

reducing the burden that once a hearing is scheduled the parties may no longer present offers of settlement to the CRO.

The Exchange believes that the proposed change providing that a Hearing Panel be comprised of three or five BCC members protects investors and ensures procedural fairness because it will safeguard against interlocutory decisions and also allow for more (five) Hearing Panel members when necessary to hear complex matters. The Exchange also believes that the proposed changes to the service of notice provision that adds three days when calculating the time for response to the extent service is made by registered or certified mail protects investors and provides adequate procedural protections by ensuring that a Respondent is not penalized in responding to notices, charges or other documentation while such documentation is in transit. Additionally, the Exchange updates language throughout Chapter 17 and makes other clarifying changes. For example, incorporating that the CRO direct Staff to prepare and issue statements of charges or decisions not to initiate charges [sic]; a practice currently in place between the Staff and the BCC. Also, for example, incorporating that a decision containing sanctions shall include a statement of the sanctions imposed and the reasons therefor will enable better understanding for all parties of sanctions and why such sanctions are imposed. Such updates and clarifications will serve to reduce confusion and provide a better understanding to TPHs, associated persons, and the Exchange staff of the regulatory processes.

Finally, the Exchange believes that its proposed transition plan would allow for a more orderly and less burdensome transition for the Exchange's TPHs. The proposed application of current rules to all matters where a subject has received notice of a statement of charges pursuant to Rule 17.2(d) prior to the operative date provides a clear demarcation between matters that would proceed under the new rules and those that would be completed under the current rules.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule changes will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The proposed rule changes are not intended to address competitive issues, but rather, are concerned with facilitating less burdensome regulatory

compliance and processes and enhancing the quality of the regulatory processes. The Exchange believes the proposed rule changes reduce the burdens within the disciplinary process equally on all market participants.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- A. Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- B. impose any significant burden on competition; and
- C. become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹¹² thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily 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-2019-025 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

¹¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2019-025. 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 website (<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 website 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2019-025, and should be submitted on or before May 23, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹³

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-08912 Filed 5-1-19; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-85728; File No. SR-ISE-2019-12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Delete the Exchange's Current Registration, Qualification and Continuing Education Rules

April 26, 2019.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

¹¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

(“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on April 18, 2019, Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, 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 delete the Exchange’s current Registration, Qualification and Continuing Education rules (“Exchange Registration Rules” and, generally, “Registration Rules”) under the 1200 Series (Rules 1210 through 1250), and incorporate by reference The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC’s (“Nasdaq”) rules at General 4 (“Nasdaq Registration Rules”), into General 4 of the Exchange’s rulebook’s (“Rulebook”) shell structure.³

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <http://ise.cchwallstreet.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 aspects 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 recently amended, reorganized, and enhanced certain of its membership, registration, and qualification requirement rules partly in response to rule changes by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), and also in order to conform the Exchange’s rules more closely to those of its Affiliated Exchanges in the interest of uniformity and to facilitate compliance with membership, registration and qualification regulatory requirements by members of multiple Affiliated Exchanges including the Exchange.⁴ To that end, the Exchange adopted a new 1200 Series of rules, captioned “Registration, Qualification and Continuing Education,” generally conforming the Exchange Registration Rules to FINRA’s new 1200 Series, except for a number of Exchange-specific variations.⁵

The Exchange now proposes to delete the Exchange Registration Rules, currently under the 1200 Series (Rules 1210 through 1250), and incorporate by reference the Nasdaq Registration Rules at General 4 of Nasdaq’s rulebook into General 4 of the Exchange’s Rulebook. Relatedly, the Exchange will make necessary cross-reference updates throughout the Rulebook. Specifically, the Exchange will amend the cross-reference in Exchange Rule 100.

The incorporation by reference of Nasdaq Registration Rules at General 4 into the Exchange’s General 4 title and any necessary cross-reference updates are regulatory in nature.⁶ The Exchange notes that as a condition of an exemption, which the Exchange will request and will need to be approved by the Commission pursuant to Section 36 of the Act,⁷ the Exchange agrees to provide written notice to its members whenever Nasdaq proposes a change to

its General 4 title.⁸ Such notice will alert Exchange members to the proposed Nasdaq rule change and give them an opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Exchange will similarly inform its members in writing when the SEC approves any such proposed change.

Implementation

The Exchange proposes that this rule change becomes operative at such time as it receives approval for an exemption from the Securities and Exchange Commission, pursuant to its authority under Section 36 of the Act and Rule 0–12⁹ thereunder, from the Section 19(b) rule filing requirements to separately file a proposed rule change to amend the Exchange’s General 4 title.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,¹⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹¹ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to 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, by consolidating its rules into a single rule set. The Exchange intends to also file similar proposed rule changes for the Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; and Nasdaq MRX, LLC markets so that the General 4 rules which govern Registration Rules are conformed.

Incorporating by reference the Nasdaq Registration Rules at General 4 into the Exchange’s General 4 title will provide an easy reference for Exchange members seeking to comply with registration and qualification requirements on multiple markets. As noted, the Exchange intends to file similar proposed rule changes for other Affiliated Exchanges so that Nasdaq General 4 is the source document for all Registration Rules. The Exchange notes that the current rule is not changing and that Exchange members will be required to continue to comply with the Nasdaq Registration Rules as though such rules are fully set forth in Exchange’s Rulebook. The

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 84384 (October 9, 2018), 83 FR 52006 (October 15, 2018) (SR–ISE–2018–82).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ The General 4 rules are categories of rules that are not trading rules. See 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(76) (contemplating such requests). In addition, several other Self-Regulatory Organizations (“SROs”) incorporate by reference certain regulatory rules of other SROs and have received from the Commission similar exemptions from Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act. See e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 57478 (March 12, 2008), 73 FR 14521 (March 18, 2008), 53128 (January 13, 2006), 71 FR 3550 (January 23, 2006); 49260 (February 17, 2004), 69 FR 8500 (February 24, 2004).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78mm.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ In 2017, the Exchange added a shell structure to its Rulebook with the purpose of improving efficiency and readability and to align its rules closer to those of its five sister exchanges, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; and Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“Affiliated Exchanges”). The shell structure currently contains eight (8) General sections which, once complete, will apply a common set of rules to the Affiliated Exchanges. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82173 (November 29, 2017), 82 FR 57505 (December 5, 2017) (SR–ISE–2017–102).

⁸ The Exchange will provide such notice via a posting on the same website location where the Exchange posts its own rule filings pursuant to Rule 19b–4 within the timeframe required by such rule. The website posting will include a link to the location on the Nasdaq website where the applicable proposed rule change is posted.

⁹ See 17 CFR 240.0–12; Exchange Act Release No. 39624 (February 5, 1998), 63 FR 8101 (February 18, 1998).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Exchange desires to conform its rules and locate those rules within the same location in each Rulebook to provide Exchange members the ability to quickly locate rules.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that this rule change does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange is merely incorporating by reference the Nasdaq Registration Rules at General 4 into its own Rulebook. The Exchange Registration Rules are not being amended and therefore no member is impacted.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing 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 for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹² and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹³

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily 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 shall institute proceedings

to determine whether the proposed rule 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-ISE-2019-12 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2019-12. 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 website (<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 website 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File

Number SR-ISE-2019-12 and should be submitted on or before May 23, 2019.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-08913 Filed 5-1-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee on Small and Emerging Companies will hold a public meeting on Monday May 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: The meeting will be held in Multi-Purpose Room LL-006 at the Commission's headquarters, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC.

STATUS: The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will be open to the public. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Visitors will be subject to security checks. The meeting will be webcast on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: On April 25, 2019, the Commission published notice of the Committee meeting (Release No. 33-10634), indicating that the meeting is open to the public and inviting the public to submit written comments to the Committee. This Sunshine Act notice is being issued because a majority of the Commission may attend the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting includes matters relating to rules and regulations affecting small and emerging companies under the federal securities laws.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: For further information, please contact Vanessa A. Countryman from the Office of the Secretary at (202) 551-5400.

Dated: April 29, 2019.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-09040 Filed 4-30-19; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.