

SWIMATHON



5k 10 Week Training Plan

BEGINNER

Target time: 2 - 2.5 hrs

Pace per 100m: 2 mins 30 secs



CHARITY BENEFICIARY



CHARITY BENEFICIARY



CHARITY BENEFICIARY

SWIMATHON
FOUNDATION

EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



FUNDRAISING PLATFORM
PARTNER



Swimathon Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (1123870) | Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103) Marie Curie is a registered charity in England and Wales (207994) and Scotland (SC038731)





Welcome to your Swimathon 2021 training plan!

Over the coming 10 weeks, we will aim to offer you training sessions and ideas to help you achieve your challenge and get you there in your goal time.

This 10 week programme has been designed to take you through the build up period, increase endurance, understand and achieve your required event pace, and specify periods of recovery to allow your body to adapt to the training regime and as such, increase your performance!

All distances, pace times and rest intervals are offered as a guide only – please feel free to go at your own pace! However, for those people who want to be challenged, the programmes offer various interval pace times and session durations set against the goal times.

Best wishes for your challenge!

Jolyon Finck
Head Swimathon Coach



Jolyon Finck is an Olympic swimming coach, who over the course of his 20-year swimming coaching career has tutored swimmers ranging from beginner level to elite international performers. With an SAL Gold Licence swimming qualification and degrees in Anatomical Science, Education and Sports Performance Management, Jolyon brings a unique quotient of both art and science to his pool side skills.

Week 1 - Build up phase

Technical Terms

Throughout the 10 weeks, many technical swimming terms will be used to add specificity to the training programme. Each week will have a description of any additional technical terms used; however the three most frequently used, and arguably the most important terms and understandings, are described below:

- **'6 x 50'** (and all other sets across the 10 weeks) is a description of the number of repetitions within each set of exercises, and the respective distance (always in metres) of that repetition. Therefore, the '6 x 50' part of the set refers to 6 repetitions of 50m (aiming to complete each segment of 50m without stopping) before taking the allocated volume of rest.
- **'SRI'** is an acronym for Seconds Rest Interval. SRI will always follow a number, indicating the volume of rest that you should take after completing each repetition within a set. Therefore '45 SRI' would mean that you should take 45 seconds of rest after each repetition.
- **'PTC'** is an acronym for Pace Time Cycle. This refers to the increments of time that should pass between two consecutive repeats within a set. PTC is a more specific extension of SRI. The PTC time is based on the amount of time it should take to swim any particular repeat if the swimmer is swimming at the appropriate speed to complete the Swimathon distance within the goal times set out for each respective distance, plus an appropriate rest interval.

Focus	This week we will begin laying the training foundations required to reach your goal in 10 weeks' time by establishing some simple training techniques and methodology.
Technical Terms	Hip Driven Rotation Freestyle – this involves the swimmer performing the normal freestyle stroke, but with dramatically increased rotation generated from the hips. This assists with finding the optimum balance point in the stroke, and assists with the extension of the arms to form a longer freestyle stroke.
Distance	1,750m
Duration	30min
Repeat this session	2 x this week
Warm Up	4 x 150m swim as 50 freestyle / 50m backstroke or breaststroke / 50m freestyle (30 SRI)
Skill	4 x 50m freestyle swim with hip driven rotation (20 SRI)
Main Set	4 x 200m swim (30 SRI)
Cool Down	3 x 50m 25 swim with strong kick / 25m swim moderate (20 SRI)

Let's get started!

Week 2 - Endurance phase

Focus	Swimming is, predominantly, an endurance sport. This week we will start to put together some longer, more challenging sets to improve your swimming endurance.
Technical Terms	Bilateral Breathing – Bilateral Breathing means breathing to one side of your body and then the other in a rhythm or tempo set out by the number of strokes between each breath. This technique assists with maintaining balance and stroke equilibrium, and can be used to promote lung capacity.
Distance	2,000m
Duration	60min
Repeat this session	2-3 x this week
Warm Up	1 x 300m continuous swim (45 SRI) 3 x 100m swim with a pullbuoy or float (30 SRI)
Skill	4 x 50m bilateral breathing (every 3 or 5 strokes) (20 SRI)
Main Set	2 Sets: 1 x 200m swim (30 SRI, Pace Time Cycle 5:30) 3 x 100m swim (15 SRI, PTC 2:45)
Cool Down	4 x 50m backstroke or breaststroke (or a combination) (20 SRI)

Challenge Yourself

Week 3 - Endurance phase

Focus	The second week of the endurance phase, and hopefully you are feeling the benefits in the water – with sets and sessions becoming just that littler bit easier to complete.
Technical Terms	Freestyle 1 Arm Swimming – Swimming with 1 arm helps to isolate the stroking pattern and force generated by each of the upper limbs. Start in your normal freestyle swimming position. Pull with your left (or right) arm only, keeping the other arm out in front for balance. As you develop confidence in this drill, try taking the non-swimming arm down by your side and work on your body rotation also.
Distance	2,250m
Duration	70min
Repeat this session	3 x this week
Warm Up	2 x 200m Swim (30 SRI) 2 x 100m 25 kicking (no arms) / 75 swim (20 SRI)
Skill	4 x 50m 25 freestyle 1 arm swimming / 25 swim (20 SRI)
Main Set	2 Sets: 2 x 300m swim (30 SRI, PTC 8:00) 1 x 100m swim (15 SRI, PTC 2:45)
Cool Down	1 x 50m backstroke

Don't Forget to Fundraise

Week 4 - Event pace & training adaptation

Focus	This week we will be seeking to establish some swimming at the correct pace for your Swimathon event. See the cover page for specific pacing ideas (though some are detailed in the sessions). As this week involves swimming at a higher intensity, the volume of swimming is reduced, so that your body can make the relevant adaptations to training.
Technical Terms	Alignment Kicking – Alignment Kicking involves kicking on your front with your arms by your side, and rotating out to take breaths on the side as required. The goal is to align as much of your body with the surface of the water as possible (specifically head, back, hips and legs) to create the least possible resistance or drag. If you have a set of fins (flippers) available, they might help!
Distance	1,850m
Duration	45min
Repeat this session	2-3 x this week
Warm Up	4 x 100m swim with hip driven rotation (20 SRI)
Skill	2 x 50m alignment kicking (30 SRI)
Main Set	16 x 50m aim to swim event pace 70 - 75 sec per 50 (15 SRI, PTC 1:30) 1 x 200m moderate swim (60 SRI, PTC 6:00) 4 x 50m aim to swim faster than event pace 65 – 70 sec per 50 (15 SRI, PTC 1:30) 1 x 100m moderate swim (30 SRI, PTC 3:00)
Cool Down	1 x 50m kicking with kickboard / float

Let's Increase the Speed

Week 5 - Endurance phase

Focus	Back to the grindstone this week as we continue to work on building endurance by lengthening out the total swimming session and increasing the intensity within it. With only five weeks to go until the event, hopefully your comfort level in the water is continuing to increase!
Technical Terms	Hands in Fists – this drill takes away your greatest swimming weapon; the flat space of the palm of your hand. Hold your hands in fists and attempt to propel yourself in a normal freestyle manner using just your forearms and knuckles. Alternatively, hold one hand in a fist and keep the other open, then switch as required.
Distance	2,000m
Duration	60min
Repeat this session	3 x this week
Warm Up	1 x 200m swim (45 SRI) 2 x 150m swim with last 50 stronger (30 SRI) 3 x 100m swim with a pullbuoy or float (30 SRI)
Skill	4 x 50m swim Hands in Fists (20 SRI)
Main Set	4 x 200m swim strong (30 SRI, PTC 5:30)
Cool Down	4 x 50m backstroke / freestyle (20 SRI)

Don't Forget to Fundraise

Week 6 - Endurance phase

Focus	The focus of this week continues to be on developing fitness in the water with another instalment of the endurance phase. As you complete this week, hopefully you will really be feeling the benefit of all the good work completed so far.
Technical Terms	Your Choice Drill – As the name suggests, this one is up to you. Select an aspect of your swimming that you would like to develop (perhaps your balance in the water, your arm pull, your leg kick) and apply an appropriate drill.
Distance	2,250m
Duration	60min
Repeat this session	3 x this week
Warm Up	3 x 200m swim (30 SRI) 2 x 100m 75 swim/25 kicking (no arms) (20 SRI)
Skill	2 x 50m your choice drill (20 SRI)
Main Set	2 Sets: 2 x 300m swim (30 SRI, PTC 8:00) 1 x 100m swim (15 SRI, PTC 2:45)
Cool Down	1 x 50m backstroke

Keep it up!

Week 7 - Super endurance phase

Focus	When the going gets tough, the tough get swimming! This is the super endurance training week, aimed to ensure that the Swimathon event will be achievable. Think Bradley Wiggins preparing for the Tour de France. Think Mo Farrah in preparation for the 10KM at the Olympics. You're ready for it, and it's time to go big!
Technical Terms	Swim Strong – Challenge yourself to push the boundaries of your swimming out a little here. Only do this to a level that is challenging, yet not very uncomfortable. Going strong is great – but we want to make sure that we see the finish line!
Distance	2,250m
Duration	75min
Repeat this session	3 x this week
Warm Up	1 x 200m swim (30 SRI)
Skill	3 x 50m 25 kicking / 25 swim (20 SRI)
Main Set	3 x 200m swim Strong (15 SRI, PTC 5:15) 3 x 400m swim Strong (30 SRI, PTC 10:30)
Cool Down	1 x 100m moderate swim

Swim Strong

Week 8 - Event pace & training adaptation

Focus	Off the back of the super endurance week, it's now time to recover a little. In doing this, you should find it easier to swim up to your event specific speed on both 50m and 100m repeats. Ensure some good stretching takes place around the training sessions this week to avoid any residual fatigue from the past three weeks.
Technical Terms	Straight Arm Freestyle – This is more a stretch than a performance benefit. Straighten your arms through the recovery phase of the stroke so that your hands enter the water further away from your head than they regularly would. This will increase muscle length and create a different feel.
Distance	2,000m
Duration	60min
Repeat this session	2-3 x this week
Warm Up	2 x 100m swim (20 SRI)
Skill	2 x 50m swim straight arm freestyle (10 SRI) 2 x 50m high elbow recovery freestyle (10 SRI) 2 x 50m swim freestyle with great technique (10 SRI)
Main Set	12 x 50m aim to swim event pace 70 – 75 sec per 50 (15 SRI, PTC 1:30) 1 x 200m moderate swim (60 SRI, PTC 6:00) 4 x 100m aim to swim faster than event pace 2:10 – 2:20 per 100 (30 SRI, PTC 3:00) 1 x 100m moderate swim (30 SRI, PTC 3:00)
Cool Down	1 x 200m with pullbuoy or float

Race Day Practise

Week 9 - Event preparation

Focus	All the hard work is now complete, with many kilometres of practice behind you. This week will focus on progressing swimming distances so that you can make decisions about the way you intend to strategize your Swimathon in terms of distances completed before taking rest. Ensure you are intaking adequate hydration before, during and after the sessions to maximise your performance.
Technical Terms	Fast Turns – Fast Turns involves focussing on the speed of transition around the walls in the pool. It's important to note that you should only attempt tumble turns if you have been taught the skill by a professional. Otherwise, just focus on touching the wall and getting your feet around to push off as quickly as feels comfortable.
Distance	1,500m
Duration	40min
Repeat this session	2-3 x this week
Warm Up	1 x 200m swim (30 SRI)
Skill	4 x 50m fast turns (20 SRI)
Main Set	1 x 100m swim (20 SRI, PTC 3:00) 1 x 200m swim (30 SRI, PTC 5:30) 1 x 300m swim (40 SRI, PTC: 8:00) 1 x 400m swim (50 SRI, PTC: 10:30)
Cool Down	2 x 50m backstroke (20 SRI)

Get Yourself Prepared

Week 10 - Event pace & swimathon event

Focus	These sessions have been designed as 'Event Simulations', meaning they are simply an opportunity to practice the method by which you intend to complete your Swimathon.
Technical Terms	Stop and Go – As you complete each repeat, stop for a short period of time – perhaps to take a drink or make any adjustments to your technical equipment – then proceed on the next repeat.
Distance	1,200m
Duration	30min
Repeat this session	2 x this week
Warm Up	2 x 100m swim with strong legs last 25 (20 SRI)
Skill	2 x 50m stop and go (5 SRI)
Main Set	32 lengths (25m pool) or 16 lengths (50m) taking rest intervals in the same manner as you intend to do during the event and swimming at event pace.
Cool Down	1 x 100m swim choice

**Good Luck
& Enjoy It!**

Event Day

