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New Zealand Olympic Ambassador

# Peter Taylor

**Olympian number:**  
1094

**Discipline:**  
Rowing

**Specialist event:**  
Men's lightweight double scull

Peter Taylor was born in 1984 in Lower Hutt. He grew up in Eastbourne, and spent a lot of time in the water and playing sports. He started rowing at 13 while attending Wellington College. Peter got involved in the sport when his older brother's team needed a cox – Peter was small, so he was the perfect choice.

In his last year of school, Peter represented Wellington College at the New Zealand Secondary School Rowing Championships. His team took Gold in the under-19 Boys Coxed Four (Springbok Shield), and he was also part of the double that came third in the under-17 Boys Double.

After school, Peter completed a Commerce degree from Victoria University and the University of Auckland. He worked at Deloitte New Zealand for three years, then decided to commit to rowing fulltime, with an eye on the Olympic Games.

As a lightweight rower, Peter has to keep a close eye on his weight. Men's lightweight rowers must not weigh more than 72.5kg. In the double scull, the two rowers must weigh less than 140kg together. At 189cm tall, Peter works hard to maintain his racing weight.

## Quick facts

**Favourite food:** The meanest fresh fruit salad, then again I couldn't pass up a chocolate fondant pudding.

**Favourite movie:** *American History X*

**Favourite music:** Smashing Pumpkins

**Childhood heroes:** The old men in the family, Dad and Granddad

**Current favourite athlete:** Brad Thorn

**Most rewarding moment in sport:** Most definitely rowing down the lake post Medal Ceremony at the London Olympic Games, the crowd was insane.

**Talents other than rowing:** Golf

**Biggest injury:** Broken cheekbone from a bike accident. Inflamed tendons in wrist requiring surgery (twice).

**Biggest sacrifice:** Saying no to all the music concerts that come to New Zealand.

**Job outside sport:** Assisting businesses achieve their goals through better accounting and strategy.

**Other fun facts:** Was known as "rege" around the Rowing New Zealand sheds for my fiery nature on the water (now nonexistent).



**New Zealand  
Olympic Education**

In 2006, Peter paired with Graham Oberlin-Brown at the World Under-23 Rowing Championships in Hazewinkel. They won Gold in the men's lightweight double sculls in a new world record time.

In 2008, Peter became part of a new lightweight double scull pairing, with Storm Uru. Peter and Storm qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games at the last minute by winning the last-chance regatta in Poland, known to rowers as the 'Regatta of Death'. In Beijing, they rowed hard and finished seventh in a very competitive field.

They went in to the London 2012 Olympic Games with a much stronger record, having collected World Rowing Championship Gold, Bronze and Silver medals since Beijing. In London, Storm and Peter easily reached the finals. They started strongly in the final, only for a restart to be called by the British team, who had a faulty seat. On the second try, the New Zealanders gave everything they had. Little-by-little, they passed most of the other teams to make third, but they couldn't quite overtake the British (who came second) or the Danes (who won Gold).

Despite not achieving the Gold they had been aiming for, Peter and Storm made history at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Theirs was New Zealand's first medal in lightweight rowing since the discipline was introduced at the 1996 Olympic Games.

Peter was also the New Zealand champion in the lightweight single scull in 2008, 2011 and 2012, as well as winning multiple medals over the years in the open weight classes.

In 2012, Peter became an ambassador for the Outward Bound programme, which is New Zealand's leading organisation for showing people their full potential through outdoor challenge and adventure.

Peter has committed to another four years of training and is now aiming for Gold at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. In 2012, the New Zealand Olympic Committee appointed Peter as a New Zealand Olympic Ambassador. He enjoys visiting schools, saying

**"It's cool to have that influence and show kids that they can achieve great things once they find their passion"**

(<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/other-sports/7522154/Peter-Taylor-bronze-not-too-cool-for-school>).



## Career highlights

- 2012** London Olympic Games:  
Lightweight double scull (Bronze)
- 2011** Lake Bled World Rowing Championships:  
Lightweight double scull (Silver)
- 2010** Lake Karapiro World Rowing Championships:  
Lightweight double scull (Bronze)
- 2009** Poznań World Rowing Championships:  
Lightweight double scull (Gold)
- 2008** Beijing Olympic Games:  
Lightweight double scull (Seventh)
- 2006** World Under-23 Rowing Championships:  
Lightweight double scull (Gold)

## Links

Peter Taylor's Olympic Museum profile:  
<http://imuseum.olympic.org.nz/museum/athlete/profile/28915>

Peter Taylor's Website:  
<http://www.petertaylornz.com>

Peter Taylor's Twitter:  
[@petertaylornz](https://twitter.com/petertaylornz)

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## Official Olympic Sport

# Rowing

**Men's rowing has been part of the Olympic Summer Games since 1900 (it was cancelled in 1896 due to bad weather). Women's events have been part of the programme since 1976.**

## The basics

There are two styles of rowing in Olympic competitions.

- Sweep rowers use a single oar on one side only. They compete in crews of two, four or eight people, with equal numbers of oars on each side of the boat.

Coxed or coxless crews are all sweep rowers. The coxswain is a person who steers the boat, but doesn't row. In coxless boats, the boat is steered by one of the crew, normally using their feet.

- Scullers row with two oars. They compete as singles or in crews of two people (called double scull) or four people (quad scull).

Sculls are slower than other categories of racing boat, so scullers are known as the strongest and toughest rowers. Single sculls are also often used in training for team events to improve rowers' techniques.

## The course

All Olympic rowing races take place over a 2,000m course. There are six lanes in each race, and the first boat across the finish line wins.

Rowing is the only Olympic sport where competitors cross the finish line backwards.

## Important points

At the Olympic Games, each country is allowed to have only one boat for each rowing event. This can mean selections are strongly contested, such as during the trial series raced between Rob Waddell and Mahe Drysdale in 2008.

There are lots of things for rowers to be aware of in their races. Some important ones are:

- getting a good start (a false start results in disqualification)
- staying in their lane (crossing into another lane results in disqualification)
- working as a team to get the most distance out of every stroke
- saving just enough energy to push to the finish.



# Olympic events (at the London 2012 Olympic Games)

## Men

- Men's single sculls
- Men's coxless pair
- Men's double sculls
- Men's coxless four
- Men's lightweight double sculls
- Men's lightweight coxless four
- Men's quadruple sculls
- Men's coxed eight

## Women

- Women's single sculls
- Women's coxless pair
- Women's double sculls
- Women's lightweight double sculls
- Women's quadruple sculls
- Women's coxed eight

