



# Hydration Tips for Student Athletes

## Hydration:

The body is over 60% water. Losing even a small amount of that fluid, 2% of body weight, can result in dehydration. This can increase effort, heart rate, and risk of overheating, as well as impair performance and cause fatigue. Monitoring urine color is an easy way to assess hydration status; it should be pale yellow.

**Best choice:** Water for daily hydration, both on and off the field.

### Other options:

- Low-fat milk provides carbohydrates, electrolytes, protein, calcium, and vitamin D. It is best with meals or as a recovery drink. Athletes need three servings of calcium-rich foods each day.
- Sports drinks are a good option when practicing or competing at a high intensity for longer than an hour. They contain carbohydrates and electrolytes to provide energy and promote hydration. They are especially important during hot, humid conditions when athletes are losing significant amounts of fluids.
- 100% juice is a small portion of fluid sources once a day. The best time for juice is with a meal or snack, but not during exercise as it can cause stomach and gastrointestinal upset. For athletes watching their weight, fruits and water would be a better hydration option.

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