## TRAININGZONE

## The plan

# RACE YOUR FIRST 70.3 <br> MASTER MIDDLEDISTANCE WITHOURFOOLPROOFPLANTOBUILDSTRENGTHANDFITNESS 

## Meet the expert

## PhilMosley

Coaching editor of Triathlon Plus Mosley is an experienced coach and elite athlete with a sports degree from the University ofChichester

WHETHER YOU call it an Ironman 70.3 or a middle-distance triathlon, one thing is still true; the popularity of this distance is exploding. Turn the clock back five or six years, and there were only a handful of these races to choose from in the UK. These days the race calendar is bursting with great middle-distance events both here and abroad, so there's no excuse for not having a go.

Part of the reason for their popularity lies in their format: the 1.9 km swim, 90 km bike and 21 km run plays into the hands of strong cyclists and runners More importantly, it gives weak swimmers plenty of time to catch up any lost time.

It's also the first step into the world of long-distance racing, but one that doesn't have to take over your life. In fact, some people do middle-distance triathlons having only trained for Olympic distance and shorter, although I don't recommend this.

I've watched too many people suffer
to know that it's not a distance you can take lightly. That's why these training plans are challenging, but still achievable.

There are two plans here, one for time-poor athletes which takes up to 10 hours per week, and one for time-rich people that takes up to 13 hours per week. They'll both get you fit enough, so choose the one that suits your situation the best. But regardless of what the plan says, if you start losing your appetite, struggle to sleep, or become abnormally grumpy, you should take at least a couple of days rest.

## Are these plans for you?

An Ironman 70.3 is a tough race, and so these training plans are no pushover. To start them you should already be able to: ■Swim 1,000m front crawl, non-stop $\square$ Ride your bike for at least 90 minutes Run non-stop for an hour

## Three to race

1 TriGrandPrix UK, 22 May, Emberton 1 Country Park, Buckinghamshire, England, www.trigrandprix.com 2 Ironman 70.3 Ireland, 4 September, 2 Galway, Ireland www.ironmanireland.com
3 Extrememan Menorca, 11 SSeptember, Fornells, Menorca, www.extreme-man.com


## How it works




7-10 hours per week

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## TRAINING ZONES

USING THESE training zones will help you train at the right intensity for each session. This helps you to develop specific aspects of your fitness, as well as making sure you don't overdo it. You can either estimate your intensity, using the training zone descriptions, or use a heart-rate monitor for a more precise measure. If you use a heart-rate monitor, use the percentages provided, and subtract them from your observed maximum heart rate to calculate your zones. Tools like cycle power meters and GPS watches will also help track your training progress, but they're not essential for these plans.

For Ironman 70.3, your training should mainly be within Z1 to Z4. ZONE 1 [Z1] Recovery
60 to $65 \%$ of max. Easy pace, feels nice and light ZONE 2 [Z2] Steady
65 to $75 \%$ of max. Fairly easy pace. Easy enough so that you could breathe just through your nose if you wanted to
ZONE 3 [Z3] Tempo
$75 \%$ to $80 \%$ of max. Fairly hard, but sustainable pace
ZONE 4 [Z4] Race tempo
80 to $90 \%$ of max. Hard pace, sustainable, but requires real focus
ZONE 5 [Z5] Red line
$90 \%$ to $100 \%$ max. Very hard, requires real focus, not sustainable for long

## KEY

MTB Off-road bike FC Front crawl BACK Backstroke BREAST Breaststroke PULL FC with pull-buoy float PULL ANKLES FC with pull-buoy between ankles KICK Kicking on front \& holding float FISTS FC with closed fists BI Bilateral breathing (every 3 strokes) WU Warm up WD Warm down

STAY IN THE TRAINING ZONE WITH TRIATHILON PLUS

## TRAININGZONE

IROMMAN 70.3 ITMMPOOR PHAN


## WEEK 09



| 닾 | Rest dey |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| did | Brick 2hrs <br> Bike 1 hr 40 mins in Z2 including $6 \times 3$ mins in Z4, straight intor run 15 mins at top of $Z 3,5$ mins jog inZ1 orZ2 | Brick 2hrs <br> Bike 1 hr 40 mins in Z2 including $3 \times 6 \mathrm{mins}$ in Z4, straight intorun 15 mins at top of $Z 3,5$ mins jog inZ1 orZ2 |
| E | AM Bike 3hrsLong ride inZ2 PM Swim 30mins Open-water swimin Z2 | AM Bike 3hrs Longride in Z2 <br> PMSwim 30mins Open-water swim in Z2. <br> With others if possible. Practise swimming ina <br> closegroup |




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IRONMAN 70.3 THMERICH PLAN


## WEEK 09

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| :---: | :---: |

## AM Run 40 mins Easyrunin Z2 PM Swim 3.1kmWU(Z2): $400 \mathrm{mfc}, 200 \mathrm{mpull}, 100 \mathrm{mfc}$ $25 \mathrm{~min} 23,25 \mathrm{~min} Z 1+30 \mathrm{secs} .400 \mathrm{~m}$ as 25 m fists, $25 \mathrm{mfc}+30 \mathrm{secs}$ Main (Z3): $2 \times 400 \mathrm{mfc}$ +45 secs. $8 \times 50 \mathrm{mpull}+20$ secs WD (Z1) 400malternating back/fc.

## 



Run 12 miles
WU2 milesZ1/2 Main3 miles attop of Z3.2 miles in Z2. 3 miles at top of Z3WD 2 miles in Z2

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## WEEK 10

AM Run 40mins Easy runin Z2 PM Swim $3 \mathrm{kmWU}(Z 2)$ : : 800 mas ( $200 \mathrm{mfc}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ kick,
200 m pull, 200 mkick ) Technique (Z2): 2 x , $100 \mathrm{mas}(25 \mathrm{~m}$ pull ankles, $25 \mathrm{mff}, 25 \mathrm{~m}$ pull ankles, 25 mfc ) +30 secs. $4 \times 100 \mathrm{mas}$ ( 25 m fist
 $4 \times 50 \mathrm{fc}+10 \mathrm{secsWD}$ (Z1): 400 m back/fc

## Brick 45mins

Triple brick WURun 10 mins in Z2 Main 3x (bike top of 73 ) +3 of 23 , straightintorun 3 mins at

AM Run 40 mins Easyrunin Z2PM Swim $\mathbf{3 k m W U}$ (Z2): 800 mas ( 200 mfc , 200 mpul 200 back, 200 mfc ) Technique (Z2): 200 mkich alternating 25 m on back, 25 m kick on front. 400 m as $8 \times(25 \mathrm{~m}$ kick on frontarms by side 25 m Il) $)+30 \mathrm{secs} .4 \times 200 \mathrm{~m}$ pull +30 secs WD(Z): $400 \mathrm{mback} / \mathrm{fc}$

Run 12 miles
WU2 milesZ1/2 Main 3 miles attop of Z3.2 miles in Z2.3 milesattop of Z3. WD 2 miles miles

| 要 | Rest day |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \% | Bike 3hrs 30min <br> Race pacereps: I hour in Z2.30mins at top of Z3.30mins in Z2.30minsat top of Z3.1 hour in72 | Bike 3 hrs 30mins <br> Racepace reps: Ihour in 22.30 mins at top of Z3.30mins in Z2.30mins at top of Z3. 1 hour inZ2 |
| $\begin{aligned} & E \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | AMBike 2 hrs <br> Recovery ride in Z2 PM Swim 40mins Open water swiminZ2 $\qquad$ | AM Bike 2 hr <br> Recoveryride inZ2 <br> PMSwim 45mins <br> Open-water swiminZ2. With others if <br> possible. Practise swimming in a closegroup |



