2.4 Glossary of rowing terms

Blade	Flattened or spoon-shaped end of oar or scull; sometimes used as term for oar
Bow	1 Forward end of boat, in terms of the direction the boat is moving in. 2 The rower in the seat nearest the bow
Bow ball	Safety ball fitted to the bow end of racing boat
Boat class	The rowing event pertaining to the type of boat and gender eg men's single scull
Bow side/starboard side	The right hand side of the boat when viewed from the stern
Catch	The part of the stroke when the blade is put in the water
Coxswain/Cox	Person who steers the boat usually from a seat in the stern
Crab	Occurs when rower fails to get the oar out of the water at the end of the stroke, causing the oar to get caught in the water: "catching a crab"
Drive	The part of the stroke between the catch and the finish, when the oar is in the water
Feather	To turn the blade parallel with the water surface at the start of the recovery to reduce wind resistance
Finish/Release	The part of the stroke when the blade is taken out of the water
Layback	The amount of backward lean of the rower's upper body towards the bow at the finish of the stroke
Length	The length of a boat ("They won by one length")
Recovery	The part of the stroke cycle between the finish and the catch in which the blade is feathered and out of the water
Regatta	A competitive event raced in boats
Sculling	Rowing when each person rows with two oars
Slide	1 The parallel rails on which the boat seats move 2 The action of the boat seat with wheels on parallel rails
Square	When the blade is perpendicular to the water
Stern	The back end of the boat in terms of the direction in which the boat is moving
Stroke	1 The complete cycle of the oar going from the catch back to the catch. 2 The rower seated nearest to the stern of the boat
Stroke rate	The number of strokes per minute that a crew is rowing, as in the number of times a blade goes in the water each minute
Stroke side/Port side	The left-hand side of the boat when viewed from the stern
Sweep rowing	Rowing when each person rows with one oar