

NSPCC MK Half Marathon Beginner Training Plan

Wk	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 8 x 1 min strong at 8-9/10, 60 seconds rest or walk recovery</p> <p>Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p>	Rest	Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 30 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 50-60 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
2	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 4 sets of 5 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery</p> <p>Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p>	Rest	Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 30 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 60-70 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
3	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 4 sets of 6 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery</p> <p>Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p>	Rest	Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort with the final 10 at 6/10 if you feel good	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 30 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 70-80 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
4	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 10 x 1 min strong at 8-9/10, 60 seconds rest or walk recovery</p>	Rest	Run Session: 30-45 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 30-40 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 80-90 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed

		Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort					
5	Rest	Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	5-8km time trial or a 30 min easy run or rest if tired	Run Session: 60 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
6	Rest	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 8 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 90-100 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
7	Rest	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 mins, 4 mins, 3 mins, 2 mins, 1 min with 90 secs recovery. Work between 6/10 & 8-9/10 aim to get faster as you go through Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 45 min run as: 15 mins easy at 2-3/10, 15 mins steady at 4-5/10, 15 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 90-105 minutes at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
8	Rest	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 sets of 6 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	105-120 at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed

9	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 3 sets of 3 mins, 2 mins, 1 min with 90 secs walk or jog recovery between each effort and 2-3 minutes between sets. Work between 6/10 & 8-9/10.</p> <p>Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p>	Rest	Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	90-105 at 2-4/10 effort include short brisk walk breaks as needed
10	Rest	<p>Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p> <p>Main Session: 3 sets of 10 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery</p> <p>Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort</p>	Rest	Run Session: 45 min run as: 15 mins easy at 2-3/10, 15 mins steady at 4-5/10, 15 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort	Rest	Rest or Run/XT session: 30-45 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 50 mins at 3-4/10 effort
11	Rest	Run Session: 30 mins at 2-3/10	Rest	Run Session: 20-30 mins at 2-3/10	Rest	Half Marathon Race!! Good Luck!	Rest

The plan

This plan is aimed at runners who are new to the half marathon distance. You might be stepping up from a 5km or even a 10km and you should feel happy running 30-40 minutes continuously at an easy pace, and longer with the aid of short recovery breaks.

Completing the plan

The majority of the sessions are runs, but you can replace with cardiovascular cross training using a bike, rowing machine, swimming or elliptical trainer. You might see cross training included in the plan to – these are labelled as 'XT'. Take ownership of the plan and adapt it to suit your situation, background and needs. If you need to swap days run not to do two runs harder than 6/10 effort on back to back days. It's fine to add more running but always remember you need to recover well to progress and you are better to do a little less than too

much. If you are tired, sore, have a cold or are worried about a niggle stop, rest and if necessary, speak to a physio or medical expert. Only start on this training plan if you feel confident in your health and we always recommend undergoing a medical checkup with a professional before undertaking any running training plan.

Guiding your effort

The plan is written to time and perceived effort to make it flexible for runners at different levels, running over different terrain and in different weather conditions. As you build confidence you will learn what the right pace is for you on the 0-10 scale of rate of perceived exertion (RPE).

RPE scale	What it might feel like....
0	You're still in bed...
1	Brisk walking for some, very easy jogging for others. Able to fully chat away with no effort.
2-3	Easy running, able to hold conversation, you might have consciously work to slow down. Gentle, relaxed, feeling like you could run forever.
4-5	Steady running. Able to speak but in shorter sentences. You might hear yourself breathing but could still keep going for between 75 minutes – 2 hours.
6-7	Controlled discomfort. A pace you could hold for around 60 mins in a race. You should be able to speak 2-3 words at a time. Cruising at speed.
8-9	Working hard at 3km-10km effort. You have to focus and work to maintain pace. You'll be breathing strongly and will feel like you need the recovery between efforts.
10	Working very hard. A effort you can sustain for only short periods before you effort feels unsustainable.