

# **Olympic Trials Format**

Non-Qualified Olympic Trials, May 12-17, 2008 – West Windsor, N.J.  
Qualified Olympic Trials, June 9-13, 2008 – West Windsor, N.J.

All Olympic Trials will be run according to the Trials Rules set forth in the current USRowing Rules of Rowing. A copy of the Rules of Rowing may be found under the Events section at: [www.usrowing.org](http://www.usrowing.org)

Depending on the number of entries in each event, heats, repechages, semifinals and finals will be conducted at the Olympic Trials following a modified FISA progression system as follows:

All events will follow a modified progression system with a “two-out-of-three” final progression format. Each event with more than one entry shall consist of a minimum of two finals races with a third finals race if necessary. Under the “two-out-of-three” progression system, all crews advancing to the finals round shall automatically compete in the first finals race. The heat results will be used to determine lane assignments in the first final. The first three places from the first finals race shall then advance to race in the second finals race. If the same crew wins both of these races, it shall be considered the winner of the event. Otherwise, a third race shall be held between the winners of the first two finals races only, and the winner of the third race shall be considered the winner of the event.

## **4 - Lane Progression System**

Olympic Trials will follow a four-lane progression system. If there are five to eight entries, crews advancing out of each heat are placed in the first final; all others are placed into the repechages. Crews advancing out of the repechages are placed into the first final; all others in the repechages are eliminated. If there are four or fewer entries, the first race will be the first final.

In events with nine or more entries, crews advancing out of each heat are placed directly in the semifinals; all others are placed into the repechages. Crews advancing out of the repechages are placed in the semifinals; all others in the repechages are eliminated. All crews advancing out of the semifinals are placed in the final; all others in the semifinals are eliminated.

Once a particular progression in any given event has begun, scratches throughout the event will not warrant any change in the method of progression.

The following shall constitute the forms of progression for four-lane racing:

Entries	Heats	Advance in each heat	Repechages	Advance in each rep	Semifinals	Adv. in each Semifinal
1-4	0	-	0	-	0	Final only
5-6	2	1	1	2	0	Final only
7-8	2	1	2	1	0	Final only
9-10	3	2	1	2	2	2
11-12	3	2	2	1	2	2
13-16	4	1	4	1	2	2
17+*	1 (head race)	1 <sup>st</sup> 14 into 4 heats; rest eliminated, then follow progression for 13-16	4	1	2	2

**\*In events with 17+ entries, the first 14 crews in the time trial shall advance to the heats. Upon petition, and for good cause shown, the chief referee may permit the two empty slots in the heats to be filled by a crew or crews that demonstrate that they suffered some misadventure that creates substantial doubt as to whether they would otherwise have qualified.**

***Changes in the Form of Progression:***

Once the form of progression has been published according to the number of entries received, it may be changed under the following circumstances:

1. By USRowing staff, no less than two hours before the scheduled time of the first race in the event if, due to scratches, the reduced number of entries would call for a different form of progression under the applicable progression system.
2. By USRowing staff any time before the first race in the specific event if, due to scratches, the event would be reduced to a final only, with no heats, under the applicable progression system.

If USRowing staff changes the form of progression, it shall continue to utilize the same seeding excluding those entries dropped to determine the composition of heats and lane assignments.

**Tentative Non-Qualified Olympic Trial Racing Schedule (Weather Permitting and Subject to Change):**

*For events with finals only (4 or fewer entries):*

May 12: Athletes' Meeting

May 15: Finals Race #1

May 16: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

May 17: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary

*For events with 5-8 entries:*

May 12: Athletes' Meeting

May 13: Heats

May 14: Repechages

May 15: Finals Race #1

May 16: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

May 17: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary

*For events necessitating semifinals: 9 or more entries:*

May 12: Athletes' Meeting and time trials (if more than 16 entries)

May 13: Heats & Repechages

May 14: Semifinals

May 15: Finals Race #1

May 16: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

May 17: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary

**Tentative Qualified Olympic Trial Racing Schedule (Weather Permitting and Subject to Change):**

*For events with finals only (4 or fewer entries):*

June 8: Athletes' Meeting

June 11: Finals Race #1

June 12: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

June 13: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary

*For events with 5-8 entries:*

June 8: Athletes' Meeting

June 9: Heats

June 10: Repechages

June 11: Finals Race #1

June 12: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

June 13: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary

*For events necessitating semifinals: 9 or more entries:*

June 8: Athletes' Meeting and time trials (if more than 16 entries)

June 9: Heats & Repechages

June 10: Semifinals

June 11: Finals Race #1

June 12: Finals Race #2 (first 3 competitors from Finals Race #1)

June 13: Finals Race #3 (2 winners) \*Note: This race will only be held if necessary