#### **EXHIBIT 3A**

# LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AGREEMENT OF THE NASDAQ OPTIONS MARKET LLC

This Limited Liability Company Agreement (together with the exhibit and the schedules attached hereto, this "Agreement") of The NASDAQ Options Market LLC (the "Company") is entered into by The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("NASDAQ" or "the Member"), as sole member. Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings set forth on Schedule A hereto.

WHEREAS, NASDAQ desires to form a limited liability company pursuant to the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, 6 <u>Del. C.</u> § 18-101, <u>et seq.</u>, as amended from time to time (the "<u>LLC Act</u>"), by filing a Certificate of Formation of the Company with the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and entering into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the agreements and obligations set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

# Section 1. Name.

The name of the limited liability company formed hereby is The NASDAQ Options Market LLC.

#### Section 2. Principal Business Office.

The principal business office of the Company shall be located at One Liberty Plaza, New York, New York 10006 or such other location as may hereafter be determined by the Member.

# Section 3. Registered Office.

The address of the registered office of the Company in the State of Delaware is c/o The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, County of New Castle, Delaware 19801.

#### Section 4. Registered Agent.

The name and address of the registered agent of the Company for service of process on the Company in the State of Delaware is The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, County of New Castle, Delaware 19801.

#### Section 5. Member.

NASDAQ shall be the sole member of the Company. The mailing address of the Member is set forth on <u>Schedule B</u> attached hereto. The Member was admitted to the Company as a member of the Company upon its execution of a counterpart signature page to this Agreement.

#### Section 6. <u>Certificates.</u>

[NASDAQ Officer], as an "authorized person" within the meaning of the LLC Act, has executed, delivered and filed the Certificate of Formation of the Company with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware (such filing being hereby approved and ratified in all respects). Upon the filing of the Certificate of Formation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, her powers as an "authorized person" ceased, and the Member and each Officer thereupon became the designated "authorized person" and shall continue as the designated "authorized person" within the meaning of the LLC Act. The Member or any Officer, as an authorized person within the meaning of the LLC Act, shall execute, deliver and file, or cause the execution, delivery and filing of, all certificates (and any amendments and/or restatements thereof) required or permitted by the LLC Act to be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. The Member or any Officer shall execute, deliver and file, or cause the execution, delivery and filing of, any certificates (and any amendments and/or restatements thereof) necessary for the Company to qualify to do business in any other jurisdiction in which the Company may wish to conduct business.

The existence of the Company as a separate legal entity shall continue until the cancellation of the Certificate of Formation as provided in the LLC Act. Upon the cancellation of the Certificate of Formation in accordance with the LLC Act, this Agreement and the Company shall terminate.

#### Section 7. <u>Purposes</u>.

The Company is formed for the object and purpose of, and the nature of the business to be conducted and promoted by the Company is, engaging in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the LLC Act and engaging in any and all activities necessary or incidental to the foregoing. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the nature of the business or purposes to be conducted and promoted shall include (i) supporting the operation, regulation, and surveillance of an options exchange operated by the Company, (ii) preventing fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promoting just and equitable principles of trade, fostering cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in stock options, removing impediments to and perfecting the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protecting investors and the public interest, (iii) supporting the various elements of the national market system pursuant to Section 11A of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder, (iv) fulfilling the self-

regulatory responsibilities of the Company and the Member as set forth in the Exchange Act, and (v) supporting such other initiatives as the Member may deem appropriate.

#### Section 8. Powers.

The Company, and the Member and the Officers of the Company on behalf of the Company, (i) shall have and exercise all powers necessary, convenient or incidental to accomplish its purposes as set forth in <u>Section 7</u> and (ii) shall have and exercise all of the powers and rights conferred upon limited liability companies formed pursuant to the LLC Act.

#### Section 9. <u>Management.</u>

- (a) Member. In accordance with Section 18-402 of the LLC Act, management of the Company shall be vested in the Member. The Member shall have the power to do any and all acts necessary, convenient or incidental to or for the furtherance of the purposes described herein, including all powers, statutory or otherwise, possessed by members of a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Delaware. The Member has the authority to bind the Company. The Member may delegate any of its powers as permitted by the LLC Act. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement (but subject to Section 9(b)), the Member is authorized to execute and deliver any document on behalf of the Company without any vote or consent of any other Person.
- (b) Member Conduct. The Company, and to the extent that it relates to the Company, the Member, shall comply with the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder; shall cooperate with the Commission and the Member pursuant to its regulatory authority and the provisions of this Agreement; and shall engage in conduct that fosters and does not interfere with the Company's ability: 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 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.

#### Section 10. Officers.

(a) Except as provided herein, the Member may, from time to time as it deems advisable, select natural persons who are officers of the Member and designate them as officers of the Company (the "Officers") and assign titles (including, without limitation, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) to any such person. Officers of the Company must also be officers of the Member. Any number of offices may be held by the same person. The Member may appoint such Officers as it shall deem necessary or advisable who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Member. The salaries of all Officers of the Company shall be fixed by or in the manner prescribed by the Member. The Officers of the Company shall hold office until their

successors are chosen and qualified. Any vacancy occurring in any office of the Company shall be filled by the Member. Unless otherwise determined by the Member, any officer of the Member upon designation by the Member shall automatically and without any action by any Person be appointed as an Officer of the Company with the same title and powers with respect to the Company as such Officer has with respect to the Member.

- (b) Officers as Agents. The Officers, to the extent of their powers set forth in this Agreement or otherwise vested in them by action of the Member not inconsistent with this Agreement, are agents of the Company for the purpose of the Company's business, and the actions of the Officers taken in accordance with such powers shall bind the Company.
- (c) <u>Duties and Conduct of Officers</u>. Except to the extent otherwise modified herein, each Officer shall have a fiduciary duty of loyalty and care similar to that of officers of business corporations organized under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. Each Officer shall comply with the federal securities laws of the United States and the rules and regulations thereunder; shall cooperate with the Commission pursuant to its regulatory authority and the provisions of this Agreement; and shall engage in conduct that fosters and does not interfere with the Company's ability: 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 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.

#### **Section 11.** Limited Liability.

Except as otherwise expressly provided by the LLC Act, the debts, obligations and liabilities of the Company, whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, shall be the debts, obligations and liabilities solely of the Company, and the Member shall be not obligated personally for any such debt, obligation or liability of the Company solely by reason of being a Member of the Company.

#### Section 12. <u>Capital Contributions</u>.

The Member has contributed to the Company the amounts set forth in the books and records of the Company.

#### Section 13. Additional Contributions.

The Member is not required to make any additional capital contribution to the Company. However, the Member may make additional capital contributions to the Company at any time upon the consent of such Member. To the extent that the Member makes an additional capital contribution to the Company, the Secretary of the Company shall revise the books and records of the Company. The provisions of this Agreement, including this Section 13, are intended to benefit the Member and, to the fullest extent

permitted by law, shall not be construed as conferring any benefit upon any creditor of the Company (and no such creditor of the Company shall be a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement), and the Member shall not have any duty or obligation to any creditor of the Company to make any contribution to the Company or to issue any call for capital pursuant to this Agreement.

#### Section 14. <u>Allocation of Profits and Losses</u>.

The Company's profits and losses shall be allocated to the Member.

#### Section 15. <u>Distributions</u>.

Distributions shall be made to the Member at the times and in the aggregate amounts determined by the Member. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in this Agreement, the Company shall not be required to make a distribution to the Member on account of its interest in the Company if such distribution would violate the LLC Act or any other applicable law.

#### Section 16. <u>Books and Records.</u>

The Member shall keep or cause to be kept complete and accurate books of account and records with respect to the Company's business. The books of the Company shall at all times be maintained by the Secretary. The Company's books of account shall be kept using the method of accounting determined by the Member. The Company's independent auditor shall be an independent public accounting firm selected by the Member.

#### Section 17. Other Business.

Unless otherwise restricted by law, the Member, and any Officer, employee or agent of the Company and any Affiliate of the Member may engage in or possess an interest in other business ventures (unconnected with the Company) of every kind and description, independently or with others. The Company shall not have any rights in or to such independent ventures or the income or profits therefrom by virtue of this Agreement.

#### **Section 18.** Exculpation and Indemnification.

(a) Neither the Member nor any Officer, employee or agent of the Company nor any employee, representative, agent or Affiliate of the Member (collectively, the "Covered Persons") shall be liable to the Company or any other Person who is bound by this Agreement for any loss, damage or claim incurred by reason of any act or omission performed or omitted by such Covered Person in good faith on behalf of the Company and in a manner reasonably believed to be within the scope of the authority conferred on such Covered Person by this Agreement, except that a Covered Person shall be liable for any such loss, damage or claim incurred by reason of such Covered Person's willful misconduct.

- (b) To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, a Covered Person shall be entitled to indemnification from the Company for any loss, damage or claim incurred by such Covered Person by reason of any act or omission performed or omitted by such Covered Person in good faith on behalf of the Company and in a manner reasonably believed to be within the scope of the authority conferred on such Covered Person by this Agreement, except that no Covered Person shall be entitled to be indemnified in respect of any loss, damage or claim incurred by such Covered Person by reason of such Covered Person's willful misconduct with respect to such acts or omissions; provided, however, that any indemnity under this Section 18 by the Company shall be provided out of and to the extent of Company assets only, and the Member shall not have personal liability on account thereof.
- (c) To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, expenses (including reasonable legal fees) incurred by a Covered Person defending any claim, demand, action, suit or proceeding shall, from time to time, be advanced by the Company prior to the final disposition of such claim, demand, action, suit or proceeding upon receipt by the Company of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Covered Person to repay such amount if it shall be determined that the Covered Person is not entitled to be indemnified as authorized in this Section 18.
- (d) A Covered Person shall be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the records of the Company and upon such information, opinions, reports or statements presented to the Company by any Person as to matters the Covered Person reasonably believes are within such other Person's professional or expert competence and who has been selected with reasonable care by or on behalf of the Company, including information, opinions, reports or statements as to the value and amount of the assets, liabilities or any other facts pertinent to the existence and amount of assets from which distributions to the Member might properly be paid.
- (e) To the extent that, at law or in equity, a Covered Person has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to the Company or to any other Covered Person, a Covered Person acting under this Agreement shall not be liable to the Company or to any other Covered Person who is bound by this Agreement for its good faith reliance on the provisions of this Agreement or any approval or authorization granted by the Company or any other Covered Person.
- (f) The foregoing provisions of this <u>Section 18</u> shall survive any termination of this Agreement.

#### Section 19. Assignments

(a) The Member may not transfer or assign in whole or in part its limited liability company interest in the Company.

#### Section 20. Dissolution.

(a) The Company shall be dissolved and its affairs shall be wound up upon the first to occur of the following: (i) the consent of the Member, (ii) the

termination of the legal existence of the Member or the occurrence of any other event that terminates the continued membership of the Member in the Company unless the Company is continued without dissolution in a manner permitted by this Agreement or the LLC Act or (iii) the entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under Section 18-802 of the LLC Act.

- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Bankruptcy of the Member shall not cause the Member to cease to be a member of the Company and upon the occurrence of such an event, the Company shall continue without dissolution.
- (c) In the event of dissolution, the Company shall conduct only such activities as are necessary to wind up its affairs (including the sale of the assets of the Company in an orderly manner), and the assets of the Company shall be applied in the manner, and in the order of priority, set forth in Section 18-804 of the LLC Act.
- (d) The Company shall terminate when (i) all of the assets of the Company, after payment of or due provision for all debts, liabilities and obligations of the Company, shall have been distributed to the Member in the manner provided for in this Agreement and (ii) the Certificate of Formation shall have been canceled in the manner required by the LLC Act.

#### Section 21. Benefits of Agreement; No Third-Party Rights.

None of the provisions of this Agreement shall be for the benefit of or enforceable by any creditor of the Company or by any creditor of the Member. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to create any right in any Person (other than Covered Persons) not a party hereto, and this Agreement shall not be construed in any respect to be a contract in whole or in part for the benefit of any third Person (other than the Covered Persons).

### Section 22. <u>Severability of Provisions.</u>

Each provision of this Agreement shall be considered severable and if for any reason any provision or provisions herein are determined to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal under any existing or future law, such invalidity, unenforceability or illegality shall not impair the operation of or affect those portions of this Agreement which are valid, enforceable and legal.

#### Section 23. <u>Entire Agreement.</u>

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

### Section 24. <u>Binding Agreement</u>.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Member agrees that this Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding agreement of the Member and is enforceable against the Member, in accordance with its terms.

#### Section 25. Governing Law.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Delaware (without regard to conflict of laws principles), all rights and remedies being governed by said laws.

#### Section 26. Amendments.

This Agreement may be modified, altered, supplemented or amended pursuant to a written agreement executed and delivered by the Member.

#### Section 27. <u>Notices</u>.

Any notices required to be delivered hereunder shall be in writing and personally delivered, mailed or sent by telecopy, electronic mail or other similar form of rapid transmission, and shall be deemed to have been duly given upon receipt (i) in the case of the Company, to the Company at its address in <u>Section 2</u>, (ii) in the case of the Member, to the Member at its address as listed on <u>Schedule B</u> attached hereto and (iii) in the case of either of the foregoing, at such other address as may be designated by written notice to the other party.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

| IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the hereby, has duly executed this Limited Liabili | undersigned, intending to be legally bound ty Company Agreement as of the day of |
|--|--|
|  | MEMBER:  |
|  | THE NASDAQ STOCK MARKET LLC  |
|  | Ву:  |
|  | Name:<br>Title:  |

## SCHEDULE A

#### **Definitions**

#### A. Definitions

When used in this Agreement, the following terms not otherwise defined herein have the following meanings:

"LLC Act" has the meaning set forth in the preamble to this Agreement.

"Affiliate" has the meaning ascribed to that term in Rule 12b-2 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act, as in effect on the date of this Agreement.

"<u>Agreement</u>" means this Limited Liability Company Agreement of the Company, together with the exhibit and schedules attached hereto, as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time.

"Bankruptcy" means, with respect to any Person, if (A) such Person (i) makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, (ii) files a voluntary petition in bankruptcy, (iii) is adjudged a bankrupt or insolvent, or has entered against it an order for relief, in any bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, (iv) files a petition or answer seeking for itself any reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation or similar relief under any statute, law or regulation, (v) files an answer or other pleading admitting or failing to contest the material allegations of a petition filed against it in any proceeding of this nature, or (vi) seeks, consents to or acquiesces in the appointment of a trustee, receiver or liquidator of the Person or of all or any substantial part of its properties; or (B) (i) 120 days after the commencement of any proceeding against the Person seeking reorganization, arrangement, composition, readjustment, liquidation or similar relief under any statute, law or regulation, the proceeding has not been dismissed, or (ii) within 90 days after the appointment without such Person's consent or acquiescence of a trustee, receiver or liquidator of such Person or of all or any substantial part of its properties, the appointment is not vacated or stayed, or within 90 days after the expiration of any such stay, the appointment is not vacated. The foregoing definition of "Bankruptcy" is intended to replace and shall supersede and replace the definition of "Bankruptcy" set forth in Sections 18-101(1) and 18-304 of the LLC Act.

"Company" means The NASDAQ Options Market LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

"Commission" means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Covered Persons" has the meaning set forth in Section 18.

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

"Member" means The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC, as the initial member of the Company, and includes any Person admitted as an additional member of the Company or a substitute member of the Company pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, each in its capacity as a member of the Company.

"Officer" means an officer of the Company described in Section 10.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other organization, whether or not a legal entity, and any governmental authority.

#### B. Rules of Construction

Definitions in this Agreement apply equally to both the singular and plural forms of the defined terms. The words "include" and "including" shall be deemed to be The terms "herein," "hereof" and followed by the phrase "without limitation." "hereunder" and other words of similar import refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular Section, paragraph or subdivision. The Section titles appear as a matter of convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement. Section, paragraph, clause, Exhibit or Schedule references not attributed to a particular document shall be references such of this Agreement. to parts

# SCHEDULE B

# <u>Member</u>

| Name                           | Mailing Address                               | Limited Liability<br>Company Interest |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| The NASDAQ Stock<br>Market LLC | One Liberty Plaza New York,<br>New York 10006 | 100%                                  |