

A photograph of two female rowers in a boat on a body of water. They are both wearing white athletic tank tops with a patterned design, white visors, and sunglasses. They are smiling and clapping their hands together in a celebratory gesture. The background is a bright, slightly hazy blue sky and water. The text 'FUEL FOR PERFORMANCE' is overlaid in a large, orange, italicized font across the center of the image.

# *FUEL FOR PERFORMANCE*

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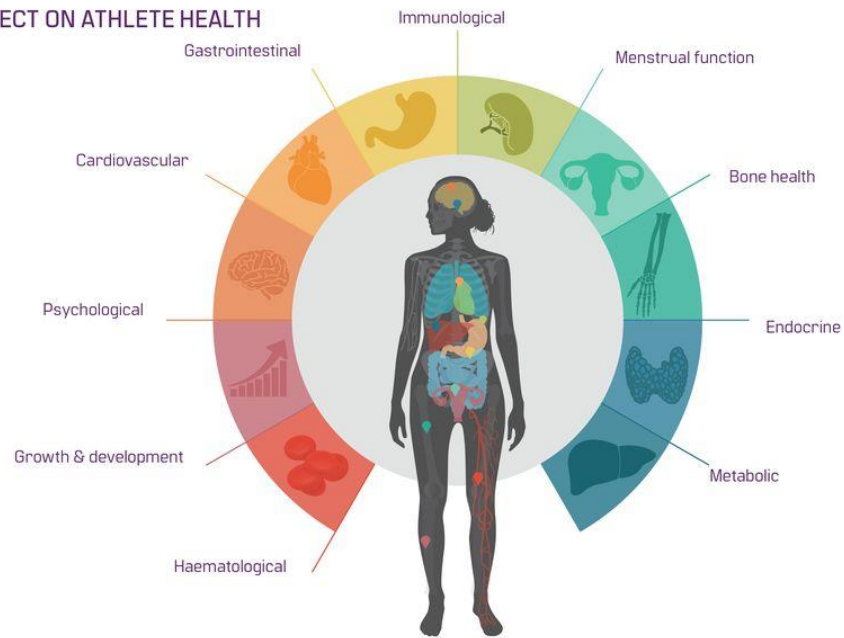
(MSc Nutrition)

Registered Nutritionist

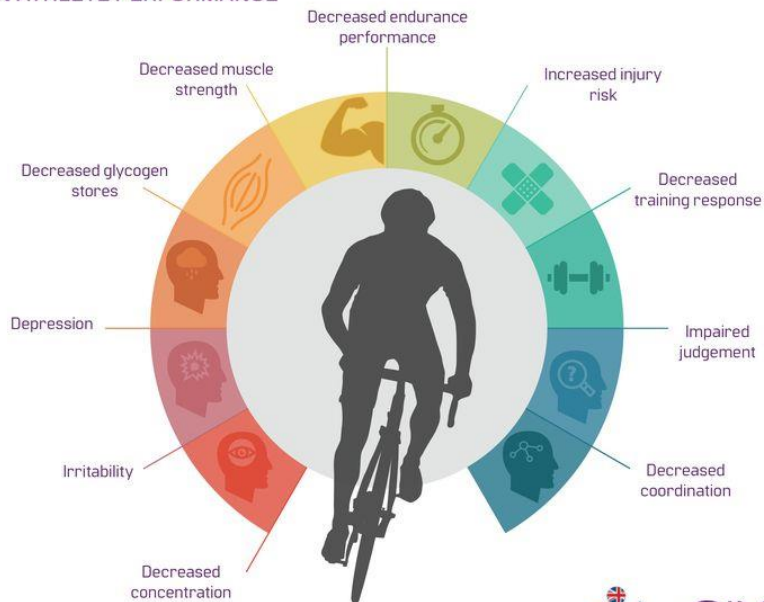
# Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S)

- RED-S was first introduced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2014.
- RED-S is a syndrome that encompasses a myriad of negative impacts caused by energy deficiency for both male and female athletes.
- RED-S results in an impairment of athlete's health and performance
- The underlying factor of this syndrome is caused by low energy availability.

## EFFECT ON ATHLETE HEALTH



## EFFECT ON ATHLETE PERFORMANCE



Energy availability is described as the energy available to the body (from food) after the costs of exercise has been accounted for. It is the fuel (energy) available for physiological processes within the body.



Energy available from food (kCal)

Cost of exercise (kCal)

Energy Available for  
normal bodily processes  
( $\text{kCal} * \text{kg}^{-1} * \text{FFM}^{-1} * \text{day}^{-1}$ )

## When 'LOW' EA?<sup>2,6-8</sup>

Green = High EA for mass gain and growth  $\geq 45$  kcal/kg FFM/day

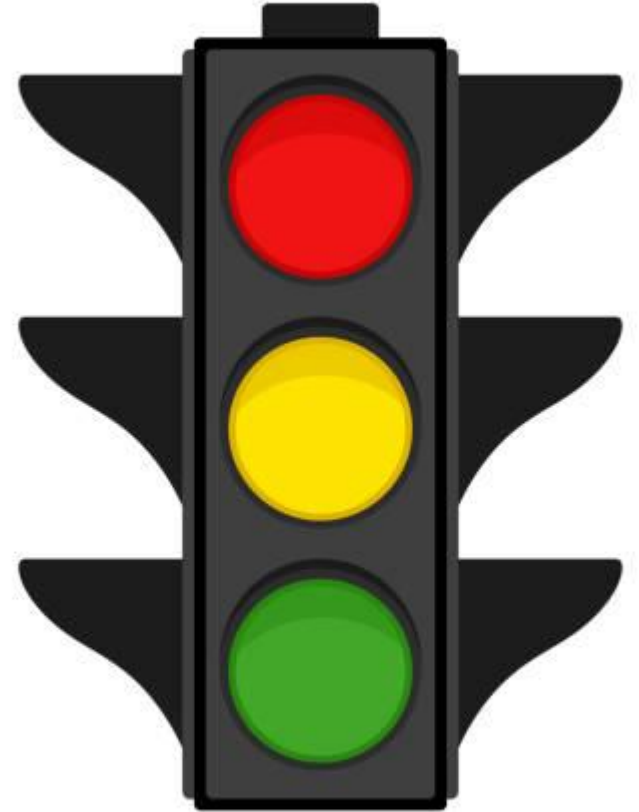
- Athletes consuming sufficient kcal for the energy expended.

Orange = reduced EA for body mass/fat loss = 30–45 kcal/kg FFM/day

- Athletes are not consuming sufficient energy.

Red = LEA causing health implications  $\leq 30$  kcal/kg FFM/day)

- Athletes are not consuming sufficient energy.



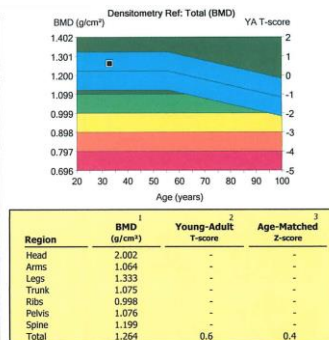


# Rowers @ high risk for LEA

- Elite rowers high training load; average 19.8 h/w
- Unintentional under fuelling
- Perceived expectations and influences from our social environment



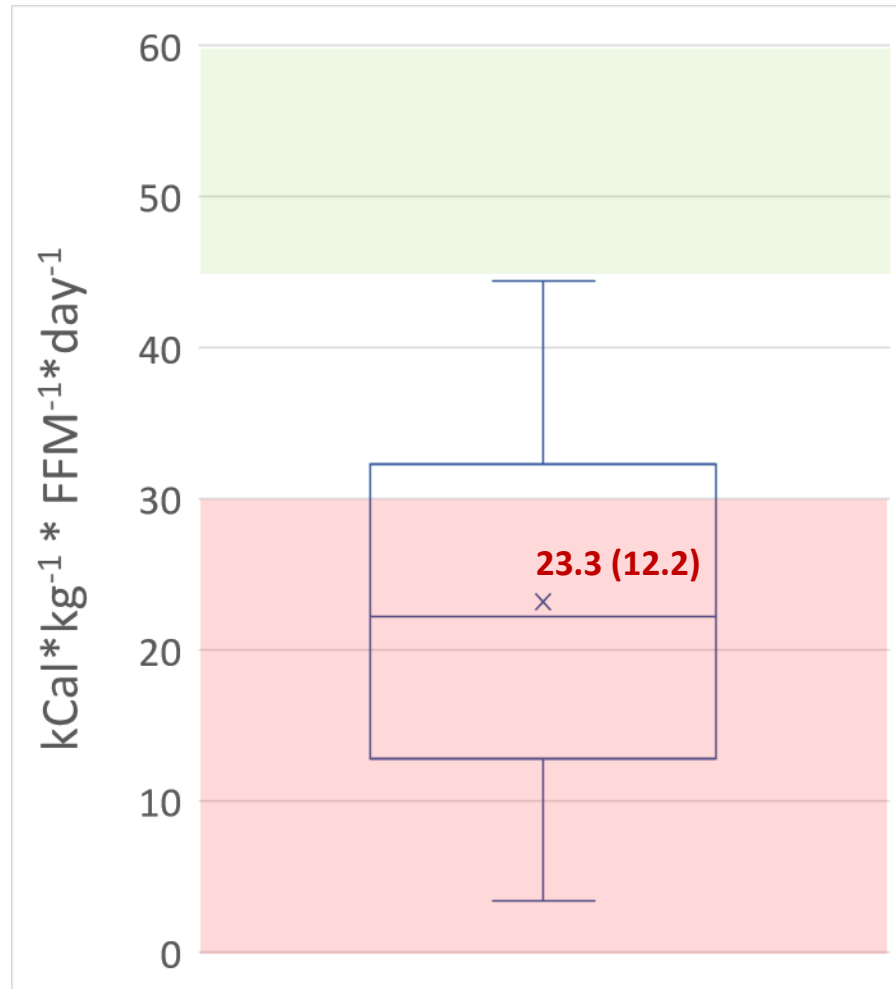
# Screening for Energy Availability



# Addressed the barriers and challenges:

1. Increase food intake when the intensity or duration of training increases.
2. Awareness of changes of energy requirements from day to day and across the season. *“If you follow the same basic nutrition plan by eating the same thing every day your energy availability could be inadequate for some days.”*
3. Get an idea of the energy cost of your training sessions. *“Most people I work with underestimate the cost of training and tell me “I don’t have to eat for this session as it was only a .....”. Because you drive your car only a small distance, this doesn’t mean that you don’t have to fill it up with petrol!”*
4. Be aware what’s done outside your training. Not factoring the additional energy required from these activities could lead to unintentional low energy availability.
5. Burst myths; don't assume that you lose weight when you under fuel. This is NOT the case as our bodies are smartly designed to defend against any perceived starvation by slowing down your metabolism.

# Results 2018



	EA <30	EA $\geq 30$	<i>p</i> -value	Effect Size
	n = 16 (64%)	n = 9 (36%)		
Age (years)	24.4 $\pm$ 2.5	25.5 $\pm$ 3.0	0.34	0.5
Height (cm)	179.0 $\pm$ 5.3	177.4 $\pm$ 5.7	0.49	0.3
Weight (kg)	77.7 $\pm$ 5.3	72.0 $\pm$ 5.9	0.03*	1.1
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	24.2 $\pm$ 1.4	22.9 $\pm$ 1.0	0.01*	1.1
Skinfolds (mm)	85.6 $\pm$ 13.4	72.5 $\pm$ 13.4	0.03*	1
Body fat (%)	24.9 $\pm$ 2.5	20.5 $\pm$ 4.0	0.01*	1.7
FFM (g)	57.9 $\pm$ 3.8	57.0 $\pm$ 4.2	0.6	0.2
Years Elite Team	3.1 $\pm$ 2.2	3.3 $\pm$ 3.0	0.86	0.1
Energy Availability	15.5 $\pm$ 6.7	36.8 $\pm$ 5.6		



# Small changes can make a big difference



## **Breakfast:**

Porridge + milk

**Plus:** maple syrup + 1 tsp peanut butter + banana + walnuts

## **Recovery**

Whey protein + water

**Plus:** milk + piece of toast + jam



## **Lunch:**

Wrap + ham + salad

**Plus:** change the wrap for toast or add beans + glass of juice

## **PM**

Piece of fruit

**Plus:** milk + peanut butter + banana (smoothie)



## **Dinner:**

$\frac{1}{4}$  plate carbohydrate  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  plate protein  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  plate vegetables

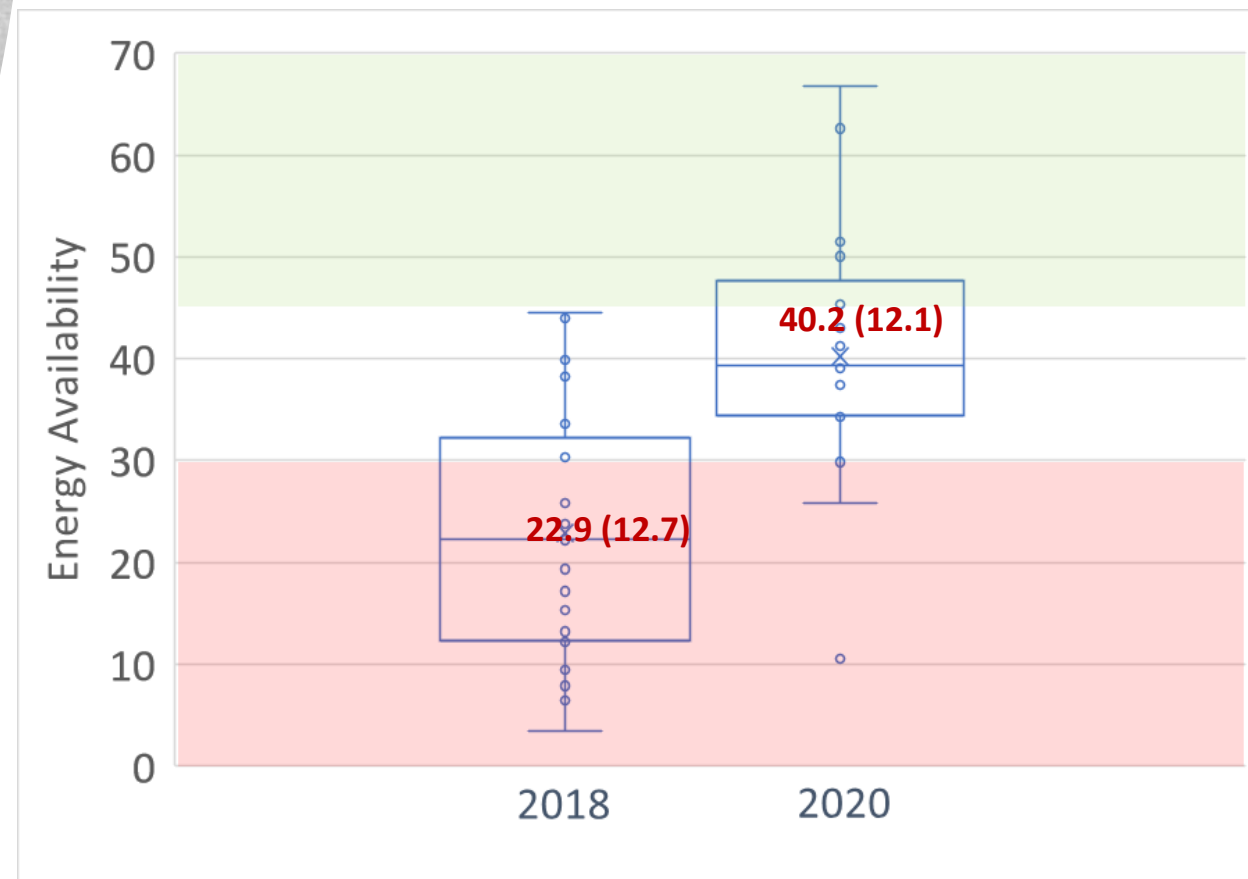
## **Plus:**

fruit  
crumble  
+ yoghurt

## Gary Hay – Women's coach RNZ (2021)



# The women were re-assessed in 2020



Significant EA improvement ( $P < 0.05$ )

# Summary of the results 2018 vs 2020

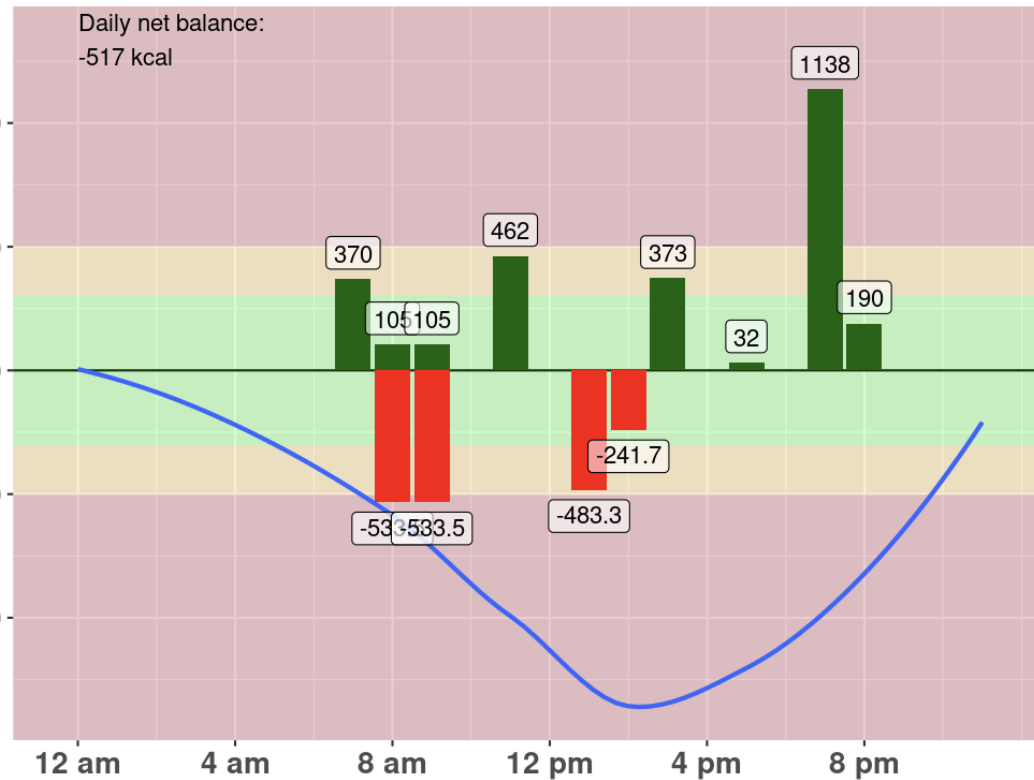
- EA improvement ( $P < 0.05$ )
- Reduced GI symptom score ( $P < 0.05$ )
- Significant increase in lean mass ( $P < 0.001$ )

	2018	2020	p-value	ES
	n=21	n=21		
Age (years)	25.2 ± 5.8	27.2 ± 2.5		
Height (cm)	178.5 ± 5.5	178.5 ± 5.4		
Weight (kg)	75.7 ± 5.8	75.1 ± 5.7	0.33	0.1
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.7 ± 1.2	23.6 ± 1.4	0.37	0.1
Skinfolds (mm)	81.1 ± 15.2	71.2 ± 12.1	0.001*	0.6
Body fat (%)	23.2 ± 4.0	21.9 ± 3.5	0.06	0.3
FFM (kg)	57.8 ± 3.5	59.2 ± 3.5	0.002*	0.4
<b>Lean mass (kg)</b>	<b>54.7 ± 3.4</b>	<b>56.3 ± 3.4</b>	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Years Elite Team	3.6 ± 2.4	5.5 ± 2.6		
<b>EA (kcal*kg<sup>-1</sup>/FFM*day<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>22.9 ± 12.7</b>	<b>40.2 ± 12.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.001*</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>BMD Z-score</b>	<b>1.6 ± 0.6</b>	<b>1.6 ± 0.6</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0</b>
LEAF-Q	n=17	n=18		
<b>overall score (cut off ≥8)</b>	<b>9.1 ± 4.8</b>	<b>6.3 ± 3.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Injury score	2.1 ± 1.9	2.0 ± 1.8	0.7	0
Gastro-intestinal symptom score	2.6 ± 1.6	1.5 ± 1.5	0.02*	0.7
Menstrual cycle / contraception	3.8 ± 2.9	3.4 ± 2.9	0.81	0.1

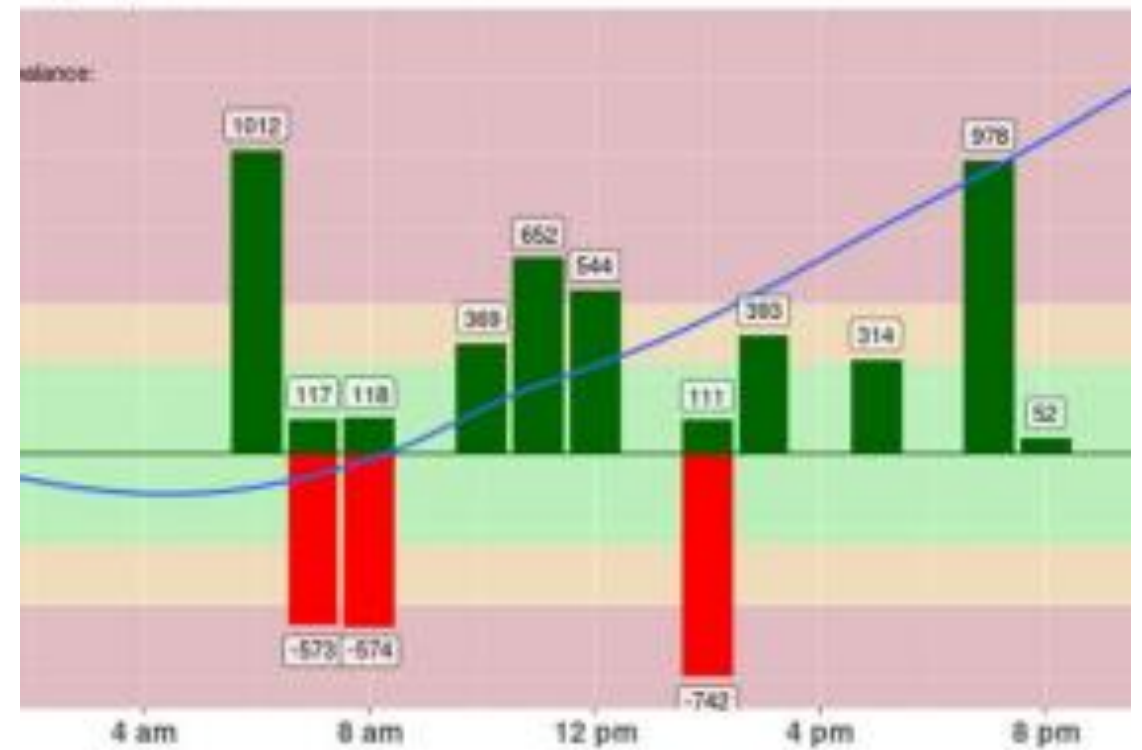


# Focus on within day energy balance - example

Exercise shown in red, food intake shown in green  
Blue line indicates hourly energy balance



Exercise shown in red, food intake shown in green  
Blue line indicates hourly energy balance



# Pre training meal

**Your pre-training meal depends on how much time you have to digest your meal**

**Should contain carbohydrate and protein**





## More than 3 hours before training





## Less than 1 hour before training





**Brooke Francis**

**Silver Olympic Medal**

**Winner Tokyo**

**Olympic Games W2X**

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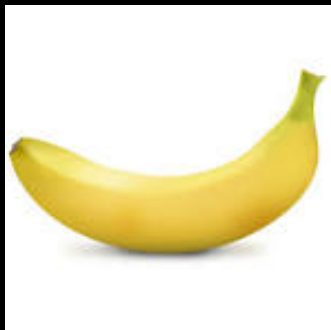






# What do you eat during training

Time	Recommendations
< 1 hour	Water <b>OR</b> Carbohydrate snack/drink for a high intensity session
1-2 hours	30-60 g of carbohydrate per hour



Banana



Fruit leather



onigiri



**What do you  
eat after  
training?**

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## 4 R's for Recovery

1. Replenish glycogen with carbs  
1 g/kg carbohydrate within 30 min
2. REPAIR tissues with protein  
0.3 g/kg of good quality protein
3. REHYDRATE with fluids and electrolytes  
1L/kg lost with sodium/carbs
4. RE-INFORCE immune system  
All the above + diet rich in fruit / vege & variety



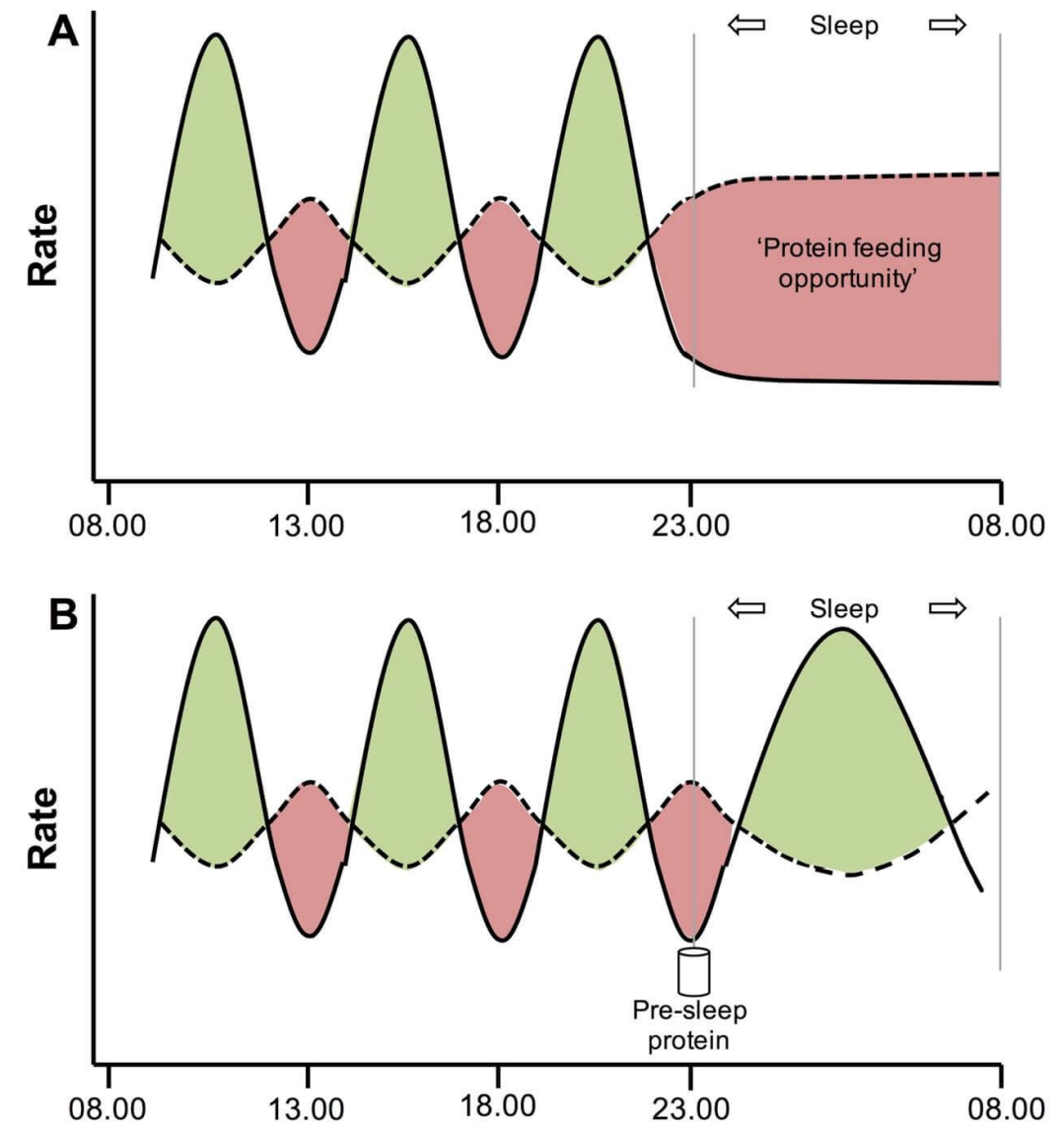
# 1. Replenish



## 2. Repair your muscles

Muscle is stimulated to increase its protein synthetic rates for up to **24 hours after a workout**.

**Aim to spread protein over meals and snacks consumed over the day**



Trommelen *et al*, 2016  
[Strongerbyscience.com](http://Strongerbyscience.com)  
[Nutritiontactics.com](http://Nutritiontactics.com)



# 20 g Protein



**525 ML  
MILK**



**300 ML  
YOGHURT**



**3 WHOLE  
EGGS**



**300 G  
LENTILS**



**75 G  
EDAM CHEESE**



**90 G  
CHICKEN**



**80 G GROUND  
BEEF (RAW)**



**60 G LEAN BEEF  
(RAW)**



**95G LAMB  
(RAW)**



**95G PORK FILLET  
(RAW)**



# 3. Rehydrate



## Hydration Tips

Properly hydrated	1	
	2	
	3	
Dehydrated Increase fluid intake (monitor losses)	4	
	5	
	6	
Severely dehydrated Discuss with your doctor	7	
	8	

Urine color



Thirst



Body mass

KO TĀTAU TE KAPA O AOTEAROA  
WE ARE THE NEW ZEALAND TEAM



### Aim to replace 150% of the fluid lost during training

Weight before training	70.0 kg
Weight after training	69.6 kg
Fluid drank during training	0.5 kg (ml)
Total fluid lost	0.9 kg

To fully replace fluid losses before the next training session you need to drink  $0.9 \times 1.5 = 1.35$  ml before the next training session



**Tom Mackintosh**

**Gold Olympic Medal**

**Winner Tokyo**

**Olympic Games M8+**

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Optimal Nutrient timing

Excellent quality of food

Fuelling according to the work you are doing by adding snacks throughout the day

Optimise protein pulsing by avoiding long periods without food (more than 4+ hours)