

**Buccaneer 18 Class Association  
Ruling 060201 – Spinnaker Cloth  
February 1, 2006**

A question has been raised regarding the Class Rules

**Part V Materials of Sails**

2. *Spinnaker is to be of nylon  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz per square yard.*

This ruling seeks to clarify the meaning of that rule.

Investigation

The language "of nylon  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz per square yard" was meant to specify the "generic class" or "style" of " $\frac{3}{4}$  oz " nylon spinnaker fabrics. Spinnaker cloth weight in the sailmaking industry is specified in oz per sailmakers yard (36" x 28.5" ) or oz/smy. At that time, spinnakers were made from unfinished cloth weights of 0.5 oz/smy, 0.75 oz/smy and 1.5 oz/smy. It was clear enough.

Today the lines are not so clear. For example fabrics are available with unfinished base fabrics of 0.6 oz/smy. This results in spinnaker with a finished cloth weight > 0.75 oz/smy. This will be lighter than the lightest spinnaker made from unfinished 0.75 oz/smy cloth which weighs 0.93oz/smy or 40 grams/square meter finished.

One could argue that since the specs for jib cloth weight call out finished weight ( Mylar does not have a finish applied ) it is reasonable to assume that the spinnaker cloth rule applies to finished weight. Although not the final interpretation of the Committee, that interpretation is understandable. It is the opinion of the National Committee that sails purchased with this understanding, having a finished weight greater than 0.75 oz/sailmakers yard were not made or bought with the intent to violate the rules.

Ruling

Therefore:

1. Spinnakers ordered before the date of this interpretation and made with nylon having a manufacturer's published finished weight specification greater than or equal to 0.75 oz/smy will be "grandfathered".
2. Spinnakers ordered after the date of this interpretation shall be made of nylon fabrics having a manufacturer's published finished weight greater than or equal to 0.93oz/smy which equals 0.40 grams/square meter