Boats & Classifications

Rowing has two categories: sweeps and sculls. In sweep boats each rower handles one long (12 ½ feet) oar. Eights always have a coxswain, who is responsible for the steering and tactics of the race. The coxswain either sits in the stem of the boat or lies in the bow. Fours and Pairs both have events with and without coxswains. There are five sweep events.

The other types of racing shells are Sculls. Each rower handles two oars (or Skulls) approximately 10 feet in length.

In international competition, no sculling boats have coxswains. In the United States, women's quads and 16- year Junior men's boats have coxswains.

Rowers are classified in five categories: Juniors, Intermediate, Senior, Elite and Master. Status achieved in sweeps is Independent of status achieved in Sculling and vice versa.

