

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-106586; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2026-080]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Rule 4121 Concerning the Resumption of Trading Following a Level 3 Market-Wide Circuit Breaker Halt in Connection with the Industry’s Expansion of Trading Hours to 23 Hours Per Day, 5 Days Per Week

October 5, 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 September 25, 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 and II 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 Equity 4, Rule 4121(b)(ii) concerning the resumption of trading following a Level 3 market-wide circuit breaker halt. The Exchange has designated this proposal as non-controversial pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act and provided the Commission with the notice required by Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 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 amend Equity 4, Rule 4121(b)(ii) concerning the resumption of trading following a Level 3 market-wide circuit breaker ("MWCB") halt in connection with the extension of exchange trading hours to 23 hours per day, 5 days per week ("23-5 Trading").³

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-105199 (April 10, 2026), 91 FR 20222 (April 15, 2026) (the "23-5 Approval Order"). See also Exchange Rule Equity 1, Section 1(a)(19) (defining the term "Night Session" as the time between 9:00 p.m. on one calendar day through 4:00 a.m. the next calendar day Sunday through Thursday provided that each such next calendar day is a Business Day and further providing (1) that the Exchange shall not commence operation of the Night Session unless the Equity Data Plans have established a mechanism to collect, consolidate, process and disseminate quotation and transaction information at all times during the Night Session that is equivalent to the mechanism established for Exchange trading hours during Regular Market Hours, and have provided the Exchange with notification that they are prepared to collect, consolidate, process and disseminate quotation and transaction information to accommodate the Night Session; (2) that, prior to commencing operation during the Night Session, the Exchange will file a proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder to amend its rules confirming that the Exchange is able to comply with its obligations under the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder during the Night Session and that such Equity Data Plans are prepared to collect, consolidate, process and disseminate quotation and transaction information at all times during the Night Session; and (3) that if the Night Session Proposed Rule Change is not filed within 18 months of the SEC's approval of this proposed rule change, the Exchange will promptly file a proposed rule change to remove the rules that apply to the Night Session. The Exchange anticipates that the Night Session will become operative on or about December 6, 2026).

As discussed herein, the proposed rule change would retain the Exchange's current 4:00 a.m. ET or later resumption time following a Level 3 Market Decline,⁴ notwithstanding the fact that the Exchange may otherwise begin trading at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET") once the Exchange has implemented 23-5 Trading.

Background

The MWCB mechanism under Equity 4, Rule 4121 provides an important, automatic mechanism that is invoked to promote stability and investor confidence during a period of significant stress when U.S. securities markets experience extreme broad-based declines. All U.S. equity exchanges and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") (collectively, the self-regulatory organizations or "SROs") adopted uniform rules relating to the MWCB mechanism in 2012, which are designed to slow the effects of extreme price movement through coordinated trading halts across U.S. securities markets when severe price declines reach levels that may exhaust market liquidity.⁵ Currently, market-wide circuit breaker rules provide for trading halts in all U.S. cash equities and equity options markets during a severe market decline as measured by a single-day decline in the S&P 500 Index during Regular Market Hours.

Pursuant to Equity 4, Rule 4121, a market-wide trading halt will be triggered if the S&P 500 Index declines in price by specified percentages from the prior day's closing price of that index. Currently, the triggers are set at three circuit breaker thresholds: 7% (Level 1), 13% (Level 2), and 20% (Level 3). A market decline that triggers a Level 1 or Level 2 halt after 9:30 a.m. ET and before 3:25 p.m. ET would halt market-wide trading for 15 minutes, while a similar

⁴ A "Level 3 Market Decline" means a Market Decline of 20%. See Exchange Rule 4121(a)(iv).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67090 (May 31, 2012), 77 FR 33531 (June 6, 2012) (SR-BATS-2011-038; SR-BYX-2011-025; SR-BX-2011-068; SR-CBOE-2011-087; SR-C2-2011-024; SR-CHX-2011-30; SR-EDGA-2011-31; SR-EDGX-2011-30; SR-FINRA-2011-054; SR-ISE-2011-61; SR-NASDAQ-2011-131; SR-NSX-2011-11; SR-NYSE-2011-48; SR-NYSEAmex-2011-73; SR-NYSEArca-2011-68; SR-Phlx-2011-129) ("MWCB Approval Order").

market decline at or after 3:25 p.m. ET would not halt market-wide trading. If a Level 3 Market Decline occurs at any time during the trading day, trading in all stocks will halt on the Exchange for the remainder of the trading day and will resume the following trading day at 4:00 a.m. ET during the Pre-Market Hours Session.

Proposal

The Exchange now proposes to amend Equity 4, Rule 4121 to reflect extended trading hours, i.e., 23-5 Trading. Currently, the Exchange operates three market sessions as follows: a Pre-Market Hours session from 4:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. ET; a Regular Market Hours session commencing at 9:30 a.m. with the execution of the Nasdaq Opening Cross and continuing until 4:00 p.m. ET; and a Post-Market Hours session commencing at 4:00 p.m. with the execution of the Nasdaq Closing Cross and continuing until 8:00 p.m. ET. During weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. ET, and during weekends, the Exchange is closed to trading. In connection with 23-5 Trading, however, the Exchange will offer a Night Session beginning at 9:00 p.m. ET and ending at 4:00 a.m. ET,⁶ significantly increasing the Exchange's hours of operation in response to customer demand.

As discussed, current Equity 4, Rule 4121(b)(ii) provides that if a Level 3 Market Decline occurs at any time during the trading day, the Exchange shall halt trading in all stocks for the remainder of the trading day. Currently, this means the Exchange would reopen at its normal time, i.e., 4:00 a.m. ET, following a Level 3 Market Decline. However, the Exchange intends to begin 23-5 Trading on December 6, 2026.⁷

⁶ See supra note 3 and accompanying text.

⁷ See id.

Thus, unless amended, when the Exchange launches overnight trading, the current rule's reference to halting "for the remainder of the trading day" could require the Exchange to reopen at an earlier time, i.e., 9:00 p.m. ET when the Exchange's systems would generally become available for the Night Session. The Exchange does not believe that this is an expected or desired result and is therefore amending this rule in coordination with the other SROs such that trading on the Exchange will not resume until 4:00 a.m. ET or later on the following trading day, consistent with coordinated market practice. This proposed rule change is therefore not intended to make any substantive changes to the MWCB mechanism. Rather, the proposed rule change would preserve the current resumption time following a Level 3 Market Decline, notwithstanding changes to the Exchange's rules that would otherwise allow the Exchange to begin trading at 9:00 p.m. ET.

To effect this change, the Exchange proposes to delete the language in Equity 4, Rule 4121(b)(ii) that provides that trading in all stocks will halt on the Exchange "for the remainder of the" trading day if a Level 3 Market Decline occurs at any time during the trading day and replace it with language providing that trading will not resume until 4:00 a.m. ET or later on the following trading day.⁸

The Exchange proposes to establish the operative date of the proposed rule change in coordination with other SROs and the Commission, and at such time as the Exchange determines that implementation is operationally and technologically feasible. Notice to Exchange customers will be provided by Trader Alert.

⁸ See proposed Equity 4, Rule 4121.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁰ 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.

The MWCB mechanism described in Equity 4, Rule 4121 is an important, automatic mechanism that is invoked to promote stability and investor confidence during periods of significant stress when U.S. securities markets experience extreme broad-based declines. The proposed rule change would ensure that the Exchange's resumption time following a Level 3 halt continues to apply when the Exchange and various other U.S. equities exchanges begin trading on a 23-5 basis, notwithstanding current rule text implying that the resumption time would coincide with the start of overnight trading on the Exchange.

Rather than leave the rule in place as is, which could result in an earlier resumption time than originally contemplated when the rule was adopted, the Exchange, the other U.S. equity exchanges, and FINRA met alongside industry representatives to determine the appropriate resumption time. Following those discussions, the Exchange determined, in coordination with other SROs, to retain a morning resumption time, notwithstanding the fact that an earlier resumption time would be possible with the introduction of 23-5 Trading. The proposed rule change codifies this decision into the Exchange's rules. The Exchange understands that the other SROs will also be filing similar proposed rule changes. As a result, the market as a whole,

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

including on- and off-exchange, will continue to be subject to harmonized rules for the resumption of trading following a Level 3 Market Decline.

While the SROs had previously decided to tie the resumption time following a Level 3 halt to an SRO's normal hours of operation, the upcoming transition to 23-5 Trading raises various concerns that warrant a change from the current approach.

First, the Exchange notes that the MWCB mechanism was designed to provide a cooling off period where market participants would be provided with additional time to evaluate the market events that led to the decline before determining how to position their trading activity for the next day. With the introduction of 23-5 Trading and the start of the Night Session at 9:00 p.m. ET, however, this cooling off period could be materially shortened, reducing one of the key benefits that the MWCB mechanism was designed to provide in the first place. Rather than shorten the cooling off period and risk this benefit, the Exchange believes the market would be better served by a change to the length of the associated trading halt that mirrors coordinated market practice. As is the case today, the Exchange would reopen for pre-market trading at 4:00 a.m. ET or later on the following trading day.

Second, the new Night Session may be subject to different liquidity and participation considerations than the current pre-market session. Notably, while retail investors have expressed interest in overnight trading, the Exchange expects that institutional investors will take more time to transition to a round-the-clock model. However, such institutional participation may be of heightened importance following a Level 3 halt as these investors are likely to have views on the underlying market events that led to the Level 3 Market Decline in the first place. The Exchange is concerned that opening during hours that such participants do not normally trade may impact the quality of price discovery at a time of significant market volatility. Waiting

until 4:00 a.m. ET or later to resume trading would facilitate broader participation and therefore price discovery.

Finally, the Commission recently approved an amendment to the Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility that would establish new price protections from 9:00 p.m. ET to 4:00 a.m. ET. While these price bands would help to assure a fair and orderly market during normal market conditions, it is possible that they would instead prevent normal price discovery following a Level 3 Market Decline. Rather than allowing trading to resume with such price bands in effect, which would represent a change from the current reopening following a Level 3 Market Decline, the Exchange believes that waiting until 4:00 a.m. ET to resume trading would ensure that price discovery can occur during pre-market trading, as it does today, which may further inform prices going into the opening auction and regular market hours trading following a Level 3 halt.

Given the factors discussed above, the Exchange believes that trading in all NMS stocks should not resume until 4:00 a.m. ET or later following a Level 3 halt. This decision, which will also be reflected in the rules of the other SROs that the Exchange understands will be amended to provide that trading will resume on or after 4:00 a.m. ET or the applicable morning resumption time depending on the normal reopening time of each SRO, would promote a fair and orderly market at a time of significant market volatility, and thereby protect investors and the public interest. In addition, while the actual Level 3 resumption time would not be changing in practice (as proposed, the current Level 3 resumption time would remain as it is today (at or after 4:00 a.m. ET)), the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to amend its rules to ensure that its rules reflect the upcoming changes to the Exchange's hours of operation. Without this change, market participants may mistakenly believe that the Exchange's intention is to reopen the

Exchange at 9:00 p.m. ET following a Level 3 halt. The proposed rule change would therefore facilitate operational transparency while providing for a fair and orderly market.

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 proposal would ensure the continued, uninterrupted operation of a consistent mechanism to halt trading across U.S. securities markets. Further, the Exchange understands that the other SROs intend to file proposed rule changes to ensure a consistent resumption time across all markets. Thus, the proposed rule change will help to ensure consistency across market centers without implicating any competitive issues.

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 Act¹¹ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹²

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

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹² 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.

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 change 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-2026-080 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-NASDAQ-2026-080. 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-2026-080 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.¹³

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).