



2008 Rowing World Cup I Munich, Germany

8-11 May

MEDIA GUIDE SUPPLEMENT





Munich, Germany

8 - 11 May 2008

Table of Contents

1. General	2
1.1 2008 Rowing World Cup I – Welcome to the new season!	2
1.2 World Rowing Press Release	4
1.3 The Rowing World Cup - Scoring System, Titles & Prizes	6
2. Rowing World Cup Munich	7
2.1 Key Media Information	7
About Munich	7
Currency	7
Media Accommodation	7
Transport	8
Parking	8
Accreditation	8
Media Facilities	8
Photographers	8
General Programme (Munich)	9
2.2 Time Table of Events (provisional at close of entries)	10
2.3 Actual Entries by Country (provisional at close of entries)	11
2.4 Who to Watch in Munich	13
3. Best Times	23
3.1 Rowing World Cup Best Times (corrected as of 25 April 2008)	23



1. General

1.1 2008 Rowing World Cup I – Welcome to the new season!

Munich kicks off the season and the qualification of rowing's first Paralympians will be finalised for Beijing.

In 2005, the International Paralympic Committee accepted rowing as a sport on the programme of the Paralympic Games. The first Paralympic rowing events will take place in Beijing in September 2008.

This first Rowing World Cup of 2008 will be the occasion for the final 12 Paralympic spots to be secured (joining the 36 crews who already qualified during the World Rowing Championships in September last year), setting the first Paralympians in the history of rowing on their journey to Beijing.

Last year's World Rowing Championships in Munich were a great success. Over 65'000 spectators attended the event and the atmosphere at the Olympic Regatta course was phenomenal. This year, Munich will go back again to the Rowing World Cup format, for the 10th time since the series began in 1997.

A big turnout both in terms of participants and spectators is expected. Indeed, at the time of writing, 54 nations had indicated their participation in the event – an all-time record for the Rowing World Cup. Many nations will use this event to fine-tune their Olympic team selection and test out crews that were put together.

All the info you need about the Rowing World Cup series can be found in this Media Guide Supplement as well as in the Annual Media Guide which is available from the press centre staff. Don't forget to also consult the online athlete and results database on www.worldrowing.com for detailed information on all current and past rowers who raced at World Rowing events.

We are very pleased to welcome on board a new official sponsor for the 2008 Rowing World Cup series. Siemens is a leading global engineering company which provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key industrial sectors of energy, industry and health-care. Siemens is also a key provider of IT services and solutions and financial services and has been a loyal partner to the British Rowing team since 2006. We are delighted to have them as part of the rowing family once again.

As usual, we cannot forget to acknowledge all our longstanding partners: the European Broadcasting Union, WCSN, IMG Media, Swiss Timing and Swiss Timing Innovations as well as Supervision who have helped us throughout the years to provide exciting events, images, results and web services to rowers around the world and without whose expertise we would not be able to stage any of these events.

Of course without the support and dedication of the national teams there would be no racing and FISA appreciates all the efforts made by the National Federations in attending and maintaining the quality of racing at these events.

Last but not least, we are very grateful to you, the media, for your support and enthusiasm which helps increase the popularity of rowing each year worldwide. Thank you!

We wish you all exciting racing, and do not hesitate to contact us should you have any comments or suggestions on how we could improve our services to you throughout the season.

Your World Rowing Communications Team

Marion Gallimore, Marketing & Communications Manager

Debora Feutren, Website & Publications Editor

Melissa Bray, World Rowing Journalist

Arno Boes, Chair of the Media, Marketing & Promotions Commission



1.2 World Rowing Press Release

**For immediate release:
Lausanne, 30 April 2008**

High stakes for first Rowing World Cup of 2008

Record entries for the first Rowing World Cup in Munich (GER) mean that 54 countries will take part in this first World Rowing event of the Olympic season. In total, 840 competitors will compete in 371 boats. This count includes the 32 adaptive boats that shall race for the final qualifying spots for the first-ever Paralympic rowing events in Beijing this September.

As one would expect, the highest number of crews entered come from the host country. Germany is sending 27 crews and will be represented in all but two boat classes. Following their National Championships two weeks ago, this first Rowing World Cup event is another chance for Germany to fine tune their selections and try out some crews which were put together recently. All this with one specific goal: finding the best combinations to represent their country at the Olympic Games later this summer.

The same strategy will be followed by most nations present, as this will be the first chance of the season to not only check out the international competition, but also to try out the chosen line-ups and confirm the selection decisions made earlier this year.

Some countries however, such as Cyprus (M1x), Lithuania (M1x), Portugal (M2-, LM2x, LM4-), Slovakia (M2x, LM2x) and Turkey (LM2x) will no doubt be using this regatta as practice for the final qualification regatta in Poznan, Poland – their last chance for a 2008 Olympic spot.

Amongst the already qualified crews for the Games, Colombia, Monaco and Venezuela will be trying to get as much practice in as possible, as their Olympic participation will be the first for their country in rowing, and therefore has an even more historic flavour to it than for some of the more “accustomed” nations.

The Munich Rowing World Cup regatta, as well as the next two Rowing World Cup regattas in Lucerne (SUI) and Poznan (POL) will bear particularly high stakes this year. Results at these three regattas, as well as last year’s qualification World Rowing Championships, will be taken into consideration by FISA’s seeding committee when placing boats in heats for the Olympic Regatta. With so much to gain from a good performance, the racing during this year’s Rowing World Cup series promises to be highly competitive.

Also worth mentioning is the participation of the most recently qualified crews from the Asian qualification event which took place last week-end in China. The Chinese men’s single sculler and the

Japanese lightweight women's double fly in to Munich having only just recovered from their regatta in Shanghai and have a good chance to achieve some excellent results here next week-end.

It goes without saying that most of the top rowing nations will compete in Munich. Worth noting is the absence of New Zealand's single sculler Mahe Drysdale, whose pre-season national qualification ordeal was highly publicised by rowing media back in March. Drysdale is the only one missing among this year's 38-strong field of single scullers from last year's World Championship final, giving the chance to world silver medallist Ondrej Synek, world bronze medallist Olaf Tufte or even Britain's young single sculling talent Alan Campbell to secure a gold at this event.

For the full list of entries, by event and by nation, please visit our website www.worldrowing.com or click here. The website will also provide an event by event preview, race reports and photo galleries during and after the regatta.

The Rowing World Cup series will be televised and streamed live through World Rowing's partner website www.wcsn.com. This service can be accessed through www.worldrowing.com. As usual, live race tracker and live audio streaming of the race commentary will be available throughout the whole regatta.

The Rowing World Cup series was launched in 1997 and includes all 14 Olympic boat classes. The overall Rowing World Cup champions are determined after a series of three regattas. Germany has dominated the series since its beginning ten years ago. This year, the three stages of the series will be held in Munich (GER) 8 to 11 May, Lucerne (SUI) 30 May to 1 June and Poznan (POL) 20 to 22 June.



1.3 The Rowing World Cup - Scoring System, Titles & Prizes

The Rowing World Cup in its current format was created in 1997 as a partnership between successful existing regattas and FISA in order to create top competition opportunities for the athletes and in order to better promote the sport of rowing.

The Rowing World Cup is a series of three regattas that include the 14 Olympic boat classes seeking points based on finish order. At each regatta, the national rowing federation with the most points at that particular regatta will be declared winner of that Rowing World Cup event and will receive the leading nation cup.

The title of Rowing World Cup champion in each Olympic boat class shall be conferred on the federation with the most points earned from racing in that boat class in all three regattas.

The National Federation with the most points overall from all Olympic boat classes will be declared overall winner of the Rowing World Cup. This will take place following the final race at the final Rowing World Cup regatta on Lake Malta in Poznan, Poland, from 20 to 22 June.

At each regatta, in each event, the highest placing boat from a National Federation will be awarded the following points:

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	8	4 th	4	7 th	1
2 nd	6	5 th	3		
3 rd	5	6 th	2		

Points will not be awarded to the second crew of a federation placing a crew in one of the first 7 places.

Olympic and Rowing World Cup Boat Classes

Men

Single Scull (M1x)
 Double Scull (M2x)
 Lightweight Double Scull (LM2x)
 Quadruple Scull (M4x)
 Pair (M2-)
 Four (M4-)
 Lightweight Four (LM4-)
 Eight (M8+)

Women

Single Scull (W1x)
 Double Scull (W2x)
 Lightweight Double Scull (LW2x)
 Quadruple Scull (W4x)
 Pair (W2-)
 Eight (W8+)

Note: Other boat classes are known as International events



2. Rowing World Cup - Munich (GER)

2.1 Key Media Information

Local OC Press Officer

Frank Heidenhain

Contact details: media@regatta.de

Media accreditation deadline: 25 April 2008

About Munich

The Olympic Regatta course is situated in Oberschleissheim, approximately 20km out of downtown Munich. It was built for the 1972 Olympic Games and has since been used regularly to hold both national and international rowing events. Since the creation of the series eleven years ago (in 1997), the course has hosted 10 Rowing World Cup regattas and was home to a very successful World Rowing Championships in 2007.

The city of Munich itself is rich in history: founded in the 12th century, it soon became an important crossing point for trade routes through Europe. Since then it has continued to grow in size and importance. Today Munich is a cosmopolitan city of 1.2 million people, making the Bavarian capital the third largest city in Germany.

Currency

The official German currency is the Euro.

Exchange rates (at 23/04/08) – (source: www.XE.com)

UK	£1	=	1.24 EUR
USA	\$1	=	0.62 EUR
CHF	CHF 1	=	0.62 EUR

Media Accommodation

Münchner Hotel Verbund

Industriestrasse 2

82140 Olching

Tel.: +49 8142 444 610

Fax: +49 8142 444 611

www.muenchen-hotel.de

info@muenchen-hotel.de

Please mention the word “Regatta”

Transport

There will be a shuttle service running at regular intervals to and from the regatta course and the Media hotels from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily.

Parking

Parking for media representatives is available in the parking lot behind the grandstand.

Media Facilities

Wednesday 7 May from 14:00 the Media centre will open every day one hour before the first race of the day and close two hours after the last race of the day.

The media centre is located under the main tribune (section D). Grandstand seats are situated just outside the media centre in the main tribune.

TV and radio commentary positions are located at the top of the grandstand and must be booked in advance through the host broadcaster. Deadline is 1 May 2008.

The usual facilities are available to the press in the media centre and the tribune:

- Workspaces with power
- Telephone lines
- Access to wireless LAN
- Internet terminal
- International telephones
- Fax machine and copy service
- TV monitors in the media centre for viewing racing on finals day (no individual monitors on work place)
- Drinks and snacks throughout the day

Note: Power sockets are European two pin

Accreditation

Media accreditation requests can be made online through www.worldrowing.com.

Go to "Media Centre" in the main menu. Local media should contact the local press officer directly.

Photographers

Photographers wishing to be taken to the start should sign up at the media centre information desk to ensure transport is organised in time for the chosen races.

General Programme

Tuesday, 8 April 2008		Close of entries for Paralympic Qualification
Monday, 28 April 2008		Close of entries for Rowing World Cup regatta
Tuesday 6 May 2008	11:00	Local Organising Committee Media Conference Opening of the course
Wednesday, 7 May 2008	17:00	Team Managers' meeting and draw
Thursday, 8 May 2008	as of 9:00	Heats
Friday, 9 May 2008	as of 9:00	Heats and Repechages
Saturday, 10 May 2008	as of 9:00	Finals of Paralympic Qualification
	as of 10:10	Finals F, E, D, C + Semis
	20:00	Nations' Dinner
Sunday, 11 May 2008	8:30	Finals C, B, A
	approx. 15:00	End of the Regatta

Other useful information sources

www.worldrowing.com

The official World Rowing website provides detailed coverage of the Rowing World Cups. The live race viewer and race results feed allows you to follow the racing as it happens.

A wide range of photos covering the event will be uploaded regularly to the website photo gallery. Should you wish to get usage of these photos contact the World Rowing communications staff who will be happy to put you in touch with the right photographer.

Live internet streaming of the event is available on the WCSN website (www.wcsn.com). See www.worldrowing.com for a direct link.

World Rowing Athletes and Results database

Powered by Rowing One, this is perhaps the most comprehensive database of athlete biographies and results. We'd like to encourage you to use this fantastic resource. We will have PCs running the athletes database in the media centre. Please ask a member of the FISA media team to show you around the site.

www.Infostradasports.com

World Rowing have compiled this media guide in association with Infostrada Sports Media Services. Infostrada provide historical and statistical information on a wide range of sports – from football to Formula 1 to rowing.

2.2. Time Table of Events (provisional at close of entries)

8 - 11 May 2008



Munich, Germany

PROVISIONAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

(subject to the Draw at 17:00 hrs on Wednesday, 7 May 2008)

As of Wednesday, 30 April 2008

N°	Event #	Thursday, 8 May		Friday, 9 May		Saturday, 10 May		Sunday, 11 May	
		Heats		Repeches		Reps		Final A	
Adaptive Events				Adaptive Finals					
71	AW1x 8	09:00	09:08	09:00		09:00			
72	AM1x 10	09:16	09:24	09:08	09:16	09:10			
73	TA2x 7	09:32	09:40	09:24		09:20			
74	LTAA+ 7	09:48	09:56	09:32		09:30			
International Events				Reps>12, Heats<12		Semis/Reps FG		Semi-Finals	
17	LW1x 18	10:36	10:42 10:48	10:06	10:12	10:10	10:16	12:22	18:24
18	LM1x 22	10:54	11:00 11:06 11:12	10:18	10:24 10:30 10:36	10:22	10:28	11:34	18:30
21	LM2- 9			10:42	10:48	10:34	10:40	12:28	18:36
World Cup Events				Reps>12, Heats<12, Quarter finals					
1	W1x 32	11:18	11:24 11:30 11:36 11:42 11:48	10:54	11:00 11:06 11:12	10:52	11:10	11:40	14:38
2	M1x 38	11:54	12:00 12:06 12:12 12:18 12:24 12:30 12:36 12:42	11:18	11:24 11:30 11:36 11:42 11:48 11:54 12:00 12:06	10:46	10:58	11:16 11:46	14:46 14:54 15:02
3	W2- 18	14:30	14:36 14:42	12:12	12:18			12:40	15:14 15:26
4	M2- 26	14:48	14:54 15:00 15:06 15:12 15:18	12:24	12:30 12:36 12:42			11:22 11:52 12:46	15:36 15:46
5	W2x 21	15:24	15:30 15:36 15:42	15:00	15:06 15:12 15:18			11:58 12:52	15:54 16:02
6	M2x 21	15:46	15:54 16:00 16:06	15:24	15:30 15:36 15:42			12:04 12:58	16:10 16:16
7	M4- 14	16:12	16:18 16:24	15:48	15:54			13:04	16:26 16:34
8	LW2x 24	16:30	16:36 16:42 16:48	15:54	16:00 16:06 16:12			13:04	16:42 16:50
9	LM2x 33	16:54	17:00 17:06 17:12 17:18 17:24	16:18	16:24 16:30 16:36			11:04 11:28 12:16 13:16	16:56 17:06
10	LM4- 18	17:30	17:36 17:42	16:42	16:48			13:22	17:14 17:22
11	W4x 8			16:54	17:00			17:30	17:38 17:46
12	M4x 18	17:48	17:54 18:00	17:06	17:12			13:28	17:54 18:02
13	W6+ 9			17:18	17:24			18:10 18:18	
14	M8+ 10			17:30	17:36				18:10 18:18

Training Times	6:30-8:30, after 18:10	6:30-8:30, after 18:10	6:30-8:30, after 18:50	6:30-8:00
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Notes:

1. Wednesday, 7 May 2008, Adaptive Classification
2. Thursday, 8 May 2008 at 11:00, Adaptive Spare Races (on Ergometers)
3. Adaptive Training Times: Thursday 13:10-14:00, Friday 13:00-14:30 hrs
4. On Saturday from 15:02 to 16:38 hrs -TV Rehearsals

Follow the live results on www.worldrowing.com



2.3. Actual Entries by Country (provisional at close of entries)

Munich, Germany

8 - 11 May 2008

ENTRIES BY EVENT

As of 29 APRIL 2008

Olympic Events

W1x	M1x	W2-	M2-	W2x	M2x	M4-	LW2x	LM2x	LM4-	W4x	M4x	W8+	M8+
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]

32	38	18	26	21	21	14	24	33	18	8	18	9	10
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ARG	ARG	AUS1	AUS	BLR1	AUS	ARG	BRA	ALG	AUT	AUS	ARG	AUS	AUS
BEL	AUT	AUS2	BUL	BLR2	BEL	BLR1	CHN	AUT	CHN1	CHN1	AUS	BLR	CHN
BLR	BEL	AUS3	CHN1	CHN1	BLR	BLR2	CRO	BEL1	CHN2	CHN2	BLR	CHN	CRO
BRA	BLR	AUS4	CHN2	CHN2	CHN	CRO	CUB	BEL2	CZE	GBR	CUB	GBR	FRA
BUL	BRA	BLR	CRO	CZE	CRO1	CZE	DEN	BRA	DEN	GER1	CZE	GER1	GBR
CHI	BUL	CHN1	CZE	DEN1	CRO2	FRA	ESP	BUL	ESP	GER2	ESP	GER2	GER
CHN	CHI	CHN2	DEN	DEN2	DEN	GBR	FRA	CHN	FRA	ROU	EST	NED	ITA
CUB	CHN	DEN	ESP	FIN	FRA	GER1	GBR1	CRO	GBR	UKR	FRA	NZL	NED
CZE	COL	FRA	FRA1	FRA	GBR	GER2	GBR2	CUB	GER		GBR	ROU	POL
DEN	CRO	GBR	FRA2	GBR	GER	GRE	GER	CZE	GRE		GER		SUI
ESP	CYP	GER1	GBR1	GER	GRE	IRL	GRE1	DEN1	IRL		ITA1		
FIN1	CZE	GER2	GBR2	HUN	HUN	ITA	GRE2	DEN2	ITA		ITA2		
FIN2	DEN	ITA	GER1	IRL	ITA1	NED	HUN	ESP	NED		POL		
FRA	ESP1	NED	GER2	ITA	ITA2	SLO	IRL	FIN	POL		ROU1		
GBR1	ESP2	ROU1	GER3	NOR	NED		ITA	FRA1	POR		ROU2		
GBR2	EST	ROU2	IRL1	POL	POL		JPN	FRA2	SRB		RUS		
GER1	FIN	USA1	IRL2	ROU1	SLO		MEX	GBR	SUI		SLO		
GER2	FRA1	USA2	IRL3	ROU2	SVK1		NED	GER1	UKR		UKR		
HUN	FRA2		ITA	SUI	SVK2		NZL	GER2					
IRL1	GBR1		POL	UKR	UKR		POL	GRE					
IRL2	GBR2		POR	USA	VEN		RSA	HUN1					
ITA	GER		RSA				SUI	HUN2					
NED	GRE		SLO				UZB	IRL					
NOR	IRL		SRB				VEN	ITA1					
NZL	ITA		SUI					ITA2					
POL	LTU		USA					JPN					
RSA	MEX							NZL					
SRB	MON							POR					
SWE	NED							SRB					
UKR	NOR							SVK					
USA1	POL1							TUR					
UZB	POL2							URU					
	SLO1							VEN					
	SLO2												
	SUI												
	SWE												
	UKR												
	VEN												



Munich, Germany

8 - 11 May 2008

ENTRIES BY EVENT

As of 29 APRIL 2008

Olympic Events

LW1x	LM1x	LM2-	AW1x	AM1x	TA2x	LTA4+
[17]	[18]	[20]	[71]	[72]	[73]	[74]

18	22	9	8	10	7	7
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AUT	ALG1	DEN	FRA	BLR	GER	AUS
CHN1	ALG2	ESP	HKG	BRA	GRE	CHN
CHN2	AUT1	FRA	ISR	ESP	HKG	DEN
DEN1	AUT2	GBR	JPN	GER	ISR	JPN
DEN2	AUT3	GER	KOR	HKG	JPN	POL
GBR1	AUT4	ITA1	POR	JPN	KEN	RSA
GBR2	AUT5	ITA2	RSA	KOR	KOR	UKR
GER	BUL	ITA3	RUS	POR		
GRE	CHN	NED		RUS		
ITA	CUB					
NOR	ESP					
POL	FRA					
POR	GER					
SUI	ITA					
TUN	JPN					
TUR	NED1					
UZB1	NED2					
UZB2	NZL					
	SRB					
	TUN					
	TUR					
	UZB					

	NFs	Crews	Competitors
Men	43	127	339
Women	31	88	205
Lightweight Men	33	82	172
Lightweight Women	27	42	64
Adaptive Men	10	10	10
Adaptive Women	8	8	8
Adaptive Mixed	13	14	42
Total	54	371	840

W1x	Women's Single Sculls	M1x	Men's Single Sculls	W2-	Women's Pairs	M2-	Men's Pairs
W2x	Women's Double Sculls	M2x	Men's Double Sculls	M4-	Men's Four	LW2x	Lwt. Women's Double Sculls
LM2x	Lightweight Men's Double Sculls	LM4-	Lightweight Men's Four	W4x	Women's Quadruple Sculls	M4x	Men's Quadruple Sculls
W8+	Women's Eight	M8+	Men's Eight	LW1x	Lwt. Women's Single Sculls	LM1x	Lightweight Men's Single Sculls
LM2-	Lightweight Men's Pairs	AW1x	Arms Women's Single Sculls	AM1x	Arms Men's Single Sculls	TA2x	Trunk & Arms Double Sculls
LTA4+	Legs, Trunk, Arms Mixed Coxed Four						



2.4. Who to Watch in Munich

This first international race of the season will give athletes a benchmark as they come in from winter training to open 2008.

Women's Single Sculls (W1x)

Shaking up the status quo Rumyana Neykova of Bulgaria gave Belarus' Ekaterina Karsten a scare at the end of last season. Neykova forced Karsten to sprint. Karsten's first tight race in three years. Karsten won the World Rowing Championships but Neykova had sent her a message that she was back and fast. The perennial rivals will meet again on the same Munich regatta course. Neykova can be inconsistent but against Karsten she will be aiming to gain the psychological edge as they prepare for the Olympic Games.

Michelle Guerette of the United States, who earned World Championship bronze last year, is competing in Munich. She will find stiff competition coming from a number of European directions: from France in the form of Sophie Balmay, from Sweden's Frida Svensson and from Mirka Knapkova of the Czech Republic. Watch out also for the young enthusiasm of Serbia's Iva Obradovic, Poland's Julia Michalska and Emma Twigg of New Zealand. The three have all won at world under 23 level.

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

Men's Single Sculls (M1x)

Despite the absence of reigning World Champion Mahe Drysdale there is no shortage of hot competition. Germany's Marcel Hacker has a chance to redeem himself in front of his home crowd after failing to medal at Munich last year. But Hacker will have to contend with two-time Olympic medallist Olaf Tufte of Norway who always manages to take it up a notch in the Olympic year. Last year's Ondrej Synek of the Czech Republic is also lining up and the past has shown that Synek is able to win against the best.

Interest will also be on Great Britain's Alan Campbell. Known for his blistering starts, observers will be keen to see what Campbell has been working on during the off-season. Keep an eye out for China's Liang Zhang who has just qualified for the Olympics at the Asian Qualification Regatta late April by blitzing the competition. Sweden's Lassi Karonen is back again and about to show off the impact of winter training.

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-)

The 2007 World Champion title for Yulia Bichyk and Natallia Helakh of Belarus sent a message out to the field of the women's pair. The Athens bronze medallists are now aiming for Beijing glory and are using the first Rowing World Cup to kick-start their season. But one of the finest comebacks of 2007, Olympic Champions Georgeta Damian-Andrunache and Viorica Susanu of Romania, have also decided to test themselves in Munich, and Belarus will no doubt be wary.

Meanwhile, despite winning silver last year, Germany has thrown open the pair to the women's sweep squad and entered two boats, neither of which contain the 2007 silver medallists. A last 100 metres stopping "crab" last year robbed Australia of a medal, but the duo of Kim Crow and Sarah Cook are back and rowing on greater experience. The United States and China have also entered two boats as Olympic crew tweaking continues.

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-)

This race is wide open. The three medallists from last year, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain, are missing. Australia and Great Britain have both entered a new combination and New Zealand will join the international scene at the second World Cup. Look out for Jason Read and Bryan Volpenhein. Hot off a clear win at the United States team trials, Read and Volpenhein – bow and stroke seats of the 2004 Olympic Champion eight – are testing their boat speed on the international scene.

Read and Volpenhein will find some tough competition coming from Serbia's Goran Jagar and Nikola Stojic as well as Erwan Peron and Laurent Cadot of France.

Some well-known names, but new to this event, the Czech Republic's Vaclav Chalupa has put sculling to one side and is paired up with Jakub Makovicka. Italy's Raffaello Leonardo, former captain of the men's eight, will be after medals with Giuseppe De Vita.

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)

China's classy win in 2007 will make them the favourites coming into this season. Qin Li and Liang Tian are going into their third year together and in the absence of New Zealand they will be looking to Great Britain to provide solid competition. Great Britain finished third last year but the combination has changed, perhaps for the better, with Elise Laverick joined by the post-injury return of Sarah Winckless.

Watch out for Romania with their two entries wanting to prove who is the best to their nation's Olympic selectors. There will also be a lot of speed coming from the fast Czech duo of under-23 World Champions and European Champions Jitka Antosova and Gabriela Varekova.

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)

Going into their ninth year together, Slovenia's best, Luka Spik and Iztok Cop, often start the season off in singles. But this year they have decided time in the boat together is what they need as they work towards medal prospects in Beijing. As current World Champions they will be the target, especially for last year's silver medallists Adrien Hardy and Jean-Baptiste Macquet of France. Hardy and Macquet took gold in 2006, and after a rocky start to 2007, they were back on pace by the end of the season.

Both Slovenia and France need to be on their guard with Great Britain's powerful duo of Matthew Wells and Stephen Rowbotham moving into their second season together. Keep an eye out also for Belgium. Formidable single sculler Tim Maeyens has joined Christophe Raes to make a fast double. Also in for a medal chance, triple world under 23 champions Stanislau Shcharbachenia and Dzianis Mihal of Belarus continue to develop with international experience and Denmark's lightweight double phenomena Mads Rasmussen and Rasmus Quist start the season in this open event.

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-)

Italy has kept their 2007 silver medal four intact. Lorenzo Carboncini, Niccolo Mornati, Alessio Sartori and Carlo Mornati own stacks of medals and have years of experience to call on as they take on Great Britain. A winter of shuffling and reshuffling by British men's head coach Juergen Grobler has led to the replacement of Alex Partridge with Tom James in the two-time World Champion crew as Grobler puts all of his resources into winning Olympic gold again in this event.

In the absence of current World Champions New Zealand, stiff competition will come from last year's world bronze medallists the Netherlands and Slovenia, who both retain their 2007 crews.

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

Lightweight Women's Double Sculls (LW2x)

The duo of Kirsten van der Kolk and Marit van Eupen who medalled at the Athens Olympics and then disbanded, have come together earlier this year with the aim to go to the Beijing Olympics. This World Cup will be their re-entry and test on the international stage. With two of the top crews Finland and Denmark racing in the open category, van der Kolk and van Eupen will get to try their speed out against 2007 bronze medallists Marie-Louise Draeger and Berit Carow of Germany as well as 2007 European Champions Chrysi Biskitzi and Alexandra Tsiavou of Greece.

China will be making no mistakes this year in the lightweight double. After finishing an unexpected sixth last year, Dongxiang Xu and Haixia Chen remain together as a crew and will be looking to build up to the top position. Keep an eye out also for Misaki Kumakura and Akiko Iwamoto of Japan. They qualified last month for Beijing after winning at the Asian Qualification Regatta.

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)

Last season the fresh new double of Zac Purchase and Mark Hunter of Great Britain played on their unknown element. This year other crews will be watching the British duo after they finished 2007 with a bronze medal. Greece's Vasileios Polymeros and Dimitrios Mougios will especially be watching with the hope that their winter training has kept them ahead of the Brits.

With current World Champions Mads Rasmussen and Rasmus Quist of Denmark racing in the open double, Great Britain and Greece will be the top contenders for the gold medal spot. But this is early in the season, the field is large – 33 entries – and New Zealand's Storm Uru and Peter Taylor have appeared on the scene aiming to qualify later this season for the Olympic Games. Top racing will also come from Japan's Kazushige Ura and Daisaku Takeda and watch out for Denmark's entry which features indoor rowing king, Henrik Stephansen.

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-)

The big guns are all lining up at this regatta. Great Britain has retained their World Champion crew under the inspiring coaching of Robin Williams. World silver medallists France enter in with one change, Guillaume Raineau, replacing longstanding crew member, Jeremy Pougé. Italy, which finished with bronze last year, are back again in their same formation.

But watch out for Denmark. The return of Thomas Ebert means half of their famed Olympic Champion lightweight four are back in the boat with Eskild Ebbesen in stroke seat. China will also be a hot contender, the 2006 World Champions have retained their same line-up and a second Chinese boat has been entered to keep the pressure on.

In this well-represented field (19 entries), a whole bunch of boats will be knocking on the door for an A Final spot. The Netherlands have proven talent, Greece continues to improve and Germany always boats a sound line-up.

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)

There is no doubt that German coach Jutta Lau will be going after Olympic Champion status in this event. Lau has put Kathrin Boron back into the stroke seat of her top boat as Boron heads into the season of chasing her fifth Olympic gold. But Great Britain also has high aims as it currently retains the upper hand having earned World Champion titles consecutively for the last three years, while Germany has posted mixed results and boated a mixture of crews.

Keen interest will focus around China. The Chinese quad finished with bronze last year, and are the only crew to have beaten Great Britain at a World Cup last year. Unlike previous years, China is going for stability and they have retained the same line-up that earned the bronze on this course in 2007.

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

Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4x)

There is no doubt that three-time consecutive World Champions Poland will be the crew to beat in this event. Coach Aleksander Wojciechowski has his sights set firmly on Olympic gold and his crew, that has remained the same since coming together in 2005, also have gold in their eyes. Entries, though, have swelled to an impressive 18 boats from all corners of the globe.

Australia is there with a new line-up from the boat that qualified for the Olympics last year. Ukraine will be aiming to improve on their 2007 sixth-place finish. Germany has reshuffled their 2007 bronze medal crew only retaining Rene Bertram and Karsten Brodowski. Cuba has put their best in this event with an eye on Olympic qualification.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to Poland will be last year's silver medallists. France has a new member since 2007, Pierre-Jean Peltier who replaces Jean-David Bernard, and will be hoping that this change will maintain their customary big finishes.

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+)

Only five boats were able to qualify for the Olympics in this event. Of the nine boats racing at this first Rowing World Cup, a number are yet to qualify and will be looking to do just this at the last qualifying chance in June. And the list is far from shabby. The Dutch 2004 Athens medallists are there. So is China. The Chinese have put a huge amount of resources into making sure that they are racing in this event at Beijing. New Zealand and Belarus are also planning on qualifying their boat in June.

In the absence of World Champions the United States, who are still involved in team trials, Romania will be the hot favourites. The Romanian eight looks remarkably like the eight that won gold at Athens and who largely went into retirement at the end of 2004. Their comeback crew finished with silver last year and with Doina Ignat (four Olympic gold medals) back in stroke seat, they will be a hard crew to beat. In contrast Great Britain contains a crew of new blood that came into maturity by earning bronze in 2007.

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+)

Finishing just on the edge of Olympic qualification last year has not deterred Switzerland, the Netherlands and France from keeping their Olympic hope alive. They come to the Munich World Cup to test their speed against the best in the world before attempting to qualify for Beijing at the last chance in June.

Pacing the hopefuls will be home favourites and the crew to beat, Germany. China came along in leaps and bounds last year finishing the season off by qualifying for the Olympics. They have now had half a year to develop and their improvements will be revealed in this event. Great Britain likes to use their eight as a back-up for their flagship men's four, and recent reshuffling with changes in the four as well as injuries within the sweep squad has meant a crew that has not spent a lot of time together. But the depth of British rowing talent will mean this crew can still push for a medal. Watch out also for Australia and Poland. Both crews have already qualified for Beijing, Australia earning a spot following the disqualification of Russia.

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

3. Best Times

3.1. Rowing World Cup Best Times (corrected as of 25 April 2008)

Event	Time	Name	Date	Location
Men's Single Sculls (M1x)	6:43.10	Slovenia Iztok Cop	22 Jun 1997	Paris, FRA
Men's Pair (M2-)	6:18.73	Croatia Oliver Martinov Ninoslav Saraga	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI
Men's Double Sculls (M2x)	6:03.25	France Jean-Baptiste Macquet Adrien Hardy	17 Jun 2006	Poznan, POL
Men's Four (M4-)	5:46.12	Norway Kjetil Undset Sture Bjoervig Steffen Störseth Nils Torolv Simonsen	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI
Men's Lightweight Double Sculls (LM2x)	6:10.02	Denmark Mads Rasmussen Rasmus Quist	23 Jun 2007	Amsterdam, NED
Men's Lightweight Four (LM4-)	5:45.60	Denmark Thomas Ebert Thomas Poulsen Eskild Ebbesen Victor Feddersen	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI
Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4x)	5:37.31	Poland Konrad Wasielewski Marek Kolbowicz Michal Jelinski Adam Korol	17 Jun 2006	Poznan, POL
Men's Eight (M8+)	5:21.21	Australia Dave McGowan James Marburg Matthew Ryan Samuel Conrad Thomas Laurich Karsten Forsterling Cameron McKenzie McHarg Jeremy Stevenson Martin Rabjohns	17 Jun 2006	Poznan, POL
Women's Single Sculls (W1x)	7:14.12	Germany Katrin Rutschow-Stomporowski	13 Jul 2003	Lucerne, SUI
Women's Pair (W2-)	6:56.27	Canada Emma Robinson Theresa Luke	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI
Women's Double Sculls (W2x)	6:47.02	New Zealand Caroline Evers-Swindell Georgina Evers-Swindell	13 Jul 2003	Lucerne, SUI
Women's Lightweight Double Sculls (LW2x)	6:49.77	China Xu Dongxiang Yan Shimin	17 Jun 2006	Poznan, POL
Women's Quadruple Sculls (W4x)	6:11.69	Germany Maren Derlien Meike Evers Manuela Lutze Kerstin Kowalski	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI
Women's Eight (W8+)	5:57.02	Romania Georgeta Damian Viorica Susanu Ioana Olteanu Aurica Chirita Magdalena Dumitrache Doina Spircu Marioara Popescu Doina Ignat Elena Georgescu	09 Jul 1999	Lucerne, SUI

