

As an update at the beginning of this Olympic and Paralympic year we thought that we would spend a few words updating our previous article about the Olympic and Paralympic Qualification systems for the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## Olympic and Paralympic Qualification

How do you increase the number of rowing federations participating in the Olympic and Paralympic Games while at same time the number of athletes available to be credentialed at the Games is being decreased?

This is the challenge that World Rowing has faced since the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. With the growing number of athletes, events and sports wanting to compete in the Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has placed limits on the overall number of athletes who can compete in the Olympics and in each sport. The goal for Tokyo Olympic Games is to limit the total credentialed athletes to 10,500 not including the 4 optional sports. For the 2024 Paris Games this 10,500 limit includes the optional sports. For rowing, this means that the number athletes that can be credentialed been reduced from 602 athletes in Atlanta to 526 athletes in Tokyo and further to 502 of the Paris Olympics. There are similar quotas for the Paralympics in place, however with the addition of the PR3 Mix 2x, rowing's Paralympic quota has increased from 96 to 104 athletes. World Rowing has addressed this challenge through the qualification systems and regional qualifying regattas.

## Olympics

Again for the 2024 Paris Olympics, WORLD ROWING's qualification system tries to balances excellence, qualification through the 2023 World Rowing Championship, and universality (an important IOC statistic), through the continental qualification regattas. The IOC has approved this qualification system. The rest of this article will attempt to explain the qualification process. Many of us umpires will play a role in this system and an understanding will us carry out the important role that we play. This is meant to provide a general overview. The full Olympic Rowing Qualification procedures can be found at: [Paris 2024 Olympic Games - Official Olympic Documents \(olympics.com\)](https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/olympic-games/official-olympic-documents)

For the Paris Olympic Games, the IOC decided to keep the same 7 men's and 7 women's events as were in Tokyo. These are the events for the Paris Olympics.

Men's Events (7)	Women's Events (7)
Single Sculls (1x)	Single Sculls (1x)
Pair (2-)	Pair (2-)
Double Sculls (2x)	Double Sculls (2x)
Four (4-)	Four (4-)
Quadruple Sculls (4x)	Quadruple Sculls (4x)
Eight (8+)	Eight (8+)
Lightweight Double Sculls (2x)	Lightweight Double Sculls (2x)

As a side note: The IOC has indicated that rowing should not have lightweight categories in the future but they did agree to add Beach Sprints to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. While we know rowing will be in the 2028 LA Games, the IOC will make a decision as to what events, both traditional flat water rowing and Beach Sprints, will be included in late 2024.

In Paris the 502 athletes will be divided evenly between the women’s and men’s events. As the host country, France automatically gets an entry in the M1x and the W1x. 4 athlete’s places (2 M1x and 2 W1x) are also reserved for Tripartite Commission appointments. These appointments are made by a commission selected by the IOC to increase the reach of the national Olympic committees participating in the Games.

	Quota places	Host country quota places	Universality Places	Total
Men	248*	1	2	251
Women	248*	1	2	251
<b>Total</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>502</b>

A maximum number of athletes that can come from each Federation has also been established.

	Quota places per NOC	Event Specific Quota
Men	24	1 boat per event
Women	24	1 boat per event
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	

World Rowing divided the overall athlete quota over the events. For each of the events, the quotas are broken down into boats that qualify for the Olympics at the 2023 World Rowing Championship and a final qualification regatta which will take place in Lucerne SUI in May 2024. For the single scull (M1x & W1x) and the lightweight double sculls (LM2x & LW2x) a part of the quota was further allocated to continental qualification regattas to increase universal representation at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

**Men**

Number of boat quota places available per qualification event (subject to the reallocation of unused quota places):								
		Continental Qualification Regattas						
	2023 World Champs	Asia/ Oceania	Africa	Americas	European	Final Qualif Regatta	Total Boats	Total Athletes
<b>Men</b>								
Single Sculls (1x)	9	5	5	5	3	2	29	29
Pair (2-)	11	-	-	-		2	13	26
Double Sculls (2x)	11	-	-	-		2	13	26
Four (4-)	7	-	-	-		2	9	36
Quadruple Sculls (4x)	7	-	-	-		2	9	36
Eight (8+)	5	-	-	-		2	7	63
<b>Men Lightweight</b>								
Double Sculls (L2x)	7	2	1	2	2	2	16	32
<b>Other</b>								
Host Country Places (1x)							1	1
Universality Places (1x)							2	2
<b>Total Men's Boats</b>	57	7	6	7	5	14	99	251

**Women**

Number of boat quota places available per qualification event (subject to the reallocation of unused quota places):								
		Continental Qualification Regattas						
	2023 World Champs	Asia/ Oceania	Africa	Americas	European	Final Qualif Regatta	Total Boats	Total Athletes
<b>Women</b>								
Single Sculls (1x)	9	5	5	5	3	2	29	29
Pair (2-)	11	-	-	-		2	13	26
Double Sculls (2x)	11	-	-	-		2	13	26
Four (4-)	7	-	-	-		2	9	36
Quadruple Sculls (4x)	7	-	-	-		2	9	36
Eight (8+)	5	-	-	-		2	7	63
<b>Women Lightweight</b>								
Double Sculls (L2x)	7	2	1	2	2	2	16	32
<b>Other</b>								
Host Country Places (1x)							1	1
Universality Places (1x)							2	2
<b>Total Women's Boats</b>	57	7	6	7	5	14	99	251

2023 World Rowing Championships qualifications were open to all. The top placed crews in each event qualified the boats for their National Olympic Committee (NOC). However, the athletes that raced in the World Rowing Championships can be changed before Paris Olympic Games.

Please notice the use of the NOC. Entries in qualification events are made in the name of the NOC and the qualification to participate in the Olympics belongs to the NOC and the national rowing federation acts under its NOC.

The Continental Qualification Regattas provide opportunities for additional NOC's to qualify boats for the Paris Olympics. While in principle they are open to all NOC's, there are restrictions on who can qualify:

- A Federation is representing the NOC and the NOC must be a member of the appropriate Continental Olympic Group
- An NOC can only enter one entry per event
- The NOC's of the highest ranked boats will qualify based on the number of qualification spots available with the following restrictions:
  - o A NOC that qualified 2 more boats at the 2023 World Rowing Championship cannot participate in a continental qualification regatta.
  - o A NOC that qualified 1 boat at the 2023 World Rowing Championships can participate in the continental qualification regatta but can only qualify 1 crew at the qualifier. However, if they have 2 or more crews finish in first place they can qualify 2 crews.
  - o A NOC that did not participate in or did not qualify any boats at the 2023 World Rowing Championship may qualify a maximum of 2 boats at a continental qualification regatta. Where a NOC has two or more boats that qualify, it may select a maximum of 2 boats.
- If an NOC has qualified in an event at the 2023 World Rowing Championship they cannot enter the same event at a continental qualification regatta.
- The same athletes that row in the continental qualification regatta must row in the boats in the Paris Olympic Games.

The final Olympic Qualification Regatta will take place in Lucerne SUI 19-21 May 2024. Any NOC can enter in any event that they have not already qualified. There are no limitations to the number of events an NOC can qualify at the final Qualification Regatta. The same athletes rowing in the final qualification regatta must row in the Paris Olympic Games.

After each of the qualification regattas, World Rowing will publish a list of the qualified boats. The NOC must indicate that they will use the qualified boats within 14 days of the date of publishing of the list. If an NOC does not accept a qualifying boat, the qualifying position will go to the next highest placed boat in the regatta where the unused qualification was made.

### **Paralympics**

The Paralympics face the same challenges as the Olympics with a growing number of athletes and events. Therefore, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has created quotas for the Paralympics. For rowing the quota is 104 athletes and entries for the qualification regattas must be done through the National Paralympic Committees (NPC). The NPC also owns the qualified position. This quota is broken down as follows:

Male	Female	Gender Free	Total
52	52	0	104*

\*Does not include coxswains. Coxswains may be either male or female and there will be one coxswain per qualified coxed four.

To be eligible for selection, a Paralympic athlete must have must also have a “confirmed” sport classification appropriate for the event they will compete in or a sport classification “review date” after 31 December, 2024.

The Paralympic events are:

PR1 M1x

PR1 W1x

PR2 Mix 2x

PR3 Mix 2x

PR3 Mix 4+

Like the Olympic Qualification system, the Paralympic Qualification system includes qualification at the 2023 World Rowing Championships, Continental Qualification Regattas and the final Qualification Regatta in Lucerne. The allocations between these events are as follows:

Event	2019 World Championship	Continental Qualification Regattas				Final Qualification	Total Boats	Total athletes
		Africa	Americas	Asia and Oceania	Europe			
PR1 W1x	7	1	1	1	1	1	12	12
PR1 M1x	7	1	1	1	1	1	12	12
PR2 Mix 2x	6					2	8	16
PR3 Mix 2x	5	1	1	1	1	1	10	20
PR3 Mix 4+	6					2	8	40

In addition to the above, if the host country, France, does not qualify a boat at the 2023 World Rowing Championships or the continental qualification regatta, France may be allocated a qualification position in the PR2 Mix2x, PR3 Mix2x or PR3 Mix4+. The allocation will be based on whichever boat France ranked highest in the 2023 World Rowing Championships. Since France did qualify boats in 3 para-rowing events in 2023, these “reserved” positions will be reallocated by the Bipartite Commission.

The Bipartite Commission will award the final 4 female and 4 male qualification positions. The host country is allocated 2 female and 2 male athlete positions.

There are special requirements that exist with the continental qualification regattas:

- If there is only 1 entry in an event at a continental qualification regatta, then the allocation for that event will be made through the Bipartite Commission and there will be no race in that event in that continental qualification regatta.
- An NPC that qualified any boat at the 2023 World Rowing Championship cannot participate in the continental qualification regatta.

- An NPC can only qualify one boat at a continental qualification regatta. If an NPC has more than one boat that finishes in a qualifying position, then the highest ranked boat will be qualified. If the boats have the same ranking then the NPC will select which one will receive the qualification.
- If an NPC does not accept a qualification, then it will go to the next highest crew in the event.

An NPC can qualify a maximum of one boat per event and a maximum allocation of 5 male and 5 female rowers, excluding coxswains.

The above is a summary of the Paralympic Qualification system for general information. For specific questions or more information, the full procedure which can be found at: [Paris-2024-Paralympic-Games-Qualification-Regulations-at-8-August-2023.pdf \(soticcloud.net\)](#)