

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-102499; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2025-033)

February 27, 2025

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change to Permit In-Kind Creations and Redemptions by the WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 20, 2025, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX” or the “Exchange”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission” or “SEC”) a proposed rule change to amend the WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund (the “Trust”), shares of which have been approved by the Commission to list and trade on the Exchange pursuant to BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), to permit in-kind creations and redemptions.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website ([http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/bzx/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **1. Purpose**

The Commission approved the listing and trading of shares (the “Bitcoin ETP Shares”) of the Bitcoin Trust on the Exchange pursuant to Exchange Rule 14.11(e)(4), Commodity-Based Trust Shares, on January 10, 2024.<sup>3</sup> Exchange Rule 14.11(e)(4) governs the listing and trading of Commodity-Based Trust Shares, which means a security (a) that is issued by a trust that holds (1) a specified commodity deposited with the trust, or (2) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (b) that is issued by such trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (c) that, when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder’s request by such trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash. The Bitcoin ETP Shares are issued by the Bitcoin Trust, which was formed as a Delaware statutory trust on December 17, 2020.

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 99292 (January 8, 2024) 89 FR 2429 (January 12, 2024) (SR-CboeBZX-2023-042) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. to a Proposed Rule Change To List and Trade Shares of the WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund Under BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), Commodity-Based Trust Shares) (“Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2”); 99306 (January 10, 2024) 89 FR 3008 (January 17, 2024) (SR-CboeBZX-2023-042) (Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Changes, as Modified by Amendments Thereto, To List and Trade Bitcoin-Based Commodity-Based Trust Shares and Trust Units) (the “Bitcoin ETP Approval Order”).

The Exchange proposes to amend several portions of the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 in order to permit in-kind creation and redemptions.

### Representations

The Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 included specific representations making clear that the Bitcoin Trust would only process creations and redemptions in cash. Specifically, the “WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund” section of the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 states:

When the Trust sells or redeems its Shares, it will do so in cash transactions in blocks of 5,000 Shares (a “Creation Basket”) at the Trust’s net asset value (“NAV”). A third party will use cash to buy and deliver bitcoin to create Shares or withdraw and sell bitcoin for cash to redeem Shares, on behalf of the Trust. Authorized participants will deliver, or facilitate the delivery of, cash to the Trust’s account with the Cash Custodian in exchange for Shares when they purchase Shares, and the Trust, through the Cash Custodian, will deliver cash to such authorized participants when they redeem Shares with the Trust. Authorized participants may then offer Shares to the public at prices that depend on various factors, including the supply and demand for Shares, the value of the Trust’s assets, and market conditions at the time of a transaction. Shareholders who buy or sell Shares during the day from their broker may do so at a premium or discount relative to the NAV of the Shares of the Trust.<sup>4</sup>

The Exchange proposes to replace the above with the following:

When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares, it will do so in cash transactions or in-kind transactions in blocks of 5,000 Shares (a “Creation Basket”) at the Trust’s net asset value (“NAV”). For cash creations and redemptions, authorized participants will deliver, or facilitate the delivery of, cash to the Trust’s account with the Cash Custodian, in exchange for Shares when they create Shares, and the Trust, through the Cash Custodian, will deliver cash to such authorized participants when they redeem Shares with the Trust. For in-kind creation and redemptions, authorized participants will deliver, or facilitate delivery of, bitcoin to the Trust’s account with the Custodian, in exchange for Shares when they create Shares, and the Trust, through the Custodian, will deliver bitcoin to such authorized participants when they redeem Shares with the Trust. Authorized participants may then offer Shares to the public at prices that depend on various factors, including the supply and demand for Shares, the value of the Trust’s assets, and market conditions at the time of a transaction.

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<sup>4</sup> See Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 at 2437.

The “Investment Objective” section of the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 stated: “The Trust will process all creations and redemptions in cash transactions with authorized participants.”<sup>5</sup>

The Exchange proposes to replace this sentence with the following: “The Trust will process all creations and redemptions in cash or in-kind transactions with authorized participants.”

#### Creation and Redemption of Shares

Additionally, the “Creation and Redemption of Shares” section of the filing includes a detailed description of how the cash-only creation and redemption process works.<sup>6</sup> The Exchange proposes to replace this section as follows:

#### Creation and Redemption of Shares

When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares, it will do so in cash or in-kind. In connection with cash creations and cash redemptions, the authorized participants will submit orders to create or redeem Baskets of Shares in exchange for cash. When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares in cash, it will do so in transactions in blocks of 5,000 Shares that are based on the quantity of bitcoin attributable to each Share of the Trust (e.g., a Creation Basket) at the Trust’s NAV. When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares in kind, it will do so in transfers of bitcoin in blocks of 5,000 Shares that are based on the quantity of bitcoin attributable to the Creation Basket being created or redeemed.

The authorized participants will deliver or cause to be delivered cash or bitcoin to create Shares and the authorized participant or its designee will receive cash or bitcoin when redeeming Shares. The Trust will create Shares by receiving bitcoin or cash from an authorized participant or its designee and will redeem shares by delivering bitcoin or cash to an authorized participant or its designee.

On any business day, an authorized participant may place an order to create one or more Creation Baskets. Purchase orders for cash creations must be placed by 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time and purchase orders for in-kind creations must be placed by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (or such earlier order cut-off time as disclosed in the Prospectus), or the close of Regular Trading Hours on the Exchange, whichever is earlier. The day on which an order is received is considered the purchase order date.

For a cash creation order, the total deposit of cash required is an amount of cash sufficient to purchase such amount of bitcoin, the amount of which is equal to the

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<sup>5</sup> See Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 at 2437.

<sup>6</sup> See Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 at 2438-2439.

combined NAV of the number of Shares included in the Creation Baskets being created determined as of 4:00 p.m. ET on the date the order to purchase is properly received.

For a creation order in kind, the total in-kind transfer of bitcoin is based on the quantity of bitcoin attributable to the Creation Baskets being created determined as of 4:00 p.m. ET on the date the order to purchase is properly received.

The Administrator determines the quantity of bitcoin used to calculate the Creation Basket for a given day by dividing the number of bitcoin held by the Trust as of the opening of business on that business day, adjusted for the amount of bitcoin constituting estimated accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust as of the opening of business on that business day, by the quotient of the number of Shares outstanding at the opening of business divided by the number of Shares in a Creation Basket.

The procedures by which an authorized participant can redeem one or more Creation Baskets mirror the procedures for the creation of Creation Baskets. For a cash creation order, an authorized participant will deliver cash to create Shares. For an in-kind creation order, an authorized participant or its designee will deliver bitcoin to create Shares. For a cash redemption order, an authorized participant will deliver Shares to the Trust and will receive cash for the Shares delivered. For an in-kind redemption order, an authorized participant will deliver Shares to the Trust and the authorized participant or its designee will receive bitcoin for the Shares delivered.

Except for the above changes, all other representations in the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 remain unchanged and will continue to constitute continuing listing requirements. In addition, the Bitcoin Trust will continue to comply with the terms of Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 and the Trust will continue to comply with the requirements of Rule 14.11(e)(4).

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>7</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>8</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles

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<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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.

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is designed to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest because it would update representations in the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 such that the Trust would be able to engage in in-kind creation and redemptions with authorized participants or their designees, as described above. This ability would make the Trust (and the market more generally) operate more efficiently because authorized participants would be able to source bitcoin, as applicable, rather than to provide cash to the applicable Trust and to receive bitcoin from the Trust. This means that the authorized participant would be responsible for buying and selling bitcoin rather than the Trust itself, which would potentially lessen the impact on the market of the Trust on both sides of the transaction by allowing the authorized participant to decide how and where to source the bitcoin for creations and deciding how, where, and whether to sell the bitcoin received for redemptions. This would improve the creation and redemption process for both authorized participants and the Trust, increase efficiency, and ultimately benefit the end investors in the Trust.

Except for the addition of in-kind creation and redemption for the Bitcoin Trust as specifically set forth herein, all other representations made in the Bitcoin ETP Amendment No. 2 remain unchanged and will continue to constitute continuing listing requirements for the Bitcoin Trust.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As noted above, the proposed amendment is intended to allow the Trust to operate more efficiently by allowing for in-kind creation and redemption. The Exchange believes these changes will not impose any burden on competition.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- A. by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or
- B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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

(<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or

- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-CboeBZX-2025-033 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-CboeBZX-2025-033. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright



protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeBZX-2025-033 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).