

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 101869; File No. 4-844)

December 10, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAX Sapphire, LLC; Order Declaring Effective a Minor Rule Violation Plan

On October 1, 2024, MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“Sapphire” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed minor rule violation plan (“MRVP” or “Plan”) pursuant to Section 19(d)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) thereunder.<sup>2</sup> The proposed MRVP was published for comment on October 15, 2024.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order declares the Exchange’s proposed MRVP effective.

The Exchange’s MRVP specifies the rule violations that will be included in the Plan and will have sanctions not exceeding \$2,500. Any violations resolved under the MRVP would not be subject to the provisions of Rule 19d-1(c)(1) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> which requires that a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) promptly file notice with the Commission of any final disciplinary action taken with respect to any person or organization.<sup>5</sup> In accordance with Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,<sup>6</sup> the Exchange proposed to designate certain specified rule violations as minor rule

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(d)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101283 (October 8, 2024), 89 FR 83067 (“Notice”).

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(1).

<sup>5</sup> The Commission adopted amendments to paragraph (c) of Rule 19d-1 to allow SROs to submit for Commission approval plans for the abbreviated reporting of minor disciplinary infractions. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 21013 (June 1, 1984), 49 FR 23828 (June 8, 1984). Any disciplinary action taken by an SRO against any person for violation of a rule of the SRO which has been designated as a minor rule violation pursuant to a plan filed with and declared effective by the Commission is not considered “final” for purposes of Section 19(d)(1) of the Act if the sanction imposed consists of a fine not exceeding \$2,500 and the sanctioned person has not sought an adjudication, including a hearing, or otherwise exhausted his administrative remedies.

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

violations and requested that it be relieved of the prompt reporting requirements regarding such violations, provided it gives notice of such violations to the Commission on a quarterly basis.

The Exchange proposed to include in its MRVP the procedures and violations currently included in Exchange Rule 1014 (“Imposition of Fines for Minor Rule Violations”).<sup>7</sup> According to the Exchange’s proposed MRVP, the Exchange may impose a fine (not to exceed \$2,500) on any Member, or person associated with or employed by a Member, for any rule violation listed in Rule 1014(d).<sup>8</sup> The Exchange shall serve the person against whom a fine is imposed with a written statement setting forth the rule or rules allegedly violated, the act or omission constituting each such violation, the fine imposed for each violation, and the date by which such determination becomes final or by which such fine must be paid or contested. If the person against whom the fine is imposed pays the fine, such payment shall be deemed to be a waiver of such person’s right to a disciplinary proceeding and any review of the matter under the Exchange rules. Any person against whom a fine is imposed may contest the Exchange’s determination by filing with the Exchange a written answer, at which point the matter shall become a disciplinary proceeding.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The Exchange received its grant of registration on July 15, 2024, which included approving the rules that govern the Exchange. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100539 (July 15, 2024), 89 FR 58848 (July 19, 2024) (File No. 10-240). Under the proposed MRVP, violations of the following rules would be appropriate for disposition under the MRVP: Rule 307 (Position Limits); Rule 803 (Focus Reports); Rule 804 (Requests for Trade Data); Rule 520 (Order Entry); Rule 605 (Execution of Orders in Appointed Options); Rule 314 (Mandatory Systems Testing); Rule 700 (Exercise of Option Contracts); Rule 309 (Exercise Limits); Rule 310 (Reports Related to Position Limits); Rule 403 (Trading in Restricted Classes); Rule 605 (Market Maker Quotations); Rule 1904 (Failure to Timely File Amendments to Form U4, Form U5, and Form BD); and Rules 1701-1713 (Failure to Comply with the Consolidated Audit Trail Compliance Rule Under Chapter XVII). According to the Exchange, the Conduct and Decorum Policies under Rule 1014(d)(1) are excluded from the proposed MRVP. See Notice, supra note 3, at 83067.

<sup>8</sup> While Rule 1014 allows the Exchange to administer fines up to \$5,000, the Exchange is only seeking relief from the reporting requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of Rule 19d-1 for fines administered under Rule 1014(d) that do not exceed \$2,500.

<sup>9</sup> See Notice, supra note 3, at 83067.

According to the Exchange, upon the Commission's declaration of effectiveness of the MRVP, the Exchange will provide to the Commission a quarterly report for any actions taken on minor rule violations under the MRVP.<sup>10</sup> The quarterly report will include: the disposition date, the name of the firm/individual, the Exchange's internal enforcement number, the review period, the nature of the violation type, the number of the rule that was violated, the number of instances the violation occurred, and the sanction imposed.<sup>11</sup>

The Exchange requested that the Commission deem any changes to the rules applicable to the Exchange's MRVP to be deemed modifications to the Exchange's MRVP.

The Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as required by Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,<sup>12</sup> because the MRVP will permit the Exchange to carry out its oversight and enforcement responsibilities as an SRO more efficiently in cases where formal disciplinary proceedings are not necessary due to the minor nature of the particular violation.

In declaring the Exchange's MRVP effective, the Commission does not minimize the importance of compliance with Exchange rules and all other rules subject to the imposition of sanctions under Exchange Rule 1014(d). Violation of an SRO's rules, as well as Commission rules, is a serious matter. However, Exchange Rule 1014(d) provides a reasonable means of addressing violations that do not rise to the level of requiring formal disciplinary proceedings, while providing greater flexibility in handling certain violations. The Commission expects the Exchange to continue to conduct surveillance and make determinations based on its findings, on

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<sup>10</sup> See id.

<sup>11</sup> See id.

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

a case-by-case basis, regarding whether a violation requires formal disciplinary action or whether a sanction under the MRVP is appropriate.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,<sup>13</sup> that the proposed MRVP for MIA X Sapphire, LLC, File No. 4-844 be, and hereby is, declared effective.

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

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>13</sup> Id.

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(44).