Rule 700. Exercise of Option Contracts

(a) –(k) No change.

(l) Clearing Members must follow the procedures of the Clearing Corporation when exercising American-style cash-settled index options contracts issued or to be issued in any account at the Clearing Corporation. Members must also follow the procedures set forth below with respect to American-style cash-settled index options:

(1) For all contracts exercised by the Member or by any customer of the Member, an “exercise advice” must be delivered by the Member in such form or manner prescribed by the Exchange no later than 4:20 p.m. Eastern time, or if trading hours are extended or modified in the applicable options class, no later than five (5) minutes after the close of trading on that day.

(2) Subsequent to the delivery of an “exercise advice,” should the Member or a customer of the Member determine not to exercise all or part of the advised contracts, the Member must also deliver an “advice cancel” in such form or manner prescribed by the Exchange no later than 4:20 p.m. Eastern time, or if trading hours are extended or modified in the applicable options class, no later than five (5) minutes after the close of trading on that day.

(3) The Exchange may determine to extend the applicable deadline for the delivery of “exercise advice” and “advice cancel” notifications pursuant to this paragraph [(h)] (l) if unusual circumstances are present.

(4) No Member may prepare, time stamp or submit an “exercise advice” prior to the purchase of the contracts to be exercised if the Member knew or had reason to know that the contracts had not yet been purchased.

(5) The failure of any Member to follow the procedures in this paragraph [(h)] (l) may result in the assessment of a fine, which may include but is not limited to disgorgement of potential economic gain obtained or loss avoided by the subject exercise, as determined by the Exchange.

(6) Preparing or submitting an “exercise advice” or “advice cancel” after the applicable deadline on the basis of material information released after such deadline, in addition to constituting a violation of this Rule, is activity inconsistent with just and equitable principles of trade.
(7) The procedures set forth in subparagraphs (1) - (2) of this subparagraph [(h)] (l) do not apply (i) on the business day prior to expiration in series expiring on a day other than a business day or (ii) on the expiration day in series expiring on a business day.

(8) Exercises of American-style, cash-settled index options (and the submission of corresponding “exercise advice” and “advice cancel” forms) shall be prohibited during any time when trading in such options is delayed, halted, or suspended, subject to the following exceptions:

(i) The exercise of an American-style, cash-settled index option may be processed and given effect in accordance with and subject to the rules of the Clearing Corporation while trading in the option is delayed, halted, or suspended if it can be documented, in a form prescribed by the Exchange, that the decision to exercise the option was made during allowable time frames prior to the delay, halt, or suspension.

(ii) Exercises of expiring American-style, cash-settled index options shall not be prohibited on the last business day prior to their expiration.

(iii) Exercises of American-style, cash-settled index options shall not be prohibited during a trading halt that occurs at or after 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. In the event of such a trading halt, exercises may occur through 4:20 p.m. Eastern time. In addition, if trading resumes following such a trading halt (such as by closing rotation), exercises may occur during the resumption of trading and for five (5) minutes after the close of the resumption of trading. The provisions of this subparagraph (iii) are subject to the authority of the Board to impose restrictions on transactions and exercises pursuant to Rule 312.

(iv) The Exchange may determine to permit the exercise of American-style, cash-settled index options while trading in such options is delayed, halted, or suspended.

Interpretations and Policies:

.01-.04 No change.

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Rule 1308. Supervision of Accounts

(a) – (f) No Change.

(g) Written Report. By April 1 of each year, each Member that conducts a non-member customer business shall submit to the Exchange a written report on the Member's supervision and compliance effort during the preceding year and on the adequacy of the Member's ongoing compliance processes and procedures. Each Member that conducts a public customer options business shall also specifically include its options compliance program in the report. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A tabulation of customer complaints (including arbitrations and civil actions) and internal investigations.
(2) Identification and analysis of significant compliance problems, plans for future systems or procedures to prevent and detect violations and problems, and an assessment of the preceding year's efforts of this nature.

(3) Discussion of the preceding year's compliance efforts, new procedures, educational programs, etc. in each of the following areas: (i) antifraud and trading practices; (ii) investment banking activities; (iii) sales practices; (iv) books and records; (v) finance and operations; (vi) supervision; (vii) internal controls, and (viii) anti-money laundering. If any of these areas do not apply to the Member organization, the report shall so state.

(4) For each Member, the designation of a general partner or principal executive officer as Chief Compliance Officer (which designation shall be updated on Schedule A of Form BD).

(5) A certification signed by the Member's Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent), that:

   (i) The Member has in place processes to:

   (A) establish and maintain policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable Exchange Rules and federal securities laws and regulations;

   (B) modify such policies and procedures as business, regulatory and legislative changes and events dictate; and

   (C) test the effectiveness of such policies and procedures on a regular basis, the timing and extent of which is reasonably designed to ensure continuing compliance with Exchange Rules and federal securities laws and regulations.

   (ii) the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent officer) conducted one or more meetings with the organization's Chief Compliance Officer during the preceding 12 months, and that they discussed and reviewed the matters described in this certification, including the organization's prior compliance efforts, and identified and addressed significant compliance problems and plans for emerging business areas;

   (iii) the processes described in paragraph (g)(5)(i) of this Rule, are evidenced in a report reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent officer), Chief Compliance Officer and such other officers as the organization may deem necessary to make this certification, and submitted to the organization's board of directors and audit committee (if such committee exists) on or before April 1st of each year; and

   (iv) the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent officer) has consulted with the Chief Compliance Officer and other officers referenced in paragraph (g)(5)(iii) of this Rule and such other employees, outside consultants, lawyers and accountants, to the extent they deem appropriate, in order to attest to the statements made in this certification.

(6) A Member that specifically includes its options compliance program in a report that complies with substantially similar requirements of the New York Stock Exchange or FINRA will be deemed to have met the requirements of this Rule 130[7]8(g) and Rule 130[7]8(h).

(h) Reports to Control Persons. By April 1 of each year, each Member shall submit a copy of the report that Rule 130[7]8(g) requires the Member to prepare to its one or more control persons or, if the Member has no control person, to the audit committee of its board of directors or its equivalent committee or group. In the case of a control person that is an organization (a "controlling organization"), the Member shall submit the report to the general counsel of the controlling organization and to the audit committee of the controlling organization's board of directors or its equivalent committee or group. For the purpose of
this paragraph, "control person" means a person who controls the Member organization within the meaning of Rule 100.

(i) – (k) No Change.

Interpretations and Policies:

.01 No Change.

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Rule 1322. Options Communications

(a) – (d) No Change.

(e) Standards Applicable to Options Communications.

(1) Unless preceded or accompanied by the ODD, options communications shall:

(i) Be limited to general descriptions of the options being discussed;

(ii) Contain contact information for obtaining a copy of the ODD; and

(iii) Not contain recommendations or past or projected performance figures including annualized rates of return, or names of specific securities.

(2) Options communications used prior to ODD delivery may:

(i) Contain a brief description of options, including a statement that identifies registered clearing agencies for options. The text may also contain a brief description of the general attributes and method of operation of the exchanges on which options are traded, including a discussion of how an option is priced;

(ii) Include any statement required by any state law or administrative authority; and

(iii) Include advertising designs and devices, including borders, scrolls, arrows, pointers, multiple and combined logos and unusual typefaces and lettering as well as attention-getting headlines and photographs and other graphics, provided such material is not misleading.

(f) The Rule 1322(e)(1)([B][ii]) requirement to include contact information for obtaining a copy of the ODD may be satisfied by providing a name and address or one or more telephone numbers from which the current options disclosure document may be obtained; directing existing clients to contact their registered representative; or including a response card through which a current options disclosure document may be obtained. An internet address may also be used, however, such an address must be accompanied by either a telephone number or mailing address for use by those investors who do not have access to the internet.

(g) –(i) No change.

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