



BRITISHROWING

Coastal Sculling Strategy 2024-2032+

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Background and Context

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Background

- There is a diverse and active coastal rowing scene in the UK with an increasing number of clubs, participants and competitions
- Activity takes place through a wide variety of associations and boat types, both fixed and sliding seat, providing a range of accessible and varied competition and activity
- However, there is currently no existing joined up national strategy around coastal development
- The advent of the Beach Sprint format, and its inclusion at the LA2028 Olympics has placed an increased spotlight on Coastal Rowing, and challenged us to look at how we develop and grow rowing on the UK coastline more widely, both from a grassroots community perspective, and from a viewpoint of identification and development of World and Olympic level coastal rowers

Definitions

- ‘Coastal Rowing’ is carried out by a number of different clubs and associations in the UK, and therefore the term tends to mean different things to different groups
- In order to help differentiate we have been using the term ‘Coastal Sculling’ as a means of referring specifically to the internationally practiced World Rowing defined format
- Coastal Sculling takes place in boats which meet defined World Rowing standards (quad, double and single) and has competition within two distinct formats – Endurance and Beach Sprints. The Endurance format is sometimes referred to as ‘Offshore’ or in many cases just ‘Coastal’
- The purpose of the ‘Coastal Sculling Strategy’ is primarily focused on the development of the World Rowing recognised Endurance and Beach Sprint formats. However, we also need to recognise and support the wider coastal rowing scene and the variety of clubs and associations practicing different forms of coastal rowing around the UK

Headline Aims and Objectives

1. Community

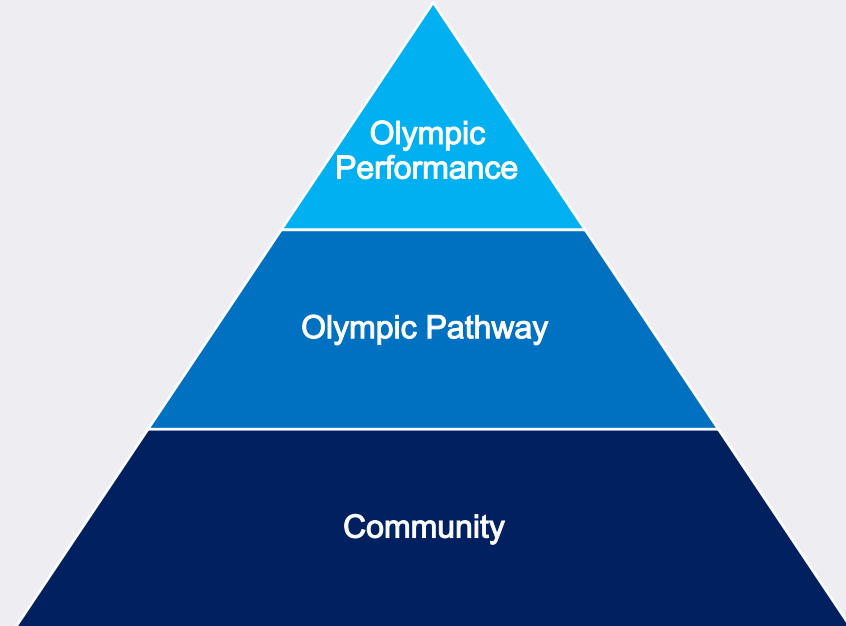
Support and develop a base of Coastal clubs, participants, coaches and volunteers around the UK coastline. With varied and accessible events and competition opportunities for all

2. Olympic Pathway

Create a clear and accessible Olympic pathway within the Beach Sprint format, for young people who are introduced to the sport of rowing through all formats, both coastal and classic/river

3. Olympic Performance

Deliver world leading medal performances at World and Olympic level by developing a beach sprint specific model of performance delivery for rowing, which engages new, and more diverse, groups of performance athletes



Programmes

Community - GB Coastal Sculling Academies

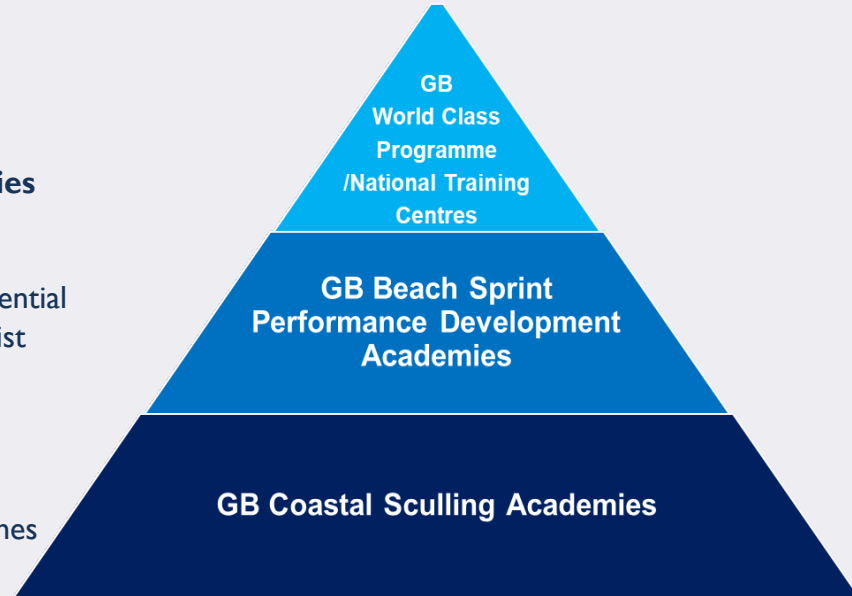
- Increase the number of clubs delivering and/or engaging with Coastal Sculling activity
- Increase affordability and access to World Rowing standard boats
- Increase the number of coaches and volunteers
- Increase numbers of competitors at domestic coastal events

Pathway - GB Beach Sprint Performance Development Academies

- Identify and develop a diverse group of athletes with future Olympic potential
- Create a network of programmes and coaches where those with potential in the Beach Sprint format can be signposted to get additional specialist coaching and support

Performance - GB World Class Programme/National Training Centres

- Support Beach Sprint athletes working towards current Olympic Games
- Develop a new accessible model of performance delivery





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Community

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Community Strategy Aims

- Help grow the number of clubs becoming GB Coastal Sculling Academies nationally.
- Increase the number of well supported clubs delivering and/or engaging with Coastal Sculling activity (alongside their traditional forms of rowing where applicable).
- Increase access and affordability to World Rowing standard boats and equipment available across UK.
- Increase the number of qualified coaches and volunteers to enable coastal sculling activity to happen both locally and as part of exciting outreach programmes.
- Increase the number of competitors participating at regional and national events, including the British Rowing Coastal Championships and British Rowing Beach Sprint Championships.
- Increase awareness of and aspiration towards performance opportunities within Endurance and Beach Sprints to develop the base of the pyramid for future GB and Home Nations teams.

Creating New GB Coastal Sculling Academies

- British Rowing is looking to support more clubs to become GB Coastal Sculling Academies that will support new community rowing opportunities on top of existing club offers.
- Becoming a Coastal Sculling Academy will identify a club as a key deliverer of Coastal Sculling, with access to appropriate equipment and coaching to introduce people to the format.
- Rowing clubs who become sculling academies will access exclusive British Rowing Community support which will include coach training, general club support, access to new resources, and bespoke help such as leveraging funding and discounts for equipment.
- With more clubs on board, the landscape for more racing will arise, with an increased focus on growing number of Endurance and Beach Sprint competitions available for clubs to take part in.
- Eleven clubs have accredited so far, plus a number of others have expressed an interest/in the process of applying.



New partner relationships

Rowing Centre UK and Swift Racing



RowingCentre^{UK}

We are in the process of creating a new strategic partnership with Swift Racing UK.

As two organisations will work together to:

- Support the new strategic development and growth of Coastal Sculling nationally.
- Work closely to educate and help Coastal Sculling Academy clubs to deliver this growing discipline of the sport.
- Provide easier access to coastal equipment for clubs to start a new programme via exclusive discounts and fundraising support.
- Help provide support to coastal sculling clubs with accessing equipment and staff to run regional and national events.

Coastal Sculling Event Calendar

Working with the community we have created a new Coastal Sculling event calendar for clubs to promote and connect with one another to participate in local and national events. There are four tiers of Beach Sprint and endurance coastal sculling competitions.

- **Tier 1 - Local Competitions** - club run competitions suitable for both rowers who are new to coastal sculling and/or experience coastal rowers looking for local racing opportunities
- **Tier 2 - Regional Competitions** - These competitions are aimed at those with some Coastal Sculling experience looking to compete at a higher level.
- **Tier 3 - National Competitions** - National Championship or Home International events, aimed at those with a higher level of coastal sculling experience and/or those selected to represent their Home Nation via selection trials.
- **Tier 4 - International Competitions** - for those selected to represent GB via selection trials process, and other open international competitions.

Coastal Sculling Competition Calendar 2025

Dates and venues for domestic and international coastal sculling endurance and beach sprint competitions

There are four tiers of beach sprint and endurance coastal sculling competitions.

Tier 1 - Local Competitions

These club-run competitions are suitable both for rowers who are new to Coastal Sculling (where appropriate) and/or experienced coastal rowers looking for local racing opportunities.

Date	Competition
18 January 2025	Itchenor (Endurance)
15 February 2025	Itchenor (Endurance)
16 February 2025	Fulham Reach (Beach Sprint)
22 February 2025	Studland Bay (Beach Sprint)
1 March 2025	Bosham (Endurance)
22-23 March 2025	Tynemouth (Beach Sprint)
5 April 2025	Folkestone (Beach Sprint)
5 April 2025	Mayflower, Plymouth (Endurance)
6 April 2025	Lowestoft (Beach Sprint)
12-13 April 2025	Saints Regatta (St Andrews) (Endurance and Beach Sprint)
19 April 2025	Exmouth (Endurance)
20 April 2025	Whitby (Beach Sprint)



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Olympic Pathway

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Olympic Pathway Strategy Aims

- Create an inclusive GB Coastal Sculling Pathway for those targeting GB representation within the Beach Sprint and Endurance formats
- Identify individuals from all backgrounds who demonstrate future potential (2032 cycle and beyond), with a particular focus on the Olympic Beach Sprint format
- Create a network of Beach Sprint Performance Development Academies, where those individuals can be signposted to get the highest quality specialist coaching and support

GB Performance Development Academies - Beach Sprints

- Beach Sprint PDAs are defined as locations with professional coaching, equipment and other services, able to support those on the Beach Sprint Olympic Pathway:
 - **South Coast PDA** – based in Studland Bay/Bournemouth. Official partner clubs – Christchurch, Poole, Lymington, Southsea, Shanklin/Sandown, and Bournemouth University
 - **North East PDA** – based in South Shields – partner clubs currently being established
 - **University of St Andrews PDA** – in partnership with Scottish Rowing
 - **University of Edinburgh PDA** – in partnership with Scottish Rowing





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Olympic Performance

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Olympic Performance Strategy Aims

- Deliver world leading medal performances at World and Olympic level by developing a beach sprint specific model of performance delivery for rowing which engages new, and more diverse, groups of performance athletes.
- Support athletes who are part of the UK Sport funded World Class Programme, and other non-funded athletes, who are working towards medal performances within current Olympic cycle (LA 2028)



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Summary

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Key People and Partner Organisations

Community

- Chris Farrell – Head of Community (British Rowing)
- Rob Mayes – Community Development Officer (British Rowing)

Pathway and Performance

- Tom Pattichis – Olympic Head Coach – Beach Sprints
- Lucy Hart/Emma Benany – Beach Sprint Pathway Coaches (British Rowing)
- Iain Docwra - Beach Sprint Pathway Coach (Scottish Rowing)
- Lewis McCue - Director of Rowing (University of St Andrews)
- Colin Williamson - Director of Rowing (University of Edinburgh)

Other Partner Organisations

- Swift Racing UK
- Welsh Rowing
- Coastal Rowing League
- Bournemouth University

