

## Rowing

Rowing remains one of New Zealand's top Olympic sports, with an enviable tally of Olympic medals and high hopes for continued success at Rio.

### Qualifying – the road to Rio

Qualification to secure spots at the Olympic Games is based around results at qualifying regattas in the year leading up to the Games. The main qualification regatta is the World Rowing Championships, which was held in September 2015 in Aiguebelette, France.

There are also continental qualification regattas for Africa, Asia/Oceania, Latin America and Europe. A final qualification regatta is being held in May 2016 before the Olympic Games.

Each nation's Olympic Committee can have only one boat per event at the Games. Crews qualify the boat at the qualifying regattas. For the final qualification regatta, the crew that attends must be the one that represents the country at the Olympic Games – so no crew change is allowed to be made. New Zealand will name its Olympic Rowing team in March 2016.

### Competition at Rio

The Olympic rowing regatta will take place 6-13 August 2016 at the spectacular Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas in the heart of Rio, just 10 minutes from Ipanema beach, with a spectacular backdrop of mountains, the Tijuca Forest and the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue at Corcovado. Eight men's events and six women's events will be contested.





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# Olympic Sport Information



MEN'S EVENTS	WOMEN'S EVENTS
Double sculls (M2x)	Double sculls (W2x)
Eight (with coxswain) (M8+)	Eight (with coxswain) (W8+)
Coxless four (M4-)	Lightweight double sculls (LW2x)
Lightweight coxless four (LM4-)	Coxless pair (W2-)
Lightweight double sculls (LM2x)	Quadruple sculls (W4x)
Coxless pair (M2-)	Single sculls (W1x)
Quadruple sculls (M4x)	
Single sculls (M1x)	
( ) = boat abbreviation	

*“New Zealand Rowing is embarking on an exciting chapter of sporting history. We are delighted with the performances of our athletes leading into the Olympic Games. The level will step up significantly for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games but we’re thrilled to have medalled in seven Olympic events at the 2015 World Championships.” – Alan Cotter, Rowing New Zealand High Performance Director*

*“It’s an exciting time for Rowing New Zealand, having qualified our largest ever team for the Olympic Games. I look forward to trying to win my second Olympic title in Rio. It’s also very exciting to be a part of a highly talented squad of kiwi rowers that will attempt to be the world’s top rowing nation in Rio.” – Mahe Drysdale, Men’s Single Sculls 2012 Olympic Champion*

## How are the races run?

All boats race in heats with the top finishers advancing directly into the semi-finals or a six-boat final. The other boats get a second chance in a repechage (a second chance race), with the top boats qualifying for a semi-final or final. Semi-finals are only required for events with more than 13 boats competing. If there are more than 25 boats competing then a quarter-final progression is required.

The top boats compete in the A final for the gold, silver and bronze medals. Boats that have not made the A final compete in the B final, for which there are no medals.

Regardless of the category or type of boat, the distance is always the same – 2000m. Each heat has up to six boats, with one boat per lane and each lane marked by buoys. In Paralympic rowing events the race is run over 1000m.

## Olympic Medals

9 gold, 2 silver, 10 bronze

### GOLD

1968 Mexico	Coxed Four – Men	Dudley Storey, Dick Joyce, Warren Cole, Simon Dickie, Ross Collinge
1972 Munich	Eight – Men	Dick Joyce, Simon Dickie, Wybo Veldman, Trevor Coker, Athol Earl, Tony Hurt, Gary Robertson, Lindsay Wilson, John Hunter
1984 Los Angeles	Coxless Four – Men	Les O'Connell, Shane O'Brien, Conrad Robertson, Keith Trask
2000 Sydney	Single Scull – Men	Rob Waddell
2004 Athens	Double Scull – Women	Georgina Evers-Swindell, Caroline Evers-Swindell
2008 Beijing	Double Scull – Women	Georgina Evers-Swindell, Caroline Evers-Swindell
2012 London	Single Scull – Men	Mahe Drysdale
2012 London	Coxless Pair – Men	Eric Murray, Hamish Bond
2012 London	Double Scull – Men	Nathan Cohen, Joseph Sullivan

### SILVER

1932 Los Angeles	Coxless Pair – Men	Cyril Stiles, Fred Thompson
1972 Munich	Coxless Four – Men	Dick Tonks, Dudley Storey, Noel Mills, Ross Collinge

### BRONZE

1920 Antwerp	Single Scull – Men	Darcy Hadfield
1976 Montreal	Eight – Men	Simon Dickie, Trevor Coker, Athol Earl, Tony Hurt, Lindsay Wilson, Peter Dignan, Alec McLean, Dave Rodger, Ivan Sutherland
1984 Los Angeles	Coxed Four – Men	Kevin Lawton, Don Symon, Barrie Mabbott, Ross Tong, Brett Hollister
1988 Seoul	Single Scull – Men	Eric Verdonk
1988 Seoul	Coxed Four – Men	Chris White, George Keys, Greg Johnston, Andrew Bird, Ian Wright
1988 Seoul	Coxless Pair – Women	Nicola Payne, Lynley Hannen
2008 Beijing	Coxless Pair – Men	George Bridgewater, Nathan Twaddle
2008 Beijing	Single Scull – Men	Mahe Drysdale,
2012 London	Lightweight Double Scull – Men	Storm Uru, Peter Taylor
2012 London	Coxless Pair – Women	Juliette Haigh, Rebecca Scown

## The Stars of Rowing

Sir Steve Redgrave of Great Britain was a six-time world champion, and the most successful male rower in Olympic history, winning gold medals at five consecutive Olympic Games from 1984-2000. Elisabeta Lipa of Romania is the most successful female Olympic rower, having also won five Olympic gold medals between 1984-2004.

Our kiwi rowing stars have included:

- The men's eight who won gold at the Munich Olympics in 1972
- Georgina and Caroline Evers-Swindell with two Olympic golds in the double scull (2004, 2008)
- Rob Waddell (2000) and Mahe Drysdale (2012) who both won Olympic gold in the single scull
- The gold medal winners at the London Olympics – Joseph Sullivan and Nathan Cohen in the double scull, and Eric Murray and Hamish Bond in the coxless pair.

### Ones to watch

Men's pair – Eric Murray and Hamish Bond:

- Defending Olympic champions
- Hold the current world best time in the men's pair (28 July 2012) of 6:08.50
- Remain unbeaten in this combination since 2009
- Six-time world champions (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Eric has attended three Olympic Games (2004, 2008, 2012)
- Hamish has attended two Olympic Games (2008, 2012).

Men's single scull – Mahe Drysdale:

- Defending Olympic Champion and 2008 bronze medallist
- Holds the current world best time in the men's single scull (29 August 2009) of 6:33.35
- Five-time world champion in the men's single scull (2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011) and has attended three Olympic Games (2004, 2008 and 2012).

## Did you know?

- Rowing and Athletics have been the most successful Olympic sports for New Zealand, with each winning 21 of New Zealand's 103 Olympic medals.
- The eight-person crews have a coxswain who steers the boat and directs the crew, but in all other boats one rower steers by controlling a small rudder with a foot pedal.
- New Zealand hosted the rowing World Championships in 1978 and 2010 at Lake Karapiro. Significant kiwi ingenuity was used in the 1978 championships – the start and finish towers and a temporary scaffolding grandstand were built by volunteers, the army did the catering, and Sir Don Rowlands, chair of the organising committee, offered to buy the boats from competitor countries after the event for resale to local clubs, to ease the burden of transport costs.
- Today there are more than 60 rowing clubs throughout this country and there are over 5,000 New Zealanders who take part in the sport.
- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, rowing was one of many sports split between amateurs and professionals. Challenges for the world professional sculling title were among the most hyped (and gambled on) contests in the English-speaking world.

## Rowing terminology

<b>Lightweight</b>	A lower weight division in some events for men weighing 72.5kg or less and for women weighing 59kg or less. Introduced to the Olympic Games in 1996 in Atlanta.
<b>Sculling vs sweep</b>	Rowing races are divided into sculling and sweep oar. In sculling events rowers use two oars, one in each hand, while in sweep the rower holds one with both hands.
<b>Pair</b>	A sweep-oar boat for two rowers, with or without a coxswain.
<b>Double</b>	A sculling boat for two rowers.
<b>Four</b>	A sweep-oar boat for four rowers, with or without a coxswain.
<b>Quad</b>	A sculling boat for four rowers.
<b>Eight</b>	A sweep-oar boat with eight rowers and a coxswain.
<b>Rating</b>	The number of strokes a crew rows per minute.
<b>Blade</b>	The flattened, or spoon-shaped, part of an oar that touches the water during rowing.
<b>Boot</b>	A device that holds the bow of a boat before a race, then drops below the water on the starting signal.

# Olympic Sport Information



- Coxbox** An electronic device used by the coxswain to amplify their voice and broadcast it through speakers located throughout the shell.
- Catch** The part of the stroke at which the blade enters the water and the drive begins.
- Drive** The propulsive portion of the stroke from the time the blade enters the water (catch) until it is removed (finish).
- Finish** The portion of the pull through just as the blade is taken from the water.
- Set** The balance of a boat.
- Crab** To make a faulty stroke, when the rower is unable to release the oar from the water and the blade acts as a brake on the boat until it is removed from the water. This results in slowing the boat down. A severe crab can eject a rower or make the boat capsize (unlikely except in small boats).
- Full pressure** The top level of exertion an oarsman can produce.
- Power 10** A series of 10 strokes where a crew supplies additional power to advance on another crew.
- Puddle** Disturbances made by an oar pulled through the water. The farther the puddles are pushed past the stern of the boat before each catch, the more 'run' the boat is getting.

## Timeline

- Early 1800s** First modern rowing races were held between professional watermen on the River Thames in London.
- 1828** First Oxford-Cambridge university boat race.
- 1861** First rowing club established in New Zealand by British immigrants.
- 1896** Rowing included in the first Olympic Games in Athens 1896, but cancelled due to high seas. Rowing has been included in every summer Olympic Games since.
- 1920** New Zealand's first Olympic rowing medal won by Darcy Hadfield – a bronze in the single scull at the Antwerp Games.
- 1968** Men's coxed four win New Zealand's first Olympic gold medal in rowing at the Mexico Games.
- 1976** Women's rowing debuted at the Montreal 1976 Games.
- 1978** World Championships held at Lake Karapiro.
- 1996** Lightweight events introduced to the Olympic programme at the Atlanta Games.
- 2010** World Championships held for the second time in New Zealand at Lake Karapiro.