

Rowing

ALL-TIME EVENT MEDALS

USA	30	30	21	81
E. GERMANY	33	9	8	50
ENGLAND	22	18	8	48
USSR	12	20	11	43



The Oregonian MONDAY, AUG. 18, 2008 | 11TH OF 17

TODAY'S TV HIGHLIGHTS

+> 8 a.m.:

Women's soccer semifinal; men's beach volleyball quarterfinals; boxing (live), Telemundo

+> 10 a.m.:

Men's volleyball: USA vs. Japan; men's beach volleyball quarterfinals; track & field; men's 3m diving (live), NBC

+> 2 p.m.:

Boxing: bantamweight, featherweight and super heavyweight quarterfinals (taped), CNBC

+> 6 p.m.:

Gymnastics recap; equestrian: team jumping final (taped), Oxygen

+> 8 p.m.:

Beach volleyball: semifinals; gymnastics: men's individual rings and vault finals, women's individual vault and uneven bars finals; track & field: men's long jump final, women's 800m final (live), NBC

+> 9 p.m.:

Men's freestyle wrestling: 55kg, 60 kg; table tennis: men's and women's singles (live), CNBC

+> 11 p.m.:

Women's basketball: quarterfinals; men's beach volleyball semifinals; cycling: various track finals; women's team handball (live), USA Network



THE BOATS

Single sculls: 27 ft., 31 lbs
Double sculls: 34 ft., 49 lbs

Quad sculls: 44 ft., 114 lbs
Pair sweep: 34 ft., 59.5 lbs
Quad sweep: 44 ft., 110 lbs
Eight sweep: 52 ft., 211 lbs

THE COURSE

At about a mile and a quarter long, the Olympic rowing course is all about endurance. The six-lane, flatwater course is marked by buoys that indicate each lane, which is between 41 and 44 feet wide. The course is 11 feet, 6 inches deep and lined with rocks on the shore to absorb the wakes from the boats.

Start pontoons

These are used to help hold the boats in place before the race so each of the vessel's noses line up.

Starting line

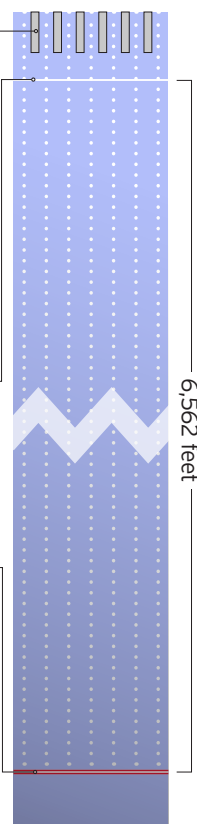
Buoys

They mark the lane assignments, and every 250 meters there's a colored buoy to let athletes know where they are on the course. The first and last 100 meters (328 feet) are marked red.

Finish line

THE COMPETITION

The format of each event depends on the number of participants, but generally there is a preliminary round with repechages, or second-chance races, to determine which boats make the final. The competitions are double elimination, so a boat has to lose twice to be sent home.



THE OBJECT

Rowing is a water sport in which athletes row a long, narrow boat down a straight, 2,000-meter (6,562 feet) flatwater course.

In the Olympics, there are a variety of rowing races based on gender, number of rowers, type of rowing and whether the boat carries a coxswain. In sweep rowing, athletes each use one oar. In scull events, rowers use two. Some events use a coxswain (a boat leader who doesn't row) and others are straight, or are run without one. Coxswains are only allowed in the men's and women's eight-person sweep event.

Scull events

Men's single
Women's single
Men's double
Men's lightweight double
Women's double
Women's lightweight double
Men's quadruple
Women's quadruple

Sweep events

Men's eight (with coxswain)
Women's eight (with coxswain)
Men's pair
Women's pair
Men's lightweight four
Men's four

OLYMPIC DEBUT: 1900

Original rules on coxswain weight were lax (today men must weigh at least 120 pounds and women 110). The first men's pair winners picked a 73-pound boy from the streets of Paris to sit in their boat.

ONE TO WATCH

Bulgaria's **Rumyana Neykova**, two-time medalist in women's single scull

U.S. HOPEFUL

Men's eight team won gold in the sweep event at the 2004 games