

Triathlon Training Plan

Beginner Sprint Triathlon

Plan designed by Stephen Taylor



Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
1	Swim: 20 Walk/Run: 25	Off Stretch	Bike: 30	Run: 25	Swim: 35	Off Stretch	Bike: 45	3:00
2	Swim:25 Run: 25	Off Stretch	Walk/Run: 25	Swim: 35	Bike: 45	Off Stretch	Bike: 55	3:30
3	Swim: 25 Walk/Run: 25	Off Stretch	Swim: 35	Bike: 60	Swim: 20 Bike: 30	Off Stretch	Walk/Run: 30	3:45
4	Swim: 30 Bike: 30	Off Stretch	Bike: 30 Run: 30	Swim: 30	Run: 30	Off Stretch	Bike: 60	4:00
5 Rest Week	Swim: 20	Off Stretch	Walk/Run: 20	Swim: 20	Swim: 30	Off Stretch	Bike: 60 Walk/Run: 15	2:45
6	Swim: 45	Off Stretch	Bike: 45 Walk/Run: 15	Swim: 30	Bike: 60	Off Stretch	Bike 60 Walk/Run: 15	4:30
7	Swim: 45	Off Stretch	Bike: 60 Walk/Run: 30	Run: 30	Bike: 60	Off Stretch	Bike: 60	4:45
8 Taper	Walk/Run: 20	Off Stretch	Swim: 10 Bike: 10 Walk/Run: 10	Swim: 10 Bike: 10	Bike: 10 Run: 5 Stretch	Sprint Triathlon	Off/stretch	1:25 + race

Note: All workout times are denoted in minutes.

Y-TRI 200yd swim / 8.5mi bike / 2mi run. May 26, 2007. *Start by April 2.*

Nashville GJCC Triathlon 200yd swim / 8.5mi bike / 2mi run. May 28, 2007. *Start by April 2.*

Buster Britton Triathlon 400yd swim / 12mi bike / 3mi run. June 9, 2007. *Start by April 16.*

McMinnville City Triathlon 350m swim, 15.3mi bike / 3.1mi run. June 23, 2007. *Start by April 30.*

Cedars of Lebanon Triathlon 300yd swim / 16.5 bike / 3mi run. July 28, 2007. *Start by June 4.*

Mountain Lakes Triathlon 600yd swim / 16.2mi bike / 3mi run. August 11, 2007. *Start by June 18.*

Old Hickory Triathlon 400yd swim / 1.5mi run / 12mi bike / 1.5mi run. Sept 8, 2007. *Start by July 16.*



BEGINNER SPRINT TRIATHLON TRAINING PLAN NOTES

Goal of this plan. The purpose of this plan is to *complete* a sprint triathlon. The races on this page are examples of sprint distance triathlon, which take most people 1-2 1/2 hours. As long as you are basically healthy, you should be able to complete this plan without any baseline of cardiovascular exercise. Remember, part of the challenge is in the training. Prepare diligently and you will have fun and feel good on race day.

Preparation for this program. As long as you are healthy, no previous exercise program is necessary to complete this plan. It is recommended to consult with your physician before starting any exercise program.

Focus on building minutes not speed. While this may look like a lot of training, remember that you should complete the assigned workouts in your proper training zone. This means that you should be able to carry on a conversation while biking and running. Don't try to push your hardest during training sessions. Just complete the distance and try to save a little reserve after each workout. That will help you complete all the training sessions without getting overly fatigued.

Intensity. This can be quantified many different ways. Suffice it to say, try to keep your effort level in some semblance of a comfort zone. In terms of percentages, aim for a 5-8 on a scale of 1-to-10. This could be described as moderately easy to moderately hard. If you use a HR monitor, focus on your training zones of 50-75% HR. For most people, this means they need to slow their running and include walk breaks.

Words of encouragement. This plan is intended to be challenging but realistic to a truly "beginner" triathlete. Challenge yourself to complete as many workouts as possible. Do not chastise yourself if you miss a couple of days, just get back on the program as soon as possible. Remember, the journey is part of the reward. Completing a triathlon is an amazing experience. Getting prepared is the fun part.

Extra training/range of training. The workouts in this plan are designed to help you survive your first foray into the sport of triathlon. Completing all the minimum workouts should have you well-prepared to finish. If you have time and energy to do more than what is assigned in this plan, then you will be extra well prepared for the race. Just remember not to add extra to the Rest Days. Keep those free for stretching and letting your body recover.

Substitution of workouts. If you have to change the workouts in this plan, there is no problem to switch days. Life circumstance, weather, facilities, etc. may dictate what you can do and when. Just remember that this plan includes regular rest and recovery. Do not shortchange your rest days or you may become overly fatigued.

Indoor cycling. A portion of the bicycling workouts may be completed on stationary trainers or spin bikes. A spin class at the fitness center or a stationary bike are good substitutes if you can't ride outside.

Outdoor cycling. You should be comfortable riding your bicycle on streets. The last few weeks before race day it is especially important that you can shift, steer, and break proficiently. If you are new to cycling on the road, just use a comfortable bike like a cruiser, hybrid, or mountain bike. No one will judge based on your bike. Just make sure you are able to steer, ride in a straight line, break, and use your gears. Make sure you have it tuned up well in advance of the race if things do not seem to be working properly.

Beginning Swimmers. If you are new to swimming focus on relaxed breathing and finding a rhythm you can maintain. You can use any stroke you want to finish the triathlon, including backstroke, sidestroke, and breaststroke. If you struggle with swim technique, a little coaching will go a long way. Talk to other swimmers to get some tips on improving your stroke, or better yet take a few lessons with an experienced coach.

Open water swims. If your sprint triathlon swim will be held in open water, be sure to include some practice in lake swimming. Remember you can use any stroke you want to complete the swim. Treading water is a good skill to stop and get your bearings. You can also stop and hold on to the side of a boat to rest during the race. In practice, whether at the pool or open water, arrange for some friends to join you in order to practice swimming in close quarters with others. Swimming next to other swimmers is much different than having your own lane at the pool.

Beginning Runners. Remember you can walk as needed during a triathlon. If you are a new runner or are carrying extra weight, I recommend the Fun Run technique to alternate between jogging and walking as a strategy to build endurance. Don't push the pace, just try to keep jogging for a few minutes and then take a walk break when you needed. You can even walk to complete the triathlon.

Keep Going! There will be times in training when you are tired and want to quit. Practice perseverance in training and you will finish strong on race day.

Disclaimer. You are recommended to consult with a physician before beginning this or any exercise program. Reduce or discontinue training and consult with a physical medicine specialist if you experience recurrent joint pain or other physical symptoms.

Contact. For questions related to the use this plan, contact Stephen Taylor, Professional Endurance Coach at triathletepro@gmail.com.