

# 2008

## Olympic Rowing Regatta Beijing, China

9-17 August

***TIMETABLE, ENTRIES & WHO TO WATCH***



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# 1. TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

## Rowing Regatta of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China Provisional Programme at 29 July 2008

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
9 August		10 August		11 August		12 August		13 August		14 August		15 August		16 August		17 August	
		8:30 Council Meeting				8:30 Council Meeting											
Heats		Heats		Reps/Q		Reps		Semis and Finals B/C/D/E		Semis and Finals B/C/D/E		Semis and Finals B/C/D/E		Finals B/C/D		Finals	
Time	Group A	Time	Group B	Time	Group A	Time	Group B	Time	Group A	Time	Group A&B	Time	Group A	Time	Group B	Time	Group A
13:50	W1x																
14:00	W1x																
14:10	W1x																
14:20	W1x																
14:30	W1x																
14:40	W1x																
14:50	M1x	14:50	LW2x														
15:00	M1x	15:00	LW2x														
15:10	M1x	15:10	LW2x														
15:20	M1x	15:20	LM2x														
15:30	M1x	15:30	LM2x	15:30	W1x												
15:40	M1x	15:40	LM2x	15:40	W1x												
15:50	W2-	15:50	LM2x	15:50	W1x												
16:00	W2-	16:00	LM4-	16:00	W1x												
16:10	M2-	16:10	LM4-	16:10	M1x												
16:20	M2-	16:20	LM4-	16:20	M1x												
16:30	M2-	16:30	W4x	16:30	M1x												
16:40	W2x	16:40	W4x	16:40	M1x												
16:50	W2x	16:50	M4x	16:50	W2-												
17:00	M2x	17:00	M4x	17:00	W2-												
17:10	M2x	17:10	M4x	17:10	M2-												
17:20	M2x	17:20	W8+	17:20	W2x												
17:30	M4-	17:30	W8+	17:30	W2x												
17:40	M4-	17:40	M8+	17:40	M2x												
17:50	M4-	17:50	M8+	17:50	M4-												
				18:00	•M1x•												
				18:10	•M1x•												

Note: • indicates semifinals E/F for Finals E and F  
\* indicates semifinals C/D for Finals C and D

## 2. ENTRIES BY EVENT\*

Event	W1X	M1X	W2-	M2-	W2X	M2X	M4-	LW2X	LM2X	LM4-	W4X	M4X	W8+	M8+
Number of crews	26	33	10	14	10	15	13	17	20	13	8	13	7	8
	ARG	ALG	AUS	AUS	AUS	AUS	AUS	AUS	ALG	AUS	AUS	AUS	AUS	AUS
	AUS	ARG	BLR	CAN	CHN	BEL	BLR	BRA	AUS	CAN	CAN	BLR	CAN	CAN
	BLR	AUS	CAN	CRO	CZE	BLR	CHN	CAN	BRA	CHN	CHN	CUB	GBR	CHN
	BRA	BEL	CHN	CZE	GBR	BUL	CZE	CHN	CAN	DEN	GBR	CZE	GER	GBR
	BUL	BRA	FRA	DEN	GER	CHN	FRA	CUB	CHN	EGY	GER	EST	NED	GER
	CHI	CHI	NZL	FRA	ITA	CRO	GBR	DEN	CUB	FRA	RUS	FRA	ROU	NED
	CHN	CHN	ROU	GBR	NZL	EST	GER	FIN	DEN	GBR	UKR	GER	USA	POL
	CUB	CMR	USA	GER	ROU	FRA	IRL	GBR	FRA	GER	USA	ITA		USA
	CZE	COL	GBR	ITA	UKR	GBR	ITA	GER	GBR	IRL		POL		
	EGY	CZE	GER	NZL	USA	GER	NED	GRE	GER	ITA		RUS		
	ESA	EGY		POL		IRQ	NZL	JPN	GRE	NED		SLO		
	ESP	EST		RSA		NZL	SLO	KAZ	HKG	POL		UKR		
	FRA	GBR		SRB		RUS	USA	KOR	HUN	USA		USA		
	HKG	GER		USA		SLO		MEX	IND					
	IRI	GRE				USA		NED	ITA					
	ITA	HKG						RSA	JPN					
	KAZ	HON						USA	KOR					
	KOR	IND							NZL					
	MYA	IRI							POR					
	NZL	KEN							URU					
	POL	LTU												
	RSA	MEX												
	SRB	MON												
	SWE	NED												
	USA	NOR												
	ZIM	NZL												
		SUI												
		SWE												
		TPE												
		URU												
		USA												
		UZB												
		VEN												

\* as at 25 July 2008

### 3. WHO TO WATCH IN BEIJING

#### Who to Watch at the 2008 Olympic Rowing Regatta

##### Women's Single Sculls (W1x)

Arriving in Beijing as the three-time consecutive World Champion must feel good. Ekaterina Karsten of Belarus has not been beaten since winning silver at the 2004 Olympic Games. Karsten is a career rower and already a two-time Olympic Champion in the single. The single is her forte and Beijing is her fifth Olympic Games. Is she beatable? The Czech Republic's Mirka Knapkova thinks so. Knapkova consistently finishes second to Karsten but is gutsy enough to try different race strategies to outwit her opponent.

Rumyana Neykova of Bulgaria has been racing Karsten ever since their junior days in the early 1990s. After finishing third behind Karsten at Athens, Neykova took time off, had a baby and came back in 2007, ready to go after the Olympic gold that has eluded her at four Olympics. Don't overlook Michelle Guerette of the United States or China's Xiuyun Zhang, racing on her home water. On a good day either of these rowers can push into the medals.

##### Men's Single Sculls (M1x)

New Zealand's Mahe Drysdale made a unilateral decision to change to the single after finishing fifth in the men's four at the Athens Olympics. Making his destiny his own, Drysdale wasted no time and was World Champion the following year. He followed that up with two additional World Championship titles and goes to Beijing as the most wanted man in the single. But the path to Beijing has not been smooth for Drysdale. He has been beaten at various times and the group of top single scullers know each other's strengths and weaknesses intimately.

In this group, Ondrej Synek of the Czech Republic is showing growing confidence and greater consistency. Then there is Olaf Tufte, the reigning Olympic Champion. Despite being in and out of the medals over the past three rowing seasons, the tough Norwegian always knows how to step up in an Olympic year. Alan Campbell, the feisty British sculler, is always willing to put his body on the line to reach the finish first. And not to forget Marcel Hacker of Germany, a rower with great emotion, who is a definite medal prospect.

##### W1x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	GER	BLR	BLR	BLR
2	BLR	CZE	CZE	BUL
3	BUL	USA	SWE	USA
4	CZE	FRA	FRA	CZE
5	NZL	SWE	USA	CHN
6	ESP	RUS	RUS	NZL
7	RUS	AUS	SLO	FRA
8	SWE	GER	ITA	POL
9	USA	GBR	ESP	SWE
10	NED	SCG	CUB	RUS
11	CHI	RSA	SCG	ITA
12	MEX	LAT	GER	ESP

##### M1x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	NOR	NZL	NZL	NZL
2	EST	NOR	GER	CZE
3	BUL	CZE	CZE	NOR
4	ARG	BEL	NOR	GBR
5	CZE	CUB	BEL	GER
6	BEL	GER	GBR	SWE
7	GER	NED	SWE	BEL
8	SUI	SWE	NED	ARG
9	SLO	AUS	SUI	SUI
10	GBR	SCG	ARG	NED
11	AUS	ARG	CUB	AUS
12	CUB	GBR	USA	BUL

## Women's Pair (W2-)

Yulia Bichyk and Natallia Helakh of Belarus took bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics then rowed in other boats before returning to the pair. They come to Beijing as reigning World Champions. Their win last year was quite remarkable as they went up against reigning Olympic Champions Georgeta Damian-Andrunache and Viorica Susanu of Romania. Damian-Andrunache and Susanu "retired" after the 2004 Olympics but returned to row internationally in 2007. But in Beijing Susanu will be rowing with Camelia Lupascu while Damian-Andrunache will join the eight.

Germany has changed their pair combination from the one that qualified the boat in 2007 – Lenka Wech and Maren Derlien will be the ones competing in Beijing. The duo took gold at the 2007 European Championships and have been impressing their coaches ever since. Beijing will be Wech's third Olympic Games and Derlien's second.

Keep an eye out also for the United States, Australia and New Zealand. These countries are regularly in the Final at international events. New Zealand has retained their duo that finished sixth at the Athens Olympics and first at the 2005 World Rowing Championships (Nicky Coles and Juliette Haigh) while the United States and Australia change their line-up almost annually.

### W2-: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	ROU	NZL	CAN	BLR
2	GBR	AUS	NZL	GER
3	BLR	RUS	GER	ROU
4	CAN	ROU	USA	AUS
5	GER	BLR	NED	NZL
6	NZL	USA	DEN	CHN
7	CHN	GER	ROU	USA
8	BUL	FRA	CHN	CAN
9	USA	DEN	AUS	NED
10	FRA	BUL	BLR	DEN
11		NED	GBR	RUS
12		INA		GBR

## Men's Pair (M2-)

At the Athens Olympics Australia's Drew Ginn won gold with then-partner James Tomkins. Ginn then paired up with sculler Duncan Free and together they became back-to-back World Champions in this event. Known for their long strokes, Ginn and Free received a wake-up call at this year's Lucerne Rowing World Cup when the new Canadian combination of Dave Calder and Scott Frandsen won by a comfortable margin.

Calder and Frandsen freely admit they were peaking as they still had to qualify at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta a couple of weeks later. In Athens, Calder raced in the pair and Frandsen in the eight. Both were extremely disappointed with their results and see Beijing as a chance to put things right. The Canadians also beat New Zealand's George Bridgewater and Nathan Twaddle, who finished fourth at the 2004 Olympics and went on to become World Champions the following year and silver medallists the next two years.

Improving with every race this season has been South Africa's medal hopefuls. Athens bronze medallist Ramon Di Clemente, 33, has a new partner this year: twenty-one year old Shaun Keeling. At the Poznan Rowing World Cup the duo finished third.

Watch out too for France and Croatia. France has been consistently making the Final while Croatia's Skelin brothers have a wealth of international experience to call on.

### M2-: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	AUS	NZL	AUS	AUS
2	CRO	RSA	NZL	NZL
3	RSA	ITA	CAN	GBR
4	NZL	CAN	CHN	FRA
5	SCG	GRE	GER	RSA
6	GER	CRO	GBR	SRB
7	GBR	GER	RSA	POL
8	ITA	SLO	ITA	USA
9	SLO	AUS	CZE	GER
10	ARG	GBR	SLO	CRO
11	USA	CZE	SCG	DEN
12	CZE	FRA	USA	CAN

## Women's Double Sculls (W2x)

The recent tidal wave of Chinese talent includes Qin Li and Liang Tian who could well lead the way for Chinese rowing medals. Unlike many of the Chinese crews that have been cut and changed, Li and Tian have been together since 2006 and their World Championship title in 2007 was earned with such finesse and style that the rest of the field was left in their wake. Since then they have remained unbeaten.

The Chinese crew has been a challenge for 2004 Olympic Champions Caroline and Georgina Evers-Swindell of New Zealand who race better from the lead. The duo finished second behind Li and Tian in 2007, and in 2008 they have struggled to find form. There is, however, no doubting the power of the New Zealand twins, and if they get in front they may be unstoppable. Great Britain's Elise Laverick (bronze at Athens) and new partner Anna Bebington are credible medal contenders, while the United States and Germany, judging by recent form, may also have a chance.

### W2x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	NZL	NZL	AUS	CHN
2	GER	BUL	GER	NZL
3	GBR	AUS	NZL	GBR
4	BUL	GER	GBR	ROU
5	ROU	GBR	UKR	CZE
6	UKR	ITA	BLR	GER
7	FRA	NOR	CZE	ITA
8	ITA	USA	CHN	USA
9	AUS	BLR	HUN	AUS
10	RUS	JPN	ITA	HUN
11		KOR	FRA	KOR
12			USA	NOR

## Men's Double Sculls (M2x)

In 2007, as countries were racing at the World Rowing Championships and vying for Olympic qualification spots, New Zealand's 2000 Olympic gold medallist in the single, Rob Waddell, had not set foot in a boat in seven years. One month later Waddell began his comeback, earning a spot in the double with Nathan Cohen. The duo have won every time they've raced in 2008. The rest of this very competitive field has had to go back to the drawing board to reconsider their race plan.

Keeping a low profile this season have been Jueri Jaanson and Tonu Endrekson of Estonia. The duo finished third last year. Beijing will be Jaanson's fifth Olympics and there's every indication that the 42-year-old is getting better with age. It took Jaanson until his fourth Olympics to win a medal – silver in the single.

Watch out for Slovenia's Iztok Cop and Luka Spik (Olympic gold and silver medallists). They have been racing together for nine years and they know what it takes at the Olympics. France is also a medal prospect. Adrien Hardy (2004 Olympic Champion) teamed up with new partner Jean-Baptiste Macquet in 2006 – the crew became World Champions that same year. Then there is the British duo of Matthew Wells and Stephen Rowbotham, regular medallists on the international stage. With these accomplished rowers in the field, just making it into the Final will be difficult.

### M2x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	FRA	SLO	FRA	SLO
2	SLO	ITA	SLO	FRA
3	ITA	GER	GBR	EST
4	EST	BUL	POL	GBR
5	CZE	UKR	BUL	BLR
6	USA	BEL	BEL	NZL
7	NOR	FRA	GER	CRO
8	GBR	CRO	CRO	AUS
9	GER	POL	BLR	USA
10	CUB	USA	NOR	GER
11	HUN	RUS	UKR	BEL
12	AUS	HUN	LTU	POL



## Men's Four (M4-)

British Head Coach Juergen Grobler puts his best into the four and at the last two Olympics, his crew has ruled. As the 2005 and 2006 World Champions, the British looked to be unstoppable. But last year they lost the title and in 2008 the crew has struggled with injury.

Continuously knocking on Great Britain's door have been the Netherlands. Their crew has remained the same since 2005 and they are consistently in the medals. Germany and Italy hover in this area too, along with New Zealand the current World Champions. And now Australia has stepped on to the scene. The Australians did not qualify in 2007 and came into 2008 with a new line-up and a win at the Rowing World Cup in Lucerne, going on to qualify at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta where they finished first.

## Lightweight Women's Double Sculls (LW2x)

No crew has dominated this event in the lead up to Beijing. It may be possible to predict who will make the Final, but picking the medallists will be tougher.

At this level and when all the athletes weigh the same, it's the small details that make the difference. Kirsten van der Kolk and Marit van Eupen of the Netherlands have gone for detail by installing gold shoes in their boat. The duo finished third at the Athens Olympics and got back together at the start of 2008 to go for gold. So far, their comeback has been promising: they medalled at the Rowing World Cup in Lucerne then won the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta in Poznan.

Amber Halliday and Marguerite Houston of Australia have the advantage of being the reigning World Champions. Pre-selected by their country for the Olympics late last year, they have been able to focus solely on training together as a crew. Sanna Sten and Minna Nieminen of Finland are driven by the memory of missing out on qualifying for Athens by just one spot - they have waited four years for this chance. China's Dongxiang Xu and Shimin Yan hold the current World Best Time, while Marie-Louise Draeger and Berit Carow will want to uphold Germany's strong tradition of medalling in this event.

### M4-: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	GBR	GBR	GBR	NZL
2	CAN	NED	GER	ITA
3	ITA	CAN	NED	NED
4	AUS	DEN	USA	GBR
5	NZL	USA	SLO	SLO
6	POL	NZL	FRA	FRA
7	GER	ITA	IRL	CZE
8	CZE	CZE	CAN	USA
9	SLO	AUS	NZL	GER
10	USA	IRL	CZE	IRL
11	RUS	POL	ESP	BLR
12	CRO	GER	ITA	AUS

### LW2x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	ROU	GER	CHN	AUS
2	GER	USA	AUS	FIN
3	NED	FIN	GRE	DEN/GER
4	AUS	POL	CAN	
5	CHN	IRL	GBR	GRE
6	POL	AUS	FIN	CHN
7	USA	GRE	IRL	CAN
8	CAN	GBR	POL	GBR
9	GBR	ITA	USA	JPN
10	DEN	RUS	GER	POL
11	ESP	ESP	ESP	USA
12	GRE	JPN	SWE	ITA

## Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x)

Reigning and two-time consecutive World Champions Mads Rasmussen and Rasmus Quist of Denmark had a fabulous 2007 season that saw them setting a new World Best Time. So far 2008 has not been as stellar. Although remaining in the medals, their domination has slipped, while Great Britain's Zac Purchase and Mark Hunter have stepped up their game. The British duo head for Beijing undefeated in 2008 and, in their second year together, Purchase and Hunter continue to improve.

Italy waited until June to pick their boat. Marcello Miani and Elia Luini finally received the Olympic nod after finishing third at the Rowing World Cup in Poznan, Poland. Beijing will be the first Olympic Games for Miani, 24, while Luini, who already has an Olympic silver medal to his name, will be at his third. Also getting a late Olympic go-ahead was New Zealand's Storm Uru and Peter Taylor. The duo had to qualify through the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta in June and could be the surprise new powerhouse in this event. Uru is a two-time under-23 World Champion in the lightweight single while Taylor is an under-23 World Champion in the lightweight double.

Keep an eye out also for Greece's Vasileios Polymeros and Dimitrios Mougios. In 2004 Polymeros became the first Greek rower to win an Olympic medal. This will be Polymeros's fourth Games and with new partner Mougios, he goes to Beijing with a silver medal from last year's World Rowing Championships.

### LM2x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	POL	HUN	DEN	DEN
2	FRA	DEN	ITA	GRE
3	GRE	POL	FRA	GBR
4	DEN	ITA	AUS	AUS
5	HUN	FRA	POL	ITA
6	JPN	GER	GER	JPN
7	USA	GBR	JPN	HUN
8	ESP	JPN	GBR	GER
9	CZE	SVK	GRE	CHN
10	IRL	USA	HUN	FRA
11	SVK	CZE	AUT	AUT
12	ITA	AUS	CAN	CAN

## Lightweight Men's Four (LM4-)

Over the last year international medals have been spread generously in the lightweight men's four. It would appear that no crew is unbeatable. Great Britain hold World Champion status, but have only medalled once this season. France became World Champions in 2005 and later grabbed two consecutive world silvers. Apart from one change in the boat their line-up has been stable, but star athlete Jean-Christophe Bette (2000 Olympic gold medallist) suffered an injury after winning the final Rowing World Cup in Poznan, Poland, but recovered in time to get back in the boat and row in Beijing.

Coming into Olympic year 2008, Denmark managed to almost entirely reconstruct its "Guldfireren" two-time Olympic Champion crew. Eskild Ebbesen sits at stroke and Thomas Ebert at bow. The crew medalled in Lucerne (silver) but have yet to find the high stroke rate that characterised their 2004 style and will be drawing on all of their Olympic experience to step it up.

Perhaps China is the crew to fear most. This crew burst onto the scene in 2006, grabbing the World Championship title. Since then, the crew has remained stable, and following a rocky year in 2007, they have won every race they entered in 2008. Their expectations must be high. Watch out also for the Italians - retaining the majority of the crew that took bronze at the Athens Olympics, they raced to a credible second at the final stage of the Rowing World Cup in June.

### LM4-: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	DEN	FRA	CHN	GBR
2	AUS	IRL	FRA	FRA
3	ITA	ITA	IRL	ITA
4	NED	AUS	CAN	CAN
5	CAN	GER	GBR	CHN
6	IRL	POL	AUS	DEN
7	SCG	RSA	GER	AUS
8	RUS	GBR	POL	POL
9	USA	USA	USA	EGY
10	AUT	ESP	ITA	NED
11	GER	JPN	NED	USA
12	ESP	RUS	RSA	IRL

## Women's Quadruple Sculls (W4x)

On paper it would seem Great Britain has this race wrapped up. They come to Beijing as the British flagship female boat, with the enviable record of three consecutive World Championship titles. A win in Beijing would make history as they would be Great Britain's first female crew to win Olympic gold in rowing. But the British have been beaten this year and readily admit they are nervous about China's crew.

China confirmed their line-up after combining the best of two crews earlier this season and racing them to a gold-medal finish at this year's Rowing World Cup in Lucerne. Finishing second at this regatta was a brand new line-up from the United States. If this was more than beginners' luck, the USA crew is a definite medal prospect.

Despite their erratic performance lately, Germany should not be discounted. Sitting in the boat will be the most successful woman in rowing: Kathrin Boron, 38, is a four-time Olympic champion and Beijing will be her fifth Games. There is no doubt that when the time comes for Germany to line up in Beijing, they will know exactly what needs to be done.

## Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4x)

In a matter of months Poland went from being the crew to beat to an Olympic medal question mark. Poland's winning spree began in 2005 and continued through to this year's first Rowing World Cup. Then stroke Adam Korol suffered the first major injury of his long rowing career and at the Lucerne Rowing World Cup a new United States line-up finished ahead of Poland. At the final Rowing World Cup in Poznan both Italy and France beat the Poles.

Italy won gold at the 2000 Olympics and they have managed to put part of this crew back together. Simone Raineri and four-time Olympian Rossano Galtarossa will bring their Olympic Champion know-how to their crew and to Beijing. France is a relatively new crew by comparison, but they will use their Rowing World Cup silver medal to boost their confidence.

At the end of the day a good deal will come down to how these crews prepare themselves in the vital final weeks before the start of Beijing.

### W4x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	GER	GBR	GBR	GBR
2	GBR	GER	AUS	GER
3	AUS	RUS	GER	CHN
4	RUS	UKR	CHN	UKR
5	USA	USA	USA	CAN
6	DEN	FRA	UKR	USA
7	BLR	ROU	CAN	AUS
8		ITA		ROU
9		JPN		FRA
10				RUS
11				BLR
12				LTU

### M4x: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	RUS	POL	POL	POL
2	CZE	SLO	UKR	FRA
3	UKR	EST	EST	GER
4	POL	CZE	ITA	ITA
5	GER	FRA	CZE	CZE
6	BLR	GER	RUS	UKR
7	AUS	GBR	GER	RUS
8	SUI	RUS	USA	EST
9	EST	USA	AUS	USA
10	ITA	UKR	FRA	AUS
11	USA	AUS	BLR	CUB
12	GBR		ROU	BLR

## Women's Eight (W8+)

Romania has owned this event for the last three Olympic Games. The United States use this knowledge as motivation to work harder and it must have worked for them at last year's World Rowing Championships where they finished in first place ahead of Romania. In their only international appearance of 2008, the USA again finished first, albeit in the absence of Romania. It is very likely that the Beijing Olympics will come down to a close battle between these two crews.

But hoping to push into the picture will be Australia. The Australians have a ghost that they very much want to bury – their disappointing last-place finish in the Final at the Athens Olympics after one of their crew members stopped rowing. Australia scored gold and silver at the two Rowing World Cups they entered this season and they are pumped with the knowledge that gold is within their grasp.

If there is going to be a surprise medal it could come from late qualifiers Canada and the Netherlands. There is no doubt that in this Final, the finish will be close.

### W8+: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	ROU	AUS	USA	USA
2	USA	ROU	GER	ROU
3	NED	NED	AUS	GBR
4	CHN	USA	CHN	AUS
5	GER	GBR	CAN	GER
6	AUS	GER	ROU	CAN
7	CAN	BLR	NZL	NED
8		RUS	GBR	CHN
9			RUS	NZL
10			FRA	
11			BLR	
12			UKR	

## Men's Eight (M8+)

A lot is at stake in this event. The United States put its top sweep rowers into this boat as did Canada. Australia's rowing hero James Tomkins describes this boat as rowing itself, the "V8 of the sport".

Coming into the Olympic Games, Athens champions the United States are a bit of a mystery. Coach Mike Teti has chosen not to race them internationally this year and they finished a disappointing fourth last year. But Teti plays a clever game and there is no doubt that he will be doing what is right. Canada is less of a mystery. They are the reigning World Champions and have convincingly won the only race they entered this season. These two crews must surely be leading the way.

The big question mark hangs over China, Great Britain, and Germany. Germany pin their rowing hopes on the men's eight and have already undergone some last-minute team changes – including the coach – to make sure they deliver their best. China qualified for the Olympics by finishing seventh last year and have improved to pick up two very welcome Rowing World Cup medals this season. The Chinese nation has backed and hyped this boat to the hilt. They have the weight of 1.3 billion Chinese on their shoulders. Great Britain is also improving and has medalled at all three Rowing World Cups this season, despite regular crew changes. Keep an eye out also for the Australian boat - featuring the mighty Tomkins at his fifth Olympic Games, they won gold at the Rowing World Cup in Munich in May.

### M8+: Major results since 2004

Place	OG 04	WRCh 05	WRCh 06	WRCh 07
1	USA	USA	GER	CAN
2	NED	ITA	ITA	GER
3	AUS	GER	USA	GBR
4	GER	GBR	AUS	USA
5	CAN	POL	GBR	RUS
6	FRA	RUS	POL	POL
7	ITA	CAN	RUS	CHN
8	POL	NED	SUI	AUS
9	GBR	FRA	CAN	SUI
10		BLR	FRA	NED
11		CRO	CHN	FRA
12		ROU	ROU	BLR

