

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of \* 20

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
Form 19b-4

File No. \* SR 2024 - \* 75

Amendment No. (req. for Amendments \*)

Filing by NYSE American LLC

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
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Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	Rule		
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010  
Section 806(e)(1) \*

Section 806(e)(2) \*

Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Section 3C(b)(2) \*

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document

Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document

### Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposal to amend Rule 342

### Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name \* David Last Name \* De Gregorio  
Title \* Associate General Counsel, NYSE Group Inc.  
E-mail \* David.DeGregorio@ice.com  
Telephone \* (212) 656-4166 Fax (212) 656-8101

### Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange of 1934, NYSE American LLC has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date 12/03/2024 (Title \*)  
By Martha Redding Corporate Secretary  
(Name \*)

NOTE: Clicking the signature block at right will initiate digitally signing the form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

Martha Redding  
Digitally signed by Martha Redding  
Date: 2024.12.03 17:22:47 -05'00'

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and astericks.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

**Form 19b-4 Information \***

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[SEC Sub of NYSE American Rule 342](#)

The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \***

Add Remove View

[Ex. 1 NYSE American Rule 342 Clarif](#)

The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies \***

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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[Ex. 5 NYSE American Rule 342 Clarifi](#)

The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

- (a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American” or the “Exchange”) proposes to amend Rule 342 to add clarity to the process for a broker-dealer to become or remain a member organization notwithstanding a statutory disqualification.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and the text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

- (b) The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any direct effect, or any significant indirect effect, on any other Exchange rule in effect at the time of this filing.
- (c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

Senior management has approved the proposed rule change pursuant to authority delegated to it by the Board of the Exchange. No further action is required under the Exchange’s governing documents. Therefore, the Exchange’s internal procedures with respect to the proposed rule change are complete.

The person on the Exchange staff prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change is:

David De Gregorio  
Associate General Counsel  
NYSE Group, Inc.  
(212) 656-4166

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

- (a) Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend proposes to amend Rule 342 to add clarity to the process to the process for a broker-dealer to become or remain a member organization notwithstanding a statutory disqualification.

Background and Proposed Rule Filing

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Section 3(a)(39) of the Act defines the term “statutory disqualification” and the circumstances that can cause a person (either a Member, or a person associated with a Member) to be subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>3</sup> Absent relief, a statutory disqualification would preclude a broker-dealer or person associated with a broker-dealer from certain activities, including membership in a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”).

There is, however, a well-established process through which a broker-dealer (or a person associated with a broker-dealer) may continue to operate in the securities industry (and either become a member of, or continue as a member of, one or more SROs) despite being subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>4</sup> In particular, SEC Rule 19h-1<sup>5</sup> describes several ways an SRO may seek relief for a member (or prospective member) that is subject to a statutory disqualification, including whether an SRO must file a notice with the Commission in order to allow the disqualified firm to become or continue as a member with the SRO (a “19h-1 Notice”). A 19h-1 Notice does not, for instance, need to be filed by an SRO if the firm subject to a statutory disqualification is a member of at least one other SRO, and that SRO intends to file a 19h-1 Notice for the firm.<sup>6</sup>

Rule 342 (Association of Members, Member Organizations, and Persons Associated With Member Organizations) of the Office Rules provides that, except as otherwise permitted by the Exchange, no member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization shall have associated with him or it any person who is known, or in the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be subject to any “statutory disqualification” defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Act.

Recently, a non-member broker-dealer firm subject to a statutory disqualification that is currently under review by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) applied for Exchange membership.<sup>7</sup>

In reviewing this application, the Exchange determined that this situation is not

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<sup>3</sup> 15 USC 78c(a)(39).

<sup>4</sup> See FINRA Regulatory Notice 09-19 (“Amendments to FINRA Rule 9520 Series to Establish Procedures Applicable to Firms and Associated Persons Subject to Certain Statutory Disqualifications”).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 240.19h-1.

<sup>6</sup> Id. at (a)(3).

<sup>7</sup> The processing of new membership applications at the Exchange includes statutory disqualification disclosures and background investigations. Review, assessment, and processing of these membership applications has been conducted on behalf of the Exchange by FINRA pursuant to a regulatory services agreement.

explicitly addressed in its rules as it is in the rules of other exchanges.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, BOX, Cboe BZX, Cboe BYX, Cboe EDGX, and Cboe EDGA each amended their respective rules in 2016 to provide more clarity as to the authority of each exchange to determine whether to admit a prospective member that is subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>9</sup> The 2016 rule change filings of these exchanges also amended several other aspects of their application procedures, but the Exchange only seeks to harmonize its rules insofar as they apply to member organizations and prospective member organizations (and associated persons of member organizations) that are subject to a statutory disqualification in order to address the membership application described herein.<sup>10</sup>

The Exchange accordingly proposes to align its rule with these other exchanges specifically with respect to the process of assessing an applicant for membership that is subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>11</sup> As discussed below, the Exchange is making the proposed rule changes and seeks waiver of the 30-day operative delay in order to address an unusual and time sensitive situation in which a firm subject to a statutory disqualification seeks to become an Exchange member organization during the pendency of the process by which the firm is seeking relief from the statutory disqualification.

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<sup>8</sup> See Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe EDGX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BZX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BYX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe EDGA”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; and BOX Options Exchange LLC (“BOX”) Rule 2040(a) & IM-2040-08.

<sup>9</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78449 (August 1, 2016), 81 FR 51947 (August 5, 2016) (SR-BOX-2016-26); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79229 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78875 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsBZX-2016-67); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79233 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78869 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsBYX-2016-28); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79234 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78867 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsEDGA-2016-23); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79236 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78878 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsEDGX2016-59).

<sup>10</sup> The 2016 rule filings also added some other conditions for eligibility for exchange membership such as adding a restriction that members must meet any condition the exchange placed on such member, which the Exchange believes are adequately addressed in other Exchange rules. See, e.g., Rule 310 (Formation of or Admission to Member Organization or Membership Owner). Moreover, the Rule 9520 Series sets forth procedures for a covered person (defined in Rule 9120(g) as a member, principal executive, approved person, registered or non-registered employee of a member organization or an ATP Holder (an options permit holder, see Rule 900.2NY (Definitions)), or other person (excluding a member organization) subject to the jurisdiction of the Exchange) to become or remain associated with a member organization or ATP Holder notwithstanding the existence of a statutory disqualification as defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Act, and for a current member organization or covered person to obtain relief from the eligibility or qualification requirements of the Exchange’s Rules, referred to in the Rule as “eligibility proceedings.”

<sup>11</sup> The proposed changes mirror the language in the following rules: BOX Rule 2040(a) and IM-2040-08; Cboe BZX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BYX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe EDGA Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; and Cboe EDGX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04.

To effectuate these changes, the Exchange proposes to add Supplementary Material .01 to Rule 342 to provide that the Exchange could approve an applicant for membership (or association with a member organization) that is subject to a statutory disqualification when a proceeding is pending before another SRO to determine whether to permit a member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization to become or continue membership or association notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. This provision, which is consistent with SEC Rule 19h-1(a)(3), would provide as follows (additions underlined):

**.01 Statutory Disqualification Proceedings Pending Before Another SRO.** The Exchange may waive the provisions of this Rule when a proceeding is pending before another self-regulatory organization to determine whether to permit a member or associated person of a member to become or continue membership or association notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. In the event the Exchange determines to waive the provisions of this Rule with respect to an existing or prospective member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization, the Exchange shall determine whether it will concur in any Exchange Act Rule 19h-1 filing made by another self-regulatory organization with respect to such person.

This Supplementary Material is substantively identical to IM-2040-8 to BOX Rule 2040 and Interpretation and Policies .04 to Cboe BZX, BYX, EDGX, and EDGA Rules 2.5, except for language clarifying that the new supplementary material would apply to both prospective and existing members, member organizations, approved persons, employees, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would appropriately align its rules with the Commission's rules regarding statutory disqualifications and harmonize the Exchange's process with several other SROs. The Exchange notes that in assessing the statutory disqualification of a member organization or a prospective member organization, it must act consistent with the protection of investors and in the public interest and cannot unfairly discriminate against existing or prospective member organizations.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, as noted above, a current member organization or covered person can seek relief from the

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<sup>12</sup>

15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Exchange's eligibility or qualification requirements pursuant to the Rule 9520 Series.<sup>13</sup> In addition, any prospective member organization that has been denied membership in the Exchange or barred from becoming associated with a member organization is entitled to certain due process pursuant to the Rule 308 - Equities (Acceptability Proceedings), which includes, but is not limited to, potential review by the Commission.

(b) Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>14</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),<sup>15</sup> in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, 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 Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would better align the Exchange's rules with the Commission's rules regarding statutory disqualifications and enable a consistent process across the Exchange and several other SROs to make appropriate filings with respect to persons subject to a statutory disqualification, thereby protecting investors and the public interest by providing more clarity and consistency with respect to the process of seeking relief from a statutory disqualification and in general enabling the Exchange to more efficiently administer membership applications involving statutory disqualifications. The Exchange further believes that the proposed change would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, protect investors and the public interest, and add clarity, transparency and consistency to the Exchange's disciplinary rules. The Exchange believes that market participants would benefit from the increased clarity, thereby reducing potential confusion.

4. 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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change is not intended to address competitive issues but rather is concerned solely with aligning the Exchange's rules with those of other exchanges and with the Commission's approach to handling firms that are subject to statutory disqualification.

5. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule

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<sup>13</sup> See note 10, *supra*.

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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

Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change qualifies for immediate effectiveness upon filing as a “non-controversial” rule change in accordance with Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>16</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>17</sup> thereunder.

The Exchange asserts that the proposed rule change: (i) will not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) will not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, will not become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

The Exchange believes that this proposal is non-controversial and eligible to become effective immediately because it promotes uniformity in the Exchange’s review of statutory disqualifications with the Commission’s application of Rule 19h-1, as well as the review processes employed by other exchanges. Additionally, this proposal does not impose any significant burden on competition as the proposal would ensure that member organizations are held to the same standard with respect to statutory disqualification reviews as members of such other exchanges. The Exchange believes that market participants would benefit from the increased clarity, thereby reducing potential confusion. The Exchange further believes that the proposed rule change would not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest or impose any significant burden on competition because it is based on the approved rules of BOX, Cboe BZX, Cboe, BYX, Cboe EDGA, and Cboe EDGX.

The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period after which a proposed rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) becomes effective to enable the proposed rule change to become

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<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>17</sup> 17 C.F.R. § 240.19b-4(f)(6).



operative upon filing. Waiving the 30-day delay in this manner would allow the Exchange to appropriately address a time-sensitive pending membership application as discussed above. Additionally, waiver of the operative delay would permit the Exchange to harmonize the aspects of its statutory disqualification-related rules that are the subject of this proposed rule change filing with the other exchanges described herein immediately upon effectiveness of the proposed rule filing. As noted, the proposed rule change does not present any new or novel issues because the Exchange is harmonizing these aspects of its statutory disqualification-related rules with those of BOX, Cboe BZX, Cboe BYX, Cboe EDGA, and Cboe EDGX. Waiver of the operative delay will also avoid any potential confusion that may otherwise occur on the part of existing and prospective member organizations and other market participants as to the applicable rules governing statutory disqualifications.

For the foregoing reasons, the rule filing qualifies for immediate effectiveness as a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4.<sup>18</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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is based on IM-2040-08 to BOX Rule 2040 and Interpretation and Policies .04 to Cboe EDGX Rule 2.5, Cboe BZX Rule 2.5, Cboe BYX Rule 2.5, and Cboe EDGA Rule 2.5.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Form of Notice of Proposed Rule Change for Federal Register.

Exhibit 5 – Text of Proposed Rule Change.

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<sup>18</sup> 17 C.F.R. § 240.19b-4(f)(6).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NYSEAMER-2024-75)

[Date]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE American LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Change to Amend Rule 342

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that, on December 3, 2024, NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 Rule 342 to add clarity to the process for a broker-dealer to become or remain a member organization notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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 self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those 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 parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend proposes to amend Rule 342 to add clarity to the process to the process for a broker-dealer to become or remain a member organization notwithstanding a statutory disqualification.

Background and Proposed Rule Filing

Section 3(a)(39) of the Act defines the term “statutory disqualification” and the circumstances that can cause a person (either a Member, or a person associated with a Member) to be subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>4</sup> Absent relief, a statutory disqualification would preclude a broker-dealer or person associated with a broker-dealer from certain activities, including membership in a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”).

There is, however, a well-established process through which a broker-dealer (or a person associated with a broker-dealer) may continue to operate in the securities industry (and either become a member of, or continue as a member of, one or more SROs) despite being subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>5</sup> In particular, SEC Rule 19h-1<sup>6</sup> describes several ways an SRO may seek relief for a member (or prospective member) that is subject to a statutory disqualification, including whether an SRO must file a notice with the Commission in order to allow the

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<sup>4</sup> 15 USC 78c(a)(39).

<sup>5</sup> See FINRA Regulatory Notice 09-19 (“Amendments to FINRA Rule 9520 Series to Establish Procedures Applicable to Firms and Associated Persons Subject to Certain Statutory Disqualifications”).

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19h-1.

disqualified firm to become or continue as a member with the SRO (a “19h-1 Notice”). A 19h-1 Notice does not, for instance, need to be filed by an SRO if the firm subject to a statutory disqualification is a member of at least one other SRO, and that SRO intends to file a 19h-1 Notice for the firm.<sup>7</sup>

Rule 342 (Association of Members, Member Organizations, and Persons Associated With Member Organizations) of the Office Rules provides that, except as otherwise permitted by the Exchange, no member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization shall have associated with him or it any person who is known, or in the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be subject to any “statutory disqualification” defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Act.

Recently, a non-member broker-dealer firm subject to a statutory disqualification that is currently under review by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) applied for Exchange membership.<sup>8</sup>

In reviewing this application, the Exchange determined that this situation is not explicitly addressed in its rules as it is in the rules of other exchanges.<sup>9</sup> Specifically, BOX, Cboe BZX, Cboe BYX, Cboe EDGX, and Cboe EDGA each amended their respective rules in 2016 to provide more clarity as to the authority of each exchange to determine whether to admit a

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<sup>7</sup> Id. at (a)(3).

<sup>8</sup> The processing of new membership applications at the Exchange includes statutory disqualification disclosures and background investigations. Review, assessment, and processing of these membership applications has been conducted on behalf of the Exchange by FINRA pursuant to a regulatory services agreement.

<sup>9</sup> See Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe EDGX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BZX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BYX”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe EDGA”) Rule 2.5(a) & Interpretation and Policies .04; and BOX Options Exchange LLC (“BOX”) Rule 2040(a) & IM-2040-08.

prospective member that is subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>10</sup> The 2016 rule change filings of these exchanges also amended several other aspects of their application procedures, but the Exchange only seeks to harmonize its rules insofar as they apply to member organizations and prospective member organizations (and associated persons of member organizations) that are subject to a statutory disqualification in order to address the membership application described herein.<sup>11</sup>

The Exchange accordingly proposes to align its rule with these other exchanges specifically with respect to the process of assessing an applicant for membership that is subject to a statutory disqualification.<sup>12</sup> As discussed below, the Exchange is making the proposed rule changes and seeks waiver of the 30-day operative delay in order to address an unusual and time sensitive situation in which a firm subject to a statutory disqualification seeks to become an Exchange member organization during the pendency of the process by which the firm is seeking relief from the statutory disqualification.

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<sup>10</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78449 (August 1, 2016), 81 FR 51947 (August 5, 2016) (SR-BOX-2016-26); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79229 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78875 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsBZX-2016-67); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79233 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78869 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsBYX-2016-28); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79234 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78867 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsEDGA-2016-23); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79236 (November 3, 2016), 81 FR 78878 (November 9, 2016) (SR-BatsEDGX2016-59).

<sup>11</sup> The 2016 rule filings also added some other conditions for eligibility for exchange membership such as adding a restriction that members must meet any condition the exchange placed on such member, which the Exchange believes are adequately addressed in other Exchange rules. See, e.g., Rule 310 (Formation of or Admission to Member Organization or Membership Owner). Moreover, the Rule 9520 Series sets forth procedures for a covered person (defined in Rule 9120(g) as a member, principal executive, approved person, registered or non-registered employee of a member organization or an ATP Holder (an options permit holder, see Rule 900.2NY (Definitions)), or other person (excluding a member organization) subject to the jurisdiction of the Exchange) to become or remain associated with a member organization or ATP Holder notwithstanding the existence of a statutory disqualification as defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Act, and for a current member organization or covered person to obtain relief from the eligibility or qualification requirements of the Exchange's Rules, referred to in the Rule as "eligibility proceedings."

<sup>12</sup> The proposed changes mirror the language in the following rules: BOX Rule 2040(a) and IM-2040-08; Cboe BZX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe BYX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; Cboe EDGA Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04; and Cboe EDGX Rule 2.5(a) and Interpretation and Policies .04.

To effectuate these changes, the Exchange proposes to add Supplementary Material .01 to Rule 342 to provide that the Exchange could approve an applicant for membership (or association with a member organization) that is subject to a statutory disqualification when a proceeding is pending before another SRO to determine whether to permit a member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization to become or continue membership or association notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. This provision, which is consistent with SEC Rule 19h-1(a)(3), would provide as follows (additions underlined):

**.01 Statutory Disqualification Proceedings Pending Before**

**Another SRO.** The Exchange may waive the provisions of this Rule when a proceeding is pending before another self-regulatory organization to determine whether to permit a member or associated person of a member to become or continue membership or association notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. In the event the Exchange determines to waive the provisions of this Rule with respect to an existing or prospective member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization, the Exchange shall determine whether it will concur in any Exchange Act Rule 19h-1 filing made by another self-regulatory organization with respect to such person.

This Supplementary Material is substantively identical to IM-2040-8 to BOX Rule 2040

and Interpretation and Policies .04 to Cboe BZX, BYX, EDGX, and EDGA Rules 2.5, except for language clarifying that the new supplementary material would apply to both prospective and existing members, member organizations, approved persons, employees, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would appropriately align its rules with the Commission's rules regarding statutory disqualifications and harmonize the Exchange's process with several other SROs. The Exchange notes that in assessing the statutory disqualification of a member organization or a prospective member organization, it must act consistent with the protection of investors and in the public interest and cannot unfairly discriminate against existing or prospective member organizations.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, as noted above, a current member organization or covered person can seek relief from the Exchange's eligibility or qualification requirements pursuant to the Rule 9520 Series.<sup>14</sup> In addition, any prospective member organization that has been denied membership in the Exchange or barred from becoming associated with a member organization is entitled to certain due process pursuant to the Rule 308 - Equities (Acceptability Proceedings), which includes, but is not limited to, potential review by the Commission.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>15</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),<sup>16</sup> in particular, because it is designed to prevent

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>14</sup> See note 11, supra.

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

<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, 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 Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would better align the Exchange's rules with the Commission's rules regarding statutory disqualifications and enable a consistent process across the Exchange and several other SROs to make appropriate filings with respect to persons subject to a statutory disqualification, thereby protecting investors and the public interest by providing more clarity and consistency with respect to the process of seeking relief from a statutory disqualification and in general enabling the Exchange to more efficiently administer membership applications involving statutory disqualifications. The Exchange further believes that the proposed change would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, protect investors and the public interest, and add clarity, transparency and consistency to the Exchange's disciplinary rules. The Exchange believes that market participants would benefit from the increased clarity, thereby reducing potential confusion.

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 that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change is not intended to address competitive issues but rather is concerned solely with aligning the Exchange's rules with those of other exchanges and with the Commission's approach to handling firms that are subject to statutory disqualification.



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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>17</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>18</sup> Because the 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 prior to 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>19</sup> normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>20</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such 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

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<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>20</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)<sup>21</sup> of the Act 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-NYSEAMER-2024-75 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-NYSEAMER-2024-75. 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 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

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<sup>21</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also 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-NYSEAMER-2024-75 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.<sup>22</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>22</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Additions underlined.  
Deletions [bracketed].

Rules of NYSE American LLC

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**Rule 342. Association of Members, Member Organizations, and Persons Associated With Member Organizations**

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(e) Except as otherwise permitted by the Exchange, no member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization shall have associated with him or it any person who is known, or in the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be subject to any "statutory disqualification" defined in Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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**••• *Supplementary Material:***

**.01 Statutory Disqualification Proceedings Pending Before Another SRO.** The Exchange may waive the provisions of this Rule when a proceeding is pending before another self-regulatory organization to determine whether to permit a member or associated person of a member to become or continue membership or association notwithstanding a statutory disqualification. In the event the Exchange determines to waive the provisions of this Rule with respect to an existing or prospective member, member organization, approved person, employee, or any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with a member or member organization, the Exchange shall determine whether it will concur in any Exchange Act Rule 19h-1 filing made by another self-regulatory organization with respect to such person.

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