SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations;
Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Split-Price Priority

May 12, 2016.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on May 6, 2016, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its rules related to split-price priority. The text of the proposed rule change is provided below.

Voluntary Professional

The term “Voluntary Professional” means any person or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities that elects, in writing, to be treated in the same manner as a broker or dealer in securities for purposes of Rules 6.2A, 6.2B, 6.8C, 6.9, 6.13A, 6.13B, 6.25, 6.45, 6.45A (except for Interpretation and Policy .02), 6.45B (except for Interpretation and Policy .02), 6.47, 6.53C(c)(ii), 6.53C(d)(v), subparagraphs (b) and (c) under Interpretation and Policy .06 to Rule 6.53C. 6.74 (except Voluntary Professional orders may be considered public customer orders subject to facilitation under paragraphs (b) and (d)), 6.74A, 6.74B, 8.13, 8.15(d), 8.87, 24.19, 43.1, 44.4, 44.14, and for cancellation fee treatment. The Voluntary Professional designation is not available in Hybrid 3.0 classes.

Professional

The term “Professional” means any person or entity that is (i) not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) places more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). A Professional will be treated in the same manner as a broker or dealer in securities for purposes of Rules 6.2A, 6.2B, 6.8C, 6.9, 6.13A, 6.13B, 6.25, 6.45, 6.45A (except for Interpretation and Policy .02), 6.45B (except for Interpretation and Policy .02), 6.47, 6.53C(c)(ii), 6.53C(d)(v), subparagraphs (b) and (c) under Interpretation and Policy .06 to Rule 6.53C. 6.74 (except Professional orders may be considered public customer orders subject to facilitation under paragraphs (b) and (d)), 6.74A, 6.74B, 8.13, 8.15(d), 8.87, 24.19, 43.1, 44.4, 44.14. The Professional designation is not available in Hybrid 3.0 classes. All Professional orders shall be marked with the appropriate origin code as determined by the Exchange.

Interpretations and Policies:

Rule 6.47. Priority on Split-Price Transactions Occurring in Open Outcry

(a) [Purchase or sale]Split-Price [p]Priority. If an order or offer (bid) for any number of contracts of a series is represented to the crowd, a Trading Permit Holder that buys [sells] one or more [option] contracts of that order or offer (bid)[a particular series] at one[a particular] price[or prices, he shall, at the next lower (higher) price at which a Trading Permit Holder other than the Order Book Official is bidding [offering],] will have priority [in] over all other orders and quotes, except public customer orders resting in the book, to buy [purchasing] [selling] up to the [equivalent] same number of [option] contracts of those remaining from the same order or offer (bid)[series that he purchased [sold]] at the next lower (higher) [lower] price[or prices, but only if his bid (offer) is made promptly and the purchase (sale) so effected represents the opposite side of a transaction with the same order or offer (bid) as the earlier purchase or purchases (sale or sales). This paragraph only applies to transactions effected in open outcry].

(b) [Purchase or sale]Split-Price [p]Priority for O[rders or Offers (Bids) of 100 or More] [c]Contracts[ or more]. If an order or offer (bid) of 100 or more contracts of a series is represented to the crowd, a Trading Permit Holder that buys [sells] 50[fifty] or more of the [option] contracts of that order or offer (bid) [a particular series] at one[a particular] price[or prices, he shall, at the next lower (higher) price[will have priority [in] over all other orders and quotes to buy [purchasing] [selling] up to the [equivalent] same number of [option] contracts of those remaining from the same [series that he purchased [sold]] order or offer (bid) at the next lower (higher) [lower] price[or prices, but only if his bid (offer) is made promptly and the purchase (sale) so effected represents the opposite side of a transaction with the same order or offer (bid) as the earlier purchase or purchases (sale or sales)]. The Exchange may increase the ["minimum qualifying [order size]" above] of 100 contracts on a class-by-class basis[.]. [Announcements regarding which changes to the minimum qualifying order size shall be made]the Exchange will announce via Regulatory Circular.[This paragraph only applies to transactions effected in open outcry].

(c) Two or [m]ore Trading Permit Holders [e]ntitled to [p]riority. If the bids or offers of two or more Trading Permit Holders are both entitled to split-price priority[ in accordance with paragraph (a) or paragraph (b)], it shall/will be afforded [them] insofar as[to the extent] practicable[,] on a pro-rata basis[.]

(d) Conditions. Split-price priority is subject to the following:

(i) The priority is available for open outcry transactions only and does not apply to complex orders.
The Trading Permit Holder must make its bid (offer) at the next lower (higher) price for the second (or later) transaction at the same time as the first bid (offer) or promptly following execution of the first (or earlier) transaction.

The second (or later) purchase (sale) must represent the opposite side of a transaction with the same order or offer (bid) as the first (or earlier) purchase (sale).

Minimum Increment Width Series

The Exchange proposes to add Rule 6.47(e) to codify an exception to the availability of split-price priority when the width of a series’ quote is at the minimum increment width. If the width of the quote for a series is the minimum increment for that series, and both the bid and offer represent public customer orders resting in the book, split-price priority pursuant to this rule is not available to Trading Permit Holders until the public customer order(s) resting in the book on either side of the market trades.

Minimum Increment Width Series

The Exchange proposes to add Rule 6.47(e) to codify an exception to the availability of split-price priority when the width of a series’ quote is at the minimum increment width. If the width of the quote for a series is the minimum increment for that series (e.g., $1.00–$1.05 for a series with a minimum increment of $0.05, $1.00–$1.05 for a series with a minimum increment of $0.01), and both the bid and offer represent public customer orders resting in the book, split-price priority pursuant to this rule is not available to Trading Permit Holders until the public customer order(s) resting in the book on either side of the market trades. This exception is consistent with the Exchange’s allocation and priority rules, which provide for public customer orders to have first priority at the best price in open outcry (subject to applicable exceptions).

For example, assume the market for a series with a minimum increment of $0.05 is $1.00–$1.05 (with the $1.00 bid and $1.05 offer representing the order or offer (quote)). Assume the market for a series with a minimum increment of $0.01 is $1.00–$1.01 for a series with a minimum increment of $0.01, and both the bid and offer represent public customer orders resting in the book, split-price priority pursuant to this rule is not available to Trading Permit Holders until the public customer order(s) resting in the book on either side of the market trades. This exception is consistent with the Exchange’s allocation and priority rules, which provide for public customer orders to have first priority at the best price in open outcry (subject to applicable exceptions).

For example, assume the market for a series with a minimum increment of $0.05 is $1.00–$1.05 (with the $1.00 bid and $1.05 offer each representing a customer order for 25 contracts), and a Floor Broker receives an order from a customer that would like to buy 100 contracts at $1.00, the next best price for the Floor Broker. In this situation, the Floor Broker is eligible to receive split-price priority at $1.00 over the resting customer interest at $1.00 and achieve a better net price execution of $1.025 for its customer order.

Other than the limited exception to customer priority afforded in Rule 6.47(b) (and as elsewhere set forth in the rules), public customer orders continue to have first priority and other allocation and priority rules remain unchanged. The Exchange believes that specifying the unavailability of split-price priority in this specific situation will further clarify the applicability of the priority in the rules.

Multiple Prices

Rule 6.47(a) and (b) currently provides that split-price priority may apply to executions of an order at multiple prices. The proposed rule change removes the references to multiple prices from those paragraphs. The Exchange believes the priority should only apply at the next price level rather than multiple price levels.
Nonsubstantive Changes

The Exchange proposes to make the following nonsubstantive changes to Rule 6.47(a), (b) and (c):

• The proposed rule change amends the headings of and adds introductory language to paragraphs (a) and (b).
• The proposed rule change revises the language in paragraphs (a) and (b) to simplify the description of when the split-price priority applies to improve readability. The priority will still apply in the same manner—a Trading Permit Holder may buy (sell) one or more contracts for one series of an order or offer (bid) (the “first transaction”) and receive priority over all other orders and quotes (except public customer orders) resting in the book with respect to orders or offers (bids) of fewer than 100 contracts or orders or offers (bids) with which Trading Permit Holders do not purchase (sell) at least 50 contracts at the better price to buy (sell) up to the same number of contracts of those remaining from the same order or offer (bid) at the next best price (the “second transaction”). This second transaction must still occur with the same order or offer (quote) as the first transaction. For example, assume the market is $1.00–$1.20 with size of 300 contracts, and a Floor Broker receives an order from a customer that would like to buy 500 contracts at a price or prices no higher than $1.20. The Floor Broker attempts to execute the order in open outcry at a price better than the displayed offer of $1.20. Now assume a Market-Maker in the crowd is willing to sell 250 contracts at $1.15 and 250 contracts at $1.20. The Market-Maker could offer $1.15 for 250 contracts and then, by virtue of the split-price priority rule, have priority for the 250 contract balance over other crowd members at $1.20. The resulting net execution price for the customer would be $1.175, which is better than the displayed market of $1.20 and thus a better fill for the customer.8

• Paragraph (a) currently provides that the Trading Permit Holder must yield to the Order Book Official the proposed rule change mandates the term Order Book Official to public customer. Other priority rules refer to “public customer” priority, and Rule 6.47(a) provides priority in the circumstances described except over public customer orders.10 Order Book Officials only present to the crowd public customer orders that rest in the book, so the priority afforded pursuant to paragraph (a) must still yield to the same public customer orders in the same manner. This change is merely an update to terminology, as public customer orders may be presented to the floor other than by Order Book Officials.11 The Exchange believes it is appropriate to use the same terminology that is used in other priority rules to ensure consistency throughout the Exchange’s rules and ensure that all public customer orders receive priority when applicable.

• Paragraphs (a) and (b) currently state that a Trading Permit Holder’s bid (offer) at the next best price must be made promptly following the purchase (sale) at the initial price. The proposed rule change deletes that language from those paragraphs and adds it to new paragraph (d) to include with other conditions to which split-price priority is subject. In addition, the proposed rule change adds that the second bid (offer) may also be made at the same time as the first bid (offer). If a Trading Permit Holder makes the first bid (offer) with the intent of taking advantage of the split-price priority, then it may be more efficient for the Trading Permit Holder to announce both bids (offer) at the same time than to wait for the first execution.12 The Trading Permit Holder is still not guaranteed execution at the second price; another Trading Permit Holder may still bid (offer) to trade with part of the order or offer (quote) at the better first price.13

• Paragraphs (a) and (b) currently state that they apply only to open outcry transactions. The proposed rule change deletes that language from those paragraphs and adds it to new paragraph (d) to include with other conditions to which split-price priority is subject. Paragraphs (a) and (b) also state that split-price priority applies to transactions in a particular series (i.e., simple orders, but not complex orders). The proposed rule change explicitly states the priority does not apply to complex orders in new paragraph (d).

• Paragraphs (a) and (b) currently state that the Trading Permit Holder eligible for split-price priority must make its bid (offer) promptly and the purchase (sale) represents the opposite side of a transaction with the same order or offer (bid). The proposed rule change uses this phrase throughout the rule for consistency. The proposed rule change also deletes the provision that requires the subsequent transaction must be with the same order or offer (bid) from paragraphs (a) and (b) and adds it to new paragraph (d).

• The proposed rule change makes other administrative and clerical changes to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) (e.g., capitalizing words in headings, changing the word purchase to buy, deletion of word option before contract since only option contracts execute on the Exchange). The Exchange believes these changes have no impact on the split-price priority afforded by the rule.

• The proposed rule change refers to the priority afforded by Rule 6.47(a) and (b) as “split-price priority” to further simplify the rule text.

The Exchange believes these nonsubstantive changes more clearly describe the applicability of the split-price priority and better reflect the use of split-price priority on the trading floor.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.13 Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)14 requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to

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8 See, e.g., Rules 6.45A(b)(i)(A) and 6.45B(b)(1)(A).
9 The proposed rule change amends Rule 1.1(ff) and (ggg) to add Rule 6.47 to the list of rules for which Voluntary Professionals and Professionals, respectively, will be treated in the same manner as a broker or dealer. Professionals and Voluntary Professionals do not receive priority as public customers do pursuant to CBOE’s allocation rules, including Rules 6.45A(b) and 6.45B(b) regarding open outcry trading. Under those rules, Professionals and Voluntary Professionals would not receive priority, including if public customer orders must be cleared prior to a Trading Permit Holder availing itself of split-price priority. The proposed rule change explicitly states this in the Professional and Voluntary Professional definitions.
10 Additionally, the Exchange no longer has Order Book Officials.
11 For example, a Floor Broker may represent an order to sell at “$1.15 and $1.20 splits,” indicating a desire to buy half of the order at $1.15 and the other half at $1.20 with priority at $1.20.
and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5) requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. In particular, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the purpose of the existing split-price priority, which is to induce Trading Permit Holders to bid (offer) at better prices for an order or offer (bid) that may require execution at multiple prices (such as larger orders), which will result in a better average price for the originating Trading Permit Holder (or its customer).

The proposed rule change to codify the split-price priority exception when the width of a series’ quote is the minimum increment for that series and each side of the quote represents public customer interest will benefit investors by including all information regarding when split-price priority is available in a single rule. This proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange’s priority and allocation rules. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change to codify this exception, as well as the proposed rule change to eliminate split-price priority at multiple price levels, balances the availability of split-price priority, which benefits investors by providing opportunities for price improvement, with customer priority, which promotes just and equitable principles of trade by providing public customers access to CBOE’s market. The proposed rule change to amend the definitions of Voluntary Professional and Professional clarify that, for purposes of Rule 6.47, as is the case for all other allocation rules, those participants will be treated as broker-dealers rather than public customers for allocation purposes. The same result occurs under current allocation rules, as those rules provide with respect to open outcry priority that public customers in the book receive priority (and the definitions of Voluntary Professional and Professional provide that those participants are treated as broker-dealers for purposes of those rules); this merely clarifies it in the Rules.

The Exchange believes the nonsubstantive changes to Rule 6.47 will benefit investors by describing the applicability of split-price priority more simply and clearly. The revised language is also more consistent with other Exchange rules regarding priority. B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The priority afforded by Rules 6.47(a) and (b) continues to be available to all Trading Permit Holders who trade open outcry, of which all Trading Permit Holders that engage in open outcry trading may avail themselves. Rules often apply to open outcry trading only because of the different nature of the open outcry market versus the electronic market (such as allocation rules). The proposed rule change may result in better pricing for customer orders submitted to the trading floor, particularly those that may require execution at multiple prices, and market participants may submit orders to CBOE to take advantage of these better prices. CBOE believes that the proposed rule change will continue to encourage Trading Permit Holders on CBOE’s trading floor to bid or offer better prices, thus creating more opportunities for price improvement, which ultimately enhances competition. The nonsubstantive changes and codification of the applicability of split-price priority in a minimum width market do not impact the manner in which split-price priority applies and thus have no effect on competition. C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change. III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act, and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder. Because the proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments
- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–CBOE–2016–034 on the subject line.

Paper Comments
- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–CBOE–2016–034. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE,
Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE–2016–034, and should be submitted on or before June 8, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.18

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–2736

Extension: Schedule 14D–9F
SEC File No. 270–339, OMB Control No. 3235–0382

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget this request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Schedule 14D–9F (17 CFR 240.14d–103) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78 et seq.) is used by any foreign private issuer incorporated or organized under the laws of Canada or by any director or officer of such issuer, where the issuer is the subject of a cash tender or exchange offer for a class of securities filed on Schedule 14D–1F. The information required to be filed with the Commission is intended to permit verification of compliance with the securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. The information provided is mandatory and all information is made available to the public upon request. We estimate that Schedule 14D–9F takes approximately 2 hours per response to prepare and is filed by approximately 6 respondents annually for a total reporting burden of 12 hours (2 hours per response × 6 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@ sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: May 12, 2016.

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–11640 Filed 5–17–16; 8:45 am]
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–77818; File No. SR–BatsBZX–2016–16]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Bats BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Add Subparagraph (5) to Rule 21.1(h) Modifying the Operation of Orders Subject to the Display Price Sliding Process When a Contra-Side Post Only Order Is Received by the Bats BZX Exchange Options Platform

May 12, 2016.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),3 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,2 notice is hereby given that on May 3, 2016, Bats BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act4 and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder,5 which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange filed a proposal to add subparagraph (5) to Rule 21.1(h) modifying the operation of orders subject to the display price sliding process when a contra-side Post Only Order is received by the Exchange’s options platform (“BZX Options”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at www.batstrading.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange is proposing to add subparagraph (5) to Rule 21.1(h) modifying the operation of orders subject to the display price sliding process when a contra-side Post Only Order is received by BZX Options.

Under current Exchange Rule 21.1(h), an order subject to the display price sliding process that, at the time of entry, would lock or cross a Protected Quotation of another options exchange will be ranked at the locking price in the BZX Options Book6 and displayed by the System at one minimum price variation below the current National