

Basic Detail Report

00019050

Title

Women's 1980s Australian team swimsuit

Date

1980s

Primary Maker

Speedo International Ltd

Medium

Nylon, cotton

Dimensions

Overall: 600 x 300 mm, 0.07 kg Clothing size: 10

Name

Swimsuit

History

In 1955 Speedo introduced nylon into its competitive swimwear designs, and the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne saw the widespread use of the new fabric. The Australian swimming team first wore the Prestige Nylon Tricot fabric at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960. 1976 was the first year in which lycra was introduced as part of a blend with Nylon. This allowed a two-way stretch that gave swimmers greater freedom of movement. From 1957 the half skirt was replaced with the quarter skirt, and the introduction of the panel at the front gave more shape to the body and a better fit. By 1972 the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) allowed women to swim skirtless, though it was not until the 1976 Montreal Games that the Australian team design followed this trend.