



run Disney

HALF MARATHON

EXPERIENCED TRAINING PROGRAM

This program is designed for those who are already running, and want to step up to the half marathon distance. Only 3 weekly training days are needed: 30 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday, and a longer session on the weekend. On half of the weekends, most runners will be running and walking for an hour or less. For more information, see my book HALF MARATHON at JeffGalloway.com.

Jeff Galloway • **US Olympian** • **runDisney Official Training Consultant**

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The long run is the key to half marathon success. As you increase the length of these, you'll prepare to "go the distance" on race day. You cannot go too slowly on the long runs: your goal is simply to finish each one with strength. To avoid a slowdown at the end of the race, please finish each one on the schedule—even if you walk most of it.

No huffing and puffing! On long runs, you want to be able to carry on a conversation throughout—even at the end. A very slow pace, with liberal walk breaks, will allow almost everyone to feel strong on almost every long one. If you're breathing hard at the end of a long one, you need to adjust to a slower pace with more walk breaks from the beginning of the next one.

Running form: Never sprint during a running segment—keep feet low to the ground, using a light touch of the feet, and a relatively short stride. Most runners find that an upright posture is best but do what feels natural for you. Let your foot move in its natural way also. Most runners land on the heel and gently roll off the midfoot.

Walking form: walk with a gentle stride, that is relatively short. Power walking and walking with a long stride increase injury risk.

Slow down in the heat! Surveys have shown that runners tend to slow down a minute per mile when the temperature is 70F, and an additional minute per mile at 80F (compared with performances at 60F or below). Please make these pace adjustments on the hot long run days, using more frequent walk breaks to avoid heat stress. Don't wear a hat on hot days, try to run before the sun rises above the horizon and pour water over the top of your head.

Long run pace should be at least 2 min/mi slower than current half marathon race pace, predicted by the Magic Mile (noted on the following page).

The results of the "magic mile" will predict your best performance possible on race day. Time limit for the race is 3:30— 16 min/mi. If you think that you may be challenged to run 16 minutes per mile on race day, please practice 15:00 to 15:30 per mile pace on the "Thursday run" (noted on the following page).

Two "maintenance runs" (30 minutes each) are needed each week to sustain the conditioning needed—usually on Tuesday and Thursday. It's best to take a day off from running before each running day.

Run-walk-run ratio should correspond to the pace used. Here are suggested strategies: Note: it is OK to walk more frequently than listed.

PACE	STRATEGY (running segment is first)
9:00 min/mi:	run 2 min/walk 30 sec
9:30 -10:45 min/mi:	90/30
10:45 -12:15 min/mi:	60/30
12:15 -14:15 min/mi:	30/30
14:30 -15:45 min/mi:	15/30
15:30 -17:00 min/mi:	10/30
17:00 -18:30 min/mi:	8/30
18:30 - 20:00 min/mi:	5/30

Race Day practice. On the Thursday runs, after the standard warmup, time yourself for 2 miles and try to run the pace you feel is realistic on race day, using the appropriate run-walk-run ratio. As you use a variety of run-walk-run strategies, you should find the right ratio for you. Hint: shorter run segments have often reduced or eliminated slowdown at the end of half marathons.

It is fine to do cross training on Mon, Wed, and Fri. if you wish. There will be little benefit to your running in doing this, but you'll improve overall fitness. On the cross training days, don't do exercises that fatigue the calf muscles (stair machines).

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Standard warmup: walk for 3-5 minutes, then, run for 15-30 seconds and walk for the rest of the minute for 5 minutes. Then, gradually increase the amount of running, reducing the amount of walking for 5 minutes as you wish. Remember—no huffing and puffing.

On Tuesday, after the standard warmup, try various run-walk-run strategies to discover what works best for you. Shorter running segments often result in faster times and less fatigue.

On Thursday, after the standard warmup, time yourself for 2 miles, running a pace that is realistic on race day—using the run-walk-run strategy (as noted on the previous page).

Standard cool down: walk for 10 minutes with a gentle and short stride.

Magic Mile: I suggest doing this after the standard warmup on weekends noted below. By the end of the training program, multiply your best magic mile time by 1.3 to see what an all-out pace on an ideal day would be. You will need to run 12:15 or faster in the MM by the end of the season to predict a finish time of 3:30 on race day (this is when the finish line closes).

The “Magic Mile” time trial (MM) is a reality check on your goal pace on race day, and has been the best predictor of current potential per mile pace on an ideal day.

- Use the standard warmup
- Run around a track if at all possible (or a very accurately measured one mile segment)
- Time yourself for 4 laps (1600 meters). Start the watch at the beginning, and keep it running until you cross the finish of the 4th lap.
- **On the first MM, don’t run all-out:** run at a pace that is slightly faster than your current easy pace.
- Only one MM is done on each day it is assigned.
- On each successive MM, your mission is to beat the previous best time.
- Don’t ever run so hard that you hurt your feet, knees, etc. Maintain a short stride, picking up the cadence or turnover.
- Jog slowly for the rest of the distance assigned on that day, taking as many walk breaks as you wish.

After you have run 3 of these (not at one time—on different weekends) you’ll see progress and will run them hard enough so that you are huffing and puffing during the second half. For prediction purposes, you want to finish, feeling like you couldn’t go much further at that pace. Try walking for about 10-15 seconds after each lap during the MM. Most runners who have reported in after trying it both ways, record a faster time when taking short walk breaks.

Note: This training advice is given as one runner to another. For medical questions, ask your doctor.

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Experienced Runners

Tuesday - 30 minutes

Thursday - 30 minutes

Saturday - Listed below

WEEK 1

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
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30 minutes

30 minutes

3 miles

WEEK 2

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
---------	----------	----------

30 minutes

30 minutes

4 miles

WEEK 3

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
---------	----------	----------

30 minutes

30 minutes

3 miles

WEEK 4

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
---------	----------	----------

30 minutes

30 minutes

5 miles

WEEK 5

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
---------	----------	----------

30 minutes

30 minutes

3 miles

WEEK 6

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
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30 minutes

30 minutes

6.5 miles

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WEEK 7

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 9

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 11

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	4 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 13

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	4 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 8

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	8 miles

WEEK 10

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	9.5 miles

WEEK 12

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	11 miles

WEEK 14

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	12.5 miles

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WEEK 15

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	4 miles with Magic Mile

WEEK 17

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	4 miles

WEEK 19

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	3 miles

WEEK 16

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	14 miles

WEEK 18

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SUNDAY
30 minutes	30 minutes	Race Day