



## I-35 Challenge presented by the Marathon Maniacs & Half Fanatics

### Goal: To complete Kansas City on Saturday and Des Moines on Sunday

By Olympian and I-35 Challenge official training consultant, Jeff Galloway,  
[www.RunInjuryFree.com](http://www.RunInjuryFree.com)

**For runners who have been running for at least six months and have run at least one race of the goal distance of the I-35 Challenge. (either the Half Marathon or Marathon)**

This proven training program has led thousands of runners across the finish line while reducing the chance of injury to almost zero. Only three weekly training days are needed: 30-45 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday, and a more extended session on the weekend. There is a long walk on Saturday on some weekends followed by a long run on Sunday—to prepare for race weekend.

For more information, see Jeff Galloway's book GALLOWAY TRAINING PROGRAMS at [www.JeffGalloway.com](http://www.JeffGalloway.com).

#### TIPS FOR TECHNIQUE AND TRAINING

1. The long weekend sessions (done every 2-3 weeks) are the keys to success in "The I-35 Challenge." As you increase the distance of a very slow (mostly walk) on Saturday, followed by a long slow run on Sunday, the body prepares to "go the distance" in both events on race weekend. You can't go too slowly during either the walk or the run: your goal is to finish each long weekend with strength. Recommended pace of the Saturday workout should be at least 3 minutes/mile slower than current ability or performance. The pace should be at least 2 minutes per mile slower than the current ability or performance on the Sunday runs. See the "**MAGIC MILE**" section below for more information. **NOTE:** You will get the same endurance from walking the Saturday workout as from running it. It's best to walk most or all of the Saturdays on these double workout weekends.
2. No huffing and puffing! In the long run, you want to be able to carry on a conversation throughout the run—even at the end. A plodding pace with liberal walk breaks will allow almost everyone to feel strong on nearly 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.
3. 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 use what feels natural. Let your foot move in its natural way. Most runners naturally land on the heel and gently roll off the mid-foot.
4. Walking and Running form: Walk or run with a gentle stride that is relatively short. Power walking



and walking or running with a long stride increase injury risk.

5. Slow down in the heat! Surveys have shown that runners tend to slow down 30 seconds/mile for every 5<sup>o</sup>F temperature increase above 60<sup>o</sup>F. 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.
6. The Garmin Kansas City Marathon is 6 hours for all events. The per mile pace to reach this goal is 13:30 minutes per mile. The "**MAGIC MILE**" listed below will tell you what a per mile pace would be expected on race day. Don't worry if your comfortable long-run pace is slower than this pace. The "MAGIC MILE" results will tell you what is realistic on race day. Please practice 13 minutes per mile pace during the middle of a Tuesday run each week, as noted in **#10** below. It is best to do a timed walk for 2-3 miles on Thursday, inserting 10-15 seconds of running into each minute (read **#8** below).
7. The IMT Des Moines Marathon is 7 hours for all events. The per mile pace to reach this goal is 16 minutes per mile. The "**MAGIC MILE**" listed below will tell you what a per mile pace would be expected on race day. Don't worry if your comfortable long-run pace is slower than 16 minutes per mile. The "MAGIC MILE" results will tell you what is realistic on race day. Please practice 15 to 15:30 minutes per mile pace during the middle of a Tuesday run each week, as noted in **#10** below. It is best to do a timed walk for 2-3 miles on Thursday, inserting 10-15 seconds of running into each minute (read **#8** below).
8. By inserting strategic walk breaks from the beginning of long runs, you can significantly reduce fatigue. The run-walk-run ratio should correspond to the pace used. (Remember to slow down at least 2 minutes per mile slower than the current predicted fast Marathon pace). It's always OK to down-shift to more walking/less running when not feeling as strong.

Suggested strategies for Run-Walk Ratio – based on minutes/mile pace:

1. **9 minutes/mile pace**
  - 4-minute run/1-minute walk or 2-minute run/20-second walk or 80-second run/20-second walk
2. **10 minutes/mile pace**
  - 3-minute run/1-minute walk or 90-second run/30-second walk or 60-second run/20-second walk
3. **11 & 12 minutes/mile pace**
  - 2-minute run/1-minute walk or 60-second run/20-second walk or 40-second run/20-second walk or 30-second run/15-second walk
4. **13 & 14 minutes/mile pace**
  - 1/1:30 minute run/30-second walk or 20-second run/20-second walk or 15-second run/15-second walk
5. **15 minutes/mile pace**
  - 10-second run/20-second walk or 15-second run/40-second walk or 20-



second run/40-second walk

6. **16 & 17 minutes/mile pace**

– 10-second run/30-second walk or 15-second run/45-second walk

9. Two "*maintenance runs*" of 30-45 minutes each will sustain the conditioning needed. Most commonly, these are done on Tuesday and Thursday. Each runner can choose the day, the pace, or the run-walk ratio for each run.
10. Race Day practice. During the middle of a Tuesday run each week, after the standard warm-up, time yourself for 4-6 half-mile segments and run a pace that you feel is realistic on race day. If you are concerned about the 13:30 minutes per mile or 16 minutes per mile pace needed to finish before the closing of the course, practice running at 6:40 minutes per 800 meters (for 13:30 minutes/mile pace) or 7:50 minutes per 800 meters (for 16 minutes/mile pace). During these segments, use various run-walk strategies to find the proper method for you.
11. It is OK to do cross-training on non-running days 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 like stair machines that concentrate effort in the calf muscle. Avoid any strenuous activity the day before long runs.
12. Standard cool down: Walk for 10 minutes with a gentle short stride.
13. **MAGIC MILE:** I suggest doing this after the standard warm-up on the weekends noted. By the end of the training program, you want to run 13:30 minutes/mile for KC or 16 minutes/mile for DSM or faster to predict a finish time below the course time limit.



## The "MAGIC MILE"

The "MAGIC MILE" time trial (MM) is a reality check on your goal pace on race day and has been the best predictor of finishing under the race time limit.

Use the standard warm-up.

Run around a track if at all possible (or a very accurately measured one-mile segment).

Time yourself for four laps (1600 meters). Start the watch at the beginning, and keep it running until you cross the finish at 1.0 miles.

**On the first MM, don't run all-out. Run at a pace that is slightly faster than your current gentle pace.**

Only one **MM** is done on each day it is assigned.

Your mission is to beat the previous best time on each successive MM (usually 2-3 weeks later).

Don't ever run so hard that you hurt your feet, knees, etc. Maintain a short stride, picking up the cadence or turnover to run faster.

After the **MM**, 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. Try walking for about 10-30 seconds after each lap during the **MM**. Most beginning runners record a faster time when taking short breaks.

**Predicted All-Out Effort Pace:** Take your best current **MM** time and multiply by 1.4. This is the fastest pace you could expect to run under ideal conditions per mile in the Marathon. For predicted 13.1 time, take your best **MM** and multiply by 1.3.

\*Long run pace: should be at least 2 minutes slower than the current predicted Marathon pace.

\*Adjust for temp on long runs and the race itself: Slow down by 30 seconds/mile for every 5°F above 60°F.

### **NOTES**

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

Half Marathon challengers will build long runs to 13 miles. Marathon challengers will build long runs to 26 miles.

If your longest run in the last month is significantly less than the miles listed on starting the weekend, walk both Saturday and Sunday workouts for the first two long weekend sessions. Your pace should be at least 2 minutes/mile slower than the current pace in the Marathon or 3 minutes/mile slower than the current half marathon pace. There should be no huffing and puffing on long runs.



## I-35 CHALLENGE

### Presented by the Half Fanatics & Marathon Maniacs

### TRAINING PROGRAM

The schedule below is guidance for the weekend walks and runs. This is on top of the Tuesday and Thursday 30-45-minute runs.

**NOTE:** If you have run 14 miles or more within the past three weeks and are running the Marathon to marathon I-35 Challenge, you may run 6 miles on August 9.

Three Day Training Week:

Tuesday—30-45 minutes

Thursday—30-45 minutes

Saturday & Sunday—Listed below

#### WEEKEND TRAINING SCHEDULE; Half Marathon to Half Marathon Distance

August 6 & 7	4 mile walk & 6 miles
August 13 & 14	7 mile walk & 7.5 miles
August 20 or 21	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
August 27 & 28	8.5 miles (mostly) walk & 9 miles
September 3 or 4	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
September 10 & 11	10 miles (mostly) walk & 11 miles
September 17 or 18	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
September 24	12 miles (mostly) walk & 13 miles 4 miles
October 1	4 miles
October 8	6 miles
October 15	Garmin Kansas City Half Marathon (mostly walk)
October 16	IMT Des Moines Half Marathon
October 23	3 miles

#### TRAINING SCHEDULE; Marathon to Marathon Distance

August 6 & 7	12-mile walk & 14 miles
August 13 & 14	15-mile walk & 17 miles
August 20 or 21	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
August 27 & 28	18 miles (mostly) walk & 20 miles
September 3 or 4	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
September 10 or 11	21 miles (mostly) walk & 23 miles
September 17 or 18	4 miles with <b>MM</b> (see <b>MAGIC MILE</b> section above)
September 24	24 miles (mostly) walk & 26 miles
October 1	4 miles
October 8	6 miles
October 15	Garmin Kansas City Marathon (mostly walk)
October 16	IMT Des Moines Marathon
October 23	3 miles