## Couch to 5K Jogging Plan



## If you are new to running or have not run in a while the 'Couch to $5 k$ Jogging Plan' will be a useful tool to help begin your journey into running.

- Start each session with a warm-up. A warm-up should include mobilising of the key joints (shoulders, spine, hips, knees and ankles) followed by $2-3$ mins of brisk walking. Warming up helps gently prepare your body for activity and helps prevent injury.
- Warm-down at the end of each session by slowing down the intensity for 2-3mins followed by some stretching. A warm-down will help prevent sore muscles.
- Rest days are a rest from running; remember to still move about, do some stretching and get out for a walk to aid recovery between sessions.
- Consider including strength exercises twice a week. Some simple body weight exercises like a squat or lunge will strengthen leg muscles and help prevent injury.
- Wear loose light layers that you can remove if you become too warm and wear comfortable running shoes.
- The 'Couch to $5 k$ Jogging Plan' is a guide. You can change up the days to suit your lifestyle but try to stick to the format of 3 running days per week.
- Remember to listen to your body throughout the plan, if you feel ill or tired then rest. If you have any medical conditions or have not exercised in a long time, consult your GP before beginning a new exercise regime.



## Couch to 5K Jogging Plan

|  | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WEEK 1 | Run 1 min, walk 1 min. Repeat 10 times. | Rest | Run 2 mins, walk 4 mins. Repeat 5 times. | Rest | Rest | Run 2 mins, walk 4 mins. Repeat 5 times. | Rest |
| WEEK 2 | Run 3 mins, walk 3 mins. Repeat 4 times. | Rest | Run 3 mins, walk 3 mins. Repeat 4 times | Rest | Rest | Run 5 mins, walk 3 mins. Repeat 3 times. | Rest |
| WEEK 3 | Run 7 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times | Rest | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times. | Rest | Rest | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times | Rest |
| WEEK 4 | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times. | Rest | Run 10 mins , walk 2 mins. Repeat twice, then run for 5 mins | Rest | Rest | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times. | Rest |
| WEEK 5 | Run 9 mins, walk 1 min. Repeat 3 times | Rest | Run 12 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat twice, then run for 5 mins | Rest | Rest | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times | Rest |
| WEEK 6 | Run 15 mins, walk 1 min. Repeat twice | Rest | Run 8 mins, walk 2 mins. Repeat 3 times | Rest | Rest | 5k Race! | Rest |

## Irish Heart Foundation

