

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-106010; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2026-060]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Nasdaq General 4, Rule 1210

July 29, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 21, 2026, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend Nasdaq General 4, Rule 1210, Registration Requirements.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/rulefilings>, and at the principal office of the Exchange.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to reduce the waiting periods for retaking FINRA qualification examinations at Supplementary Material .06 to General 4, Rule 1210 (Waiting Periods for Retaking a Failed Examination) to align with a recent amendment to FINRA Rule 1210 at Supplementary Material .06.³

Nasdaq General 4, Rule 1210 requires each person engaged in the securities business of a member to be registered with the Exchange as a representative or principal in each category of registration appropriate to his or her functions and responsibilities as specified in General 4, Rule 1220 (Registration Categories), unless exempt from registration pursuant to General 4, Rule 1230 (Associated Persons Exempt from Registration). Pursuant to Supplementary Material .03 to General 4, Rule 1210 (Qualification Examinations and Waivers of Examinations), before a person can be registered with the Exchange, he or she must pass the appropriate qualification examinations or obtain a waiver of the qualification examination requirement. If a person fails a qualification examination, Supplementary Material .06 to General 4, Rule 1210 (Waiting Periods for Retaking a Failed Examination) sets forth the time the person must wait before he or she can retake that qualification examination.

For the first and second failed attempts, the person must currently wait 30 calendar days to retake the qualification examination. A person who fails a qualification examination three or more times in succession within a two-year period must currently wait 180 calendar days before

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 105885 (July 13, 2026) ("SR-FINRA-2026-014") (not yet published).

he or she can retake that examination. These waiting periods apply to the Securities Industry Essentials (“SIE”) examination and the representative and principal examinations specified under General 4, Rule 1220.

FINRA amended its Rule 1210 at Supplementary Material .06 to shorten the required qualification examination retake waiting periods to 15 calendar days after the first and second failed attempts, and 60 calendar days after the third and all subsequent failed attempts that occur within a two-year period.⁴ As described in SR-FINRA-2026-014, since the current waiting periods were adopted in 1989, FINRA’s qualification program has undergone significant changes that have shifted the principal risks that originally informed the rule. FINRA noted in SR-FINRA-2026-014 that today’s high-volume FINRA qualification examinations use extensive question banks that contain thousands of questions, with each test taker receiving only a small subset of questions per attempt, which reduces both the likelihood that repeat test takers will depend on memorized questions from prior attempts and the risk of content being disseminated to others. Additionally, FINRA noted in SR-FINRA-2026-014 that it employs data forensics and advanced technology to identify misconduct and compromised examination content, taking appropriate corrective action when such incidents occur. Moreover, these enhanced detection capabilities help to ensure that the shortened waiting periods would not compromise FINRA’s ability to conduct timely investigations into possible cheating or other violations of examination rules of conduct.⁵ Over the past several years, FINRA noted it has received input from various industry channels about the burden that the current qualification examination waiting periods place on individuals seeking to enter the securities industry.⁶ Similar feedback regarding these

⁴ See id.

⁵ See id.

⁶ See id.

challenges was received by FINRA in response to its request for comment on modernizing FINRA rules, guidance, and processes for the organization and operation of member workplaces.⁷ Given this consistent input and the changes to the qualification program described above, FINRA determined that shortening the waiting periods would lessen the burden on individuals while continuing to protect investors by maintaining appropriate program integrity.

At this time, Nasdaq proposes to amend General 4, Rule 1210, Supplementary Material .06 to conform to FINRA Rule 1210 at Supplementary Material .06. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to reduce the waiting period after the first and second failed attempts from 30 to 15 calendar days, and to reduce the waiting period after the third and all subsequent failed attempts within a two-year period from 180 to 60 calendar days. The Exchange believes that conforming its rules to FINRA's amended requirements will promote consistency and reduce potential confusion for member firms and their associated persons. Because Nasdaq members and their associated persons are also subject to FINRA's registration and qualification requirements, maintaining uniform waiting periods across both rule sets ensures that individuals experience a coherent and predictable regulatory framework.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁹ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, by reducing the waiting periods for retaking FINRA

⁷ See FINRA Regulatory Notice 25-07 (April 2025).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

qualification examinations to align with FINRA Rule 1210, Supplementary Material .06. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change protects investors and the public interest by conforming the Exchange's qualification examination waiting periods to FINRA's amended requirements, thereby promoting consistency across the regulatory framework and reducing potential confusion for member firms and their associated persons. As described in detail in SR-FINRA-2026-014, changes to the FINRA qualification program have reduced the risks that originally informed the current waiting periods, and the shortened periods continue to provide sufficient time for the maintenance of examination integrity and the investigation of potential misconduct. The proposed rule change also fosters cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating transactions in securities by aligning the Exchange's qualification examination requirements with those of FINRA. Further, the proposed rule change removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market by reducing unnecessary barriers to entry for individuals seeking to register to work in the securities industry.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change does not impose an undue burden on competition; rather, it conforms the Exchange's qualification examination waiting periods to FINRA's amended requirements and does not impose any new obligations or restrictions on members. The proposed rule change may benefit all members by allowing them to more quickly make personnel decisions regarding their associated persons' qualification examination retake timing.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹⁰ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹¹

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
 - Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-NASDAQ-2026-060 on the subject line.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

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

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-NASDAQ-2026-060. 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 filing 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-NASDAQ-2026-060 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.¹²

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).