MARCH ML MANIA 2026
ORGANIZER PLAN AT A GLANCE
Async Community Hackathon · Feb 27 – Mar 31 · 5 Weeks

THE BIG PICTURE

151 members · 5–15 expected active participants · All async, all individual

Your job is to reduce friction and keep energy up — not to manage every participant. Most of the heavy lifting is done: guides are ready, prompts are written, paths are mapped.

Think of yourself as a **community DJ** — set the tone, drop the right resource at the right moment, amplify what people share.

PARTICIPANT PATHS

A The Basketball Fan
Sports fans & bracket enthusiasts. AI chat tool, no code. Turn intuition into predictions.

B The Data Explorer
Spreadsheet users & analysts. Describe it → AI codes it → iterate on Kaggle score.

C The Model Builder
Engineers & data scientists. Full ML pipeline with AI coding agent.

WEEK-BY-WEEK ORGANIZER PLAN

Week	Dates	Your Actions	Post in Slack	Share to Participants
Pre-Launch	By Feb 26	• Set up Slack channels • Pin guide + Kaggle link • Test Kaggle submission	• Kickoff announcement drafted	• Nothing yet — save for launch day
Week 0	Feb 27	• Post kickoff message • DM anyone who showed prior interest	• Kickoff post with guide + Kaggle link • Ask: which path are you taking?	• Participant Guide (Parts 1–3) • One-Pager
Week 1	Mar 1–7	• Watch for setup questions • Respond in -help channel • Post async standup Fri	• Async Standup (3 Qs, Fri) • React/reply to anyone who posts	• Kaggle setup guide if questions arise
Week 2	Mar 8–14	• Share a leaderboard update • Amplify any scores posted • Post standup	• Async Standup • Share any public notebook tips	• Prediction Strategies (Part 4 / Section 9)
Stage 2	~Mar 19	• Remind about Stage 2 deadline • Check everyone submitted Stage 1	• Reminder post: Stage 2 now open	• Stage 2 submission instructions
Wrap-Up	Mar 28–31	• Invite showcase posts • Compile results • Write retro notes	• Showcase thread: share your score + 1 thing you learned	• Optional: retro summary for next year

PRE-LAUNCH CHECKLIST

☐ Create #march-ml-mania channel

☐ Create #march-ml-mania-help channel

☐ Pin Participant Guide in main channel

SLACK RHYTHM

Main channel: #march-ml-mania
Help channel: #march-ml-mania-help

Async Standup (post every Friday):
1. What did you try this week?
2. What's your current Brier Score?
3. What AI prompt was most useful?

BRIER SCORE REF

Benchmark	Score
Random (50/50)	~0.250
Seed baseline	~0.220–0.230
Good community	~0.190–0.210
Top 10%	~0.160–0.175

Celebrate every score posted — even

☐	Pin Kaggle competition link
☐	Draft kickoff message (template in Playbook)
☐	Test a Kaggle submission yourself
☐	Share .skill file with any agent users

Amplification plays:
• React to every score someone posts
• Restate insights as mini-lessons
• Tag Path C users when a notebook tip lands

0.240 is beating random. Progress > perfection.