Page 1 of * 38       SECURITIES AND EXCUMMES COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 198-4       File, No. * SR. + 2020, * 62 Annodment No. (req. for Amendments *         Filing by Nasdeq ISE, LLC       Pursuant to Rule 198-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934         Initial *       Amendment *         Withdrawal       Section 19(b)(2) *         Section 19(b)(2) *       Section 19(b)(3)(A) *         Section 19(b)(2) *       Section 19(b)(3)(A) *         Section 30(6)(2) *       Section 19(b)(2) *         Note of proposed change pursuant to the Payment. Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010       Section 30(b)(2) *         Note of proposed change pursuant to the Payment. Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010       Section 30(b)(2) *         Note of proposed change pursuant to the Payment.       Section 30(b)(2) *         Section 30(b)(2) *       Section 30(b)(2) *         Section 30(b)(2) *       Section 30(b)(2) *         Context Information       Section 4 Payer Document         Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).         A proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule in Quitons 7 at Section 3, tilled Regular Order Fees and Rebates and Section 4, titled Complex Order Fees and Rebates.         First Name * Angela Dunn@Nasded.com       Title *         Title *       Inception Anne@Nasded.com         Title phone* * (215) 498-5682	Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds a	and asterisks.	OMB Number: 3235-0045 Estimated average burden hours per response			
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Image: Section 306(e)(1)*       Date Expires *       Image: Back (I)(2)       Image: Back (I)(3)       Image: Back (I)(6)         Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010       Section 306(e)(1)*       Section 306(e)(2)*       Section 30(b)(2)*         Section 306(e)(1)*       Section 30(e)(2)*       Section 3C(b)(2)*       Section 3C(b)(2)*         Enthet 2 Sent As Paper Document       Enthet 3 Sent As Paper Document       Section 3C(b)(2)*         Description       Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).         A proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule in Options 7 at Section 3, titled Regular Order Fees and Rebates and Section 4, titled Complex Order Fees and Rebates.         Contact Information       Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.         First Name * Angela       Last Name * Dunn         Title *       Principal Associate General Counsel         E-mail *       Angela_Dunn@Nasdaq.com         Telephone * (215) 498-5692       Fax         Date       [2/03/2020]       Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer         More *       (mer *)       [ohn.zecca@nasdaq.com         Note: Citicing the button a right will digitally sign and lock the form. A right sign and lock the set physical <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td></td<>						
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Date       02/03/2020         By       John A. Zecca         (Name *)       interference         NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical       john.zecca@nasdaq.com	Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.					
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(Name *) NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical		Executive vice President and C	niet Legal Officer			
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OMB APPROVAL

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549				
For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.				
Form 19b-4 Information *       Add     Remove       View	The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.			
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)			
Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies * Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)			
Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications         Add       Remove       View         Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.			
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire         Add       Remove       View         Exhibit Sent As Paper Document	Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.			
Exhibit 4 - Marked CopiesAddRemoveView	The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.			
Add     Remove     View	The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.			
Partial Amendment       Add     Remove     View	If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.			

### SR-ISE-2020-02

## 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Nasdaq ISE, LLC ("ISE" or "Exchange"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposal to amend its Pricing Schedule in Options 7 at Section 3, titled "Regular Order Fees and Rebates" and Section 4, titled "Complex Order Fees and Rebates."

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached as Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

### 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") on September 25, 2019. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn Principal Associate General Counsel Nasdaq, Inc. 215-496-5692

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

## 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3,

titled, "Regular Order Fees and Rebates," to amend note 11. Specifically, the Exchange

proposes to increase the current applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee when trading

against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. In

addition the Exchange proposes to add an incentive for Market Makers that qualify for

Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols. The Exchange also proposes to amend Options 7,

Section 4, titled "Complex Order Fees and Rebates" to amend note 1. Specifically, the

Exchange proposes to limit a rebate applicable to Non-Select Symbols. Each change will

be described below.

## Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

Today, the Exchange assesses a Maker Fee of \$0.11 per contract in Select

Symbols<sup>3</sup> for Market Maker,<sup>4</sup> Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM),<sup>5</sup> Firm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols listed on the Nasdaq ISE that are in the Penny Pilot Program. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This fee applies to Market Maker orders sent to the Exchange by Electronic Access Members. Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus will not pay this fee if they meet the applicable tier thresholds set forth in Options 7, Section. Market Makers will instead receive the rebates in Options 7, Section 3 based on the applicable tier for which they qualify. <u>See</u> notes 5 and 8 within Options 7, Section 3. Market Maker Plus for Select Symbols is not being amended. The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. <u>See</u> Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A "Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

Proprietary<sup>6</sup>/Broker-Dealer<sup>7</sup> and Professional Customer<sup>8</sup> orders. Priority Customer<sup>9</sup> orders are not assessed a Select Symbol Maker Fee. Further, pursuant to Options 7, Section 3 at note 11, a \$0.15 per contract fee applies, instead of the applicable fee or rebate, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders<sup>10</sup> that leg into the regular<sup>11</sup> order book for Market Maker and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders.<sup>12</sup> Today, no Select Symbol Maker Fee is charged or rebate provided for Market Maker orders when trading against non-Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the the regular order book.<sup>13</sup>

- <sup>9</sup> A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq ISE Options 1, Section 1(a)(37). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail." A "Retail" order is a Priority Customer order that originates from a natural person, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>10</sup> A "Complex Order" is any order involving the simultaneous purchase and/or sale of two or more different options series in the same underlying security, as provided in Nasdaq ISE Options 3, Section 14, as well as Stock-Option Orders. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>11</sup> A "Regular Order" is an order that consists of only a single option series and is not submitted with a stock leg. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>12</sup> <u>See note 11 of Options 7, Section 3.</u>
- <sup>13</sup> <u>See note 10 within Options 7, Section 3.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

Page 6 of 38

The Exchange proposes to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to increase this fee from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customers will be assessed the same \$0.25 per contract fee instead of the applicable fee trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus, which is explained below. Priority Customer orders will continue to not be assessed a Select Symbol Maker Fee.

The Exchange also proposes to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. Further, Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will not pay this fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. The Market Maker Plus program is designed to incentivize Market Makers to submit quotations into ISE at the National Nest Bid or National Best Offer ("NBBO"). The Exchange believes that these quotations at the NBBO will encourage Members to submit Priority Customer orders, including Priority Customer Complex Orders, into ISE in order to earn rebates. Further, all market participants may interact with the Priority Customer volume that is submitted to the Exchange.

The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive amendment to capitalize the term "Complex Order" in current note 11.

#### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

Currently, Options 7, Section 4 provides a fee structure for Complex Orders that provides rebates to Priority Customer Complex Orders in order to encourage Members to bring that order flow to the Exchange. Specifically, Priority Customer Complex Orders are provided rebates in Select Symbols and Non-Select Symbols<sup>14</sup> (other than NDX and MNX) based on Priority Customer average daily volume ("ADV").<sup>15</sup> Options 7, Section 4 at note 1 currently states, "Rebate provided per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book. Rebate provided per contract leg where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

The Exchange proposes to amend the second and third sentences in note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 to state, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Non-Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols excluding Select Symbols. See Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> <u>See</u> tiered rebates within Options 7, Section 4.

Page 8 of 38

regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more." With this proposal, Select Symbols rebates are not being amended. The proposed amendments to the second and third sentences of note 1 of Options 7, Section 4, limit those statements to Select Symbols and thereby make them inapplicable to Non-Select Symbols.

The Exchange proposes to add a new sentence to the end of note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 with respect to Non-Select Symbols which states, "No Priority Customer Complex Order rebates will be provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size." With this proposal, Non-Select Symbols will continue to receive a rebate if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order book, however, no rebate will be paid if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size.

The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive amendment to capitalize the terms "Complex Order" in current note 1.

#### b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>16</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>17</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

Page 9 of 38

market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In <u>NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission</u>, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."<sup>18</sup>

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."<sup>19</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of options venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Competing options exchanges offer similar tiered pricing

 <sup>&</sup>lt;u>NetCoalition v. SEC</u>, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

Page 10 of 38

structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon Members achieving certain volume thresholds.

Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

#### Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders is reasonable. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customers will be assessed the same Select Symbol Maker Fee of \$0.25 per contract, instead of the applicable fee when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. The Exchange believes that increasing this fee \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders is reasonable because the Exchange pays high rebates to Priority Customer Complex Orders, including when those Complex Orders are less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to increase the fees charged for all Market Maker and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders that provide liquidity to Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular market as this will help offset potentially significant rebates paid on the other side of these trades

for orders in Select Symbols of less than 50 contracts that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange also believes that it is reasonable to increase the fee from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders and thereby create a uniform fee for all Non-Priority Customer Select Symbol orders that trade against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange notes that Priority Customers will continue to pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee.

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customer will be assessed the same Select Symbol Maker Fee of \$0.25 per contract, instead of the applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. Today Priority Customers pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee. Priority Customer Complex Order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text, which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book is reasonable. The proposed reduction in fees for Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program is designed to incentivize Market Makers to submit quotations into ISE at the NBBO. The Exchange believes that these quotations at the NBBO will encourage Members to submit Priority Customer orders, including Priority Customer Complex Orders, into ISE in order to earn rebates. All market participants benefit in that they may interact with the Priority Customer volume that is submitted to the Exchange.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. Unlike other market participants, Market Makers have an obligation to maintain quotes<sup>20</sup> and provide liquidity in the regular market. Further, Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program take on a heightened requirement to submit quotations at the NBBO. The Exchange is providing Market Makers the opportunity to reduce their Market Maker

<sup>20</sup> <u>See</u> ISE, Options 2, Section 5.

Select Symbol Maker Fee to incentivize these market participants to continue to provide liquidity on ISE.

#### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1<sup>21</sup> of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols is reasonable in that it does not amend the current pricing for Select Symbols with respect to the Priority Customer Rebates. The Exchange will continue to pay a Select Symbol rebate where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. Also, the Exchange will continue to not provide a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will continue to pay Select Symbol Priority Customer rebates to all market participants that qualify for those rebates, in a uniform manner.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, is reasonable. With this proposal, Non-Select Symbols will continue to receive a rebate if the order trades with non-Priority Customer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Exchange's proposal would amend the second and third sentences of note 1 to provide, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

Page 14 of 38

orders in the Complex Order book, however no rebate will be paid if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size. The Exchange notes that while it is not proposing to pay a rebate for Non-Select Symbols if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size, it believes that ISE's pricing to leg orders into the regular order book remains competitive.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange will not pay a Non-Select Symbol Priority Customer Complex Order rebate to any market participant if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size.

### 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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.

### Intermarket Competition

The proposal does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition. The Exchange believes its proposal remains competitive with other options markets and will offer market participants with another choice of where to transact options. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in

response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

### Intramarket Competition

The proposed pricing amendments do not impose an intramarket burden on competition.

#### Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders does not impose an undue burden on competition. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customer will be assessed the same \$0.25 per contract fee, instead of the applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. Today Priority Customers pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee. Priority Customer Complex Order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the

Page 16 of 38

regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book does not impose an undue burden on competition. Unlike other market participants, Market Makers have an obligation to maintain quotes<sup>22</sup> and provide liquidity in the regular market. Further, Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program take on a heightened requirement to submit quotations at the NBBO. The Exchange is providing Market Makers the opportunity to reduce their Market Maker Select Symbol Maker Fee to incentivize these market participants to continue to provide liquidity on ISE.

### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1<sup>23</sup> of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange will continue to pay Select Symbol Priority Customer rebates to all market participants that qualify in a uniform manner.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, does not impose an undue burden on competition. The Exchange will not pay a Non-Select Symbol Priority Customer Complex Order

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> <u>See</u> ISE, Options 2, Section 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> The Exchange's proposal would amend the second and third sentences of note 1 to provide, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

rebate to any market participant if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book.

- <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>
   No written comments were either solicited or received.
- Extension of Time Period for Commission Action Not applicable.
- 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>24</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the selfregulatory organization on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the selfregulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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.

- Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission
   Not applicable.
- Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.

<sup>24</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

## 10. <u>Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and</u> <u>Settlement Supervision Act</u>

Not applicable.

- 11. <u>Exhibits</u>
  - 1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>.
  - 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

## EXHIBIT 1

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. ; File No. SR-ISE-2020-02)

February \_\_\_, 2020

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to amend its Pricing Schedule in Options 7 at Section 3.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and

Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 3, 2020, 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule in Options 7 at Section 3,

titled "Regular Order Fees and Rebates" and Section 4, titled "Complex Order Fees and Rebates."

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Website at <a href="http://ise.cchwallstreet.com/">http://ise.cchwallstreet.com/</a>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

## II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

### 1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3, titled, "Regular Order Fees and Rebates," to amend note 11. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to increase the current applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. In addition the Exchange proposes to add an incentive for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols. The Exchange also proposes to amend Options 7, Section 4, titled "Complex Order Fees and Rebates" to amend note 1. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to limit a rebate applicable to Non-Select Symbols. Each change will be described below.

### Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

Today, the Exchange assesses a Maker Fee of \$0.11 per contract in Select Symbols<sup>3</sup> for Market Maker,<sup>4</sup> Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM),<sup>5</sup> Firm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols listed on the Nasdaq ISE that are in the Penny Pilot Program. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

Proprietary<sup>6</sup>/Broker-Dealer<sup>7</sup> and Professional Customer<sup>8</sup> orders. Priority Customer<sup>9</sup> orders are not assessed a Select Symbol Maker Fee. Further, pursuant to Options 7, Section 3 at note 11, a \$0.15 per contract fee applies, instead of the applicable fee or rebate, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders<sup>10</sup> that leg into the

- <sup>4</sup> This fee applies to Market Maker orders sent to the Exchange by Electronic Access Members. Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus will not pay this fee if they meet the applicable tier thresholds set forth in Options 7, Section. Market Makers will instead receive the rebates in Options 7, Section 3 based on the applicable tier for which they qualify. <u>See</u> notes 5 and 8 within Options 7, Section 3. Market Maker Plus for Select Symbols is not being amended. The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Options 1, Section 1(a)(21).
- <sup>5</sup> A "Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>6</sup> A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>7</sup> A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>8</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>9</sup> A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq ISE Options 1, Section 1(a)(37). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule the term "Priority Customer" includes "Retail." A "Retail" order is a Priority Customer order that originates from a natural person, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.
- <sup>10</sup> A "Complex Order" is any order involving the simultaneous purchase and/or sale of two or more different options series in the same underlying security, as provided in Nasdaq ISE Options 3, Section 14, as well as Stock-Option Orders. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

Page 22 of 38

regular<sup>11</sup> order book for Market Maker and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders.<sup>12</sup> Today, no Select Symbol Maker Fee is charged or rebate provided for Market Maker orders when trading against non-Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book.<sup>13</sup>

The Exchange proposes to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to increase this fee from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customers will be assessed the same \$0.25 per contract fee instead of the applicable fee trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus, which is explained below. Priority Customer orders will continue to not be assessed a Select Symbol Maker Fee.

The Exchange also proposes to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. Further, Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will not pay this fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> A "Regular Order" is an order that consists of only a single option series and is not submitted with a stock leg. <u>See</u> Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> <u>See note 11 of Options 7, Section 3.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>See note 10 within Options 7, Section 3.</u>

which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. The Market Maker Plus program is designed to incentivize Market Makers to submit quotations into ISE at the National Nest Bid or National Best Offer ("NBBO"). The Exchange believes that these quotations at the NBBO will encourage Members to submit Priority Customer orders, including Priority Customer Complex Orders, into ISE in order to earn rebates. Further, all market participants may interact with the Priority Customer volume that is submitted to the Exchange.

The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive amendment to capitalize the term "Complex Order" in current note 11.

#### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

Currently, Options 7, Section 4 provides a fee structure for Complex Orders that provides rebates to Priority Customer Complex Orders in order to encourage Members to bring that order flow to the Exchange. Specifically, Priority Customer Complex Orders are provided rebates in Select Symbols and Non-Select Symbols<sup>14</sup> (other than NDX and MNX) based on Priority Customer average daily volume ("ADV").<sup>15</sup> Options 7, Section 4 at note 1 currently states, "Rebate provided per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book. Rebate provided per contract leg where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Non-Select Symbols" are options overlying all symbols excluding Select Symbols. See Options 7, Section 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> <u>See</u> tiered rebates within Options 7, Section 4.

Page 24 of 38

rebates will be provided if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

The Exchange proposes to amend the second and third sentences in note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 to state, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more." With this proposal, Select Symbols rebates are not being amended. The proposed amendments to the second and third sentences of note 1 of Options 7, Section 4, limit those statements to Select Symbols and thereby make them inapplicable to Non-Select Symbols.

The Exchange proposes to add a new sentence to the end of note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 with respect to Non-Select Symbols which states, "No Priority Customer Complex Order rebates will be provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size." With this proposal, Non-Select Symbols will continue to receive a rebate if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order book, however, no rebate will be paid if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size.

The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive amendment to capitalize the terms "Complex Order" in current note 1.

Page 25 of 38

### 2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>16</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>17</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The proposed changes to its Pricing Schedule are reasonable in several respects. As a threshold matter, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces in the market for options transaction services that constrain its pricing determinations in that market. The fact that this market is competitive has long been recognized by the courts. In <u>NetCoalition v. Securities and Exchange Commission</u>, the D.C. Circuit stated as follows: "[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' ... As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'...."<sup>18</sup>

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

NetCoalition v. SEC, 615 F.3d 525, 539 (D.C. Cir. 2010) (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (December 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782-83 (December 9, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2006-21)).

Page 26 of 38

the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."<sup>19</sup>

Numerous indicia demonstrate the competitive nature of this market. For example, clear substitutes to the Exchange exist in the market for options transaction services. The Exchange is only one of options venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Competing options exchanges offer similar tiered pricing structures to that of the Exchange, including schedules of rebates and fees that apply based upon Members achieving certain volume thresholds.

Within this environment, market participants can freely and often do shift their order flow among the Exchange and competing venues in response to changes in their respective pricing schedules. As such, the proposal represents a reasonable attempt by the Exchange to increase its liquidity and market share relative to its competitors.

#### Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders is reasonable. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customers will be assessed the same Select Symbol Maker Fee of \$0.25 per contract,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) ("Regulation NMS Adopting Release").

Page 27 of 38

instead of the applicable fee when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. The Exchange believes that increasing this fee \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders is reasonable because the Exchange pays high rebates to Priority Customer Complex Orders, including when those Complex Orders are less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to increase the fees charged for all Market Maker and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders that provide liquidity to Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular market as this will help offset potentially significant rebates paid on the other side of these trades for orders in Select Symbols of less than 50 contracts that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange also believes that it is reasonable to increase the fee from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders and thereby create a uniform fee for all Non-Priority Customer Select Symbol orders that trade against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book. The Exchange notes that Priority Customers will continue to pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee.

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customer will be assessed the same Select Symbol Maker Fee

Page 28 of 38

of \$0.25 per contract, instead of the applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. Today Priority Customers pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee. Priority Customer Complex Order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text, which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book is reasonable. The proposed reduction in fees for Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program is designed to incentivize Market Makers to submit quotations into ISE at the NBBO. The Exchange believes that these quotations at the NBBO will encourage Members to submit Priority Customer orders, including Priority Customer Complex Orders, into ISE in order to earn rebates. All market participants benefit in that they may interact with the Priority Customer volume that is submitted to the Exchange.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority

Page 29 of 38

Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. Unlike other market participants, Market Makers have an obligation to maintain quotes<sup>20</sup> and provide liquidity in the regular market. Further, Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program take on a heightened requirement to submit quotations at the NBBO. The Exchange is providing Market Makers the opportunity to reduce their Market Maker Select Symbol Maker Fee to incentivize these market participants to continue to provide liquidity on ISE.

### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1<sup>21</sup> of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols is reasonable in that it does not amend the current pricing for Select Symbols with respect to the Priority Customer Rebates. The Exchange will continue to pay a Select Symbol rebate where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. Also, the Exchange will continue to not provide a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> <u>See</u> ISE, Options 2, Section 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Exchange's proposal would amend the second and third sentences of note 1 to provide, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

Page 30 of 38

Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more.

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1 of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will continue to pay Select Symbol Priority Customer rebates to all market participants that qualify for those rebates, in a uniform manner.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, is reasonable. With this proposal, Non-Select Symbols will continue to receive a rebate if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order book, however no rebate will be paid if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size. The Exchange notes that while it is not proposing to pay a rebate for Non-Select Symbols if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size, it believes that ISE's pricing to leg orders into the regular order book remains competitive.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange will not pay a Non-Select Symbol Priority Customer Complex Order rebate to any market participant if the order legs into the regular order book, regardless of size.

### B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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.

### Intermarket Competition

The proposal does not impose an undue burden on intermarket competition. The Exchange believes its proposal remains competitive with other options markets and will offer market participants with another choice of where to transact options. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges that have been exempted from compliance with the statutory standards applicable to exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

#### Intramarket Competition

The proposed pricing amendments do not impose an intramarket burden on competition.

### Options 7, Section 3 Regular Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to increase the Select Symbol Maker Fee for trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book from

Page 32 of 38

\$0.15 to \$0.25 per contract for Market Maker Orders and Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM) orders and from \$0.11 to \$0.25 per contract for Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer and Professional Customer orders does not impose an undue burden on competition. With this proposal, all Non-Priority Customer will be assessed the same \$0.25 per contract fee, instead of the applicable Select Symbol Maker Fee, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders that leg into the regular order book, except for Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus. Today Priority Customers pay no Select Symbol Maker Fee. Priority Customer Complex Order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers.

The Exchange's proposal to add new rule text which provides that Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus, when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book, and further will not pay the \$0.25 per contract fee nor receive any rebate in symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book does not impose an undue burden on competition. Unlike other market participants, Market Makers have an obligation to maintain quotes<sup>22</sup> and provide liquidity in the regular market. Further, Market Makers that qualify for the Market Maker Plus program take on a heightened requirement to submit quotations at the NBBO. The Exchange is providing Market Makers the opportunity to reduce their

<sup>22</sup> See ISE, Options 2, Section 5.

Market Maker Select Symbol Maker Fee to incentivize these market participants to continue to provide liquidity on ISE.

#### Options 7, Section 4, Complex Order Fees and Rebates

The Exchange's proposal to amend the second and third sentences in note 1<sup>23</sup> of Options 7, Section 4 to apply those sentences to Select Symbols does not impose an undue burden on competition because the Exchange will continue to pay Select Symbol Priority Customer rebates to all market participants that qualify in a uniform manner.

The Exchange's proposal to amend Non-Select Symbols to not pay a Priority Customer Complex Order rebate if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size, does not impose an undue burden on competition. The Exchange will not pay a Non-Select Symbol Priority Customer Complex Order rebate to any market participant if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book.

## C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section

19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.<sup>24</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> The Exchange's proposal would amend the second and third sentences of note 1 to provide, "Rebate provided per contract leg **in Select Symbols** where the largest leg of the complex order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be provided **in Select Symbols** if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

Page 34 of 38

change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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 (<u>http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-ISE-2020-02 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-2020-02. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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

Page 35 of 38

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; 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-ISE-2020-02 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>25</sup>

J. Matthew DeLesDernier Assistant Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

### **EXHIBIT 5**

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

# Nasdaq ISE, LLC Rules

**Options Rules** 

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Options 7 Pricing Schedule** 

\* \* \* \* \*

Section 3. Regular Order Fees and Rebates

Select Symbols

Market Participa nt	Maker Rebate / Fee <sup>(17)</sup>	7)	Fee for Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders <sup>(1) (</sup> 2)	Fee for PIM Orders <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> ( 13)	Fee for Respons es to Crossing Orders Except PIM Orders		Facilitatio n and Solicitatio n Break- up Rebate <sup>(4)</sup>
Market Maker <sup>(8)</sup>	\$0.11 <sup>(5) (10) (</sup> 11)	\$0.45	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.35	N/A
Non- Nasdaq ISE Market Maker (FarMM)	\$0.11 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$0.46	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.35	(\$0.15)
Firm Proprietar y / Broker- Dealer	\$0.11 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$0.46	\$0.20	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.35	(\$0.15)
Profession al Customer	\$0.11 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$0.46	\$0.20 <sup>(16)</sup>	\$0.10	\$0.50	\$0.35	(\$0.15)
Priority Customer	\$0.00	\$0.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.50	\$0.35	(\$0.15)

#### \* \* \* \* \*

11. \$0.[15]25 per contract fee applies instead of the applicable fee or rebate when trading against Priority Customer [c]Complex [o]Orders that leg into the regular

order book. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will pay a \$0.15 per contract fee in the symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of less than 50 contracts in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book. Further, Market Makers that qualify for Market Maker Plus in Select Symbols will not pay any fee nor receive any rebate in the symbols for which they qualify for Market Maker Plus when trading against Priority Customer Complex Orders of 50 contracts or more in Select Symbols that leg into the regular order book.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Section 4. Complex Order Fees and Rebates<sup>(5) (12) (15)</sup>

#### **Priority Customer Rebates**

	Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity Complex Order Volume (Excluding Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders) Calculated as a Percentage of Customer Total	Rebate for	Rebate for
Priority Customer Complex Tier <sup>(7) (13) (16)</sup>	Consolidated Volume	Select Symbols <sup>(1)</sup>	Non-Select Symbols <sup>(1)(4)</sup>
Tier 1	0.000% - 0.200%	(\$0.25)	(\$0.40)
Tier 2	Above 0.200% - 0.400%	(\$0.30)	(\$0.55)
Tier 3	Above 0.400% - 0.600%	(\$0.35)	(\$0.70)
Tier 4	Above 0.600% -	(\$0.40)	(\$0.75)

	0.750%		
Tier 5	Above 0.750% - 1.000%	(\$0.45)	(\$0.80)
Tier 6	Above 1.000% - 1.500%	(\$0.46)	(\$0.80)
Tier 7	Above 1.500% - 2.000%	(\$0.48)	(\$0.80)
	Above 2.000% -		
Tier 8	2.75%	(\$0.50)	(\$0.85)
Tier 9	Above 2.75%	(\$0.52)	(\$0.85)
	* * * * *		

1. Rebate provided per contract per leg if the order trades with non-Priority Customer orders in the Complex Order Book. Rebate provided per contract leg in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the [c]Complex [o]Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer [c]Complex [o]Order rebates will be provided in Select Symbols if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more. No Priority Customer Complex Order rebates will be provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size.

\* \* \* \* \*