

Three Weeks On SmartPoints: Let's Talk FOOD! (Part 2 of 5)

When they asked me to help beta test "Beyond The Scale," the first dozen questions running through my head were all about the food: "How many points is..." or "I wonder if fruit is still free?" or "How many points is a Cosmo?!" Sound familiar? Because our love of food, or at least our relationship with food, is what brought us to Weight Watchers in the first place. So the food part is pretty important!

food & SmartPoints

SMARTPOINTS Q&A

SMARTPOINTS AT A GLANCE

- 1 A new formula**
The SmartPoints system redefines healthy eating by making protein-rich foods a better value and foods higher in sugar and saturated fat more "expensive."
- 2 daily smartpoints**
Target You have a daily Target based on your height, weight, gender, and age. You'll get this Target online or in your Meeting.
- 3 weekly smartpoints**
You have Weekly SmartPoints, which are based on this daily Target. Weekly SmartPoints add flexibility to your plan. You can choose to use them or not!
- 4 Tracking** Tracking is still an integral part of this plan. You can use your online tools and your Mobile app (for subscribers).

Why change PointsPlus? It works!
While the PointsPlus formula went farther than calories to factor in different nutrients, like calories it only focused on a food's impact on your weight. With SmartPoints, you can not only pinpoint the choices that help you lose weight, but you shift to a healthier pattern of eating overall.



How does SmartPoints help you eat more healthfully?

Many studies have confirmed the benefits of eating less sugar and saturated fat and more protein. On the new plan, foods that are higher in sugar and/or saturated fat are higher in SmartPoints, foods higher in protein are lower in SmartPoints. You're steered toward healthier choices and away from the less healthy.

But fruit has sugar; how can it still be 0 SmartPoints value?
Yes, there is naturally occurring sugar in fruit (and vegetables), but because whole fruit is full of vitamins, minerals, and fiber, we want you to eat it. So it stays zero. (It's now zero in recipes, too!)

Why focus on protein?
Protein helps you feel full, for starters. And this crucial nutrient helps repair tissues, maintain lean muscle, and aid hormone and enzyme function. Lean meat and poultry, fish, and plant-based proteins are great choices.

Which foods are changing?
You can probably guess what's going up: fried foods, pastries, sugar-sweetened beverages. But lean proteins that are lower in unhealthy fats—like chicken breast, tuna, and firm tofu—will be lower in

"I'm eating more fruit and making better decisions. I can do it!"
—Lisa

SmartPoints
And about 40 percent of foods haven't changed.

My coffee drink is 8 SmartPoints value! What's going on?
SmartPoints clue you in to hidden sugar and saturated fats without having to look at a food label. You'll be nudged toward healthier choices, which will easily begin to become second nature. But if that latte is still what you want? It's all a matter of trade-offs—and using Weekly SmartPoints!

Can I just stick with PointsPlus?
No, take the plunge! We are confident you'll be able to make it your own, and be happy with the results. What's more, our materials and products will be switching to SmartPoints, so we'd like all members to be on the same page!

What happened to Power Foods and the Good Health Guidelines?
Because healthy choices are now embedded into the SmartPoints formula, you no longer need to focus on these guidelines or Power Foods. SmartPoints takes care of it!

What about Simply Filling?
This technique is still an option; see page 62 of Your Plan Guide.

Will I like it? We asked folks who tested the new plan. They told us they found satisfaction after meals and snacks, plus more energy, menu flexibility, and food choice.

"I see how sugars play into the overall picture of healthy eating. Whole foods are best—and they do make you feel better!"
—Mimi

BTS is all about teaching us to make more healthy, and more sustainable choices for our meals. Yes, you can absolutely spend all of your points on a bag of peanut M&Ms and spend the rest of the day eating cabbage soup, but you probably shouldn't. Not only is that not sustainable, it also doesn't provide you the vitamins, nutrients and protein in your body needs to adequately fuel itself.

Side Note: Also, and you're going to have to take my word for this, if you eat that much cabbage soup, you will stink. I mean it, you're going to smell bad. Don't try it!

So let's talk turkey, and chicken and all kinds of other lean protein! Lean proteins all went down in SmartPoints. A shrimp cocktail is now the same as what three egg whites would have been before. **How awesome is that?** And chicken breast, which is like mothers milk and the most common thing I find in every Weight Watchers users' recipes, also went down. So protein is a good thing!

Side Note: I see a lot of people starting to compare the BTS plan to Atkins, and all I can say is "**You clearly haven't checked the new SP for bacon!**" The new plan focuses on lean proteins, not any protein, and all of your regularly scheduled pasta, rice and bread are still accessible to you through this plan. **You just have to PLAN your plan!**

Things like processed snacks, crackers, cookies, most desserts and quite a few yogurts all went up in points, mostly due to the sugar content or the saturated fat content of the food. That doesn't mean you can't have them, but what BTS is saying subtly is, maybe you shouldn't eat those every day. And as much as I love my chocolate, that's probably a true statement. We don't really need cake every night, do we?







Oh, and a clarification on free or "no count" fruits & veggies. If you eat the fruits/veggies plain or in a recipe, they're free. If you put them in a smoothie, they count now. Here's the explanation I got from WW:

Part of the reason is that we know that people tend to over consume juices and other beverages, and under-estimate how many calories they have consumed. We are counting the points values of fruit in smoothies in order to help our members realize exactly how many calories they consume when drinking in order to make healthy choices. Of course, it is still in your hands as members to

decide if it is worth the SmartPoints to have a smoothie.

Take a look at this comparison:

SEE HOW SMARTPOINTS VALUES STACK UP AGAINST POINTSPUS
 Look up these foods in your *Pocket Guide* and jot down their SmartPoints.

 <p>• Latte with whole milk, 8 fl oz <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 3 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: Higher in sat fat</p>	 <p>• Cooked boneless skinless chicken breast, 3 oz <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 3 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: High in lean protein; low in sat fat</p>	 <p>• Cooked broccoli, 1/2 cup <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 0 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: No fat, low sugar; lots of nutrients!</p>	 <p>• Glazed yeast doughnut <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 7 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: Plenty of sugar and sat fat</p>
 <p>• Cooked tuna, 3 oz <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 3 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: High in lean protein; low in sat fat</p>	 <p>• Fat-free fruit-flavored yogurt, 1 cup <i>PointsPlus</i> value: 6 SmartPoints value: _____ Why: High in added sugar</p>	<p>• Add your own food: _____ <i>PointsPlus</i> value: _____ SmartPoints value: _____ Why: _____</p>	<p>• Add your own food: _____ <i>PointsPlus</i> value: _____ SmartPoints value: _____ Why: _____</p>

Latte with whole milk (8 ounces): 3 PointsPlus, 5 SmartPoints Cooked boneless, skinless chicken breast (3 ounces): 3 PointsPlus, 2 SmartPoints Cooked broccoli (1/2 cup): 0 PointsPlus, 0 SmartPoints Glazed yeast doughnut: 7 PointsPlus, 10 SmartPoints Cooked tuna (3 ounces): 3 PointsPlus, 1 SmartPoint Fat-free fruit-flavored yogurt (1 cup): 6 PointsPlus, 11 SmartPoints Two pieces of rye toast: 4 PointsPlus, 5 SmartPoints 1c. egg whites: 2 Points Plus, now 1 SmartPoint

Because I know not everyone thinks like I do, I asked my fellow bloggers and a beta tester's for some information about how they were handling their new food choices. They said:

What's one food you were SO excited to see go down in SP value? - Protein. I love lean protein and am excited to see it go down. I see myself indulging in more shrimp cocktails and fewer cookies this holiday season. - Seafood! Seafood is so low in SP, it's practically free! - I loved that most proteins went down in points! - I haven't investigated far enough to really answer this question, but at least some of my favorites, like chicken w/skin, either went down, or at least stayed close to the same points, so I can continue to enjoy them. I eat a lot of Trader Joe's convenience foods, and so far, most of them are still doable. With the exception of my desserts, of course. - Chicken breasts and lean fish! **What's one food you're bummed went up in SP value? Do you have a plan for how to make it work going forward?** - Sweet treats went way up so I'm going to have to be more judicious. One strategy that has worked for me is to be really selective and seek out the highest quality treats possible. I've found that for me the higher the quality, the less I need to be satisfied. This is especially true with good dark chocolate. - The increase in SP for olive oil had me concerned initially. BUT, with what I save in SP on lean proteins, it usually evens out! - I was upset that my fav fat free flavored creamer went up a point and that fat free half and half is now 1 point instead of 0. I'm hoping that this might encourage me to limit my caffeine intake hasn't yet but I'm hopeful!! - The massive points increase in my sweets. My favorite candy bar went from 6 to 12 points. As far as a plan going forward, I'm going to continue to work at ways to fit in items that may take their place, while still giving me the satisfaction level. - Noosa yogurt. It nearly doubled in

points value, so it will be a very rare treat for me now and, even then, only in the 4 oz portion instead of the 8 oz portion.

Now, I know I said I was not going to give you a sample menu until Friday, but so many of you asked, so I'm going to share what yesterday looked like for me. I get 30SP daily, but I only ate 28SP because I was full!

Breakfast

1c egg whites = 1SP
1 alfresco chicken sausage = 2SP
1.5c of sautéed kale, mushroom, onion and zucchini
2 oz espresso

AM Snack

1 banana
8 oz black coffee
1 medium Apple

Lunch

3oz shrimp sautéed with Belle and poblano peppers, leeks and squash = 1SP
2c mixed greens with 1/2 medium tomato
2Tbsp Marzetti light red wine vinaigrette = 1SP

PM Snacks

5oz grilled chicken breast on a Chop salad with cooked mushrooms, red cabbage, roasted red peppers and pico de gallo, dressed with salt, pepper and lemon juice = 3sP
1.5c Red and green grapes
12oz black coffee

Dinner

8oz wild caught cod = 2SP
1c sautéed leeks
1c sautéed sugar snap peas
1/2c. Minute Rice Brown Rice = 4SP
1 Tbsp Olive Oil = 5SP
10oz White Wine = 9SP

How is your week going so far? Have you found some new SmartPoints foods to try or add to your menu plans?

Check out Part 1 "[What I've Learned After 3 Weeks On SmartPoints!](#)"

Check out Part 3 "[Working on My FitPoints!](#)"

Check out Part 4 "[How Did You Do It?](#)"

Don't forget to follow [Trading Cardio for Cosmos](#) on Facebook for tons of recipes, meal ideas and inspiration daily!