Rules of Nasdaq BX

**Chapter VI Trading Systems**

**Sec. 11 Order Routing**

(a) BX offers two routing strategies, SEEK and SRCH. Each of these routing strategies will be explained in more detail below. An order may in the alternative be marked Do Not Route or “DNR”. The Exchange notes that for purposes of this rule the System will route SEEK and SRCH Orders with no other contingencies. Immediate or Cancel (“IOC”) Orders will be cancelled immediately if not executed, and will not be routed.

The System checks the Order Book for available contracts for potential execution against the SEEK or SRCH Orders. After the System checks the Order Book for available contracts, orders are sent to other available market centers for potential execution. When checking the Order Book, the System will seek to execute at the price at which it would send the order to an away market. For purposes of this rule, a Route Timer shall not exceed one second and shall begin at the time orders are accepted into the System, and the System will consider whether an order can be routed at the conclusion of each Route Timer. Finally, for purposes of this rule, “exposure” or “exposing” an order shall mean a notification sent to participants with the price, size, and side of interest that is available for execution. Exposure notifications will be sent to participants in accordance with the routing procedures described in Section 11(c)(ii) below except if an incoming order is joining an already established BBO price when the ABBO is locked or crossed with the BBO, in which case such order will join the established BBO price and no exposure notification will be sent. An order exposure will be sent if the order size is modified. For purposes of this rule BX’s opening process is governed by Chapter VI, Section 8 and includes an opening after a trading halt (“Opening Process”).

Routing options may be combined with all available order types and times-in-force, with the exception of order types and times-in-force whose terms are inconsistent with the terms of a particular routing option. The term “System routing table” refers to the proprietary process for determining the specific trading venues to which the System routes orders and the order in which it routes them. The Exchange reserves the right to maintain a different System routing table for different routing options and to modify the System routing table at any time without notice. The order routing process shall be available to Participants from 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time until market close and shall route orders as described below. Participants can designate orders as either available for routing or not available for routing. All routing of orders shall comply with Chapter XII, Options Order Protection and Locked and Crossed Market Rules.
(i) Priority of Routed Orders. Orders sent to other markets do not retain time priority with respect to other orders in the System and the System shall continue to execute other orders while routed orders are away at another market center. Once routed by the System, an order becomes subject to the rules and procedures of the destination market including, but not limited to, order cancellation. A routed order can be for less than the original incoming order's size. If a routed order is subsequently returned, in whole or in part, that routed order, or its remainder, shall receive a new time stamp reflecting the time of its return to the System, unless any portion of the original order remains on the System, in which case the routed order shall retain its timestamp and its priority.

(ii) Options Participants whose orders are routed to away markets shall be obligated to honor such trades that are executed on away markets to the same extent they would be obligated to honor a trade executed on the Exchange.

(A) BX Options shall route orders in options via Nasdaq Execution Services, LLC (“NES”), a broker-dealer that is a member of an unaffiliated SRO which is the designated examining authority for the broker-dealer. NES serves as the Routing Facility of BX Options. The sole function of the Routing Facility will be to route orders in options listed and open for trading on BX Options to away markets either directly or through one or more third-party unaffiliated routing broker-dealers pursuant to BX Options rules on behalf of BX Options. The Exchange and NES may not use a routing broker for which the Exchange or any affiliate of the Exchange is the designated examining authority. The Routing Facility is subject to regulation as a facility of BX, including the requirement to file proposed rule changes under Section 19 of the Act.

(B) Use of NES to route orders to other market centers is optional. Parties that do not desire to use NES must designate orders as not available for routing (a DNR Order, as described in subparagraph(iii)(A) below).

(C) BX Options shall establish and maintain procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to adequately restrict the flow of confidential and proprietary information between the Exchange and its facilities (including the Routing Facility), and any other entity; or, where there is a routing broker, the Exchange, the Routing Facility and any routing broker, and any other entity, including any affiliate of the routing broker (and if the routing broker or any of its affiliates engages in any other business activities other than providing routing services to the Exchange, between the segment of the routing broker or affiliate that provides the other business activities and the segment of the routing broker that provides the routing services).

(D) The books, records, premises, officers, directors, agents, and employees of the Routing Facility, as a facility of the Exchange, shall be deemed to be the books, records, premises, officers, directors, agents, and employees of
the Exchange for purposes of and subject to oversight pursuant to the Exchange Act. The books and records of the Routing Facility, as a facility of the Exchange, shall be subject at all times to inspection and copying by the Exchange and the Commission.

(E) Market Access. In addition to the Exchange Rules regarding routing to away trading centers, NES has, pursuant to Rule 15c3-5 under the Act, implemented certain tests designed to mitigate risks associated with providing the Exchange's Members with access to such away trading centers. Pursuant to the policies and procedures developed by NES to comply with Rule 15c3-5, if an order or series of orders are deemed to be violative of applicable pre-trade requirements under Rule 15c3-5, the order will be rejected prior to routing and/or NES will seek to cancel the order if it has been routed.

(F) The Exchange will determine the logic that provides when, how, and where orders are routed away to other exchanges. Except as provided in subparagraph (f) below, the routing broker(s) cannot change the terms of an order or the routing instructions, nor does the routing broker have any discretion about where to route an order.

(iii) The following order types are available:

(A) DNR Order. A DNR Order will never be routed outside of BX regardless of the prices displayed by away markets. A DNR Order may execute on the Exchange at a price equal to or better than, but not inferior to, the best away market price but, if that best away market remains, the DNR Order will remain in the BX Order Book and be displayed at a price one minimum price variation (“MPV”) inferior to that away best bid/offer. If the DNR Order is locking or crossing the ABBO, the DNR Order shall be entered into the Order Book at the ABBO price and displayed one MPV away from the ABBO. The Exchange shall immediately expose the order at the ABBO to participants, provided the option series has opened for trading. Any incoming order interacting with such a resting DNR Order will execute at the ABBO price, unless the ABBO is improved to a price which crosses the DNR’s displayed price, in which case the incoming order will execute at the previous ABBO price. Should the best away market change its price to an inferior price level, the DNR Order will automatically re-price from its one MPV inferior to the original away best bid/offer price to one minimum trading increment away from the new away best bid/offer price or its original limit price, and expose such orders at the ABBO to participants only if the re-priced order locks or crosses the ABBO. Once priced at its original limit price, it will remain at that price until executed or cancelled. Should the best away market improve its price such that it locks or crosses the DNR Order limit price, the Exchange will execute the resulting incoming order that is routed from the away market that locked or crossed the DNR Order limit price.
(B) SEEK Order. SEEK is a routing option pursuant to which an order will first check the System for available contracts for execution, and then is sent to other available market centers for potential execution. Orders initiate their own route timers and are routed in the order in which their route timers end.

(1) If a SEEK is received during an Opening Process it may route as part of the Opening Cross pursuant to Chapter VI, Section 8(b)(7).

(2) If a SEEK Order is received after an Opening Process and it is marketable against the ABBO when the ABBO is better than the displayed Exchange BBO, a Route Timer will initiate and expose the SEEK Order at the ABBO to allow market participants an opportunity to interact with the remainder of the SEEK Order. During the Route Timer, the SEEK Order will be included in the displayed Exchange BBO, unless the SEEK Order locks or crosses the ABBO, in which case it will be entered into the Order Book at the ABBO price and displayed one MPV away from the ABBO.

(3) If during the Route Timer in subparagraph (2) above any new interest arrives opposite the SEEK order that is equal to or better than the ABBO price, the SEEK Order will trade against such new interest at the ABBO price. If during the Route Timer, the ABBO moves and crosses the SEEK Order, any new interest arrives opposite the SEEK Order that is marketable against the SEEK Order will trade at the SEEK Order price. When checking the Order Book, the System will seek to execute at the price at which it would send the order to a destination market center. Eligible unexecuted orders will continue to be routed as described in subparagraph (B)(2).

(4) If contracts remain unexecuted after routing, they are posted on the Order Book at its limit price. While on the Order Book at the limit price, should the order subsequently be locked or crossed by another market center, the System will not re-expose or route the order to the locking or crossing market center.

(5) SEEK Orders will not be eligible for routing until the next time the option series is subject to a new Opening Process.

(C) SRCH Order. SRCH Order is a routing option pursuant to which an order will first check the System for available contracts for execution, and then is sent to other available market centers for potential execution. Orders initiate their own route timers and are routed in the order in which their route timers end.

(1) If a SRCH Order is received during an Opening Process it may route as part of the Opening Cross pursuant to Chapter VI, Section 8(b)(7). A SRCH Order received after the Opening Process that is marketable against the ABBO when the ABBO is better than the displayed Exchange BBO
will initiate a Route Timer and expose the SRCH Order at the ABBO to allow market participants an opportunity to interact with the remainder of the SRCH Order.

(2) During the Route Timer described in subparagraph (1), the SRCH Order will be included in the displayed Exchange BBO, unless the SRCH Order locks or crosses the ABBO, in which case it will be entered into the Order Book at the ABBO price and displayed one MPV away from the ABBO. If there exists a locked market upon receipt of the SRCH Order, the SRCH Order may display at the locked ABBO price.

(3) If, during the Route Timer described in subparagraph (1), any new interest arrives opposite the SRCH Order that is equal to or better than the ABBO price, the SRCH order will trade against such new interest at the ABBO price. If during the Route Timer, the ABBO moves and crosses the SRCH Order, any new interest arrives opposite the SRCH Order that is marketable against the SRCH Order will trade at the SRCH Order price. When checking the Order Book, the System will seek to execute at the price at which it would send the order to a destination market center. Eligible unexecuted orders will continue to be routed as described in subparagraph (C)(1).

(4) If contracts remain un-executed after routing, they are posted on the Order Book at its limit price. While on the Order Book at the limit price, should the order subsequently be locked or crossed by another market center, the order will not re-expose and may route at the end of route timer.

[(a) For System securities, the order routing process shall be available to Participants from 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time until market close and shall route orders as described below. Participants can designate orders as either available for routing or not available for routing. All routing of orders shall comply with Chapter XII, Options Order Protection and Locked and Crossed Market Rules.

(1) The system provides a number of routing options pursuant to which orders are sent to other available market centers for potential execution, per the entering firm's instructions. Routing options may be combined with all available order types and times-in-force, with the exception of order types and times-in-force whose terms are inconsistent with the terms of a particular routing option. The term "System routing table" refers to the proprietary process for determining the specific trading venues to which the System routes orders and the order in which it routes them. The Exchange reserves the right to maintain a different System routing table for different routing options and to modify the System routing table at any time without notice. The system routing options are:

(A) SEEK is a routing option pursuant to which an order will first check the System for available contracts for execution, and then is sent to other available market centers for
potential execution. A SEEK order remaining on the book after the opening process or received during open trading that is marketable against the ABBO when the ABBO is better than the displayed Exchange BBO will initiate a Route Timer not to exceed one second, and expose the SEEK order at the NBBO to allow market participants an opportunity to interact with the remainder of the SEEK order. During the Route Timer, the SEEK order will be included in the displayed Exchange BBO at the better of a price one MPV away from the ABBO or the established Exchange BBO. If, during the Route Timer, any new interest arrives opposite the SEEK order that is equal to or better than the ABBO price, the SEEK order will trade against such new interest at the ABBO price. When checking the book, the System will seek to execute at the price at which it would send the order to a destination market center. Eligible unexecuted orders will continue to be routed as described in paragraph (a)(1)(D). If contracts remain un-executed after routing, they are posted on the book. While on the book at the limit price, should the order subsequently be locked or crossed by another market center, the System will not re-expose or route the order to the locking or crossing market center. SEEK orders will not be eligible for routing until the next time the option series is subject to a new opening or reopening. An order exposure alert may be sent if the order size is modified.

(B) SRCH is a routing option pursuant to which an order will first check the System for available contracts for execution, and then is sent to other available market centers for potential execution. A SRCH order remaining on the book after the opening process or received during open trading that is marketable against the ABBO when the ABBO is better than the displayed Exchange BBO will initiate a Route Timer not to exceed one second, and expose the SRCH order at the NBBO to allow market participants an opportunity to interact with the remainder of the SRCH order. During the Route Timer, the SRCH order will be included in the displayed Exchange BBO at the better of a price one MPV away from the ABBO or the established Exchange BBO. If, during the Route Timer, any new interest arrives opposite the SRCH order that is equal to or better than the ABBO price, the SRCH order will trade against such new interest at the ABBO price. When checking the book, the System will seek to execute at the price at which it would send the order to a destination market center. Eligible unexecuted orders will continue to be routed as described in paragraph (a)(1)(D). If contracts remain un-executed after routing, they are posted on the book. Once on the book, should the order subsequently be locked or crossed by another market center, it will be re-exposed, provided it is not on the book at its limit price, and re-route. An order exposure alert may be sent if the order size is modified.

(C) DNR Order. A DNR order will never be routed outside of the Exchange regardless of the prices displayed by away markets. A DNR order may execute on the Exchange at a price equal to or better than, but not inferior to, the best away market price but, if that best away market remains, the DNR order will remain in the Exchange book and be displayed at the better of a price one minimum price variation away from that ABBO or the established Exchange BBO. A DNR order remaining on the book after the opening process or received during open trading that is marketable against the ABBO when the ABBO is better than the Exchange BBO will be exposed at the NBBO to market participants. Any incoming order interacting with such a resting DNR order will receive
the best away market price. Should the best away market change its price, or move to an inferior price level, the DNR order will automatically re-price from its one minimum price variation away from the original away best bid/offer price to one minimum trading increment away from the new away best bid/offer price or its original limit price, and expose such orders at the NBBO to market participants only if the re-priced order locks or crosses the ABBO and is not already displayed at its limit price. Should the best away market improve its price such that it locks or crosses the DNR order limit price, the Exchange will execute the resulting incoming order that is routed from the away market that locked or crossed the DNR order limit price. An order exposure alert may be sent if the order size is modified.

(D) After an order is initially routed, pursuant to either the SEEK or SRCH routing option the order will post to the book and will be exposed and routed after a time period ("Route Timer") not to exceed one second as specified by the Exchange on its website provided that the order's limit price would lock or cross other market center(s). If, during the Route Timer, any new interest arrives opposite the order that is equal to or better than the ABBO price, the order will trade against such new interest at the ABBO price. Eligible unexecuted orders will be routed at the end of the Route Timer provided the order was not filled and the order's limit price would continue to lock or cross the ABBO. If an order was routed with either the SEEK or SRCH routing option, and has size after such routing, it will execute against contra side interest in the book, post in the book, and be exposed and route again pursuant to the process described above, if applicable, if the order's limit price would lock or cross another market center(s).

(b) Reserved.

(c) Priority of Routed Orders. Orders sent by the System to other markets do not retain time priority with respect to other orders in the System and the System shall continue to execute other orders while routed orders are away at another market center. Once routed by the System, an order becomes subject to the rules and procedures of the destination market including, but not limited to, order cancellation. A routed order can be for less than the original incoming order's size. If a routed order is subsequently returned, in whole or in part, that routed order, or its remainder, shall receive a new time stamp reflecting the time of its return to the System, unless any portion of the original order remains on the System, in which case the routed order shall retain its timestamp and its priority.

(d) Options Participants whose orders are routed to away markets shall be obligated to honor such trades that are executed on away markets to the same extent they would be obligated to honor a trade executed on BX Options.

(e) BX Options shall route orders in options via Nasdaq Execution Services, LLC ("NES"), a broker-dealer that is a member of an unaffiliated SRO which is the designated examining authority for the broker-dealer. NES serves as the Routing Facility of BX Options. The sole function of the Routing Facility will be to route orders in options listed and open for trading on BX Options to away markets either directly or through one or
more third-party unaffiliated routing broker-dealers pursuant to BX Options rules on behalf of BX Options. The Exchange and NES may not use a routing broker for which the Exchange or any affiliate of the Exchange is the designated examining authority. The Routing Facility is subject to regulation as a facility of BX, including the requirement to file proposed rule changes under Section 19 of the Act.

Use of NES to route orders to other market centers is optional. Parties that do not desire to use NES must designate orders as not available for routing.

The Exchange will determine the logic that provides when, how, and where orders are routed away to other exchanges. Except as provided in subparagraph (f) below, the routing broker(s) cannot change the terms of an order or the routing instructions, nor does the routing broker have any discretion about where to route an order.

BX Options shall establish and maintain procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to adequately restrict the flow of confidential and proprietary information between the Exchange and its facilities (including the Routing Facility), and any other entity; or, where there is a routing broker, the Exchange, the Routing Facility and any routing broker, and any other entity, including any affiliate of the routing broker (and if the routing broker or any of its affiliates engages in any other business activities other than providing routing services to the Exchange, between the segment of the routing broker or affiliate that provides the other business activities and the segment of the routing broker that provides the routing services).

The books, records, premises, officers, directors, agents, and employees of the Routing Facility, as a facility of the Exchange, shall be deemed to be the books, records, premises, officers, directors, agents, and employees of the Exchange for purposes of and subject to oversight pursuant to the Exchange Act. The books and records of the Routing Facility, as a facility of the Exchange, shall be subject at all times to inspection and copying by the Exchange and the Commission.

(f) Market Access. In addition to the Exchange Rules regarding routing to away trading centers, NES has, pursuant to Rule 15c3-5 under the Act, implemented certain tests designed to mitigate risks associated with providing the Exchange's Members with access to such away trading centers. Pursuant to the policies and procedures developed by NES to comply with Rule 15c3-5, if an order or series of orders are deemed to be violative of applicable pre-trade requirements under Rule 15c3-5, the order will be rejected prior to routing and/or NES will seek to cancel the order if it has been routed.]

(1g) Cancellation of Orders and Error Account.

(1) No change.

(2) NES shall maintain an error account for the purpose of addressing positions that result from a technical or systems issue at NES, the Exchange, a routing destination,
or a non-affiliate third-party Routing Broker that affects one or more orders ("error positions").

(A) For purposes of this Section 11([g]b), an error position shall not include any position that results from an order submitted by a member to the Exchange that is executed on the Exchange and automatically processed for clearance and settlement on a locked-in basis.

(B) Except as provided in Section 11([g]b)(2)(C), NES shall not (i) accept any positions in its error account from an account of a member, or (ii) permit any member to transfer any positions from the member's account to NES’s error account.

(C) No change.

(3) In connection with a particular technical or systems issue, NES or the Exchange shall either (i) assign all resulting error positions to members in accordance with subparagraph (A) below, or (ii) have all resulting error positions liquidated in accordance with subparagraph (B) below. Any determination to assign or liquidate error positions, as well as any resulting assignments, shall be made in a nondiscriminatory fashion.

(A) NES or the Exchange shall assign all error positions resulting from a particular technical or systems issue to the members affected by that technical or systems issue if NES or the Exchange:

(i) and (ii) No change.

(iii) has not determined to cancel all orders affected by that technical or systems issue in accordance with subparagraph ([g]b)(1) above.

(B) If NES or the Exchange is unable to assign all error positions resulting from a particular technical or systems issue to all of the affected members in accordance with subparagraph (A) above, or if NES or the Exchange determines to cancel all orders affected by the technical or systems issue in accordance with subparagraph ([g]b)(1) above, then NES shall liquidate the error positions as soon as practicable. NES shall:

(i) and (ii) No change.

(4) No change.

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