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Mike Hewitt / Getty Images file

Smashnova in Games after clothes deal reached

Compromise between rivals Speedo, Lotto lets Israeli star compete

Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi, the world No. 17 and a winner of nine career WTA titles, is one of Israel's best medal hopes.



Updated: 9:07 a.m. ET Aug. 4, 2004

TEL AVIV - Israel's Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi will play in the women's singles tennis event at the Athens Olympics after a compromise between rival clothes sponsors was reached on Wednesday.

Smashnova-Pistolesi's place in the tournament had been in doubt because of a row between her regular sponsor, Lotto, and Speedo, the Olympic team's official supplier, over what clothes the world number 18 would wear during the Games.

"A solution to the problem has been reached...Anna will appear at all the official functions at the Olympics with the official clothing of the Olympic committee, Speedo, the chairman of the Israel Tennis Association Ian Froman told reporters.

"On the court she will wear a shirt which has no markings, not of Speedo or Lotto."

Froman also said that the agreement did not involve a financial compensation deal between the sides.

Smashnova-Pistolesi has won nine career WTA titles and is one of Israel's best medal hopes at the Games, which start on August 13.

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