

rgActive

Event Specific Training Programmes

12 Week

BEGINNER SPRINT TRIATHLON TRAINING PLAN

Key Notes

Please find below a 12 week beginner, sprint distance triathlon training plan to help you prepare for your event.

- ▶ This 12 week training plan is designed to get a novice triathlete through a sprint distance triathlon. It is not a complex or hugely time consuming programme, it will get you to the finish line in good shape.
- ▶ In order to be able complete the training you should have a reasonable level of fitness at the start of the training. A pre-requisite would be that you can swim 400 m continuously, you can cycle for 20 mins and run for 15 mins.
- ▶ The training sessions can be completed in a number of locations. The swim sessions are mostly designed for a pool, with open water sessions towards the latter half of the program. The bike sessions could be done either outdoors or indoors, the same goes for the running sessions. We would strongly advise that you do spend as much time as possible training outdoors so that you get time training in similar conditions to those that you will be racing in.
- ▶ We also would strongly advise that while most of the swim sessions in this programme are pool oriented you should be looking to get some Open Water swimming done in preparation for your race. All novice triathletes benefit greatly from getting the experience of what it is actually like to swim in open water with other swimmers. It is arguably the most daunting part of the race for all triathletes.
- ▶ The intensity of the training in this programme is to be executed using the RPE (Rate of Perceived Exertion) scale, this allows the athlete to work to their limits with specific barriers. We would advise that if this kind of training is new to you that you are cautious to begin with until you can understand how your body reacts to the training. The full RPE scale is at the back of the programme.
- ▶ If some of the distances earlier in the program are much further than you're currently doing for a given discipline; complete as much as you can comfortable. Do try to complete sessions where possible, pacing yourself to do so, taking breaks on rides, or adding a walk/run element into run sessions if you struggle here.
- ▶ We would strongly advise that as you get closer to the race day you ensure that you train using the exact equipment that you intend to use on race day, the same clothes, the same wetsuit, the same bike and trainers. You should not turn up on race day with brand new equipment to use.
- ▶ From time to time your busy lives will get in the way, we recommend that you don't make up the missed sessions simply resume your plan on the current day. Similarly, the particular days the various sessions are laid out on are an example of a suitable/ideal way to spread them out. However, you may change them to suit your own timings or around existing club sessions that you may already attend. So long as you allow sufficient recovery between longer sessions, or the same discipline.
- ▶ **At the back of this training plan is the 'Appendix' where you will find the RPE scale, swim sessions and strength and conditioning programs that are referenced throughout the plan.**

WEEK 1								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Create a routine of planning your sessions in ahead of time so you know what you're doing on each day. If certain days don't match, then make a plan of when is best to do them. Your first brick session will be a chance to feel what it's like to run off the bike.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Run	Rest	Strength	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	650 m	15 km	3.5 km		45-60 min	500 m	12 km/3 km	
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Mixed effort	Negative Split			Drills/Intervals	Steady state	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #2	4 km @RPE 5 4 km @RPE 6-7 4 km @RPE 5-6 4 km @RPE 7-8 4 km @RPE 5-6 Use the gearing to keep your cadence between 85-95	Run Start your run at around RPE @5-6, then build your effort up to @RPE 8 by the end of your run. The aim is to complete the second half of the run faster than the first half.		Strength: Program 1a	Swim: Session #1	Bike @RPE 5-6 steady effort Run @RPE 6-7 steady effort	
KEY FOCUS	Leg & head position in the water. Pace & speed.	Pacing & cadence	Run posture/form and ability to increase pace		Execution & posture during exercise	Holding form while working hard	Getting used to running off the bike	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 34.7 KM
NOTES	Continuing with body positioning and breathing technique	Pace control; having the ability to switch pace based on perceived effort will be a key skill in pacing in a race	The focus of this run should be feeling comfortable with the distance, focusing on your posture and run form, finishing feeling strong and fast		Third week in, the exercises should start to get easier as your body begins to adapt. Keep paying attention to good body position	As you do shorter/faster efforts it can be easy to lose technique focus. Try to keep your form, even when working hard	First Brick: Running off the bike can feel odd as the leg movements differ. Start slow and try to settle into a comfortable run rhythm	

WEEK 2								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Stick to the increases in distances as best you can, and where it fits. Improvements in speed are seen in the ability to repeat efforts consistently, not just go faster on one or two efforts.
SESSION	Swim	Strength	Run	Rest	Strength	Swim & Run	Bike	
DURATION	750 km	60 min	5 km		60 min	650 m/3.5 km	17.5 km	
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals		Steady state		Tempo	Tempo	Hills	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #3	Strength: Program 1a	Run: Steady state; @RPE 6 You may do this run off-road with some undulation to keep it interesting and challenge your pacing, but don't make it a full-on hill session.		Strength: Program 1b	Swim: Session #2 Run: Run at around @RPE 7-8 and target your best time over this distance so far in the program.	Steady state ride with some hills included. Maintain steady cadence and rhythm. Pace judgement on hills.	
KEY FOCUS	Body position, rotation through the hips		Run: Keep it light so you can hold a steady pace throughout		Learning to run at pace and maintain it	Arm position, rotation & speed work	Pace judgement on hills	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 27.3 KM
NOTES	1 arm drills help you focus on stroke development; making sure both arms can pull equally. It will also help you to breathe to both sides as well as assisting rotation.		Steady effort at a below max pace, focusing on holding form and keeping each km the same speed. If your form suffers then slow the pace.		The strength program should be getting easier and you should be increasing your weights/times of each exercise.	Track sessions a great for pacing, and working on speed development. Use this first session to focus on setting times over each distance that you can replicate.	Running up and down hills increases strength. Control pace on ascent so you're able to continue at a good pace once at the top.	

WEEK 3								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	<p>If you're considering things like elastic laces in your shoes, or perhaps running without socks to improve transition time, then practice this now to give you time to get used to it.</p> <p>Speed work should be starting to take effect on your ability to hold a higher pace in steady sessions and gym training should be helping with strength on hills and speed work, especially in the pool.</p> <p>Keep tabs on previous sessions, compare times too similar sessions a month ago.</p>
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Swim & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	750 m	20 km	650 m/7.5 km		45-60 min/5 km	500 m	17.5 km/3.5 km	
INTENSITY	Kick & Intervals	Intervals	Int./Steady		Strength/Track			
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #3	5 min warm up @RPE 4 5x5 workout: 5 min @RPE 6 5 min @RPE 8 Repeat until you reach 17 km then ride easy for remaining time @RPE 4	Swim: Session #2 Run: Maintain a steady (below threshold) pace of around RPE 5-6		Strength Program 1b Run: Session #1	Swim: Session #1	Complete your bike/run brick in a tempo/race pace format; holding a firm but slightly below threshold pace on the bike and then running hard off the bike. Bike @RPE 6-7 Run @RPE 8	
KEY FOCUS	Leg position high in the water, speed judgement on intervals	Longer threshold efforts to get you used to race pace	Swim; drills & speed Run; steady pace & good form.		Adding some fun into training but also learning to return to base pace following effort.	Shorter intervals for more speed work	Learning to run hard off a hard bike	<p>WEEKLY DISTANCE: 55.5 KM</p>
NOTES	Fist and 1-arm drills are there to help your arm movement and stroke development. Keep sets of the same distance similar times.	While this session may be done outside on a flat loop; it's a good one for the turbo/indoor trainer too.	Kicking should be a lot easier now, and you should be able to complete the kick sets quicker.		Track sessions a great for pacing, and working on speed development. Aim to match or better times from the previous attempt at this session.	Make sure to continuously breath out under water, avoid holding your breath. Remember head position; eyes down.	Practice with gearing to find and maintain a steady cadence/rhythm so you can control your effort. Settle into a run pace quickly. Practice set up in transition so you can save valuable time	

WEEK 4								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	<p>One month in you'll be able to maintain harder efforts for longer and more consistently.</p> <p>If you've not already; start thinking about hydration and fuelling for longer rides and perhaps experiment with various drinks/gels if you're planning to take them come race day.</p> <p>Day-to-day as well as recovery nutrition may be worth considering to make sure you're recovered fully from each session.</p>
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Strength & Run	Rest	Strength & Swim	Run	Bike	
DURATION	850 m	15 km	45 min/6 km		60 min/750 m	7.5 km	22.5 km	
INTENSITY	Drill/Pacing	Intervals	Hills		Drills/int.	Steady	Hills	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #4	5 km Warm up @RPE 4-5 1 min @RPE 5 6 min @RPE 6 1 min @RPE 7 1 min @RPE 9 Repeat as many times through until you reach 13 km. 2 km @RPE 4 Outdoor option: 40 min as: 5 min @RPE 5 5 min @RPE 7	Strength: Program 2a Run: Fartlek; random intervals made up on a route of your choosing. Your average pace should still be around @RPE 6 with time spent between RPE 5-9		Strength: Program 2b Swim: Session #3	Run: Long steady run @RPE 5-6 Pace should be kept well within comfort. Focus on being able to hold pace for the whole duration of the run.	Steady state ride with some hills included. Maintain steady cadence and rhythm. Pace judgement on hills.	
KEY FOCUS	Hip rotation with pull buoy &	Adjusting and holding speed & recovery from efforts	Adding some fun into training but also learning to return to base pace following effort.		Speed & consistency between the 150m efforts	Run form and steady pacing.	Pace judgement on hills	<p>WEEKLY DISTANCE: 52.6 KM</p>
NOTES	Using the pull buoy will allow your legs to rest and focus on your hip rotation	Remember RPE 6 is your sustainable moderate pace, then building up through to RPE 8 being your threshold pace (Race pace) with RPE 9 being unsustainable for much longer than 1 min	Your average pace should be similar to an aerobic (RPE 6-7) run but with lots of variation in speed. This can be a good session to do with a friend, since you can take turns to call sprints, or efforts.		If you're using a swim watch or pace clock, you should be able to see improvements in your speed and your ability to hold that speed for longer.	This will give you a good idea of where your base pace lies after two months of training. This will help you pace and plan your longer runs for the rest of the program.	Riding uphill increases strength, but learning to descend confidently will be valuable to safe riding and a fast time.	

WEEK 5								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	"Time Trial" week. This is an opportunity to test how far you've come and get an idea of where you'll be setting your race target pace.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Swim & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	750 m	20 km	650 m/7.5 km		45-60 min/4 km	500 m	20 km/4.5 km	Any new kit you're planning to use should be use in training to test it; new goggles (tinted for open water), trainers, elastic laces, bike shoes, tri suit etc. You need to make sure it all fits and works where you need it. Open water competency will be a massive factor in your comfort, confidence and will count come race day
INTENSITY	Time Trial	TT	Intervals/Steady		Tempo	Open Water	Negative split	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Take a couple of easy length to warm up and then swim a 750m effort non-stop to set a time, this will give you a record of where you are in your training.	1 km warm up @RPE 5 Once warmed up using your pace from previous session aim to hit your threshold speed for the rest of the distance. warm down, easy leg spin afterwards for a couple minutes.	Swim: Session #2 Run: Aim to run at your fastest sustainable pace. For 7.5 km. This will give you an idea of a pace you can hold for longer than race distance. @RPE 8		Strength: Program 2a Run: Run the 4 km at your target race speed, checking you're able to pace yourself and hold your run form.	Swim: First open water swim of the program. You're first goal is to ensure proper wetsuit fitting, and spend some time getting used to the water which may be colder earlier in the season. Cover the distance aiming to swim smoothly, keeping a good technique.	Complete the first half of each discipline at a steady tempo, building into your race pace for the last half. RPE 6-8	
KEY FOCUS	Pacing & consistency	Maintaining intensity with minimal change in pace.	Best effort 'test' to see how well you're progressing.		Pacing, speed work.	Water acclimatisation, Stroke adaptation & breathing	Steady building into Threshold pace	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 58 KM
NOTES	Testing yourself over the race distance will be a good test of where you are in your fitness. From here you can adapt your training for the remainder of the plan.	This should be done on a flattish route. Alternatively, this may also be done on a turbo trainer, WATT bike or gym bike. The idea is to test how well you can hold a goal race pace.	This might be currently slower than where you plan to be in 6 week's time, but it will give you a rough idea of you progress and if your target time is realistic		Pacing and strength work. Improving your ability to run at higher speeds will increase your run fitness but also give your more ability to push yourself towards the later stages of a race.	Add in some sighting practice, getting better at this will pay off on race day. Practice breathing to your weaker side, in case you need to on race day.	Play with position on bars for flat & climbing. Use gears to keep your pedal cadence smooth. Learning to run a negative split out of transition will help with pacing.	

Week 6								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Any new kit you're planning to use should be use in training to test it; new goggles (tinted for open water), trainers, elastic laces, bike shoes, tri suit etc. You need to make sure it all fits and works where you need it.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Strength & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Bike	
DURATION	850 m	20 km	7.5 km		60 min/5 km	650 m	25 km	Open water competency will be a massive factor in your comfort, confidence and will count come race day
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Intervals	Track		Fartlek	Open Water	Hills	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #4 Count strokes per length as a way of keeping your technique in check; if you have to increase your strokes, you're losing efficiency, or fatiguing.	Incremental set: 8 km @RPE 5 8 km @RPE 7 8 km @RPE 8-9 1 km cool down Increasing work rate and learning to pace near/above threshold. If you're doing this set outside where the ground naturally varies, then try to make your average HR higher by 5-10 beats every 10 km.	Strength: Program 2a Run: Session #2		Strength: Program 2b Run: Fartlek; random intervals made up on a route of your choosing. Your average pace should still be around @RPE 6 with time spent between RPE 5-9	Swim: Further developing open water confidence and skills. Spend time fitting wetsuit properly Take time to acclimatise to the water. Then get a feel for what it's like in the suit; allowing the buoyancy to assist you, relax your stroke and focus on breathing. Start to add sighting into your strokes every 2-4 breaths.	Head out on a route, aiming to keep your average work effort: @RPE 6 If you like you can plan some hills into your route for some harder work intervals.	Practice getting the suit on, getting it wet (inside) in the water, warming and getting used to it quickly so that come race day it's all routine. Consider goggle choice for weather/lighting conditions.
KEY FOCUS	Pace replication between sets of same distance.	Pace control, knowing what's easy and what's hard.	Learning to control pace over different distances. Speed development.		Adding some fun into training but also learning to return to base pace following effort.	Open water confidence, breathing and sighting	Maintain a strong but steady pace	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 59 KM
NOTES	When breathing aim to keep one eye in the water, and keep your lead hand out in front until your recovery arm is on the way forward. Counting stroke per length is a good way of spotting efficiency and fatigue.	While this session may be done outside on a flat loop; it's a good one for the turbo/indoor trainer too. If you've an 8-10km training loop you can aim to take off a minute+ each time.	Ensure you warm up prior to running; Treat the first couple of laps easy, or even run a lap as a warm up.		Your average pace should be similar to an aerobic (RPE 6-7) run but with lots of variation in speed. This can be a good session to do with a friend, since you can take turns to call sprints, or efforts.	If you can join a group, this may help you with confidence and receive some coaching points.	Good pacing on hills is important to maintain optimal race pace, too easy and you lose time, to hard and you'll be slower on the flats.	

WEEK 7								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	As the volume reaches this level you should really feel the endurance improvements.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Swim & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	750 m	22.5 km	500 m/7.5 km		60 min/5 km	750 m	25 km/5 km	
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Hills	Intervals/Track		Track	OWS		Use hills sessions to focus on power and control Keep improving open water skills & confidence Throw in a quick transition practice after your OWS; getting wetsuit off asap while still moving, running after a swim.
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #3	Using a hilly route or one with at least one good climb that takes >3 min to ascend. Mix up between seated and standing climbing, keeping rhythm. Get used to descending too.	Swim: Session #1 Run: Steady pace, below threshold. @RPE 6-7		Strength: Program 2b Run: Session #1	Swim: Continuing with your open water adaptation; Practice sighting, and adapting your stroke to a wetsuit and open water; Slow your cadence and working with the buoyancy of the suit. Break your swim down into some time spent adapting then finish with a 4-500 m hard effort. @RPE 7	Option 1: Split into two mini-bricks of: 15 k/2.5 k & 10 k/2.5 k for more transition practice and more speed work Option 2: Complete through once at race pace.	
KEY FOCUS	Pace control and being able to repeat pace of each set.	Climbing, descending, maintaining rhythm	Hold form and posture, look to finish at pace you started.		Focus on run form and posture. Aim to keep 1 km slips as similar as possible.	Open water adaptation & skills	Set at race pace. Running well off the bike.	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 67 KM
NOTES	While aiming to swim hard on the shorter efforts, also try to maintain good alignments and form in the water since losing technique will make you slower.	If you've not a hilly route you can do plan a 5-8 km loop around 1 particular hill and rep around that.	Spend the first km settling into a rhythm, then hold a pace that's within 5-10 sec per km the same.		Run: Keep sets of the same distance consistent times.	Focus on controlling your breathing as this is often first to go open water as it's colder. Swimming with a group can build confidence swimming with others, like you'll have to on race day	Experiment with different positions on the bike; hoods, drops etc., aiming to be more 'aero' where it counts.	

Week 8								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	This is your largest volume week, so ensure you allow sufficient fuelling and recovery/sleep.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Strength & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Bike	
DURATION	1 km	25 km	60 min/6.5 km		60 min/5 km	850 m	30 km	Stick to the increases in distances as best you can, and where it fits.
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Intervals	Negative split		Track	Open Water	Hills	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #5	5 x 5 intervals: 10 min warm up @RPE 5 5 min @RPE 6 5 min @RPE 8-9 Repeat until 2-3 km to go then warm down @RPE 4-5 Outdoors: Plan a route where you can complete a similar workout; e.g. loops or out-and-back.	Strength: Program 2a Run: @RPE 6-9 Break this run down into 4 x 2 km efforts, planning to run each block at the following intensity: 1 – RPE 6 2 – RPE 7 3 – RPE 8 4 – RPE 9		Strength: Program 2b Run: Session #1	Continue to work on swim prep; wetsuit fit, warming up dry-side, getting acclimatised quickly, and warming up within a couple of minutes, as this is what you will have on race day. Work in some harder efforts in to the later part of the session.	Steady state ride with some efforts and/or hills included. Maintain steady cadence and rhythm to keep a constant work rate on climbs and flat. If you have access to your race course, you could do a recon ride (2 laps).	The more familiar session in the program should be seeing noticeable improvements. If you're happy to do so you can tweak sessions e.g. swims to work on weaker areas like drills or sprints.
KEY FOCUS	Body position, rotation through the hips. Pacing over the distance	High intensity efforts & recovery	Pace judgement & finishing strong		Match or better time from the last time you did this track session	Open water skills. Swimming at harder efforts	Maintaining steady RPE 6-8	
NOTES	Pace yourself over the sets to keep sets of same distances the same speed.	This may be performed on a turbo or outside, whichever is convenient	Working at RPE 9 towards the end of a run will feel very tough, but will be good practice for race day, as well as mental prep for working hard.		The strength program should be getting easier and you should be increasing your weights/times of each exercise.	1 arm drills aid rotation & stroke efficiency are good focus point for open water adaptation.	Being able to ride your race route give you more confidence on descents & corners. You can also pace judge climbs and look for prevailing wind direction etc.	

WEEK 9								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	This is a high volume week for running and your last tough one before you begin to taper down. Speed work and pacing is key
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Swim & Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	650 m	30 km	750 m/8.5 km		45 min/5 km	1 km	25 km/3.5 km	Start to think about how much fluid you're using in training as a predictor of what you'll need on race day. If you've got any new shoes for race day, start to wear them in now,
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Mixed effort	Intervals/hills		Fartlek	Open water	Bike/Run	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #2	Preferably outdoors ride on a naturally varied route. Add in some harder "fartlek" style efforts. Pick a route where you can practice longer aerobic/drop efforts to work hard in a lower position	Swim: Session #3 Run: Complete this run as steady pace run over undulating terrain focus on holding pace up and down hills. @RPE 6-7		Strength: program 2a Run: Fartlek; random intervals made up on a route of your choosing. Your average pace should still be around @RPE 6 with time spent between RPE 5-9	Longer steady duration swimming, run through wetsuit fitting, lubricant, and use your tri-suit underneath. Practice your sighting and start to play around with speed work. If you can swim with a friend or in a group, it is good practice for race day conditions	Race simulation: Using your intended race kit, clothing etc. Bike: warm up over the first couple of km then build into RPE 8+ Run: Run strong off the bike for the first 2 km then settle into an easier pace.	
KEY FOCUS	Holding form over longer distance. Using paddle work to strengthen stroke	Simulating holding a pace in a race with shorter higher efforts like hills/overtaking	Swim: Test yourself on the 200's to see how well you perform tired.		Adding some fun into training but also learning to return to base pace following effort.	Swimming an accurate course and holding pace in open water	Bike: Race pace effort Run: work hard for 2 km then slow to steady pace.	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 74 KM
NOTES	Final fitness push. The hard work you do here will fine tune your race fitness. Use shorter efforts to work hard and longer efforts to refocus on technique.	Take adequate water & fuelling with you.	This is a high-volume day, if possible plan the session with a good gap in between. Make sure to eat and drink enough before and after these sessions.	If you haven't already start thinking about recovery massage. With the volume of training you're doing your body will thank you for a little maintenance.	Your average pace should be similar to an aerobic (RPE 6-7) run but with lots of variation in speed. This can be a good session to do with a friend, since you can take turns to call sprints, or efforts.	Even though we want to try and race at a steady pace, mixing up your speed will simulate fatigue or being out of breath and help you learn to cope with it.	Prep you bike as you intend to on race day; bottles, nutrition, spares etc. Field test all your planned equipment and transition strategies.	

Week 10								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	The last high volume week before we start to bring the distance down.
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Run	Rest	Strength & Run	Swim	Bike	
DURATION	1.4 m	25 km	7.5 km		60 min/6 km	1 km	40 km	By the end of this week you will have a good idea of your race plan and be able to set a realistic target and plans your pacing and nutrition strategy around this.
INTENSITY	Drills/Intervals	Intervals	Steady state		Tempo	Open Water	Hills/interval	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #6	Indoors: 3 km Warm up, progressing intensity. @RPE 5-8 1 min @RPE 5 6 min @RPE 6 1 min @RPE 7 1 min @RPE 8 1 min @RPE 9 Repeat until 2-3 km to go, then cool down @RPE 4 Outdoors: Fartlek ride with longer efforts	Run: @RPE 6-7 Steady effort, keep it aerobic and run over a route of your choosing. If you're off-road or on a hilly route, pace yourself to keep effort in the correct zone.		Strength: Program 2b Run: Run just below race pace consistently over the 6 km. @RPE 7-8	Swim: Run through a prep as if race day; get your suit on in plenty of time, fit it properly. Warm up on land, then get in and acclimatise and warm up within 2 similar minutes (what you'll have on race day) then do a practice start and swim race distance. Use remaining distance for sprints.	Steady state ride with some efforts thrown in. These can be hills or periods where you're working hard on flats. Maintain steady cadence and rhythm. Pace judgement should be key.	Make sure you have all the equipment you need, and any last minute purchases are tested in training over race distance at least.
KEY FOCUS	Endurance & pacing.	Holding threshold pace for longer	Focus on run form, posture and finishing feeling strong.		Working hard & holding good form	Swim: Working at race pace.	Pace judgement on hills or flat efforts.	
NOTES	You should be getting near your best times over 100 & 200 m, but the real show of fitness, will come when you are able to replicate this pace in open water	Being able to work above and below your threshold/race pace and then return to working there is a useful skill for racing on courses with challenging terrain or technical segments.	Steady effort at a below max pace, focusing on holding form and keeping each km the same effort level or HR.		This should be feeling much more comfortable to hold this pace now than a few weeks ago.	Final race pace prep. Polishing off your technique and race pacing. Practice some open water race starts.	Good pacing is important to maintain optimal race pace, too easy and you lose time, to hard and you'll be slower on the run.	

WEEK 11								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Bringing the volume down and working on speed will let your body start to recover while acting as a last surge for your peak fitness
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Swim & Run	Rest	Strength	Swim	Brick	
DURATION	1.4 km	30 km	650 m/7.5km		60 min	1 km	15 km/5 km	
INTENSITY	Drill/Interval	TT	Intervals/Track		Steady	Open water		Everything should be aimed at setting up your race plan.
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #6	Preferably outside on a route you know well and can ride hard safely. Aim to complete the ride at race intensity. RPE 7-8 If weather allows, use race kit as well: Shoes, socks/sockless? Trisuit Sunglasses	Swim: Session #2 Run: Session #2 Aim to consistently better your times from previous attempts on this session.		Strength: Your program choice Which even program you feel is more effective for you. Keep the weights/repetition the same but only complete around 2/3 of the total sets. Allocate more time to flexibility and foam rolling	If you like you can do this session as a straight 1 km swim TT. Otherwise break it up into shorter/faster efforts. Where ever you feel you stand to gain the most, based on how your training has gone. If swimming with a group, practice starts, drafting & turning buoys in close proximity	Race day simulation: Use all your kit and practice how you'll lay it out come race day. Bike & Run @RPE 7-8 working on your pacing and trying to settle into your run as soon as you can off the bike. Work on transition time	NB; All plans need to be flexible, this is a critical stage in training and if you feel over fatigued you must rest.
KEY FOCUS	Maintaining stroke count per length when working hard	Sustained race pace	Speed, pacing,		Flexibility,	Distance, breathing, sighting, pace.	Transition speed, pacing	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 60 KM
NOTES	A good sign that you're holding your efficiency is that you're stroke count per length stays the same.	keep hydrated and note your intake, practice nutrition strategy	Use the shorter sets to really push out your maximum sustained efforts over each distance.		Keeping your muscles working, but more importantly keeping them mobile and recovering will be important for being at your best on day	Make sure your warm up routine is in place, so you can be ready to work at race pace from the gun.	Everyone lays out transition slightly differently. Find what works for you and practice it; e.g. race belt, elastic laces, nutrition	

WEEK 12 – Race Week								GOALS
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	<p>The hard work is done, nothing you can do now will make you fitter. The focus here is to maintain your peak while allowing recovery.</p> <p>Keep the sessions high quality with good pace work</p> <p>Reduced volume/distance will allow for adaptation/recovery</p> <p>If you've travelled to an event having a run or swim when you get there can help you get over a journey</p>
SESSION	Swim	Bike	Run	Strength (Mobility)	Run	Swim	RACE DAY	
DURATION	1 km	10 km	2 km	30 min	1 km	500 m	750/20/5 km	
INTENSITY	Mixed	Mixed efforts	Mixed efforts	Easy	Easy	Easy	Race Pace	
SESSION DETAILS	Swim: Session #5	Final pre-race check; ride a steady effort bike in race set up, carry what you're planning to carry in the race. Add in some bursts 2-4 minute efforts. RPE 5-7	Run at a steady pace focusing on your form and keeping a light foot strike. Add in shorts burst of harder efforts for a little bit at a time. RPE 5-7	Just do the WARM-UP/flexibility part of your routine ONLY. If you're feeling good head out for a gentle 1 km run @RPE 5-6 to keep you loose (optional)	Still warming up before hand this should be about keeping your legs moving. Still working at a good tempo, but not quite race pace. RPE 7	Relaxed effort swim, loosening off with a few short bursts. RPE 5-7	The hard work is over, stick to what you know in training. Race hard, race well and have fun!	
KEY FOCUS	Speed, pacing,	How the bike feels	Run form	Flexibility, recovery	Relaxed form	Good position, technique in the water. Relaxed stroke.	WEEKLY DISTANCE: 40 KM	
NOTES	With all the training under your belt, you shouldn't feel tired after this session. This is steady work with a few bursts.	This is your pre-race bike check; is all in working order, do you have the spares you need. After the ride, clean the bike and give the tyres a once over.	This distance should feel very easy now and you should feel good when you finish.	If possible book a massage.		Nice short session to loosen off. You could even do this session in open water for a confidence boost and wetsuit removal practice.	Do your best, and have fun!	

APPENDIX

Rate of Perceived Exertion

We will use the Rate of Perceived Exertion (RPE) scale illustrated below to determine the intensity of your sessions.

These will be highlighted in each session text to make it clear as to what is expected. This table helps you understand exactly how you should feel when executing the training session. Due to the nature of the scale, it is subjective and requires you to feel how your body is responding to the exercise, when doing this consider how your heart is pumping, how quickly you are breathing, how much you are sweating and how much discomfort you are experiencing in your legs.

Please remember that everybody's RPE figure could be different to yours when exercising at the same speed because we all respond differently to exercise.

RPE	DESCRIPTION
0	Complete rest
1	Very Weak: I am just about moving
2	Weak: I am walking at a faster pace and can hold a conversation easily
3	Light: I am beginning to sweat a little, but can hold conversation throughout
4	Moderate: I am very happy at this effort
5	Somewhat Strong: I am sweating more heavily and starting to feel my breathing is becoming more stressed
6	Strong: I am beginning to feel more out of breath but could maintain this pace for a few hours
7	Very Strong: My breathing is very laboured, but I can still maintain pace for an hour without slowing
8	Hard: I am starting to struggle to hold this pace and my heart is racing and am sweating heavily
9	Very Hard: This is hurting and I can only hold this effort for up to 5mins
10	Extremely Hard: I am absolutely flat out and this is sprinting. I will need to stop after 30secs

Swim Sessions

SESSION 1 – 500m
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>100 m – FS RPE 4-5</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>2 x 100 m FS + Pull buoy @RPE 5 2 x 50 m FS @RPE 7</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>100 m – FS RPE 4-5</p>

SESSION 2 – 650m
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>100 m – FS RPE 4-5 100 m Drill (25m fist/25m FS x 2)</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>1 x 200 m FS + Pull buoy @RPE 5 2 x 100 m FS @RPE 6</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>50 m – FS RPE 4-5</p>

SESSION 3 – 750m
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>100 m FS @RPE 4-5 100 m Drill (50m Drill/50m FS) (Drill can be; Kickboard/catch-up/1-arm)</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>1 x 200 m FS + Pull buoy @RPE 6 1 x 150 m FS @RPE 7 2 x 75 m FS @RPE 7-8</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>50 m – FS RPE 4-5</p>

SESSION 4 – 850m
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>200 m FS @RPE 5 200 m FS + Pull @RPE 5-6</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>150 m FS @RPE 6 100 m FS @RPE 7 50 m FS @RPE 8</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>150 m – any stroke RPE 4-5</p>

SESSION 5 – 1 KM
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>100 m FS @RPE 5 200 m Drill (25m 1-arm FS/25m 1-arm FS/50m FS x 2)</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>300 m FS @RPE 5-6 100 m FS + Paddle + Pull buoy @RPE 6 200 m FS @RPE 7-8</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>100 m – any stroke RPE 4-5</p>

SESSION 6 – 1.4 KM
<p>WARM UP</p> <p>400 m FS @RPE 5 100 m Kicking w/kickboard</p>
<p>MAIN SET</p> <p>400 m FS + Pull buoy @RPE 5-6 200 m FS @RPE 6-7 2 x 100 FS @RPE 8</p>
<p>COOL DOWN</p> <p>100 m – any stroke RPE 4-5</p>

Explanation of swim drills

Included within the swim sessions are a number of drills. Please find an explanation of each drill below:

KICK: Swim on your front and using a kickboard you use only your legs to aid propulsion. You must kick from the hips using a straight leg action. Concentrate on pointing your feet behind you and having floppy and flexible ankles. Engage your core to keep your hips elevated. When using the kickboard aim to keep the board horizontal by applying a small amount of pressure down on the board thus raising your chest. You can either keep your head up or pop your face into the water to simulate the correct body position. You can use fins to help with your kick if necessary.

SIDE KICK: Hold the kickboard in one hand and keep that hand outstretched in front of your head and body, your other arm will rest on your side. Kick from the hips with the hips facing the sides of the pool. Concentrate on pointing your feet towards the end of the pool with floppy and flexible ankles. Engage your core to keep your hips elevated. You should keep your face pointing down to the bottom of the pool only turning your head sideways to breathe. You can use fins to help with your kick if necessary.

DEAD MAN FLOAT: Push off the wall keeping your arms in front of the head then when you begin to lose momentum bring your arms back to being by your sides, where they now stay. Use only your kick for propulsion, using fins where necessary. Concentrate on body and head position, keep your head facing down with the chin slightly tucked inwards to your chest and push your chest out down towards the floor. The hips should gently break the surface of the water. If you become stationary, simply do a few arm strokes to gain momentum again.

PENCIL FLOAT: Apply the same principles as for the Dead Man Float, except this time you keep your arms fully stretched out in front of the body and have your head squeezed in between your arms. Concentrate on keeping the arms straight and long.

CATCH-UP: When swimming a standard Front Crawl, apply a slower arm revolution so that each arm is completing a full stroke before the other arm begins the next stroke. Complete a full stroke with your Right arm, holding your Left arm in a forward and outstretched position, with your Right hand coming through and making contact with your Left hand before you begin a full stroke with the Left arm. Continue to do this resisting the temptation to begin the next stroke too soon. A handy tip is to use a kickboard or pull buoy and hold this in the leading hand and exchange hands between strokes. If you struggle to maintain body position doing this drill hold a pull buoy between your thighs.

PULL: Swim standard Front Crawl holding a pull buoy between your thighs. Concentrate on the power needed to complete the full stroke without any kick being applied. You must be strict to not use any kick doing this. Do not speed your stroke up to compensate for the lack of a leg kick.

ZIPPER: Swim standard Front Crawl, as your arm is beginning its movement up the body trail your thumb up from the thigh, past the hip and into towards the arm pit before allowing the hand to exit the water and reach forwards. This encourages a high elbow exit from the water as well as keeping your recovery arm in close proximity to the body.

PADDLES: Wear hand paddles to apply greater resistance to the water through each stroke. This promotes greater strength through your arms and shoulders. To use paddles properly ensure that you have the correct size paddle for your hand, then when using you must enter the water with the fingers pointing down to the bottom of the pool and pull through the water with your elbow always higher than your hand. Continue to push all of the way through the stroke past your hip to get full use of the paddle.

POLO-SIGHTING: Introduce some open water skills to your pool swim with this drill. When turning your head to breathe also turn your head forwards to look in front of you. When trying to look forwards activate a strong stroke that will allow you to bring your shoulders higher out of the water. Do not do this every breath, start with every 4 breathes and work up to every 8. Find the sighting/breathing pattern that works best for you.

HYPOXIC BREATHING: Swim standard Front Crawl and concentrate on the number of strokes per breath. Begin with your normal breathing pattern and then gradually try to increase by 1 stroke at a time, building to a maximum of 7 strokes per breath. You must relax completely to be able to execute this drill, relax your chest, neck and jaw and focus on a very slow exhalation. Alternate between breathing patterns to simulate the unpredictability of open water swimming.

FIST DRILL: Close your hands like fists and swim normal front crawl. This takes away the paddle action of your hand and you will need to concentrate on the position of your forearm to be used to pull you through the water.

Running – Track Sessions

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
Warm Up	Warm Up	Warm Up
400m at RPE 4-5	400m at RPE 4-5	400m at RPE 4-5
Main Set*	Main Set*	Main Set*
1 x 1600m	3 x 1600m	1 x 1200m
2 x 800m	3 x 800m	3 x 400m
4 x 400m		1 x 1200m
		3 x 400m
		1 x 1200m
		3 x 400m
Total 5200m	Total 7600m	Total 7600m

*You should aim to run your main set as fast as you can, however the pace you set should be consistent for all of your 400m efforts for example in Session 1 the 400m pace during your 1600m effort should be the same as your final 400m effort. If you start out too fast your 400m times will start slipping. Find a pace you can maintain then gradually chip away at your 400m time gradually.

Strength & Conditioning Session 1A

Warm Up					
Flexibility/Movement	Duration	Notes			
Foam roller; Back	30-45 sec	Roll over back, especially lower, to ease off connective tissue & increase mobility			
Foam roller; ITB	30-45 sec	Roll ITBs to release tension in connective tissue that may inhibit knee/hip movement			
Foam roller; Calf's	30-45 sec	Rolling calf's, especially Achilles, can aid ankle flexibility and recovery from training			
Kneeling hip flexor stretch	30-45 sec	Gently driving hips into stretch, with arms overhead to feel stretch in hips & torso			
Hamstring 'track stretch'	8-10 reps	From "start" position to semi-standing while holding foot, until stretch it felt, in hamstring			
Main Set					
Exercise	Sets	Reps	Tempo	Rest	Weight
Side plank; from knees	2-3es	45sec	static	20sec	BW
Front plank on stability ball (knees or toes)	2-3	16-20	Slow	20sec	BW
Tube walking	2	20	Slow	20sec	RB
2 leg glute press w/foot on step	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Stability ball wall squat	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Laying over stability ball, arm raise	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Kneeling press up	2-3	Max	Slow	30sec	BW

Strength & Conditioning Session 1B

Warm Up					
Flexibility/Movement	Duration	Notes			
Foam roller; Back	30-45 sec	roll over back, especially lower, to ease off connective tissue & increase mobility			
Foam roller; ITB	30-45 sec	Roll ITBs to release tension in connective tissue that may inhibit knee/hip movement			
Foam roller; Calf's	30-45 sec	Rolling calf's, especially Achilles, can aid ankle flexibility and recovery from training			
Kneeling hip flexor stretch	30-45 sec	gently driving hips into stretch, with arms overhead to feel stretch in hips & torso			
Hamstring 'track stretch'	8-10 reps	from "start" position to semi-standing while holding foot, until stretch it felt, in hamstring			
Main Set					
Exercise	Sets	Reps	Tempo	Rest	Weight
Front plank (from toes or knees)	2-3es	45sec	static	20sec	BW
Dead bug	2-3	16-20	Slow	20sec	BW
Laying on side leg raise	2	20	Slow	20sec	RB
Hamstring curl on stability ball	2-3	8-10	Slow	30sec	BW
Lateral lunge, alternating sides	2-3	20	Slow	30sec	BW
Resistance band pull over on stability ball	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Stability ball chest press	2-3	Max	Slow	30sec	BW

Strength & Conditioning Session 2A

Warm Up					
Flexibility/Movement	Duration	Notes			
Foam roller; Back	30-45 sec	Roll over back, especially lower, to ease off connective tissue & increase mobility			
Foam roller; ITB	30-45 sec	Roll ITBs to release tension in connective tissue that may inhibit knee/hip movement			
Foam roller; Calf's	30-45 sec	Rolling calf's, especially Achilles, can aid ankle flexibility and recovery from training			
Kneeling hip flexor stretch	30-45 sec	Gently driving hips into stretch, with arms overhead to feel stretch in hips & torso			
Hamstring 'track stretch'	8-10 reps	From "start" position to semi-standing while holding foot, until stretch it felt, in hamstring			
Main Set					
Exercise	Sets	Reps	Tempo	Rest	Weight
Side plank from toes	2-3es	45sec	static	20sec	BW
Stability ball roll outs from knees	2-3	16-20	Slow	20sec	BW
Tube walking	2	20	Slow	20sec	RB
1 leg glute press w/foot on step	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Split squat (with weights if too easy)	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Laying over stability ball; dumbbell row	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Kneeling press up	2-3	Max	Slow	30sec	BW

Strength & Conditioning Session 2B

Warm Up					
Flexibility/Movement	Duration	Notes			
Foam roller; Back	30-45 sec	Roll over back, especially lower, to ease off connective tissue & increase mobility			
Foam roller; ITB	30-45 sec	Roll ITBs to release tension in connective tissue that may inhibit knee/hip movement			
Foam roller; Calf's	30-45 sec	Rolling calf's, especially Achilles, can aid ankle flexibility and recovery from training			
Kneeling hip flexor stretch	30-45 sec	Gently driving hips into stretch, with arms overhead to feel stretch in hips & torso			
Hamstring 'track stretch'	8-10 reps	From "start" position to semi-standing while holding foot, until stretch it felt, in hamstring			
Main Set					
Exercise	Sets	Reps	Tempo	Rest	Weight
Front plank (from toes or knees)	2-3es	45sec	static	20sec	BW
Dead bug	2-3	16-20	Slow	20sec	BW
Laying on side leg raise	2	20	Slow	20sec	RB
Walking lunges	2-3	20	dynamic	30sec	BW
Lateral lunge to balance	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Resistance band pull over on stability ball	2-3	12-15	Slow	30sec	BW
Stability ball chest press	2-3	Max	Slow	30sec	BW