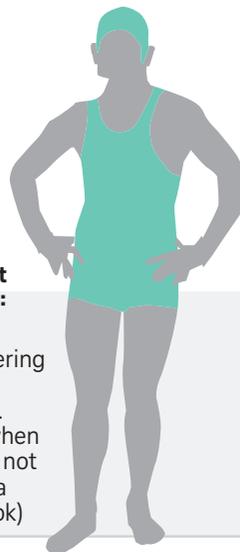


# Swum swam swimsuits

## 1908 LONDON

Full-body suits were standard for male swimmers up through the 1940s.

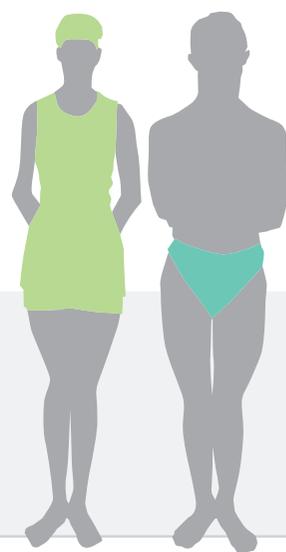


**Swimsuit material:**  
**Wool**  
(Unflattering knitted material. Heavy when wet and not exactly a good look)

■ Henry Taylor, age 23 (Gbr) (3 golds)

## 1912 STOCKHOLM

First year the race was open to women. Male swimmers sport a more revealing look.



**Wool**

■ George Hodgson, 18 (Can)  
■ Walter Bathe, 19 (Ger) (2G each)  
■ Fanny Durack, 22 (Anz- Australasia) (1G)

## 1924 PARIS

Starting to show a little skin



**Silk**  
(Lighter and more comfortable but much more expensive)

■ Johnny Weissmuller, 20 (USA) (3G)  
■ Ethel Lackie, 17 (USA) (2G)

## 1928 AMSTERDAM

Male swimmers continued to wear speed-resistant one-pieces, although the suits began to more clearly take on the shape of what later became known as swim trunks.



**Silk**

■ Johnny Weissmuller, 24 (USA)  
■ George Kojac, 18 (USA) (2G)  
■ Martha Norelius, 17 (USA)  
■ Albina Osipowich, 17 (USA) (2G)

## 1932 LOS ANGELES

It was the year Speedo made its Olympic debut, introducing racerback suits that allowed for better arm and shoulder movement.



**Rayon**  
(Artificial version of silk)

■ Yasuji Miyazaki, 15 (Jpn) (2G)  
■ Helene Madison, 19 (USA) (3G)

## 1936 BERLIN

Swimsuits were starting to shrink



**Rayon**

■ Masanori Yusa, 21 (Jpn) (1G, 1 silver)  
■ Rie Mastenbroek, 17 (Ned) (3G, 1S)

## 1948 LONDON

Swimmers ditched their cumbersome full-body suits for shorter, speedier alternatives at the 1948 Olympics in London.



**Nylon**  
(Man-made fabrics that are light, comfortable and cheap to produce. Has strength, elasticity)

■ Jimmy McLane, 17 (USA) (2G, 1S)  
■ Ann Curtis, 22 (USA) (2G, 1S)

## 1956 MELBOURNE

Speedo introduced a new line of nylon swimwear that instantly became a hit among athletes.

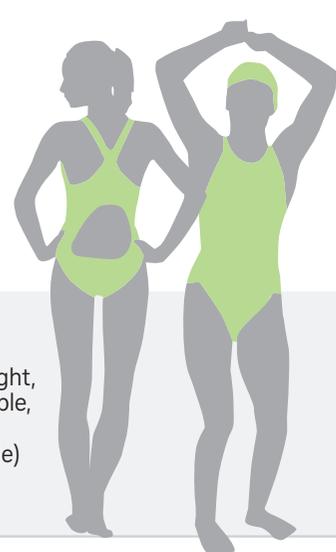


**Nylon**

■ Murray Rose, 17 (Aus) (3G)  
■ Dawn Fraser, 19 (Aus)  
■ Lorraine Crapp, 17 (Aus) (2G, 1S)

## 1984 LOS ANGELES

Speedo was the racing swimsuit of choice.



**Nylon, Lycra**  
(Lightweight, comfortable, and breathable)

■ Mike Heath, 20 (USA) (3G 1S)  
■ Nancy Hogshead, 22 (USA) (3G 1S)

## 1992 BARCELONA

Wearing the form-fitting nylon Speedo suit that became the norm for swimmers in the 1990s. It was estimated that the suit had 15 per cent less drag than other models worn in previous games.

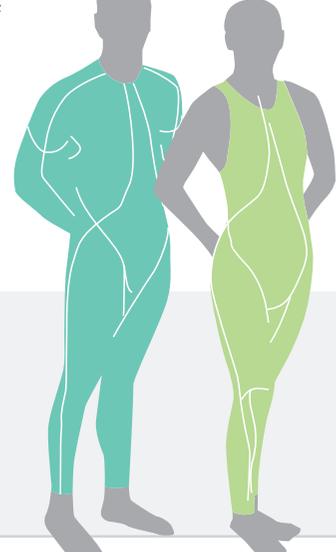


**Nylon, Lycra**

■ Yevgeny Sadovyi, 19 (Eun - Unified Team) (3G)  
■ Krisztina Egerszegi, 17 (Hun) (3G)

## 2000 SYDNEY

Swimmers took a more scientific approach with the Fastskin bodysuit, an outfit unveiled in Sydney Olympics. Made from knitted biometric fabrics and modelled off of shark skin, the revolutionary neck-to-ankle suit was supposed to improve swim times by up to 3 per cent.

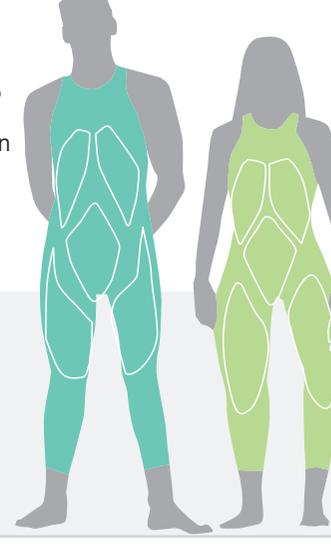


**Nylon, Lycra**

■ Ian Thorpe, 17 (Aus) (3G, 2S)  
■ Inge de Bruijn, 26 (Ned) (3G, 1S)

## 2008 BEIJING

The technologically innovative Speedo LZR suit was the clear winner in Beijing. Developed with the help of Nasa and enhanced with polyurethane panels, the controversial suit was worn by 23 of the 25 swimmers who broke records in the pool.



**Nylon, Lycra**

■ Michael Phelps, 23 (USA) (8G)  
■ Stephanie Rice, 20 (AUS) (3G)

## 2012 LONDON

Men are now only allowed to wear suits that cover between the waist and knees. Women are not allowed to sport the high-tech material above the shoulder.



**Nylon, Lycra, Spandex** (stronger and more durable than natural rubber)  
**PBT** (has stretch and elasticity)  
**Polyester** (chlorine resistant and colourfast)

■ Michael Phelps, 27 (USA) (4G, 2S)  
■ Missy Franklin, 17 (USA) (4G 1 bronze)