



HOW TO TRAIN FOR THE



BREAST
CANCER
IRELAND
researching a cure

**PINK
RUN**



Training for the run won't be difficult if you have a plan in place.

COUCH TO 5KM - A BEGINNERS GUIDE

If you have never run before, taking up running can seem like a scary prospect, especially if you have been unwell, feel out of shape, or if you are unfit.

Don't worry as we have created a plan that's ideal for beginners who have never run a 5k before in their lives!

How long should you train for the Very Pink Run

While more experienced runners may need less time to prepare for the run, beginners are advised to start training eight weeks prior. The Very Pink Run Couch to 5K plan will help you to gradually build up towards the big event!

Weeks to GPR Run	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
8 WEEKS	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	30 MIN WALK	1.5KM WALK OR JOG
7 WEEKS	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	30 MIN WALK	1.5KM WALK OR JOG
6 WEEKS	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	40 MIN WALK	1.5KM JOG OR RUN
5 WEEKS	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	1.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	40 MIN WALK	2.5KM JOG OR RUN
4 WEEKS	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	50 MIN WALK	3.5KM JOG OR RUN
3 WEEKS	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	50 MIN WALK	3.5KM RUN
2 WEEKS	REST	3.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	3.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	60 MIN WALK	4.5KM RUN
1 WEEK	REST	3.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	2.5KM WALK OR JOG	REST	REST	5KM RUN

#VERYPINKRUN



Eight-week Training Plan

The Very Pink Run Couch to 5K is a running plan for absolute beginners. It was developed by Olympian and Very Pink Run Patron, Sonia O'Sullivan who wanted to help Breast Cancer Ireland and our community of supporters and survivors to get off the couch and start running!

So, how does the Couch to 5k plan work?

Getting started is often the biggest challenge a new runner faces. However, if you give yourself plenty of time, ideally over a 2 to 3 month period, you can comfortably run a 5k.

Start by mixing some walking and jogging to build up the fitness - but don't do too much too soon.

Eight to six weeks before the VPR

Week 1 involves running for just a minute at a time, creating realistic expectations and making the challenge feel achievable right from the start.

- Go for a 1.5km walk or jog.
- It's a good idea once you make the commitment to write down a plan, tell your friends and family so you are accountable.
- You will need to set aside some time at least 3 days per week where you can take time to prepare and feel yourself improve each week. The same time on the same days each week will help build a routine that will help you get used to and look forward to the challenge each week.
- Make use of the weekends, get out for an hour on one day of the weekend, run, walk or a combination.

**"Remember, this is a run but you can walk or wheel and get just as much enjoyment but you will enjoy it best if you prepare and know what you are capable of."
- Sonia O'Sullivan, Olympian & Patron of the Very Pink Run**



Five to three weeks before the VPR

Increase the distance that you're walking or jogging to 2.5 km, and on some days, 3.5km. Increase the frequency of your running as well, instead of the usual jog or walk.

Follow the same pointers as the previous weeks and don't forget to eat balanced, nutritious meals and hydrate with water and electrolyte drinks.



Two to one week before the VPR

Increase the distance of your jogs and runs to 3.5 km up to 5 km.

In the last week, make sure that you also get plenty of rest. Exchange one of your walks to a rest day to make sure you won't overexert yourself on the day of the run.

Also make sure you have everything prepared for the day of the event itself! Your accessories, your outfit, your trainers, etc.

Haven't signed up yet? It's not too late!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)