



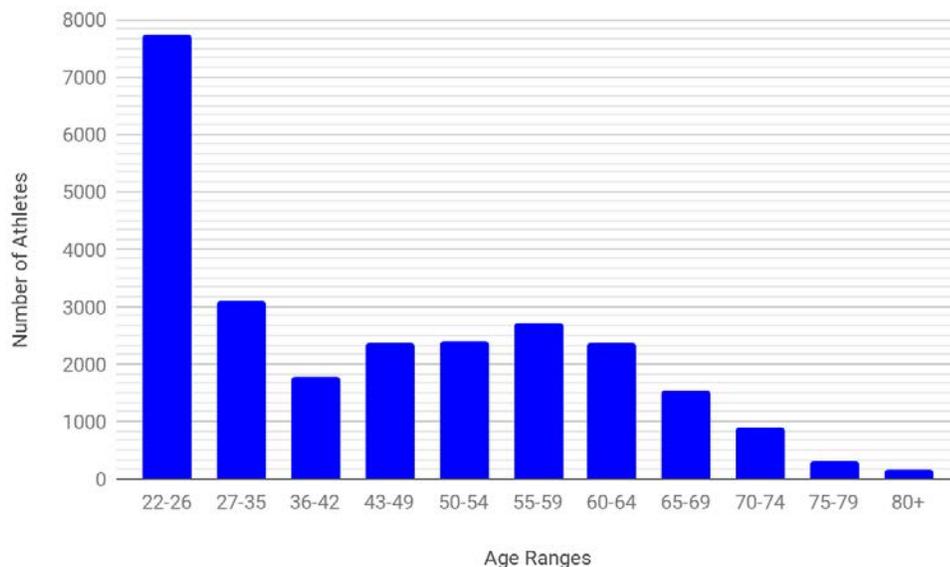
ROWING GROWING

Rowing is Growing 2018 – Masters Rowing

Rowing continues to grow across the United States. People of all ages are joining this ultimate team sport, embracing a lifetime of activity and competition. Continuing the “Rowing Is Growing” series is this masters rowing report.

Masters rowing includes a broad spectrum of athletes, not applying solely to older rowers as the name may suggest. Masters athletes range in age from 21 to 80 and sometimes, even older. Classification is based on age, and handicaps are then assigned based on those classifications, which allows for both the young and old to compete fairly side by side throughout their rowing careers. Making up approximately 28% of total USRowing membership, Masters rowing keeps recent college graduates as well as competitive veteran athletes involved in the sport.

AA-J Masters Age Classification:



-from USRowing member data

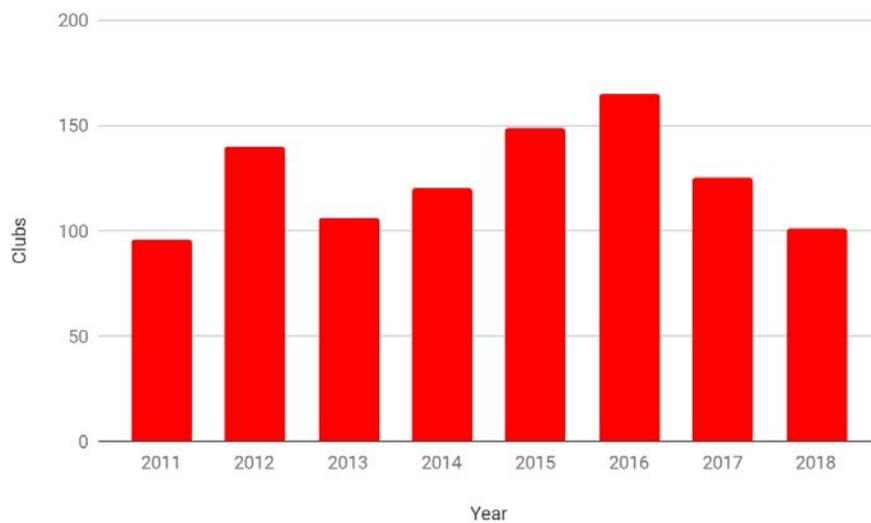
The majority of Masters athletes are in the AA category: 21 - 26 years old, which comprises 30% of all Masters athletes. A portion of this age group also contains Senior National Team members and other elite athletes training for international racing. The next two largest groups of Masters athletes are in the A category: 27 – 35, and the E category: 55 - 59. The level of racing opportunities for athletes 50+ continues to grow. At the 54th Head of the Charles Regatta, approximately 23% of entries were men and women 50 and older. In addition, the 2018 Masters Nationals Championships received a total of 870 entries for 50+ races (D-J categories), approximately 53% of all entries for racing.

In 2018, approximately 25,367 members were eligible to race in Masters categories- which is an 8% increase over the number of Masters rowers in 2017.

Masters National Championships:

The largest attended Masters regatta ever hosted by USRowing was the 2016 Masters National Championships. Held on Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, Massachusetts, there were over 2,150 entries from 165 clubs, representing 32 states, which broke the previous record of 2,024 athletes and 149 clubs. Today, the USRowing Masters National Championships regatta continues to be one of the largest in the nation, drawing in thousands of spectators and athletes. In the 2018 men's single (various age categories) alone, there were 153 entries. The four with coxswain was most popular among female athletes with 199 entries- over 40 entries more than 2017! Competitor ages of boats for the women's 4+ ranged from 24 to 70 years old.

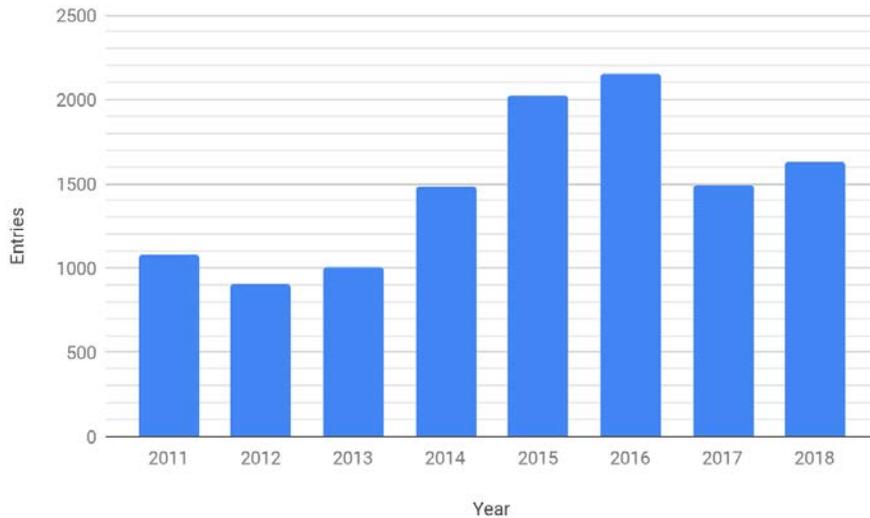
Masters National Championship Club Participation 2011-2018



-from RegattaCentral

Over the past 5 years, USRowing Masters Nationals has continued to grow in numbers. From 2011 to 2018, the number of entries has increased by 52% and club participation has increased by 5%. The numbers of entries was boosted in 2014 when adaptive races were added to the schedule, and today, Masters athletes compete in over 200 events.

Masters National Championship Entries 2011-2018



-from RegattaCentral

USRowing hosts three Regional Championships in addition to the Masters National Championship: Northwest, Southeast, and Northeast/Mid-Atlantic. These regattas have been steadily growing in size every year, and the total number of entries in 2018 remained steady with the 2017 entry numbers, while the number of clubs that attended grew. Northwest Regionals has continued to be the largest regional championship for the last five years, and the regatta reached over 1,050 entries in 2018.

The Future:

The goal of a Masters rower can be anything from recreational exercise to national and international competitions. Much of the growth of Masters rowing can be seen at the FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta. This regatta is held every year and offers international racing to rowers from all over the world. This regatta often attracts over 3,000 participants. At the 2018 World Rowing Masters Regatta, 165 clubs from the USA competed in Sarasota, Florida, with a total of 2,937 entries. More US participants competed at this regatta in 2018 than in any past year.

For ex-college athletes and 40+ novices alike, rowing is an ideal sport for all levels. The shorter 1000-meter racing distance combined with the ability to race in a variety of boat classes and in mixed entries allows for flexibility in competition. Plans for the 2019 USRowing Masters Nationals, being held in Lake Velence, Budapest, Hungary, are on track to provide Masters rowers with even more opportunities to test themselves against the best from the United States and beyond.