

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-77295; File No. SR-Phlx-2016-32)

March 4, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Provisions Related to Options Disputes

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on February 25, 2016, NASDAQ PHLX LLC (“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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 124, Disputes-Options and the corollary Options Floor Procedure Advice F-27, Options Exchange Official Rulings,<sup>3</sup> in a number of ways described below.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <http://nasdaqomxphlx.cchwallstreet.com/>, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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.

<sup>3</sup> Options floor procedures advices generally correspond to Exchange rules and comprise the Exchange’s minor rule violation plan establishing preset fines for certain violations pursuant to Rule 19d-1(c) under the Act. 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c).

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 purpose of the proposal is to update the rules under which disputes can be addressed, as described below. Rule 124 pertains to disputes on the options trading floor. Disputes occurring on and relating to the trading floor, if not settled by agreement between the members interested, shall be settled, if practicable, by vote of the members knowing of the transaction in question; if not so settled, they shall be settled by an Options Exchange Official.

In issuing decisions for the resolution of trading disputes, an Options Exchange Official shall institute the course of action deemed to be most fair to all parties under the circumstances at the time. An Options Exchange Official may direct the execution of an order on the floor, or adjust the transaction terms or participants to an executed order on the floor. An Options Exchange Official may nullify a transaction if the Options Exchange Official determines the transaction to have been in violation of certain rules that are listed in Rule 124.

The Exchange proposes to delete from this list the rules that are now entirely automated such that they do not operate on the trading floor and would not be subject to the provisions of Rule 124. Specifically, Rule 1017, Openings in Options, and Rule 1080, Phlx XL and Phlx XL II,<sup>4</sup> are proposed to be deleted from Rule 124. Both of these rules pertain only to automated activity. Because errors resulting from automated order handling and execution are handled pursuant to Rule 1092, there is no need for the Rule 124 process to apply.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and to protect investors and the public interest, by maintaining a framework to handle disputes on the trading floor, consistent with the current market structure for trading options on the Exchange. The proposed change to delete two rules from the list of rules that, if violated, could result in a trade nullification should promote just and equitable principles of trade by recognizing that due to increased automation those disputes are handled by a different rule, Rule 1092.

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. In terms of intra-market competition, the proposal applies to all trading floor participants and does not affect competition among such participants. The proposal does not burden competition among options

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<sup>4</sup> The Exchange intends to separately update Rule 1080 in a variety of ways to make clear that it only applies to automated trading system activity.

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

markets, which is fierce, because it merely updates an internal dispute process on the Phlx options trading floor.

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 Act<sup>7</sup> and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>8</sup>

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: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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.

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<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(3)(a)(iii).

<sup>8</sup> 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.

#### 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2016-32 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-Phlx-2016-32. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 (<http://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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the

Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2016-32, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

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

Brent J. Fields  
Secretary

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