



CAIRNS MARATHON & community run festival

The purpose of a training guide is to keep you on track to achieve your goals. The best way to stay on track is to remain consistent; in your training, in your stretching, recovery and diet. Time and distance will get you across the line, consistency will help you achieve your goals.

X-TRAINING/REST = 50% EFFORT

For a runner, rest days are as important as night is to day. Recover, rejuvenate and absorb the training. X-Training too allows the body to recuperate and use different muscle groups. Plus you'll stay fresh and motivated.

EASY = 60% EFFORT

Easy or recovery runs should feel relaxed. If you can easily hold a conversation you're going at the right pace. If you're new to running slow down and walk if necessary. This is a great opportunity to visualise race day.

STEADY = 70% EFFORT

This is the key to marathon success. Gradually build your time spent running allowing your body to adapt. Test your race day shoes, socks, running apparel, nutrition and hydration. These are key sessions, try not to miss them and rope in friends and family for company.

UNDULATING = 70% EFFORT

Introducing rolling hills or inclines into your program activates different muscle groups and encourages speed and strength in your key running muscles. Add a few cheeky hills to your session and race day will be that much easier.

FARTLEK = 70%-90% EFFORT

Swedish for "speed play" Fartlek training is a continuous, unstructured session switching between moderate and hard efforts. Run faster for short burst (use trees or signposts) followed by easy-effort running to recover.

RACE PACE = 80% EFFORT

Some efforts in this guide call for "race pace", which means running at the speed you could hold for your chosen event (not what you'd like to run). For example if you can run 10km in 50mins, your 10km race pace is 5min/km.

ABOVE RACE PACE = 90% EFFORT

Efforts done above your race pace extend your body, increase cardio-vascular performance and introduce speed into the program. Think of it as getting comfortable with being uncomfortable.



WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	X-Train 25-40mins	Easy 15mins	REST	Total 15mins Inc 6x 12sec race pace efforts 30sec jog recovery	REST	REST	Easy 20mins 1min walk 1min run if necessary
2	X-Train or Rest Recovery week	Undulating 20mins walk the uphill if necessary	REST	Total 20mins 10mins out and back -ve split	REST	Easy 15mins 1min walk 1min run if necessary	Easy 20mins 2min walk 2min run if necessary
3	X-Train 30-45mins	Tempo 15mins	REST	Total 20mins Incl 3 x 1min hills/ 1min jog recovery	REST	REST	Total 30mins or 2kms race pace + 10mins warm up & cool down
4	X-Train 35-50mins	Fartlek 20mins	REST	Easy 30mins	REST	REST	Easy 35mins Walk/jog if required Test race day shoes + clothing
5	X-Train 40-55mins	Easy 30mins	REST	Total 30mins 15mins out and back -ve split	REST	Easy 20mins	Easy 40mins
6	X-Train 35-50mins Recovery week	Undulating 30mins walk the uphill if necessary	REST	Easy 25mins	REST	REST	Easy 45mins Walk/jog if required Test race day everything
7	X-Train 45-60mins	Fartlek 30mins	REST	Total 25mins Inc 6x 45sec race pace efforts 30sec jog recovery	REST	Total 2mins 10mins out and back -ve split	Easy 45mins
8	REST Recovery week	Easy 20mins	REST	Total 15mins Incl 4 x 30sec above race pace efforts	REST	Easy 10-15mins	RACE DAY