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# 2013 Media Guide 1

Sydney, Australia
22-24 March 2013

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# Sydney, Australia

*22 - 24 March 2013*

## Table of Contents

**1. General** **2**

1.1 2013 Samsung World Rowing World Cup I – A new Olympic cycle starts 2

1.2 The Samsung World Rowing Cup - Scoring System, Titles & Prizes 4

**2. 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup I - Sydney, AUS** **5**

2.1 Key Media Information 5

About Sydney 5

Currency 5

Parking 5

Media Facilities 6

Accreditation 6

Photographers 6

General Programme (Sydney) 6

Other Useful Information Sources 7

2.2. Time Table of Events (provisional at close of entries) 8

2.3. Actual Entries by Country (provisional at close of entries) 9

2.4. Who to Watch in Sydney 11

# 1. General

## 1.1 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup I A new Olympic cycle starts

Year 2012 was a big year for the Olympic sport of rowing. At the London 2012 Olympic Rowing Regatta a total of 42 crews representing 18 nations received Olympic medals.

A new cycle is now underway, and the world of rowing is looking forward to watching the world's best rowers continuing in their ways and new talents stepping forward on the world's stage. The first stage of the 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup series in Sydney, Australia, will showcase just such a field of world-class rowers.

This is the first time that the World Rowing Cup will be raced in the Southern Hemisphere, at the 2000 Olympic rowing venue, the Sydney International Regatta Centre. This same venue will welcome the first stage of the World Cup series again in 2014. As a part of a strategic initiative to expand rowing's global calendar and to take advantage of Australia's pleasant early autumn temperatures, the World Rowing regatta season is launching two months earlier in 2013 compared to previous years.

The format of the World Rowing Cup series remains unchanged. As has been custom since the inauguration of the series in 1997, an event leader will be determined in each boat class at each of the three stages of the series. The leader will be awarded the traditional yellow leader bib and will carry the leader status forward to the next regatta. The 2013 overall series winner will be awarded at the end of the final stage of the Samsung World Rowing Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland.

In this Media Guide Supplement you will find practical information about the World Cup in Sydney. A detailed "Who to Watch" gives a comprehensive summary of the crews to look out for not only at this first stage of the 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup series, but also in the months leading up to this year's peak event, the World Rowing Championships in Chungju, South Korea. A wide range of historical results & statistics is also available in the Annual Media Guide which can be consulted online (go to www.worldrowing.com -> Media Centre). Also of interest is our online athletes and results database where you can find the biographies of all current and past rowers (go to www.worldrowing.com -> Athletes -> Results & Bios Database) as well as archived results from past World Rowing regattas (go to www.worldrowing.com -> Results).

The World Rowing Cup series is proud to be sponsored by Samsung Electronics. "A valued Olympic TOP sponsor since 1997, Samsung has come to appreciate rowing's unique values and targeted reach," says FISA President Denis Oswald. Samsung is an established leader in innovative digital technologies that offer new and exciting experiences for everyone, and aspires to use the power of sport to emotionally bond with consumers around the world. World Rowing would also like to thank Gazprombank, Vnesheconombank, Parmigiani Fleurier SA and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for their valuable support and partnership.

And, in closing, World Rowing would like to extend a special thanks to you, the media, for your

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support and enthusiasm in promoting our sport and our athletes throughout the world. If there is anything we can do to help you in your work, or any improvements we can make in the services we provide to you, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We wish you a great start to the season!

***The World Rowing Communications Team***
*Debora Meier-Feutren, FISA Communications Manager*
*Christine Jacobsen, FISA Media Operations Officer*
*Lisa Hayden, FISA Communications Coordinator - Website*
*Melissa Bray, FISA Journalist*

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## 1.2 The Samsung World Rowing Cup - Scoring System, Titles & Prizes

The World Rowing 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.

It 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 World Rowing Cup event and will receive the leading nation cup.

The title of 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup champion in each Olympic boat class shall be conferred on the federation with the most points earned from racing in that boat class at all three regattas.

The National Federation with the most points overall from all Olympic boat classes will be declared overall winner of the 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup. This will take place following the final race at the final stage of the series in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 14 July.

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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | 8 | 4th | 4 | 7th | 1 |
| 2nd | 6 | 5th | 3 | | |
| 3rd | 5 | 6th | 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 World Rowing Cup Boat Classes

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

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

*Note: Other boat classes are known as International events*

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# 2. 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup I - Sydney, AUS

## 2.1 Key Media Information

### Local OC Press Officer

Cora Zillich
czillich@rowingaustralia.com.au

### About Sydney & Sydney International Regatta Centre

Iconic Sydney is the gateway to Australia, the state capital of New South Wales and the most populous city in Australia. Set on one of the world's most stunning harbours, Sydney extends north and south of the harbour in a golden chain of easy-to-reach inner-city beaches. As of 2012, the city's approximate population is of 4.6 million inhabitants.

Sydney often ranks highly in various world cities rankings. It has hosted multiple major international sporting events, including the 1938 British Empire Games (now known as the Commonwealth Games) and the 2000 Summer Olympics.

For the first time ever, Australia will be hosting the opening round of the Samsung World Rowing Cup in 2013 at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, home of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Rowing Regatta. The event will be hosted in conjunction with the Australian Open Rowing Championships, the King's and Queen's Cup Interstate Regatta and the Australian Open Schools Rowing Championships from 18 to 24 March 2013.

The Sydney International Regatta Centre is located 44 kilometres west of Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay, about one hour's drive from Sydney's central business district.

### Currency

Australia's national currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD).

1 AUD = 0.78 EUR
1 EUR = 1.27 AUD
*Exchange rate at 12 March 2013*
*Source: Oanda.com*

### Parking

There are a limited amount of parking spots available for media representatives. Please request a pass from the OC if you require one. Photographers carrying heavy equipment will be given priority.

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## Media Facilities

The media centre will be open from the afternoon of Sunday 17 March and from Monday 18 March to Sunday 24 March from a minimum of one hour prior to the first race until two hours after the last race of the day.

TV and radio commentary positions are located near the finish tower and must be booked in advance through the host broadcaster.

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

*Note: Power sockets are Australian 3-flat-pin*

## Accreditation

Last-minute media accreditation requests should be made directly to christine.jacobsen@fisa.org. Local media should contact the local press officer directly at czillich@rowingaustralia.com.au.

A media accreditation confirmation e-mail is sent to all media representatives whose media accreditation has been granted. Accreditation can be collected on site upon arrival at the venue in the media centre, by the spectator grandstands.

## Photographers

Photographers wishing to be taken to the start should enquire at the media centre information desk about being taken to the start area in time for the chosen races.

## General Programme

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, 11 March 2013 | Midnight | Close of entries |
| Thursday, 21 March 2013 | 16:00 | Team Managers' Meeting and Draw |
| Friday, 22 March 2013 | 08:00 | Heats, Repechages |
| Saturday, 23 March 2013 | 08:00 | Semifinals |
| | 20:00 | Reception - Nations' Dinner |
| Sunday, 24 March 2013 | 09:30 | Finals A |

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## Other Useful Information Sources

www.worldrowing.com

The official World Rowing website provides detailed coverage of the 2013 Samsung World Rowing Cup series. The live race viewer and race results feed allow 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, please contact the World Rowing communications staff who will be happy to put you in touch with the relevant photographer.

Access to live video streaming of the event is available through www.worldrowing.com. Check the direct links depending on which country you are accessing from.

World Rowing Database of athlete bios and results

This is perhaps the most comprehensive database of rowing athlete biographies and results. We'd like to encourage you to use this fantastic resource. We will have a PC 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 has compiled this media guide in association with Infostrada Sports Media Services. Infostrada provides historical and statistical information on a wide range of sports – from football to Formula 1 to rowing.

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

**Sydney, AUS** **22-24 March 2013**

### PROVISIONAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

**(Subject to the Draw at 16:00 hrs on Thursday, 21 March 2013)**
**(As of 13 March 2013)**

| | | | Friday, 22 March 2013 | | | | | | | | Saturday, 23 March 2013 | | | | | | | Sunday, 24 March | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N° | Event | # | Heats | | | | Reps | | | | Reps | | Semis | | Final C | Final B | Final A | Final A | |
| **International Events** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **17** | **LW1x** | **8** | 09:54 | 10:00 | | | 18:00 | | | | | | | | | 16:30 | 16:00 | | |
| **18** | **LM1x** | **6** | | | | | ***18:06** | | | | | | | | | | 16:08 | | |
| **World Cup Events** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **11** | **W4x** | **7** | 08:00 | 08:06 | | | | | | | 08:00 | | | | | | | **W4x** | **09:35** |
| **2** | **M2-** | **5** | | | | | ***18:12** | | | | | | | | | | | **M2-** | **09:45** |
| **1** | **W2-** | **9** | 08:12 | 08:18 | | | | | | | 08:08 | | | | | 16:36 | | **W2-** | **10:00** |
| **4** | **M2x** | **4** | | | | | ***18:18** | | | | | | | | | | | **M2x** | **10:15** |
| **5** | **M4-** | **4** | ***8:24** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **M4-** | **10:30** |
| **8** | **LW2x** | **11** | 08:30 | 08:36 | | | | | | | 08:16 | 08:24 | | | | 16:42 | | **LW2x** | **10:45** |
| **9** | **LM2x** | **10** | 08:42 | 08:48 | | | | | | | 08:32 | | | | | 16:48 | | **LM2x** | **11:00** |
| **3** | **W2x** | **8** | 09:24 | 09:30 | | | | | | | 09:12 | | | | | 16:54 | | **W2x** | **11:15** |
| **10** | **LM4-** | **5** | | | | | ***18:24** | | | | | | | | | | | **LM4-** | **11:30** |
| **12** | **M4x** | **6** | ***9:06** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **M4x** | **11:45** |
| **6** | **W1x** | **11** | *09:12* | *09:18* | | | | | | | *09:00* | *09:06* | | | | 17:00 | | **W1x** | **12:00** |
| **7** | **M1x** | **7** | *08:54* | *09:00* | | | | | | | *08:40* | | | | | | | **M1x** | **12:15** |
| **13** | **W8+** | **7** | 09:36 | 09:42 | | | | | | | 09:18 | | | | | | | **W8+** | **12:30** |
| **14** | **M8+** | **4** | ***09:48** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | **M8+** | **12:04** |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Training Times** | | 6:30-7:30, after 18:30 hrs | 06:30 -7:30, after 17:10 hrs | 06:30-7:30hrs |

**Notes for FISA and OC people:**

**1. Thursday's meetings:**

- **? hrs - Technical & Rescue Rehearsal**
- **13:00 hrs - Handover meeting**
- **16:00 hrs - Fairness Committee Meeting**
- **16:00 hrs - Team Managers Meeting and Draw**
- **18:00 hrs - Jury Meeting and Inspection of the Course**
- **18:30 hrs - Technical Dress Rehearsal/Rescue Rehearsal**

***Broadcaster information: all times indicated are local times. Televised races are indicated in bold font. Please revert to the EBU offer for international signal times and details.***

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

**Sydney, AUS** **22-24 March 2013**

### ENTRIES BY EVENT

**As of 12 March 2013**

**Olympic Events**

| W2- | M2- | W2x | M2x | M4- | W1x | M1x | LW2x | LM2x | LM4- | W4x | M4x | W8+ | M8+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] | [5] | [6] | [7] | [8] | [9] | [10] | [11] | [12] | [13] | [14] |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| AUS1 | AUS1 | AUS | AUS | AUS1 | AUS | AUS | AUS1 | AUS1 | AUS1 | AUS | AUS | AUS | AUS |
| AUS2 | AUS2 | CHN1 | EST | AUS2 | BUL | BUL | AUS2 | AUS2 | AUS1 | CAN | GBR | CAN | GBR |
| CAN | FRA1 | CHN2 | GBR | GBR | CAN | GBR | CAN | CHN1 | CHN | CHN1 | NZL | CHN1 | NZL |
| CHN1 | FRA2 | CHN3 | NZL | NZL | CHN1 | GER | CHN | CHN2 | GBR | CHN2 | | CHN2 | USA |
| CHN2 | ZIM | GBR1 | | | CHN2 | KOR | GBR | GBR | NZL | GBR | | GBR | |
| GBR1 | | GBR2 | | | CHN3 | VIE | HKG | HKG1 | | NZL | | NZL | |
| GBR2 | | NZL | | | EST | ZIM | INA | HKG2 | | USA | | USA | |
| USA1 | | USA | | | KOR | | KOR1 | INA | | | | | |
| USA2 | | | | | USA1 | | KOR2 | POR | | | | | |
| | | | | | USA2 | | NZL | VIE | | | | | |
| | | | | | ZIM | | VIE | | | | | | |

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Sydney, Australia, 22-24 March, 2013

**Sydney, AUS** **22-24 March 2013**

# ENTRIES BY EVENT

**As of 12 March 2013**

## International Events

| LW1x | LM1x |
|---|---|
| [17] | [18] |
| 8 | 6 |
| AUS | AUS |
| CAN1 | CZE |
| CAN2 | GBR |
| GBR | KOR |
| KOR | NZL |
| NZL | SIN |
| SIN | |
| VIE | |

| | Countries | Crews | Competitors |
|---|---|---|---|
| Men | 11 | 27 | 89 |
| Women | 10 | 42 | 106 |
| Lightweight Men | 11 | 21 | 46 |
| Lightweight Women | 10 | 19 | 28 |
| **Total** | **18** | **109** | **268** |

**LEGEND**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **W2-** | Women's Pair | **M2-** | Men's Pair | **W2x** | Women's Double Sculls |
| **M2x** | Men's Double Sculls | **M4-** | Men's Four | **W1x** | Women's Single Sculls |
| **M1x** | Men's Single Sculls | **LW2x** | Lightweight 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** | Lightweight Women's Single Sculls |
| **LM1x** | Lightweight Men's Single Sculls | | | | |

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## 2.4. Who to Watch in Sydney

### Women's Pair (W2-)

There are some big names amongst the entries in this event. The United States has put together a pair of two of their Olympic Champions from the eight – Meghan Musnicki and Caroline Lind. Also entered is another pair with Taylor Ritzel from the Olympic Champion eight and Sara Hendershot who rowed in the pair at the London Olympics. As these rowers train and trial in pairs, both crews will be quick.

The American competition is bound to give London Olympic Champion in the pair, Helen Glover of Great Britain, something to think about. As Glover's Olympic partner is taking a year off from rowing, Glover is teamed up with Polly Swann. Swann last competed two years ago on the British team but there is no telling what she will do when paired with the best in the world.

Adding strength to this event is Great Britain's second crew of Katie Greves and Jessica Eddie. Both of these rowers have the experience of two Olympic cycles behind them and in London they raced together in the women's eight that competed in the Olympic A-final.

Keep an eye out too for China. The two youthful crews include three members of last year's winning women's four from the World Rowing Junior Championships.

The Canadian women's pair will showcase World Under-23 Champions in the women's eight, Christine Roper and Sarah Black. Both athletes will be competing at senior level for the first time and will no doubt attempt to show their worth.

*W2-: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | USA | NZL | NZL | GBR |
| 2 | ROU | GBR | GBR | AUS |
| 3 | NZL | USA | AUS | NZL |
| 4 | GER | AUS | CHN | USA |
| 5 | AUS | CAN | ROU | ROU |
| 6 | GBR | GER | RSA | GER |
| | | | | |
| 7 | FRA | ROU | ITA | CHN |
| 8 | RUS | CRO | USA | RSA |
| 9 | ARG | CHN | CAN | ARG |
| 10 | CRO | NED | GER | ITA |
| 11 | CHN | | BLR | |
| 12 | BLR | | FRA | |

### Men's Pair (M2-)

The level of depth in this field is not huge which means the odds are on that London Olympic silver medallists Germain Chardin and Dorian Mortelette of France may have an easy ride. The post-Olympic year, however, is always an interesting time with up-and-coming athletes being revealed. There is also the factor of Olympic athletes taking a break. If Chardin and Mortelette are up to fitness they will certainly be a strong force.

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The French have also paired up Julien Despres and Benjamin Lang as a competitive combination. Despres won an Olympic bronze medal in the four at the 2008 Beijing Olympics while Lang finished second last year at the World Rowing Championships in the men's coxed pair.

Representing Australia, David Watts and Matthew Cochran are bronze medallists from 2012 at world under-23 level in the men's eight. The duo also competed together in the men's pair at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games where they won bronze. They have the experience of familiarity but will be up against their country's number one crew of Bryn Coudraye and James McRae. McRae was part of the London Olympic men's quadruple sculls that medalled in third while Coudraye raced in London in the men's eight.

*M2-: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NZL | NZL | NZL | NZL |
| 2 | GBR | GBR | GBR | FRA |
| 3 | GRE | GRE | ITA | GBR |
| 4 | FRA | ITA | GRE | ITA |
| 5 | USA | GER | CAN | AUS |
| 6 | RSA | FRA | GER | CAN |
| | | | | |
| 7 | GER | RSA | AUS | GER |
| 8 | SRB | ESP | NED | USA |
| 9 | CUB | USA | USA | GRE |
| 10 | CZE | SRB | SRB | POL |
| 11 | POL | ARG | HUN | NED |
| 12 | CAN | SLO | FRA | SRB |

## Women's Double Sculls (W2x)

For the first time in the last three years on the international rowing stage, this event is like a clean slate with brand new combinations racing. To add to the puzzle, or perhaps surprise element, the athletes entered come to the double from a variety of boat classes.

The three-year dominating double of Katherine Grainger and Anna Watkins (GBR) are out of the picture – at least for now – so coaches must be eyeing up the potential for colourful medals in this event.

China's entries include their best single sculler Xiuyun Zhang teamed up with international newcomer Fei Wang. But they are entered as crew number three with Liang Tian and Yangyang Zhang the number one crew. Tian and Zhang both raced at the London Olympics in the women's quadruple sculls that finished fifth, while Zhang has an Olympic Champions title in the quad from Beijing.

Great Britain has entered two crews, both with London Olympians from the women's eight and women's quadruple sculls. The number two crew includes four-time Olympian and two-time Olympic silver medallist Frances Houghton.

When looking for top medal contenders, however, the United States duo of Megan Kalmoe and Esther Lofgren are a good choice. Kalmoe, a London Olympic medallist from the quad, has regularly spent time racing in the double throughout her rowing career while Lofgren has the power and fight that comes from being a London Olympic Champion in the eight.

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*W2x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | POL | GBR | GBR | GBR |
| 2 | GBR | AUS | AUS | AUS |
| 3 | BUL | POL | NZL | POL |
| 4 | AUS | CZE | UKR | CHN |
| 5 | CZE | USA | POL | NZL |
| 6 | USA | GER | CZE | USA |
| | | | | |
| 7 | NZL | NZL | GER | CZE |
| 8 | GER | CHN | CHN | NED |
| 9 | FIN | DEN | USA | GER |
| 10 | DEN | ITA | FIN | UKR |
| 11 | UKR | FIN | SRB | |
| 12 | BLR | | IRL | |

## Men's Double Sculls (M2x)

New Zealand rowers have completed their summer season and come to Sydney following recent comprehensive national team trials. Out of these trials Michael Arms and Robert Manson were selected for the men's double. Barring misfortune they will remain in the double through to the 2013 World Rowing Championships. Knowing this means that there is little doubt that Arms and Manson are considered world class and currently racing fit. The duo started training late last year after racing together at the London Olympic Games in the men's quadruple sculls.

Also coming to the double from the London Olympic men's quad event are Allar Raja and Kaspar Taimsoo. This classy Estonian duo finished fourth in London and also competed at the 2008 Games in the quad. Estonia may have a small elite rowing contingent, but they race strong and they race to win.

*M2x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GER | NZL | NZL | NZL |
| 2 | FRA | GBR | GER | ITA |
| 3 | EST | FRA | FRA | SLO |
| 4 | NZL | NOR | AUS | ARG |
| 5 | SLO | AUS | SLO | GBR |
| 6 | SRB | GER | GBR | LTU |
| | | | | |
| 7 | SUI | USA | EST | NOR |
| 8 | POL | EST | NOR | AUS |
| 9 | UKR | CZE | ARG | GER |
| 10 | BEL | ARG | LTU | FRA |
| 11 | CUB | SUI | CAN | UKR |
| 12 | GBR | CHN | CZE | CAN |

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## Men's Four (M4-)

Australians see this event as one of their favourites. After the 'Oarsome Foursome' won at both the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games, the nation's love affair with the four was cemented. At the London Olympics the four finished a close second. For Sydney, two boats have been entered with one boat subject to being granted a clean bill of health for its athletes. This boat includes three of the four London silver medallists. The other crew is made up of 2012 under-23 representatives who finished second in the men's eight at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships.

Australia's nemesis in this event is Great Britain. The British have taken gold at the last four Olympic Games and it is regularly their flagship men's boat. For Sydney a new crew has been put together made up of athletes that have come through from the national under-23 team over the last couple of years.

Into this mix is New Zealand's crew that includes one member of their London Olympic four. Jade Uru, in bow, is the most experienced member of this crew with one of his teammates coming from the 2012 under-23 squad and the remaining two having been part of New Zealand's men's eight that just missed out on qualifying for the London Olympics.

*M4-: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GBR | FRA | GBR | GBR |
| 2 | AUS | GRE | GRE | AUS |
| 3 | SLO | NZL | AUS | USA |
| 4 | CZE | GBR | USA | GRE |
| 5 | FRA | USA | GER | NED |
| 6 | BLR | ITA | NED | GER |
| | | | | |
| 7 | GER | AUS | CAN | BLR |
| 8 | ESP | GER | NZL | ITA |
| 9 | NZL | CHN | BLR | CAN |
| 10 | GRE | ESP | ITA | SRB |
| 11 | POL | NED | SRB | NZL |
| 12 | CRO | CAN | CZE | ROU |

## Lightweight Women's Double Sculls (LW2x)

Asian crews feature strongly in this event with entries from Vietnam, Hong Kong, Korea and Indonesia as well as China. Of the Asian entries China has the most experience with both athletes having international experience. Miao Wang competed last year in the lightweight women's single sculls while her partner, Xiujuan Song represented China back in 2004.

This is one of the biggest events in terms of entries and the top contenders may well be New Zealand's Julia Edward and Lucy Strack. Edward competed in the lightweight double at the London Olympics and at the 2012 Samsung World Rowing Cup in Lucerne she also helped set the new World Best Time in this event with then partner Louise Ayling. Strack missed out on the Olympic boat but still went on to row in the lightweight single at the 2012 World Rowing Championships. She finished sixth.

There is likely to be strong competition for New Zealand from Great Britain. The British have a very competitive lightweight women's squad and although neither of the duo entered in Sydney (Kathryn Twyman and Imogen Walsh) made the London Olympic boat, they trained like Olympians competing in other events during 2012.

Australia's Alice McNamara is bringing with her the experience of competing in the lightweight double in three World Championship A-finals during the previous Olympic cycle. This experience will be combined

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with the freshness of Maia Simmonds, who began competing internationally in 2011.

The Canadian entry is an interesting combination. Both athletes competed at the 2012 World Rowing Championships in the lightweight women's quadruple sculls, but for different countries. Lindsay Sferrazza finished eighth for Canada while Jaclyn Halko was first for Poland. Now back in Canada, Halko will add a lot to the Canadian boat.

*LW2x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GRE | CAN | GRE | GBR |
| 2 | POL | GER | CAN | CHN |
| 3 | GBR | GRE | GBR | GRE |
| 4 | GER | AUS | USA | DEN |
| 5 | AUS | GBR | AUS | AUS |
| 6 | CAN | NZL | NZL | GER |
| | | | | |
| 7 | CUB | CHN | CHN | CAN |
| 8 | HUN | USA | DEN | NED |
| 9 | NED | ITA | NED | NZL |
| 10 | DEN | BEL | ITA | CUB |
| 11 | USA | AUT | GER | USA |
| 12 | SWE | ESP | BEL | JPN |

## Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x)

It will be hard to look past the Portuguese duo of Pedro Fraga and Nuno Mendes. As Portugal's best rowers, Fraga and Mendes have been together in the double since 2004 and now have two Olympic Games under their belts. Both rowers have committed to continuing through to Rio 2016 and this Sydney regatta will be the beginning of their four-year journey. Neither athlete has been idle since the London Olympics with Fraga putting himself forward as a regular competitor at winter indoor rowing competitions.

The main competition for Portugal may come from Great Britain's Richard Chambers and Adam Freeman-Pask. Both of these rowers are new to the lightweight double this season but both have very solid credentials. Chambers won Olympic silver in London and two World Championship titles in the lightweight men's four while Freeman-Pask has procured wins at the World Cup level in the lightweight men's single and pair.

Keep an eye out too for China. Their two crews entered have experience at the international level.

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*LM2x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NZL | GBR | GBR | DEN |
| 2 | FRA | ITA | NZL | GBR |
| 3 | ITA | NZL | ITA | NZL |
| 4 | GER | CAN | GER | FRA |
| 5 | CAN | CHN | DEN | POR |
| 6 | GBR | POR | CHN | GER |
| | | | | |
| 7 | GRE | GER | FRA | ITA |
| 8 | DEN | FRA | GRE | GRE |
| 9 | SRB | GRE | NOR | NOR |
| 10 | POR | NOR | POR | CUB |
| 11 | CUB | USA | CAN | HUN |
| 12 | RSA | SLO | POL | JPN |

## Lightweight Men's Four (LM4-)

When there are two London Olympic silver medallists in the boat, odds are that the crew will do the business. That is the case for Great Britain's entry which includes Olympians Chris Bartley and Peter Chambers. The two remaining members, Chris Boddy and Jonathan Clegg both had success at last year's European Rowing Championships. This is surely the crew to watch.

Lining up against the British will be a very determined New Zealand boat. Two of the members, James Lassche and Curtis Rapley just missed out on London at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta last year and now have their sights set on getting to Rio. Lassche and Rapley have been joined by London Olympic bronze medallist from the lightweight men's double sculls Peter Taylor and the young up-and-coming James Hunter. Hunter, 20, raced on the under-23 team last year and has stepped up to this senior level in a very short space of time.

Watch out too for Australia who have used three members of their 2012 lightweight men's eight to build this crew.

*LM4-: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GER | GBR | AUS | RSA |
| 2 | DEN | AUS | ITA | GBR |
| 3 | POL | CHN | GBR | DEN |
| 4 | FRA | GER | CHN | AUS |
| 5 | ITA | NED | DEN | SUI |
| 6 | NED | ITA | SUI | NED |
| | | | | |
| 7 | ESP | FRA | POL | FRA |
| 8 | CZE | SUI | CZE | USA |
| 9 | SUI | DEN | GER | GER |
| 10 | JPN | USA | FRA | CHN |
| 11 | CAN | RSA | RSA | CZE |
| 12 | USA | JPN | SRB | ITA |

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## Women's Quadruple Sculls (W4x)

Taking three members of the United States Olympic Champion women's eight and putting them in the women's quadruple sculls is an interesting strategy. Esther Lofgren, Susan Francia and Eleanor Logan add another oar to their hands to compete in this event. They are joined by 2012 Olympic bronze medallist from the quad Megan Kalmoe to complete a boat that could surprise. All four members are also racing in other events.

China's two entries have members that are doubling up to race in the women's double sculls as well. China's number one crew is made up of members from the London Olympic Chinese quad that finished fifth with one member, Yangyang Zhang an Olympic Champion in this event from the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Zhang's crew could give the Americans a run for their money.

The Australians have grabbed three members of their under-23 World Champion quad (Jessica Hall, Madeleine Edmunds and Olympia Aldersey) and added former under-23 team member Sarah Perkins. How well will this crew step up to the senior level? If their racing at last year's World Rowing Under 23 Championships is anything to go by, Australia will be tough competition.

There is also plenty of potential in the British boat. This crew is made up of national team squad members who have recently been on the edge of breaking into the top boats. Stroking the boat is Olivia Carnegie-Brown who raced at the European Rowing Championships in 2012 and won medals in both the women's pair and eight.

*W4x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | UKR | GBR | GER | UKR |
| 2 | USA | UKR | USA | GER |
| 3 | GER | GER | NZL | USA |
| 4 | ITA | AUS | AUS | AUS |
| 5 | GBR | USA | CHN | CHN |
| 6 | RUS | NZL | UKR | GBR |
| | | | | |
| 7 | NZL | CHN | GBR | NZL |
| 8 | BLR | CAN | POL | POL |
| 9 | | SUI | ITA | |
| 10 | | RUS | ROU | |
| 11 | | ROU | VIE | |

## Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4x)

Leading up to the New Zealand's national team trials earlier this month, 2012 Olympic Champion from the men's double sculls Nathan Cohen stated that he wanted to be in the quad this season. His wishes were granted with the bonus of younger brother Hayden also making the crew. This crew could make waves especially as Hayden and Nathan Flannery come to the senior team having won the 2012 under-23 men's double.

But the British are sending some big guns. In the boat are three London Olympians including the men's double of Bill Lucas and Sam Townsend and Charles Cousins who raced in the London quadruple sculls. All of them raced in the Olympic A-final.

There will be stiff competition coming from the Australian's too. The boat has been built around Christopher Morgan who won bronze at the London Olympics in this event. Morgan is joined by two members of the Olympic eight (Nicholas Purnell and Thomas Swann) and up-and-coming rower Shane Jackson.

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*M4x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | POL | CRO | AUS | GER |
| 2 | AUS | ITA | GER | CRO |
| 3 | GER | AUS | CRO | AUS |
| 4 | CRO | GER | POL | EST |
| 5 | FRA | GBR | RUS | GBR |
| 6 | ITA | RUS | ITA | POL |
| | | | | |
| 7 | SLO | NZL | GBR | NZL |
| 8 | UKR | USA | USA | RUS |
| 9 | RUS | CHN | SUI | UKR |
| 10 | EST | UKR | NZL | FRA |
| 11 | CZE | | UKR | ITA |
| 12 | USA | | CUB | SUI |

## Women's Eight (W8+)

The gold and silver medallists from the London Olympics – the United States and Canada – will be lining up in Sydney. These two countries have been battling it out at the head of the field for the last couple of years with the USA consistently holding the edge.

For the Sydney regatta, the United States has retained three members of their Olympic Champion crew with the remainder made up of those hovering on the edge of breaking into the eight. The Canadian crew will line up with four members the same as in London, including the unstoppable coxswain Lesley Thompson-Willie.

There is little doubt that these two North American crews will be battling it out at the front of the field.

But, in this very well-represented field, there may be some surprises. Great Britain finished fifth at the London Olympics in the eight and they have retained three of those athletes with the added boost of Olympic Champion from the pair, Helen Glover. Australia has also retained a bunch (five to be exact) from their London Olympic crew.

*W8+: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | USA | USA | USA | USA |
| 2 | ROU | CAN | CAN | CAN |
| 3 | NED | ROU | GBR | NED |
| 4 | GER | GBR | ROU | ROU |
| 5 | GBR | NED | NED | GBR |
| 6 | CAN | CHN | CHN | AUS |
| | | | | |
| 7 | POL | GER | UKR | GER |
| 8 | BLR | NZL | GER | |
| 9 | | RUS | | |

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## Men's Single Sculls (M1x)

It will be a chance for some new faces to be on the medals podium in this event as all of the top men's single scullers are not in attendance. Such is the post-Olympic year that many athletes are taking an extended break before getting back into intense full-time training.

This could be a chance for Bulgaria's Georgi Bozhilov to step up. Bozhilov was third at last year's European Rowing Championships and showed very good boat speed. It could also be a chance for German lightweight rower Jost Schoemann-Finck to show the bigger guys how to race. Schoemann-Finck was unlucky not to make his country's Olympic team in 2012, so he decided to have an extended training stint in Sydney. This means that Germany's sole representative at this regatta is very well acclimatised to local conditions.

Watch out too for Great Britain (Jonathan Walton) and Australia (Kieran Kobelke). They have both been on their respective national teams and must have impressed selectors.

*M1x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NZL | CZE | NZL | NZL |
| 2 | GBR | NZL | CZE | CZE |
| 3 | CZE | GBR | GBR | GBR |
| 4 | BEL | NOR | GER | SWE |
| 5 | GER | CHN | SWE | AZE |
| 6 | NOR | SLO | NOR | GER |
| | | | | |
| 7 | LTU | SWE | LTU | CUB |
| 8 | GRE | LTU | CUB | LTU |
| 9 | SWE | EST | AZE | NOR |
| 10 | CUB | GER | CHN | ARG |
| 11 | ARG | BEL | USA | CHN |
| 12 | USA | USA | BUL | BEL |

## Women's Single Sculls (W1x)

The eyes of Australia will be on this race as their hero from the London Olympic Games, Kim Crow is racing. Crow was the only rower in London to race in two events – not only that, she medalled twice – bronze in the women's single sculls and silver in the women's double sculls.

Crow was one of the first on the Australian team to announce her intentions of aiming for Rio and also one of the first to get back into training following the 2012 Games. On home waters in front of a home crowd this will be a chance for Crow to make an impression.

The very experienced Xiuyun Zhang of China may be Crow's toughest competition. Zhang is a three-time Olympian with her biggest success coming at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics when she took silver in the women's double sculls. In London, she was sixth in the women's single. Zhang will also be competing in Sydney in the women's double.

Keep an eye out for two Olympic Champions normally seen in an eight – Americans Susan Francia and Eleanor Logan who will also be doubling up in the women's quad.

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*W1x: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | BLR | SWE | CZE | CZE |
| 2 | GBR | BLR | BLR | DEN |
| 3 | CZE | NZL | NZL | AUS |
| 4 | NZL | CZE | CHN | NZL |
| 5 | CHN | RUS | SWE | BLR |
| 6 | RUS | SRB | GER | CHN |
| | | | | |
| 7 | SRB | GER | AZE | USA |
| 8 | GER | CHN | RUS | LTU |
| 9 | SWE | GBR | LTU | RUS |
| 10 | POL | USA | GBR | SWE |
| 11 | EST | UKR | USA | GER |
| 12 | BEL | ESP | EST | AZE |

## Men's Eight (M8+)

It will be extremely hard to look past the big names in the men's eight from Great Britain. Three of the Olympic Champion men's four have crowded into the front half of the boat with Andrew Triggs Hodge in stroke seat. Three members of the bronze medal Olympic eight, including coxswain Phelan Hill, are in there as well.

The only crew that may have a chance of getting close to the British are the United States. In London the US were fourth and three of those crew members are back for Sydney. There are also two members of the 2011 World Champion under-23 eight including stroke-man Michael Gennaro.

*M8+: Major results since 2009*

| Place | WRCh 09 | WRCh 10 | WRCh 11 | OG 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GER | GER | GER | GER |
| 2 | CAN | GBR | GBR | CAN |
| 3 | NED | AUS | CAN | GBR |
| 4 | POL | NED | AUS | USA |
| 5 | GBR | NZL | POL | NED |
| 6 | ITA | USA | NED | AUS |
| | | | | |
| 7 | AUS | CAN | UKR | POL |
| 8 | UKR | POL | USA | UKR |
| 9 | USA | CHN | CZE | |
| 10 | RUS | UKR | NZL | |
| 11 | | RUS | CHN | |
| 12 | | | FRA | |

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