feet hip-width apart, knees slightly bent, arms by your sides. Exhale as you bend forward at the hips, lowering your head toward floor. Hold for 30 - 45 seconds. Bend your knees and roll up when you're done. Repeat 2-3 times.
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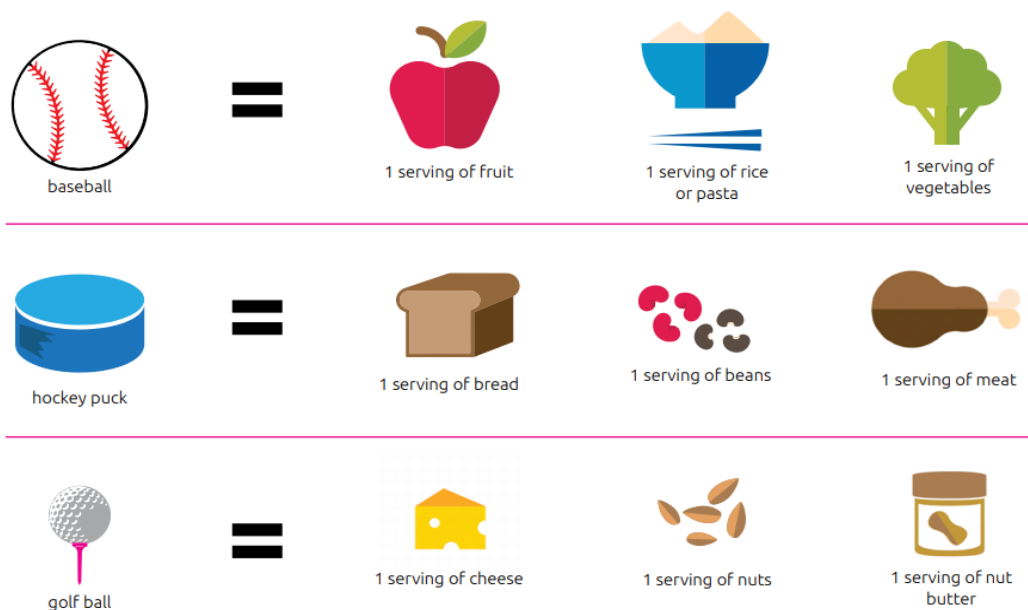


## Week 4

### Nutrition Focus

The amount of food you eat is one of the most important parts of building a healthy eating style. Choosing smaller portions can help you stay within your calories needs. Be aware of the amount of what you eat and drink during meals and snacks. Some commonly eaten foods can provide more calories than we realize. You can cut down on calories by choosing a smaller portion.

Here is a fun way to remember how much to eat when you have a serving. The size of sports equipment on the left is about the same size as one serving of the foods on the right:



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## 2. Training

### a. Working on Strength and conditioning

- i. Tuck Jump: While standing, jump and try to get your knees to your chest. Do this jump to the best of your ability 10 times.
- ii. Planks: Begin in the plank position, face down with your forearms and toes on the floor. Your elbows are directly under your shoulders and your forearms are facing forward. Your back is straight and flat. Hold for 15 seconds.
- iii. Lunges: 10 repetitions with each leg. Stand upright, and step forward with one foot. The toes of both feet should be facing straight ahead. Lower your back knee towards the floor, then push back up to the starting position.
- iv. Jumping Jacks: Do jumping jacks for one minute.
- v. Side Shuffle: Stand with knees slightly bent and shuffle in one direction for 10 meters. Once finished, stop and return back to your starting point by shuffling in the other direction.
- vi. Repeat circuit 2-3 times

## 3. Cool Down

### a. Jog/Walk for 5 minutes.

### b. Stretch

- i. Standing Hamstring Stretch: Stand with your feet hip-width apart, knees slightly bent, arms by your sides. Exhale as you bend forward at the hips, lowering your head toward floor. Hold for 30 - 45 seconds. Bend your knees and roll up when you're done. Repeat 2-3 times.
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## Week 5

### Nutrition Focus

Snacking is a great way to make sure you are full of energy. It is important to keep your snacks healthy. Here are a few ideas for tasty snacks that are packed with fruits and vegetables.

- Apple slices dipped in peanut butter
- Low-fat unsweetened yogurt with berries
- Low-fat cottage cheese with tomatoes or fruit
- Carrots or peppers dipped in hummus
- Celery topped with peanut butter and raisins

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    - iii. Run forwards and backwards: Run forward 10 feet and then run backwards 10 feet. Repeat this 3 times.
    - iv. Jump Squats: 2 sets of 10 repetitions. Perform the squat exercise, but when you stand back up, jump!



- v. Calf Raises: Stand up straight, then push through the balls of your feet and raise your heel until you are standing on your toes. Then lower slowly back to the start.
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### 3. Cool Down

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## Week 6

### Nutrition Focus

Water is another important fuel for sports and for life. Drinking the right amount of water is important for your health and can also help your athletic performance. Your goal is to drink 5 bottles of water every day! Your water bottle should be 16-20oz.

Water helps to keep your body working properly. You lose water when you go to the bathroom, sweat, exercise or even breathe. If you lose too much water without drinking more, your body won't work as well. This is called dehydration. Signs of Dehydration include: •

- You feel thirsty
- You are tired or sluggish
- You have a headache
- Your mouth is dry
- Your urine is dark yellow or brown

**Staying hydrated is easy when you know the best times to drink water!** Use the guide below to help you reach your goal every day.





## Training

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- iii. **Shoulder Stretch:** Take your right arm straight across your chest and curl the left hand around your elbow, gently pulling on the right arm to deepen the stretch in the shoulders.
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## Week 7

### Nutrition Focus

There are many beverage options available, but some of them are healthier choices than others.

- Sodas, energy drinks, and sports drinks are NOT good beverage choices because they have extra sugar and can make you gain weight. Energy drinks and many sodas also have caffeine. Caffeine does not help you stay hydrated.
- 1. Moderate amounts of low-fat milk and 100% juice are also good choices in small amounts. Low-fat milk and 100% fruit juice are good choices with meals. Keep serving sizes small. No more than 3 cups of milk and 1 cup of juice per day.
- 2. Water is the best choice for a beverage! Drink water every day! If you like flavored drinks, try sparkling water or add a few pieces of fruit into your water bottle.

### Training

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grasping opposite shoulders. To perform a complete sit-up, an athlete must touch one of their elbows to the thighs or knees. Do this for 30 seconds.

- iii. Air Squats: Start with your feet shoulder width apart, bend your knees and lower your bottom until your knees are bent to 90 degrees (pretend like you are sitting down in a chair). Straighten your legs and repeat. Do this for 30 seconds.
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- v. Jog and walk: If weather is permitting, jog for 20 seconds, then walk for 10 seconds. After the 10 second walk, immediately start jogging again for 20 seconds. Repeat this 3 times in a row.
- vi. Repeat circuit 2-3 times.

### 3. Cool Down

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## Week 8

### Nutrition Focus

Now that you have learned what food and drinks you should be consuming, let's look at how you can tell what's in the products you are buying. All packaged food and drinks come with a nutrition label meant to tell you exactly what you're consuming. Understanding what's in the foods you eat helps you make healthier choices.

Important parts of a food label:

- **Serving size:** Always start with the serving size amount, the rest of the information on the label is based on that. Pay attention to the serving size when you are preparing your meal. For example, if you buy a bag of pretzels and the label says that 1 serving is 15 pretzels, be sure to limit yourself to that amount.
- **Calories:** A calorie is a way to measure how much energy a food provides to your body. The number on the food label shows how many calories are in one serving of that food. The number of calories a person needs depends on their age, weight, gender, and activity level. Visit <https://www.lifespanfitness.com/fitness/resources/calories-calculator> to see how many calories you should consume each day.
- **Fat:** Our bodies need a little fat every day because it is an important source of energy. Unsaturated fats, which are found in vegetable oils, nuts and fish, are often called “good fats” because they don’t raise cholesterol levels. Saturated fats and trans fats are considered “bad” so you want to try and avoid products high in trans fats.
- **Fiber:** Fiber is important for your digestion. Fiber has no calories and can help you feel full. Ideally you should select foods that have at least 3 grams of fiber per serving.
- **Added Sugars:** An added sugar is a sugar type that doesn’t occur naturally within the product and has been added to sweeten the packaged food item. Try to avoid products with added sugars or look for smaller numbers.

<b>Nutrition Facts:</b>	
Serving size: 1oz (28g)	
Servings per container: about 14	
Amount/Serving	% DV*
Calories 150	Fat Cal. 80
<b>Total Fat 8g</b>	<b>12%</b>
Sat. Fat 1g	6%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol 0mg</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium 5mg</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Carb. 12g</b>	<b>3%</b>
Dietary Fiber 3g	12%
Sugars 10g	
<b>Protein 6g</b>	
Vitamin A 2%	Vitamin C 5%
Calcium 3%	Iron 6%
<i>*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 Calorie diet.</i>	

**INGREDIENTS:** Cranberries (Sugar, Sunflower Oil), Dried Mango (Sugar, Citric Acid) [product of Thailand], Roasted Almonds (Sunflower Oil), Walnuts, Pumpkin Seeds [product of China].

**ALLERGY INFORMATION:** Contains Tree Nuts (Almonds, Walnuts). Manufactured in a facility that processes peanuts/tree nuts. Our products may contain occasional pit, shell pieces, and other naturally occurring objects.

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