

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by NASDAQ PHLX LLC
 Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) *	Section 806(e)(2) *
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Section 3C(b)(2) *
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Description

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

Proposed Rule Change Regarding Series 500 Rules.

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 * Last Name *
 Title *
 E-mail *
 Telephone * Fax

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title *)

Date
 By

(Name *)

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

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

Form 19b-4 Information *

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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 *

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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 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance 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, security-based swap submission, or advance notice 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

Add Remove View

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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 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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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) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² NASDAQ PHLX LLC (“Phlx” or “Exchange”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to amend Rule 501 (Specialist Appointment), Rule 507 (Application for Approval as an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO and Assignment in Options), Rule 508 (Transfer Application), Rule 510 (SQT and RSQT Performance Evaluation), and Rule 511 (Specialist Allocation and Performance Evaluation).³ The proposed amendments are described further below.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached as Exhibit 1 and a copy of applicable portion of the Exchange’s rules is attached as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by the Board of Directors of the Exchange (“Board”) on May 3, 2016. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ References to rules are to Phlx rules unless otherwise noted. The terms SQT, RSQT, RSQTO, and Specialist are discussed below.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to

Jurij Trypupenko
Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
(301) 978-8132

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: 1) Rule 501 to delete reference to back-up specialist; 2) Rule 507 to update the reference to "Board" to allow a designee, update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510; 3) Rules 508 to delete the reference to "lease" and the cross-reference to Rule 511; 4) Rule 510 to entitle the rule "Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT,"⁴ to add relevant good standing language, and appeal rights; and 5) Rule 511 to delete the rule.

Rules 501, 507, 508, 510, and 511 are part of the 500 series of rules in the Rules of the Exchange (the "Series 500 Rules"), which are entitled "Allocation, SQT, RSQT, and Evaluation Rules (Rule 500 - 599)."⁵ Many Series 500 Rules were established more than three decades ago with the advent of options trading on the Exchange,⁶ at which

⁴ "Specialist" is an Exchange member who is registered as an options specialist pursuant to Rule 1020(a). "Remote Specialist" is a specialist that does not have a physical presence on the floor of the Exchange. Streaming quote trader ("SQT") and remote streaming quote trader ("RSQT") are electronic traders on the Exchange pursuant to Rule 1014(b)(ii)(A) and Rule 1014(b)(ii)(B), respectively.

⁵ These Series 500 Rules apply to Exchange members that trade options. The Exchange continues to have a hybrid options floor, but no longer has an equities floor or a commodities floor.

⁶ For example, Rules 501, 505, and 506, were adopted on a pilot basis in 1982. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 18975 (August 17, 1982), 47 FR 37019 (August 24, 1982) (approval order regarding pilot in respect of Rules 501-506 and authorizing the Phlx Allocation, Evaluation and Securities Committee, which no

time Exchange options trading was strictly on-floor open outcry through specialists. Exchange options trading has, since that time, developed into a robust hybrid system that is currently largely electronic and off-floor⁷ but continues to have an on-floor specialist⁸ and an open outcry trading floor. The Exchange is now updating and modernizing the Series 500 Rules as discussed below.⁹

Updating Rule 501

The Exchange proposes in Rule 501 to delete the reference to back-up specialist.

Currently, Rule 501 states that initial application(s) to become a specialist unit shall include information regarding the specialist, back-up specialist unit and a substitute

longer exists). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 18975 (August 17, 1982), 47 FR 37019 (August 24, 1982) (SR-Phlx-81-1) (approval order regarding Rules 100, 201, 203 and 214 in combination with Rules 500 through 505). Rules 500, 501, 505, 506, 508, 511, 515, 520, 522, 523, 525, and 526 (of which Rules 500, 515, 516, 520, 522, 523, 525, and 526 no longer exist) were permanently approved in 1991. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 29369 (June 26, 1991), 56 FR 30604 (July 3, 1991) (SR-Phlx-87-42) (order granting permanent approval). Rule 507 was adopted in 2004. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50100 (July 27, 2004), 69 FR 46612 (August 3, 2004) (SR-Phlx-2003-59) (order granting approval). Rule 510 was adopted in 2007. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55080 (January 10, 2007), 72 FR 2324 (January 18, 2007) (SR-Phlx-2006-51) (order granting approval). The Exchange has filed a separate proposal regarding two of the rules in the Series 500 Rules, namely Rules 505 and 506. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

⁷ Electronic traders include market makers that are SQTs, RSQTs, and off-floor specialists (Remote Specialists). See Rules 1014(b)(ii)(A), 1014(b)(ii)(B), and 1020.

⁸ Unlike specialists, Remote Specialists do not have a physical presence on the floor of the Exchange. Rule 1020.

⁹ While the vast majority of options-related rules are found in Rule 1000 and higher (with option index rules found in Rule 1000A and higher), some of the older options-related rules are, as discussed, in the Series 500 Rules.

specialist unit. With the development of liquidity-enhancing electronic market makers on the Exchange such as RSQs, which make markets in the same options issues as specialists, and the diminution of the role that the specialist plays in managing the order book on the Exchange, both a back-up specialist and substitute specialist are no longer needed.¹⁰ Therefore, obsolete language in Rule 501 in respect of back-up specialists, which includes Commentary .01 to Rule 501, is proposed to be deleted from Rule 501. All of the other initial application requirements of Rule 501, which include the following information, remain unchanged: the identity of the individual who will act as head specialist and as assistant specialist(s) in the unit; the identity of the unit's staff positions and who will occupy those positions; the identity of a substitute specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit which shall serve as a substitute specialist unit in the event that the specialist unit is unable to perform the duties of a specialist; the unit's clearing arrangements; and the unit's capital structure, including any lines of credit.¹¹

Updating Rule 507

The Exchange proposes in Rule 507 to update the reference to "Board", update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510.

First, Rule 507 currently states that the Board has the ability to perform functions such as deferring or limiting approval of SQTs or RSQs. The Exchange proposes that the Board may have a designee for these purposes. Specifically, the Exchange proposes

¹⁰ The function of a back-up specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit, as in current Rule 501(b), is for one specialist unit on the floor to provide staffing when needed to another specialist unit on the floor. Because multiple specialist units are no longer present on the floor, the back-up function is no longer feasible. Moreover, as discussed the specialist unit must clearly indicate its staffing to the Exchange, and the substitute specialist requirement continues unchanged.

¹¹ Rule 501(a) and (b).

that “Board” in Rule 507 be replaced by “Board of Directors or its designee” (known in Rule 507 as “Board/designee”). The Exchange believes that this change will help with the administration and application of Rule 507, and that the proposed change is similar in nature to other Exchange rules that allow the Board to have a designee.¹²

Second, Rule 507(e) currently states that an appeal to the Board from a decision of the Exchange regarding an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO¹³ application may be requested by a member or member organization; and that such appeal shall be heard by a special committee of the Directors composed of three (3) Directors at least one of whom will be Independent.¹⁴ In light of and commensurate with the first proposed Rule 507 change regarding Board/designee, the Exchange proposes to state that any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 507 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three (3) members;¹⁵ and that, as now, there shall be no appeal to the Board/designee from any decision of the special committee.

¹² See, e.g., Rules 52, 924, and 1009.

¹³ “RSQTO” is a Remote Streaming Quote Trader Organization with up to five affiliated RSQTs. Rule 507(a).

¹⁴ These are members of the Board of Directors.

¹⁵ The language stating that one of the Board members shall be an Independent is proposed to be deleted. The Exchange believes that this is proper as the “Independent” label is now a distinction with little, if any, effect. Whereas the vast majority of Phlx Board members were not independent when Rule 507 was put into place and the Exchange was a private entity, the composition of the Phlx Board has radically changed since Phlx became part of a public entity, Nasdaq, Inc., in 2008. The By-Laws of the Exchange provide that the Exchange can have Public Directors, Non-Industry Directors, and Industry Directors; and that Industry Directors may include no more than two officers the Exchange, selected at the sole discretion of the Board, which may serve in the role of Staff Director (not Independent). Phlx By-Laws Article I. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77165 (February 17, 2016), 81 FR 9041 (February 23, 2016) (SR-BSECC-2015-002; SR-SCCP-2015-02; SR-BX-2015-085; SR-NASDAQ-2015-

Third, Rule 507(b) currently states that when making a decision concerning an application for assignment in an option the Exchange shall consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on evaluations conducted pursuant to Exchange Rule 510.¹⁶ The Exchange is, as discussed below, proposing to update Rule 510 so that in lieu of the current formulaic language in the rule, there is new language that accentuates the good standing of members. In light of this, the Exchange proposes to update the 507(b) reference to state that the Exchange can consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on "good standing pursuant to Rule 510." The Exchange is not proposing any other change to Rule 507. The Exchange notes that the other aspects of Rule 507, such as, for example, RSQTO eligibility criteria,¹⁷

160; SR-Phlx-2015-113) (order granting approval). Now, all but one of the twelve members on the Phlx Board are independent (the only exception being one Staff Board member who is an officer of the Exchange). Thus, in light of the composition of the Phlx Board, which has one Staff Board member, only one of the three Directors on the special committee discussed in current Rule 507 could possibly be not Independent. Moreover, a special committee as noted in Rule 507 has not been instituted since, let alone before, Phlx became part of Nasdaq, Inc. We note also that the compositional requirements for the Boards that oversee the three options markets under the umbrella of Nasdaq, Inc. (Phlx, the NASDAQ Options Market, and the BX Options Market ("BX Options")) are similar.

¹⁶ Other factors for consideration include: (A) the financial and technical resources available to the applicant; and (B) the applicant's experience and expertise in market making or options trading. Rule 507(b).

¹⁷ These RSQTO criteria include: (A) Significant market-making and/or specialist experience in a broad array of securities; (B) Superior resources, including capital, technology and personnel; (C) Demonstrated history of stability, superior electronic capacity, and superior operational capacity; (D) Proven ability to interact with order flow in all types of markets; (E) Existence of order flow commitments; (F) Willingness to accept allocations as an RSQT in options overlying 400 or more securities; and (G) Willingness and ability to make competitive markets on the Exchange and otherwise to promote the Exchange in a manner that is likely to enhance the ability of the Exchange to compete successfully for order flow in the options it trades. Rule 507(a)(i).

SQT and RSQT eligibility criteria,¹⁸ and technological ability for RSQTOs, SQTs or RSQTs,¹⁹ remain in place.²⁰

Updating Rule 508

The Exchange proposes in Rule 508 to delete the reference to “lease” and to Rule 511.

First, Rule 508 currently refers to “lease.” Leasing is no longer practiced on the Exchange, and for this reason the Exchange is proposing to delete this obsolete term from Rule 508. This is similar to a recent proposal wherein the Exchange noted that leasing is an obsolete term that should be deleted.²¹

Second, Rule 508 currently refers to Rule 511 regarding specialists. The Exchange proposes to delete the Rule 508 reference to Rule 511. This is because, as

¹⁸ These SQT and RSQT criteria include: (A) Significant market-making and/or specialist experience in a broad array of securities; (B) Superior resources, including capital, technology and personnel; (C) Demonstrated history of stability, superior electronic capacity, and superior operational capacity; (D) Proven ability to interact with order flow in all types of markets; (E) Willingness and ability to make competitive markets on the Exchange and otherwise to promote the Exchange in a manner that is likely to enhance the ability of the Exchange to compete successfully for order flow in the options it trades; (F) A current affiliation with an Exchange-approved RSQTO (RSQT applicants only). Rule 507(a)(ii).

¹⁹ No application for initial assignment in an option shall be approved without verification that (A) the RSQTO, SQT or RSQT applicant has sufficient technological ability to support his/her continuous quoting requirements as set forth in Rule 1014(b)(ii), and (B) the RSQTO, SQT or RSQT applicant has successfully completed, or is scheduled to complete, testing of its quoting system with the Exchange. Rule 507(b)(ii).

²⁰ Specialist (and Remote Specialist) eligibility and qualification requirements are discussed in Rules 501, 506, 1014, and 1020.

²¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

discussed below, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted as the language of Rule 510 is proposed to be modified to include specialists.²²

Updating Rule 510

The Exchange proposes to entitle Rule 510 “Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT” and to add relevant good standing language.

First, Rule 510 currently applies only to SQTs and RSQTs. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to indicate that this rule will also be applicable to specialists. Thus, the Exchange proposes to entitle Rule 510 as “Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT”. The good standing requirement, which is discussed below, is a continuous requirement rather than a periodic evaluation requirement as in current Rules 510 and 511.²³

Second, Rule 510 currently is written in terms of doing performance evaluations for SQTs and RSQTs. This is not needed. Currently, Rule 507 has a very detailed process for applying for and approving SQTs and RSQTs, and for assigning options to SQTs and RSQTs. In addition, today Rule 501 defines the application and approval process for specialists.²⁴ To more closely align the Exchange with another options exchange, namely BX Options, the Exchange is adopting language similar to BX Options

²² Rule 508 will continue to indicate, without reference to Rule 511, that failure to provide the Exchange prior notice of a transfer in accordance with Rule 508, or failure to obtain Exchange approval of a transfer, permits the Exchange to recover the allocated securities and reallocate them pursuant to Rule 506.

²³ Proposed Rule 510, which applies to specialists (including Remote Specialists), SQTs, and RSQTs, discusses that good standing on the Exchange means continuous compliance with, among other things, Exchange options rules and procedures as well as market making requirements (market making requirements are found in Rule 1014).

²⁴ Rules 506, 508, and 513 discuss other aspects of the process.

Rule at Chapter VII, Section 4 (the “BX Options rule”).²⁵ Similar to Phlx, BX Options has market makers (“BX Options Market Makers”, which are also known as lead market makers (“LMMs”)). All BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder.²⁶ The Exchange is adopting the BX Options rule and proposing, in lieu of the current formulaic language in Rule 510, to insert new language indicating how a member of the Exchange can remain in good standing on the Exchange.

²⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277 (July 2, 2012) (order approving establishment of BX Options and marketplace rules) (SR-BX-2012-030).

²⁶ See BX Options Chapter VII, Section 2.

For obligations of BX Options Market Makers, see BX Options Chapter VII, Section 5, entitled “Obligations of Market Makers.” This section indicates that BX Options Markets Maker obligations include, but are not limited to: maintain a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market in transactions where acting in a market making capacity; not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings; maintain a two-sided market, during trading hours, in those options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade, in a manner that enhances the depth, liquidity and competitiveness of the market; compete with other Market Makers in all options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade; update quotations in response to changed market conditions in all options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade; and maintain active markets in all options in which the Market Maker is registered.

The BX Options Market Maker obligations are similar in nature to those of Phlx specialists, which can be found in Phlx Rule 1014, entitled “Obligations and Restrictions Applicable to Specialists and Registered Options Traders,” and include: maintain a fair and orderly market; not enter into transactions or make bids or offers that are inconsistent with such a course of dealings; quote a two-sided market; and maintain a two-sided market.

The proposed new language is, in all material respects,²⁷ is similar to BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to adopt new language in Rule 510(a) to state that to remain in good standing as a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT, the specialist, SQT, or RSQT must:

- i) continue to meet the requirements established in SEC Rule 15c3-1(a)(6)(i),²⁸ and the requirements set forth in the Series 500 Rules in the Rules of the Exchange;
- ii) continue to satisfy the specialist, SQT or RSQT qualification requirements specified by the Exchange,²⁹ as amended from time to time;
- iii) comply with the Rules of the Exchange and the Options Rules³⁰ as well as the rules of the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) and the rules of the Federal Reserve Board “FRB”); and
- iv) pay on a timely basis such member, transaction and other fees as the Exchange shall prescribe.³¹

²⁷ As with virtually all rules text copied from another exchange, changes are made to the proposed rule text to better fit the structure of the existing rules of the Exchange.

²⁸ 240 CFR 15c3-1 is the net capital requirement for brokers or dealers.

²⁹ For qualification requirements see, e.g., Rule 507 for SQF and RSQT; and Rules 501, 506, 1014, and 1020 for specialist.

³⁰ As discussed, while the vast majority of options-related rules are found in Rule 1000 and higher (with option index rules in Rule 1000A and higher), some of the older options-related rules are found in rules below 1000, such as, for example, the Series 500 Rules.

³¹ Member assessments are generally reflected in the Phlx Payment Schedule.

These proposed requirements to remain in good standing on the Exchange are not periodic, as are the evaluation and performance concepts in current Rules 510 and 511, but rather are continuous in nature.

Third, the Exchange notes that with the proposed new good standard requirements, specialist and other market maker (e.g., RSQT) obligations, such as market making, will continue to apply.³² For specialists (and RSQTs functioning as Remote Specialists) the Rule 1014 market making obligations are applicable throughout the trading day. Thus, a specialist (or Remote Specialist) shall continue to be responsible to quote two-sided markets in the lesser of 99% of the series or 100% of the series minus one call-put pair in each option in which such specialist is assigned. To satisfy this requirement with respect to quoting a series, the specialist must quote such series 90% of the trading day (as a percentage of the total number of minutes in such trading day) or such higher percentage as the Exchange may announce in advance. These obligations will apply collectively to all appointed issues of the specialist, rather than on an issue by-issue basis. Compliance with this obligation will be determined on a monthly basis. However, determining compliance with the continuous quoting requirement on a monthly basis does not relieve the specialist (including the Remote Specialist) of the obligation to provide continuous two-sided quotes on a daily basis, nor will it prohibit the Exchange from taking disciplinary action against the specialist (including the Remote Specialist) for failing to meet the continuous quoting obligation each trading day.³³

³² Other obligations include, for example: order exposure, order handling, and best execution.

³³ See Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(2).

Fourth, the proposed new language in Rule 510(b) states that the good standing of a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT or RSQT may be suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn, as provided in the Exchange's rules, if any of said conditions for approval cease to be maintained or the specialist, SQT, or RSQT violates any of its agreements with the Exchange or any of the provisions of the Rules of the Exchange or of the Options Rules. The Exchange is proposing to add appeal rights, which do not exist in Rule 510 at this time.

The proposed appeal rights in Rule 510 are taken from current Rule 511. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 510(c) to adopt the following language: An appeal by a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT to the Board/designee from a decision of the Exchange may be requested by a member or member organization interested therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. Any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 510 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three (3) members. The person requesting review shall be permitted to submit a written statement to and/or appear before this special committee. The Secretary of the Exchange shall certify the record of the proceeding, if any and the written decision and shall submit these documents to the special committee. The special

For the market making obligations of SQTs and RSQTs (including Directed SQT or DRSQTs, and Directed RSQTs or DRSQTs), which remain unchanged, see Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(1). This rule states that, like for specialists, compliance for SQTs and RSQTs will be determined on a monthly basis. However, determining compliance with the continuous quoting requirement on a monthly basis does not relieve an SQT, RSQT, DSQT, or DRSQT of the obligation to provide continuous two-sided quotes on a daily basis, nor will it prohibit the Exchange from taking disciplinary action against an SQT, RSQT, DSQT, or DRSQT for failing to meet the continuous quoting obligation each trading day. Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(1).

committee's review of the action shall be based solely on the record, the written decision and any statement submitted by the person requesting the review. The special committee shall prepare and deliver to such person a written decision and reasons therefore. If the special committee affirms the action, the action shall become effective ten (10) days from the date of the special committee's decision. There shall be no appeal to the Board/designee from any decision of the special committee.³⁴

The memorialization of appeal rights in proposed Rule 510(c) is done to ensure that if the good standing of a specialist, SQT, or RSQT is suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn then they have a clear way to initiate and prosecute an appeal regarding such decision. The proposed due process methodology is similar to other rules of the Exchange.

By proposing new language in Rule 510(a) and (b) regarding specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs regarding good standing, which is similar to that of BX Options, the continuous good standing rules of the Exchange and BX Options will be more aligned and easier to apply.³⁵

³⁴ Rule 507(e) also sets forth the appeal process from a decision of the Exchange regarding an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO application, which is not changed.

³⁵ Thus, in addition to adding appeal rights into Rule 510, the Exchange is replacing the current *periodic* evaluation or performance requirements in Rule 510 (*e.g.*, monthly for SQTs and RSQTs), as also in Rule 511 (*e.g.*, annually for specialists) which is discussed below, with the proposed Rule 510 *continuous* requirements for specialists (including Remote Specialists), SQTs, and RSQTs to meet Exchange, Commission, OCC and FRB rules and requirements to remain in good standing. Moreover, while proposed Rule 510 is being changed the market making and other obligations for specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs continue as discussed.

Deleting Rule 511

The Exchange has concluded that, with the placement of the good standing concepts into proposed Rule 510 in such a way that they include specialist (and Remote Specialist), Rule 511 is no longer needed. In Rule 510, as discussed, in lieu of the current language, the Exchange is proposing to adopt new language indicating how a member of the Exchange can remain in good standing.

The proposed new language in Rule 510 is, in all material respects, similar to the BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. Because of this proposed new language in Rule 510, which addresses a specialists, the Exchange proposes to delete Rule 511 in its entirety. The Exchange believes that, within the effort to update and consolidate the Series 500 Rules as discussed, it is reasonable and proper to delete Rule 511. This rule was established decades ago for the purpose of dealing with the extensive on-floor open outcry specialist system, with multiple competing specialist units. Since the implementation of Rule 511, the open outcry options floor has evolved into a robust and competitive principally electronic system, and the remaining hybrid options floor does not have numerous competing specialists as was the case when Rule 511 was instituted.

The Exchange believes that under the circumstances, and because specialists are proposed to be covered in Rule 510 in terms of good standing, and continue to be covered in the Series 500 Rules and other rules of the Exchange,³⁶ deletion of Rule 511 is proper.

³⁶ See, e.g., Rule 501 (Specialist Appointment); Rule 506 (Allocation Application, Allocation, Reallocation, and Transfer); Rule 508 (Transfer Application); and Rule 513 (Voluntary Resignation of Options Privileges). See also, e.g., Rule 1022 (Securities Accounts and Orders of Specialists and Registered Options Traders; and Rule 1020 (Registration and Functions of Options Specialists), which discusses on-floor options specialists and electronic Remote Specialists.

As discussed, the Exchange is deleting the performance evaluation structure of Rule 511 and is proposing to relocate the concept within Rule 510 with the proposed good standing requirement and appeal rights applicable to specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs. The Exchange believes that the proposed good standing approach, which is applicable to specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs, enhances the current rule because unlike the periodic nature of the performance evaluation structure the proposed good standing approach would have continuous requirements that must be maintained in order to remain in good standing on the Exchange (e.g., compliance with the equity and options rules of the Exchange, OCC, and FRB).

As discussed, options trading on the Exchange has developed into a robust hybrid system that is currently largely electronic and off-floor. The Exchange continues to have an open outcry trading floor, however, rather than a proliferation of competitive specialists on the options floor when Rule 511 was instituted, there is currently one specialist unit on the options floor today and therefore Rule 511 is not needed. In the past, when so many specialists conducted business on the options floor, Rule 511 served a purpose. Today, Rule 511 is no longer needed and is obsolete, particularly in light of numerous rules in the Phlx rulebook that apply to specialists.

The many rules that continue to apply to specialists discuss topics such as application, approval, allocation, re-allocation, market making, and obligations of specialists. For example, Rule 501 as proposed discusses the specialist allocation process and specialist approval process. To be an approved specialist unit and retain the privilege of such status, for example, a specialist unit must maintain the approved clearing arrangements and capital structure stated on their application and changes regarding

certain requirements must be submitted and approved by the Exchange. In addition, each unit must consist of at least one head specialist and one assistant specialist that must be associated with the specialist unit; the Exchange, in its discretion, may require a unit to obtain additional staff depending upon the number of assigned options classes and associated order flow. Rule 506 discusses allocation application, reallocation of a previously allocated options, and transfer of allocated options.³⁷ Rule 506 also discusses that, in addition to a minimum allocation period of one year, the Exchange may establish an “alternate specialist period” period of less than one year to act as a specialist in an options class. Rule 508 as proposed discusses the Exchange approval process if there is agreement between or among specialist units to transfer one or more options classes already allocated to a specified specialist unit. Rule 513, which is not proposed to be amended with this filing, discusses the process if an option specialist unit voluntarily resigns from allocation in a particular option and there is a future allocation regarding such option.³⁸ In addition, Rule 1014 discusses the obligations and restrictions applicable to specialists and registered options traders during each trading day; these obligations and restrictions include, as discussed above, very specific market making requirements. Finally, Rule 1022 discusses securities accounts and orders of specialists and registered options traders and proper identification of accounts, reporting of options, and orders of underlyings.

³⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

³⁸ One rule in the Series 500 Rules does not specifically deal with specialists. This is Rule 507, which was discussed above. This rule deals with the application and approval process for SQTs, RSQTs, or RSQTOs, and the assignment of options.

The Exchange believes that the changes to the noted rules in the Series 500 Rules will make remaining Rules 501, 507, 508, and 510 easier to apply, clearer and better.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,³⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁴⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest by proposing to make changes to five rules in the Series 500 Rules as discussed.

The proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade by updating and modernizing the Series 500 Rules and making them clearer and easier to use while continuing to protect investors and the public interest.

In particular, the Exchange is proposing to change Rule 501 to delete reference to a back-up specialist. With the development of liquidity-enhancing electronic market makers on the Exchange such as RSQTs, which make markets in the same options issues as specialists, and the diminution of the role that the specialist plays in managing the order book on the Exchange, both a back-up specialist and substitute specialist are no longer needed.

Therefore, obsolete language in Rule 501 in respect of back-up specialists, which includes Commentary .01 to Rule 501, is proposed to be deleted from Rule 501. In a similar vein, the Exchange is proposing to change Rule 508 to delete the cross reference

³⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁴⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

to Rule 511 and to “lease.” As discussed, with the change in Rule 510 to the good standing standard that applies to specialists as well as SQTs and RSQTs, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted and therefore the reference is no longer needed. Moreover, leasing is no longer permitted on the Exchange, and for this reason the Exchange is proposing to delete this obsolete term from Rule 508.

The Exchange is proposing to change Rule 507 to update the reference to “Board” to allow a designee, update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510. Where currently Rule 507 states that the Board has the ability to perform functions such as deferring or limiting approval of SQTs or RSQTs, the Exchange proposes that the Board may have a designee for these purposes. Specifically, the Exchange proposes that “Board” in Rule 507 is replaced by “Board of Directors or its designee” (known as “Board/designee”). The Exchange believes that this change will help with the administration and application of Rule 507, and that the proposed change is similar in nature to other Exchange rules that allow the Board to have a designee. Where currently Rule 507(e) states that an appeal shall be heard by a special committee of the Directors composed of three, the Exchange proposes to state that any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 507 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three members. And, where currently Rule 507(b) states that when making a decision concerning an application for assignment in an option the Exchange shall consider the applicant’s prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on evaluations conducted pursuant to Exchange Rule 510, the Exchange is proposing to update Rule 510 so that in lieu of the current formulaic language in the rule, there is new language that accentuates the good standing of members. In light of this, the

Exchange proposes to update the 507(b) reference to state that the Exchange can consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on "good standing pursuant to Rule 510."

The Exchange proposes to clean up Rule 508 to delete the reference to "lease." Leasing is no longer practiced on the Exchange, and the term is therefore deleted as obsolete.⁴¹ Similarly, the Exchange proposes to delete the Rule 508 reference to Rule 511 because, as discussed, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted as the language of Rule 510 is proposed to be modified to include specialists and include the good standing requirement.

The proposed rule change is designed to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

In particular, the Exchange is proposing to update Rule 510 to give it a new title, "Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT," to add relevant good standing language, and appeal rights. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to indicate that, with the deletion of Rule 511, Rule 510 will also be applicable to specialists. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to more closely align the Exchange with BX Options by adopting language from the BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. BX Options market makers are held to good standing standards per the BX Options rule. Specialists on Phlx are another type of market maker.

⁴¹ Leasing has been similarly deleted in other filings. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness).

The Exchange is adopting language from BX Options at Chapter VII, Section 4. Specifically, the Exchange proposes new language in Rule 510(a) to state that to remain in good standing on the Exchange as a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT, the specialist, SQT, or RSQT must meet specific requirements set forth in the rule.⁴² As discussed, the proposed new good standing language in Rule 510 will be, in all material respects, similar to BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. This makes particular sense because all BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder and, like Phlx specialists, have market making obligations.⁴³

And significantly, the Exchange is proposing to add appeal rights, which do not exist in Rule 510. These proposed appeal rights for a specialist, SQT, or RSQT, which are set forth in Rule 510(c) for, are adopted from Rule 511. The memorialization in Rule 510 of appeal rights is done to affirm that if the good standing of a specialist, SQT, or RSQT is suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn then they have a clear way to initiate and prosecute an appeal regarding such decision.

The Exchange has concluded that, with the placement of the good standing concepts into proposed Rule 510 in such a way that they include a specialist (and Remote

⁴² The specific good standing requirements are: i) continue to meet the requirements established in SEC Rule 15c3-1(a)(6)(i), and the requirements set forth in the Series 500 Rules in the Rules of the Exchange; ii) continue to satisfy the specialist, SQT or RSQT qualification requirements specified by the Exchange, as amended from time to time; iii) comply with the Rules of the Exchange and the Options Rules as well as the rules of the Options Clearing Corporation and the rules of the Federal Reserve Board; and iv) pay on a timely basis such member, transaction and other fees as the Exchange shall prescribe. Proposed Rule 510(a).

⁴³ See, e.g., supra note 26 and accompanying discussion. See also supra notes 32-33 and accompanying discussion.

Specialist), Rule 511 is no longer needed and is therefore proposed to be deleted in its entirety; with transfer of specialist appeal rights from Rule 511 to Rule 510.

The Exchange is proposing to delete Rule 511. This rule was established decades ago for the purpose of dealing with the extensive on-floor open outcry specialist system, with multiple competing specialist units. Since the implementation of Rule 511, the open outcry options floor has evolved into a robust and competitive principally electronic system, and the remaining hybrid options floor does not have numerous competing specialists as was the case when Rule 511 was instituted. The Exchange believes that because of the extensive changes on the option floor (from having numerous competitive specialist units on the old options floor to having a specialist unit on the current options floor), and because specialists are proposed to be covered in Rule 510 in terms of good standing and continue to be covered in the Series 500 Rules and other rules of the Exchange, Rule 511 is no longer needed and deletion of Rule 511 is proper.

As noted, numerous rules in the Phlx rulebook continue to apply to specialists (as well as to other registered options traders). For example, Rule 501 as proposed discusses the specialist allocation process and specialist approval process. Rule 506 discusses allocation application, reallocation of previously allocated options, and transfer of allocated options. Rule 508 as proposed discusses the Exchange approval process if there is agreement between or among specialist units to transfer one or more options classes already allocated to a specified specialist unit. Rule 513, which is not proposed to be amended with this filing, discusses the process if an option specialist unit voluntarily resigns from allocation in a particular option and there is a future allocation regarding that option. Rule 1014 discusses the obligations and restrictions, including specific

market making requirements, which are applicable to specialists each trading day.

Finally, Rule 1022 discusses proper identification of accounts, reporting of options, and orders of underlyings in respect of securities accounts and orders of specialists and registered options traders.

The Exchange believes that the changes to the noted rules in the Series 500 Rules will make remaining Rules 501, 507, 508, and 510 easier to apply, clearer and better. Such proposed changes are in the public interest, and continue to serve to protect investors.

4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. While the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change is a burden on competition, or is competitive in nature, the Exchange believes that clearer, updated, modernized, and better-conforming rules that do not refer to obsolete concepts are always beneficial to market participants, are in the public interest, and serve to protect investors.

5. 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.

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 requests the Commission to grant accelerated approval so that the Series 500 Rules can, as soon as possible, be modernized and updated. The Exchange

believes that these proposals will improve the functioning and consistency of the Series 500 Rules in light of the development of the options floor since the Series 500 Rules came into existence. The Exchange believes that good reason exists for accelerated approval, and that such waiver would be consistent with the protection of investors and in the public interest.

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

The proposed Rule 510 good standing requirements are, as discussed, based on the BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4.

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

1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. _____; File No. SR-Phlx-2016-66)

June __, 2016

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Regarding Series 500 Rules

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4² thereunder, notice is hereby given that on June 9, 2016, NASDAQ PHLX LLC (“Phlx” or “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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange is filing with the Commission a proposal to amend Rule 501 (Specialist Appointment), Rule 507 (Application for Approval as an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO and Assignment in Options), Rule 508 (Transfer Application), Rule 510 (SQT and RSQT Performance Evaluation), and Rule 511 (Specialist Allocation and Performance Evaluation).³ The proposed amendments are described further 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.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ References to rules are to Phlx rules unless otherwise noted. The terms SQT, RSQT, RSQTO, and Specialist are discussed below.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend: 1) Rule 501 to delete reference to back-up specialist; 2) Rule 507 to update the reference to "Board" to allow a designee, update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510; 3) Rules 508 to delete the reference to "lease" and the cross-reference to Rule 511; 4) Rule 510 to entitle the rule "Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT,"⁴ to add relevant good standing language, and appeal rights; and 5) Rule 511 to delete the rule.

Rules 501, 507, 508, 510, and 511 are part of the 500 series of rules in the Rules of the Exchange (the "Series 500 Rules"), which are entitled "Allocation, SQT, RSQT, and Evaluation Rules (Rule 500 - 599)."⁵ Many Series 500 Rules were established more

⁴ "Specialist" is an Exchange member who is registered as an options specialist pursuant to Rule 1020(a). "Remote Specialist" is a specialist that does not have a physical presence on the floor of the Exchange. Streaming quote trader ("SQT") and remote streaming quote trader ("RSQT") are electronic traders on the Exchange pursuant to Rule 1014(b)(ii)(A) and Rule 1014(b)(ii)(B), respectively.

⁵ These Series 500 Rules apply to Exchange members that trade options. The Exchange continues to have a hybrid options floor, but no longer has an equities floor or a commodities floor.

than three decades ago with the advent of options trading on the Exchange,⁶ at which time Exchange options trading was strictly on-floor open outcry through specialists. Exchange options trading has, since that time, developed into a robust hybrid system that is currently largely electronic and off-floor⁷ but continues to have an on-floor specialist⁸ and an open outcry trading floor. The Exchange is now updating and modernizing the Series 500 Rules as discussed below.⁹

⁶ For example, Rules 501, 505, and 506, were adopted on a pilot basis in 1982. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 18975 (August 17, 1982), 47 FR 37019 (August 24, 1982) (approval order regarding pilot in respect of Rules 501-506 and authorizing the Phlx Allocation, Evaluation and Securities Committee, which no longer exists). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 18975 (August 17, 1982), 47 FR 37019 (August 24, 1982) (SR-Phlx-81-1) (approval order regarding Rules 100, 201, 203 and 214 in combination with Rules 500 through 505). Rules 500, 501, 505, 506, 508, 511, 515, 520, 522, 523, 525, and 526 (of which Rules 500, 515, 516, 520, 522, 523, 525, and 526 no longer exist) were permanently approved in 1991. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 29369 (June 26, 1991), 56 FR 30604 (July 3, 1991) (SR-Phlx-87-42) (order granting permanent approval). Rule 507 was adopted in 2004. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50100 (July 27, 2004), 69 FR 46612 (August 3, 2004) (SR-Phlx-2003-59) (order granting approval). Rule 510 was adopted in 2007. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55080 (January 10, 2007), 72 FR 2324 (January 18, 2007) (SR-Phlx-2006-51) (order granting approval). The Exchange has filed a separate proposal regarding two of the rules in the Series 500 Rules, namely Rules 505 and 506. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

⁷ Electronic traders include market makers that are SQTs, RSQTs, and off-floor specialists (Remote Specialists). See Rules 1014(b)(ii)(A), 1014(b)(ii)(B), and 1020.

⁸ Unlike specialists, Remote Specialists do not have a physical presence on the floor of the Exchange. Rule 1020.

⁹ While the vast majority of options-related rules are found in Rule 1000 and higher (with option index rules found in Rule 1000A and higher), some of the older options-related rules are, as discussed, in the Series 500 Rules.

Updating Rule 501

The Exchange proposes in Rule 501 to delete the reference to back-up specialist.

Currently, Rule 501 states that initial application(s) to become a specialist unit shall include information regarding the specialist, back-up specialist unit and a substitute specialist unit. With the development of liquidity-enhancing electronic market makers on the Exchange such as RSQTs, which make markets in the same options issues as specialists, and the diminution of the role that the specialist plays in managing the order book on the Exchange, both a back-up specialist and substitute specialist are no longer needed.¹⁰ Therefore, obsolete language in Rule 501 in respect of back-up specialists, which includes Commentary .01 to Rule 501, is proposed to be deleted from Rule 501. All of the other initial application requirements of Rule 501, which include the following information, remain unchanged: the identity of the individual who will act as head specialist and as assistant specialist(s) in the unit; the identity of the unit's staff positions and who will occupy those positions; the identity of a substitute specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit which shall serve as a substitute specialist unit in the event that the specialist unit is unable to perform the duties of a specialist; the unit's clearing arrangements; and the unit's capital structure, including any lines of credit.¹¹

¹⁰ The function of a back-up specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit, as in current Rule 501(b), is for one specialist unit on the floor to provide staffing when needed to another specialist unit on the floor. Because multiple specialist units are no longer present on the floor, the back-up function is no longer feasible. Moreover, as discussed the specialist unit must clearly indicate its staffing to the Exchange, and the substitute specialist requirement continues unchanged.

¹¹ Rule 501(a) and (b).

Updating Rule 507

The Exchange proposes in Rule 507 to update the reference to “Board”, update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510.

First, Rule 507 currently states that the Board has the ability to perform functions such as deferring or limiting approval of SQTs or RSQTs. The Exchange proposes that the Board may have a designee for these purposes. Specifically, the Exchange proposes that “Board” in Rule 507 be replaced by “Board of Directors or its designee” (known in Rule 507 as “Board/designee”). The Exchange believes that this change will help with the administration and application of Rule 507, and that the proposed change is similar in nature to other Exchange rules that allow the Board to have a designee.¹²

Second, Rule 507(e) currently states that an appeal to the Board from a decision of the Exchange regarding an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO¹³ application may be requested by a member or member organization; and that such appeal shall be heard by a special committee of the Directors composed of three (3) Directors at least one of whom will be Independent.¹⁴ In light of and commensurate with the first proposed Rule 507 change regarding Board/designee, the Exchange proposes to state that any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 507 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee

¹² See, e.g., Rules 52, 924, and 1009.

¹³ “RSQTO” is a Remote Streaming Quote Trader Organization with up to five affiliated RSQTs. Rule 507(a).

¹⁴ These are members of the Board of Directors.

composed of three (3) members;¹⁵ and that, as now, there shall be no appeal to the Board/designee from any decision of the special committee.

Third, Rule 507(b) currently states that when making a decision concerning an application for assignment in an option the Exchange shall consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on evaluations conducted pursuant to Exchange Rule 510.¹⁶ The Exchange is, as discussed below, proposing to update Rule 510 so that in lieu of the current formulaic language in the rule, there is new language that accentuates the good standing of members. In light of this, the Exchange proposes to update the 507(b) reference to state that the Exchange can consider the applicant's prior

¹⁵ The language stating that one of the Board members shall be an Independent is proposed to be deleted. The Exchange believes that this is proper as the "Independent" label is now a distinction with little, if any, effect. Whereas the vast majority of Phlx Board members were not independent when Rule 507 was put into place and the Exchange was a private entity, the composition of the Phlx Board has radically changed since Phlx became part of a public entity, Nasdaq, Inc., in 2008. The By-Laws of the Exchange provide that the Exchange can have Public Directors, Non-Industry Directors, and Industry Directors; and that Industry Directors may include no more than two officers the Exchange, selected at the sole discretion of the Board, which may serve in the role of Staff Director (not Independent). Phlx By-Laws Article I. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77165 (February 17, 2016), 81 FR 9041 (February 23, 2016) (SR-BSECC-2015-002; SR-SCCP-2015-02; SR-BX-2015-085; SR-NASDAQ-2015-160; SR-Phlx-2015-113) (order granting approval). Now, all but one of the twelve members on the Phlx Board are independent (the only exception being one Staff Board member who is an officer of the Exchange). Thus, in light of the composition of the Phlx Board, which has one Staff Board member, only one of the three Directors on the special committee discussed in current Rule 507 could possibly be not Independent. Moreover, a special committee as noted in Rule 507 has not been instituted since, let alone before, Phlx became part of Nasdaq, Inc. We note also that the compositional requirements for the Boards that oversee the three options markets under the umbrella of Nasdaq, Inc. (Phlx, the NASDAQ Options Market, and the BX Options Market ("BX Options")) are similar.

¹⁶ Other factors for consideration include: (A) the financial and technical resources available to the applicant; and (B) the applicant's experience and expertise in market making or options trading. Rule 507(b).

performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on “good standing pursuant to Rule 510.” The Exchange is not proposing any other change to Rule 507. The Exchange notes that the other aspects of Rule 507, such as, for example, RSQTO eligibility criteria,¹⁷ SQT and RSQT eligibility criteria,¹⁸ and technological ability for RSQTOs, SQTs or RSQTs,¹⁹ remain in place.²⁰

¹⁷ These RSQTO criteria include: (A) Significant market-making and/or specialist experience in a broad array of securities; (B) Superior resources, including capital, technology and personnel; (C) Demonstrated history of stability, superior electronic capacity, and superior operational capacity; (D) Proven ability to interact with order flow in all types of markets; (E) Existence of order flow commitments; (F) Willingness to accept allocations as an RSQT in options overlying 400 or more securities; and (G) Willingness and ability to make competitive markets on the Exchange and otherwise to promote the Exchange in a manner that is likely to enhance the ability of the Exchange to compete successfully for order flow in the options it trades. Rule 507(a)(i).

¹⁸ These SQT and RSQT criteria include: (A) Significant market-making and/or specialist experience in a broad array of securities; (B) Superior resources, including capital, technology and personnel; (C) Demonstrated history of stability, superior electronic capacity, and superior operational capacity; (D) Proven ability to interact with order flow in all types of markets; (E) Willingness and ability to make competitive markets on the Exchange and otherwise to promote the Exchange in a manner that is likely to enhance the ability of the Exchange to compete successfully for order flow in the options it trades; (F) A current affiliation with an Exchange-approved RSQTO (RSQT applicants only). Rule 507(a)(ii).

¹⁹ No application for initial assignment in an option shall be approved without verification that (A) the RSQTO, SQT or RSQT applicant has sufficient technological ability to support his/her continuous quoting requirements as set forth in Rule 1014(b)(ii), and (B) the RSQTO, SQT or RSQT applicant has successfully completed, or is scheduled to complete, testing of its quoting system with the Exchange. Rule 507(b)(ii).

²⁰ Specialist (and Remote Specialist) eligibility and qualification requirements are discussed in Rules 501, 506, 1014, and 1020.

Updating Rule 508

The Exchange proposes in Rule 508 to delete the reference to “lease” and to Rule 511.

First, Rule 508 currently refers to “lease.” Leasing is no longer practiced on the Exchange, and for this reason the Exchange is proposing to delete this obsolete term from Rule 508. This is similar to a recent proposal wherein the Exchange noted that leasing is an obsolete term that should be deleted.²¹

Second, Rule 508 currently refers to Rule 511 regarding specialists. The Exchange proposes to delete the Rule 508 reference to Rule 511. This is because, as discussed below, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted as the language of Rule 510 is proposed to be modified to include specialists.²²

Updating Rule 510

The Exchange proposes to entitle Rule 510 “Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT” and to add relevant good standing language.

First, Rule 510 currently applies only to SQTs and RSQTs. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to indicate that this rule will also be applicable to specialists. Thus, the Exchange proposes to entitle Rule 510 as “Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT”. The good standing requirement, which is

²¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

²² Rule 508 will continue to indicate, without reference to Rule 511, that failure to provide the Exchange prior notice of a transfer in accordance with Rule 508, or failure to obtain Exchange approval of a transfer, permits the Exchange to recover the allocated securities and reallocate them pursuant to Rule 506.

discussed below, is a continuous requirement rather than a periodic evaluation requirement as in current Rules 510 and 511.²³

Second, Rule 510 currently is written in terms of doing performance evaluations for SQTs and RSQTs. This is not needed. Currently, Rule 507 has a very detailed process for applying for and approving SQTs and RSQTs, and for assigning options to SQTs and RSQTs. In addition, today Rule 501 defines the application and approval process for specialists.²⁴ To more closely align the Exchange with another options exchange, namely BX Options, the Exchange is adopting language similar to BX Options Rule at Chapter VII, Section 4 (the “BX Options rule”).²⁵ Similar to Phlx, BX Options has market makers (“BX Options Market Makers”, which are also known as lead market makers (“LMMs”)). All BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder.²⁶ The Exchange is adopting the BX

²³ Proposed Rule 510, which applies to specialists (including Remote Specialists), SQTs, and RSQTs, discusses that good standing on the Exchange means continuous compliance with, among other things, Exchange options rules and procedures as well as market making requirements (market making requirements are found in Rule 1014).

²⁴ Rules 506, 508, and 513 discuss other aspects of the process.

²⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67256 (June 26, 2012), 77 FR 39277 (July 2, 2012) (order approving establishment of BX Options and marketplace rules) (SR-BX-2012-030).

²⁶ See BX Options Chapter VII, Section 2.

For obligations of BX Options Market Makers, see BX Options Chapter VII, Section 5, entitled “Obligations of Market Makers.” This section indicates that BX Options Markets Maker obligations include, but are not limited to: maintain a course of dealings reasonably calculated to contribute to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market in transactions where acting in a market making capacity; not make bids or offers or enter into transactions that are inconsistent with such course of dealings; maintain a two-sided market, during trading hours, in those options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade, in a manner that

Options rule and proposing, in lieu of the current formulaic language in Rule 510, to insert new language indicating how a member of the Exchange can remain in good standing on the Exchange.

The proposed new language is, in all material respects,²⁷ is similar to BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to adopt new language in Rule 510(a) to state that to remain in good standing as a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT, the specialist, SQT, or RSQT must:

- i) continue to meet the requirements established in SEC Rule 15c3-1(a)(6)(i),²⁸ and the requirements set forth in the Series 500 Rules in the Rules of the Exchange;
- ii) continue to satisfy the specialist, SQT or RSQT qualification requirements specified by the Exchange,²⁹ as amended from time to time;

enhances the depth, liquidity and competitiveness of the market; compete with other Market Makers in all options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade; update quotations in response to changed market conditions in all options in which the Market Maker is registered to trade; and maintain active markets in all options in which the Market Maker is registered.

The BX Options Market Maker obligations are similar in nature to those of Phlx specialists, which can be found in Phlx Rule 1014, entitled “Obligations and Restrictions Applicable to Specialists and Registered Options Traders,” and include: maintain a fair and orderly market; not enter into transactions or make bids or offers that are inconsistent with such a course of dealings; quote a two-sided market; and maintain a two-sided market.

²⁷ As with virtually all rules text copied from another exchange, changes are made to the proposed rule text to better fit the structure of the existing rules of the Exchange.

²⁸ 240 CFR 15c3-1 is the net capital requirement for brokers or dealers.

²⁹ For qualification requirements see, e.g., Rule 507 for SQF and RSQT; and Rules 501, 506, 1014, and 1020 for specialist.

- iii) comply with the Rules of the Exchange and the Options Rules³⁰ as well as the rules of the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) and the rules of the Federal Reserve Board “FRB”); and
- iv) pay on a timely basis such member, transaction and other fees as the Exchange shall prescribe.³¹

These proposed requirements to remain in good standing on the Exchange are not periodic, as are the evaluation and performance concepts in current Rules 510 and 511, but rather are continuous in nature.

Third, the Exchange notes that with the proposed new good standard requirements, specialist and other market maker (e.g., RSQT) obligations, such as market making, will continue to apply.³² For specialists (and RSQTs functioning as Remote Specialists) the Rule 1014 market making obligations are applicable throughout the trading day. Thus, a specialist (or Remote Specialist) shall continue to be responsible to quote two-sided markets in the lesser of 99% of the series or 100% of the series minus one call-put pair in each option in which such specialist is assigned. To satisfy this requirement with respect to quoting a series, the specialist must quote such series 90% of the trading day (as a percentage of the total number of minutes in such trading day) or such higher percentage as the Exchange may announce in advance. These obligations

³⁰ As discussed, while the vast majority of options-related rules are found in Rule 1000 and higher (with option index rules in Rule 1000A and higher), some of the older options-related rules are found in rules below 1000, such as, for example, the Series 500 Rules.

³¹ Member assessments are generally reflected in the Phlx Payment Schedule.

³² Other obligations include, for example: order exposure, order handling, and best execution.

will apply collectively to all appointed issues of the specialist, rather than on an issue by-issue basis. Compliance with this obligation will be determined on a monthly basis.

However, determining compliance with the continuous quoting requirement on a monthly basis does not relieve the specialist (including the Remote Specialist) of the obligation to provide continuous two-sided quotes on a daily basis, nor will it prohibit the Exchange from taking disciplinary action against the specialist (including the Remote Specialist) for failing to meet the continuous quoting obligation each trading day.³³

Fourth, the proposed new language in Rule 510(b) states that the good standing of a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT or RSQT may be suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn, as provided in the Exchange's rules, if any of said conditions for approval cease to be maintained or the specialist, SQT, or RSQT violates any of its agreements with the Exchange or any of the provisions of the Rules of the Exchange or of the Options Rules. The Exchange is proposing to add appeal rights, which do not exist in Rule 510 at this time.

The proposed appeal rights in Rule 510 are taken from current Rule 511. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 510(c) to adopt the following language: An appeal by a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT to the

³³ See Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(2).

For the market making obligations of SQTs and RSQTs (including Directed SQT or DRSQTs, and Directed RSQTs or DRSQTs), which remain unchanged, see Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(1). This rule states that, like for specialists, compliance for SQTs and RSQTs will be determined on a monthly basis. However, determining compliance with the continuous quoting requirement on a monthly basis does not relieve an SQT, RSQT, DSQT, or DRSQT of the obligation to provide continuous two-sided quotes on a daily basis, nor will it prohibit the Exchange from taking disciplinary action against an SQT, RSQT, DSQT, or DRSQT for failing to meet the continuous quoting obligation each trading day. Rule 1014(b)(ii)(D)(1).

Board/designee from a decision of the Exchange may be requested by a member or member organization interested therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. Any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 510 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three (3) members. The person requesting review shall be permitted to submit a written statement to and/or appear before this special committee. The Secretary of the Exchange shall certify the record of the proceeding, if any and the written decision and shall submit these documents to the special committee. The special committee's review of the action shall be based solely on the record, the written decision and any statement submitted by the person requesting the review. The special committee shall prepare and deliver to such person a written decision and reasons therefore. If the special committee affirms the action, the action shall become effective ten (10) days from the date of the special committee's decision. There shall be no appeal to the Board/designee from any decision of the special committee.³⁴

The memorialization of appeal rights in proposed Rule 510(c) is done to ensure that if the good standing of a specialist, SQT, or RSQT is suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn then they have a clear way to initiate and prosecute an appeal regarding such decision. The proposed due process methodology is similar to other rules of the Exchange.

By proposing new language in Rule 510(a) and (b) regarding specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs regarding good standing, which is similar to that of BX Options, the

³⁴ Rule 507(e) also sets forth the appeal process from a decision of the Exchange regarding an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO application, which is not changed.

continuous good standing rules of the Exchange and BX Options will be more aligned and easier to apply.³⁵

Deleting Rule 511

The Exchange has concluded that, with the placement of the good standing concepts into proposed Rule 510 in such a way that they include specialist (and Remote Specialist), Rule 511 is no longer needed. In Rule 510, as discussed, in lieu of the current language, the Exchange is proposing to adopt new language indicating how a member of the Exchange can remain in good standing.

The proposed new language in Rule 510 is, in all material respects, similar to the BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. Because of this proposed new language in Rule 510, which addresses a specialists, the Exchange proposes to delete Rule 511 in its entirety. The Exchange believes that, within the effort to update and consolidate the Series 500 Rules as discussed, it is reasonable and proper to delete Rule 511. This rule was established decades ago for the purpose of dealing with the extensive on-floor open outcry specialist system, with multiple competing specialist units. Since the implementation of Rule 511, the open outcry options floor has evolved into a robust and competitive principally electronic system, and the remaining hybrid options floor does not have numerous competing specialists as was the case when Rule 511 was instituted.

³⁵ Thus, in addition to adding appeal rights into Rule 510, the Exchange is replacing the current *periodic* evaluation or performance requirements in Rule 510 (e.g., monthly for SQTs and RSQTs), as also in Rule 511 (e.g., annually for specialists) which is discussed below, with the proposed Rule 510 *continuous* requirements for specialists (including Remote Specialists), SQTs, and RSQTs to meet Exchange, Commission, OCC and FRB rules and requirements to remain in good standing. Moreover, while proposed Rule 510 is being changed the market making and other obligations for specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs continue as discussed.

The Exchange believes that under the circumstances, and because specialists are proposed to be covered in Rule 510 in terms of good standing, and continue to be covered in the Series 500 Rules and other rules of the Exchange,³⁶ deletion of Rule 511 is proper.

As discussed, the Exchange is deleting the performance evaluation structure of Rule 511 and is proposing to relocate the concept within Rule 510 with the proposed good standing requirement and appeal rights applicable to specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs. The Exchange believes that the proposed good standing approach, which is applicable to specialists, SQTs, and RSQTs, enhances the current rule because unlike the periodic nature of the performance evaluation structure the proposed good standing approach would have continuous requirements that must be maintained in order to remain in good standing on the Exchange (e.g., compliance with the equity and options rules of the Exchange, OCC, and FRB).

As discussed, options trading on the Exchange has developed into a robust hybrid system that is currently largely electronic and off-floor. The Exchange continues to have an open outcry trading floor, however, rather than a proliferation of competitive specialists on the options floor when Rule 511 was instituted, there is currently one specialist unit on the options floor today and therefore Rule 511 is not needed. In the past, when so many specialists conducted business on the options floor, Rule 511 served a purpose. Today, Rule 511 is no longer needed and is obsolete, particularly in light of numerous rules in the Phlx rulebook that apply to specialists.

³⁶ See, e.g., Rule 501 (Specialist Appointment); Rule 506 (Allocation Application, Allocation, Reallocation, and Transfer); Rule 508 (Transfer Application); and Rule 513 (Voluntary Resignation of Options Privileges). See also, e.g., Rule 1022 (Securities Accounts and Orders of Specialists and Registered Options Traders; and Rule 1020 (Registration and Functions of Options Specialists), which discusses on-floor options specialists and electronic Remote Specialists.

The many rules that continue to apply to specialists discuss topics such as application, approval, allocation, re-allocation, market making, and obligations of specialists. For example, Rule 501 as proposed discusses the specialist allocation process and specialist approval process. To be an approved specialist unit and retain the privilege of such status, for example, a specialist unit must maintain the approved clearing arrangements and capital structure stated on their application and changes regarding certain requirements must be submitted and approved by the Exchange. In addition, each unit must consist of at least one head specialist and one assistant specialist that must be associated with the specialist unit; the Exchange, in its discretion, may require a unit to obtain additional staff depending upon the number of assigned options classes and associated order flow. Rule 506 discusses allocation application, reallocation of a previously allocated options, and transfer of allocated options.³⁷ Rule 506 also discusses that, in addition to a minimum allocation period of one year, the Exchange may establish an “alternate specialist period” period of less than one year to act as a specialist in an options class. Rule 508 as proposed discusses the Exchange approval process if there is agreement between or among specialist units to transfer one or more options classes already allocated to a specified specialist unit. Rule 513, which is not proposed to be amended with this filing, discusses the process if an option specialist unit voluntarily resigns from allocation in a particular option and there is a future allocation regarding

³⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness to delete Rule 505 and update Rule 506).

such option.³⁸ In addition, Rule 1014 discusses the obligations and restrictions applicable to specialists and registered options traders during each trading day; these obligations and restrictions include, as discussed above, very specific market making requirements.

Finally, Rule 1022 discusses securities accounts and orders of specialists and registered options traders and proper identification of accounts, reporting of options, and orders of underlyings.

The Exchange believes that the changes to the noted rules in the Series 500 Rules will make remaining Rules 501, 507, 508, and 510 easier to apply, clearer and better.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,³⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁴⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest by proposing to make changes to five rules in the Series 500 Rules as discussed.

The proposed rule change is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade by updating and modernizing the Series 500 Rules and making them clearer and easier to use while continuing to protect investors and the public interest.

³⁸ One rule in the Series 500 Rules does not specifically deal with specialists. This is Rule 507, which was discussed above. This rule deals with the application and approval process for SQTs, RSQTs, or RSQTOs, and the assignment of options.

³⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁴⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

In particular, the Exchange is proposing to change Rule 501 to delete reference to a back-up specialist. With the development of liquidity-enhancing electronic market makers on the Exchange such as RSQTs, which make markets in the same options issues as specialists, and the diminution of the role that the specialist plays in managing the order book on the Exchange, both a back-up specialist and substitute specialist are no longer needed.

Therefore, obsolete language in Rule 501 in respect of back-up specialists, which includes Commentary .01 to Rule 501, is proposed to be deleted from Rule 501. In a similar vein, the Exchange is proposing to change Rule 508 to delete the cross reference to Rule 511 and to “lease.” As discussed, with the change in Rule 510 to the good standing standard that applies to specialists as well as SQTs and RSQTs, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted and therefore the reference is no longer needed. Moreover, leasing is no longer permitted on the Exchange, and for this reason the Exchange is proposing to delete this obsolete term from Rule 508.

The Exchange is proposing to change Rule 507 to update the reference to “Board” to allow a designee, update the composition of the review committee, and update the reference to Rule 510. Where currently Rule 507 states that the Board has the ability to perform functions such as deferring or limiting approval of SQTs or RSQTs, the Exchange proposes that the Board may have a designee for these purposes. Specifically, the Exchange proposes that “Board” in Rule 507 is replaced by “Board of Directors or its designee” (known as “Board/designee”). The Exchange believes that this change will help with the administration and application of Rule 507, and that the proposed change is similar in nature to other Exchange rules that allow the Board to have a designee. Where

currently Rule 507(e) states that an appeal shall be heard by a special committee of the Directors composed of three, the Exchange proposes to state that any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 507 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three members. And, where currently Rule 507(b) states that when making a decision concerning an application for assignment in an option the Exchange shall consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on evaluations conducted pursuant to Exchange Rule 510, the Exchange is proposing to update Rule 510 so that in lieu of the current formulaic language in the rule, there is new language that accentuates the good standing of members. In light of this, the Exchange proposes to update the 507(b) reference to state that the Exchange can consider the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on "good standing pursuant to Rule 510."

The Exchange proposes to clean up Rule 508 to delete the reference to "lease." Leasing is no longer practiced on the Exchange, and the term is therefore deleted as obsolete.⁴¹ Similarly, the Exchange proposes to delete the Rule 508 reference to Rule 511 because, as discussed, Rule 511 is proposed to be deleted as the language of Rule 510 is proposed to be modified to include specialists and include the good standing requirement.

The proposed rule change is designed to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

⁴¹ Leasing has been similarly deleted in other filings. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77121 (February 11, 2016), 81 FR 8308 (February 18, 2016) (SR-Phlx-2016-22) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness).

In particular, the Exchange is proposing to update Rule 510 to give it a new title, “Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT,” to add relevant good standing language, and appeal rights. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to indicate that, with the deletion of Rule 511, Rule 510 will also be applicable to specialists. The Exchange proposes to change the language of Rule 510 to more closely align the Exchange with BX Options by adopting language from the BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. BX Options market makers are held to good standing standards per the BX Options rule. Specialists on Phlx are another type of market maker.

The Exchange is adopting language from BX Options at Chapter VII, Section 4. Specifically, the Exchange proposes new language in Rule 510(a) to state that to remain in good standing on the Exchange as a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT, the specialist, SQT, or RSQT must meet specific requirements set forth in the rule.⁴² As discussed, the proposed new good standing language in Rule 510 will be, in all material respects, similar to BX Options rule at Chapter VII, Section 4. This makes particular sense because all BX Options Market Makers are designated as specialists on BX for all purposes under the Act or rules thereunder and, like Phlx specialists, have market making obligations.⁴³

⁴² The specific good standing requirements are: i) continue to meet the requirements established in SEC Rule 15c3-1(a)(6)(i), and the requirements set forth in the Series 500 Rules in the Rules of the Exchange; ii) continue to satisfy the specialist, SQT or RSQT qualification requirements specified by the Exchange, as amended from time to time; iii) comply with the Rules of the Exchange and the Options Rules as well as the rules of the Options Clearing Corporation and the rules of the Federal Reserve Board; and iv) pay on a timely basis such member, transaction and other fees as the Exchange shall prescribe. Proposed Rule 510(a).

⁴³ See, e.g., supra note 26 and accompanying discussion. See also supra notes 32-33 and accompanying discussion.

And significantly, the Exchange is proposing to add appeal rights, which do not exist in Rule 510. These proposed appeal rights for a specialist, SQT, or RSQT, which are set forth in Rule 510(c) for, are adopted from Rule 511. The memorialization in Rule 510 of appeal rights is done to affirm that if the good standing of a specialist, SQT, or RSQT is suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn then they have a clear way to initiate and prosecute an appeal regarding such decision.

The Exchange has concluded that, with the placement of the good standing concepts into proposed Rule 510 in such a way that they include a specialist (and Remote Specialist), Rule 511 is no longer needed and is therefore proposed to be deleted in its entirety; with transfer of specialist appeal rights from Rule 511 to Rule 510.

The Exchange is proposing to delete Rule 511. This rule was established decades ago for the purpose of dealing with the extensive on-floor open outcry specialist system, with multiple competing specialist units. Since the implementation of Rule 511, the open outcry options floor has evolved into a robust and competitive principally electronic system, and the remaining hybrid options floor does not have numerous competing specialists as was the case when Rule 511 was instituted. The Exchange believes that because of the extensive changes on the option floor (from having numerous competitive specialist units on the old options floor to having a specialist unit on the current options floor), and because specialists are proposed to be covered in Rule 510 in terms of good standing and continue to be covered in the Series 500 Rules and other rules of the Exchange, Rule 511 is no longer needed and deletion of Rule 511 is proper.

As noted, numerous rules in the Phlx rulebook continue to apply to specialists (as well as to other registered options traders). For example, Rule 501 as proposed discusses

the specialist allocation process and specialist approval process. Rule 506 discusses allocation application, reallocation of previously allocated options, and transfer of allocated options. Rule 508 as proposed discusses the Exchange approval process if there is agreement between or among specialist units to transfer one or more options classes already allocated to a specified specialist unit. Rule 513, which is not proposed to be amended with this filing, discusses the process if an option specialist unit voluntarily resigns from allocation in a particular option and there is a future allocation regarding that option. Rule 1014 discusses the obligations and restrictions, including specific market making requirements, which are applicable to specialists each trading day. Finally, Rule 1022 discusses proper identification of accounts, reporting of options, and orders of underlyings in respect of securities accounts and orders of specialists and registered options traders.

The Exchange believes that the changes to the noted rules in the Series 500 Rules will make remaining Rules 501, 507, 508, and 510 easier to apply, clearer and better. Such proposed changes are in the public interest, and continue to serve to protect investors.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. While the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change is a burden on competition, or is competitive in nature, the Exchange believes that clearer, updated, modernized, and better-conforming rules that do not refer to obsolete concepts are always beneficial to market participants, are in the public interest, and serve to protect investors.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will: (A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2016-66 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2016-66. 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 Web site (<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 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 offices 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-2016-66 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.⁴⁴

Robert W. Errett
Deputy Secretary

⁴⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined.

Rules of the Exchange

* * * * *

PHLX: Allocation, SQT, RSQT, and Evaluation Rules (Rules 500—599)

* * * * *

Rule 501. Specialist Appointment

(a) No Change.

(b) Initial application(s) to become a specialist unit shall be in a form and/or format prescribed by the Exchange and shall include the following: (1) the identity of the unit's staff positions and who will occupy those positions; (2) the unit's clearing arrangements; (3) the unit's capital structure, including any lines of credit; and (4) the unit's back up arrangements endorsed by the parties providing the following support: [a back-up specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit to provide staffing when necessary, and]a substitute specialist unit not associated with the specialist unit [(which may be the same as the back-up specialist unit)]which shall serve as a substitute specialist unit in the event that the specialist unit is unable to perform the duties of a specialist.

Subsequent applications shall be in a form and/or format prescribed by the Exchange and shall include the information requested therein.

(c) – (e) No Change.

(f) An options specialist currently operating from the Exchange's physical trading floor or a Remote Streaming Quote Trader ("RSQT"), as defined in Rule 1014, may submit an application as described above to be approved in one or more classes as a Remote Specialist as defined in Rule 1020(a)(ii).

(i) No Change.

(ii) A Remote Specialist does not need to meet the assistant specialist staffing requirement pursuant to paragraph (d) [or the back-up specialist unit requirement pursuant to paragraph (b)]of this rule.

••• *Commentary:* -----

.01 Reserved.[For the purposes of Rule 748(b), individuals employed by the back-up specialist unit will be considered employees of the specialist unit they are assisting.]

* * * * *

Rule 507. Application for Approval as an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO and Assignment in Options

(a) Approval as an SQT, RSQT, or RSQTO. Registered Options Traders ("ROT's"), as defined in Rule 1014, may apply for approval as Streaming Quote Traders ("SQT's") and Remote Streaming Quote Traders ("RSQT's"), as defined in Rule 1014(b)(ii). Member organizations may function as Remote Streaming Quote Trader Organizations ("RSQTO's") pursuant to this rule. RSQTO's may also be referred to as Remote Market Maker Organizations ("RMO's") and RSQT's may also be referred to as Remote Market Markers ("RMM's").

This Rule 507 places no limit on the number of qualifying ROT's that may become SQT's; any applicant that is qualified as an ROT in good standing, and that satisfies the technological readiness and testing requirements described in subsection (b)(ii) below, shall be approved as an SQT. This Rule 507 places no limit on the number of member organizations that are converted to or may become RSQTO's. Any member organization in good standing, and that satisfies the RSQTO readiness and testing requirements described in this rule, shall be approved as an RSQTO. As many as five RSQT's at any time may be identified by and affiliated with an RSQTO. Each of the affiliated RSQT's must be qualified as an ROT and must be in good standing. However, based on system constraints, capacity restrictions or other factors relevant to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, the Board of Directors or its designee ("Board/designee") may defer, for a period to be determined in the Board/designee's discretion, approval of qualifying applications for SQT or RSQT status pending any action required to address the issue of concern to the Board/designee. The Board/designee may not defer a determination of the approval of the application of any SQT or RSQT applicant or place any limitation(s) on access to the Exchange's electronic quoting and trading system on any SQT or RSQT applicant unless the basis for such limitation(s) or deferral have been objectively determined by the Board/designee, subject to Securities and Exchange Commission approval or effectiveness pursuant to a rule change filing under Section 19(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Exchange shall provide written notification to any SQT or RSQT applicant whose application is the subject of such limitation(s) or deferral, describing the objective basis for such limitation(s) or deferral.

RSQTO application. A member organization that is not currently qualified as an RSQTO may apply to the Exchange to be an RSQTO with up to five affiliated RSQT's. Each RSQTO application shall be submitted to the Exchange's designated staff in writing (electronically or otherwise as specified by the Exchange) in a form and/or format prescribed by the Exchange and shall include, at a minimum, the name of the RSQTO applicant, the appropriate Exchange account number, and the name of each RSQT affiliated with the RSQTO applicant (the "Application Process").

(i) – (ii) No Change.

(b)

(i) – (ii) No Change.

(iii) In addition to the criteria described in this sub-paragraph, the Exchange shall consider the following factors in making its decision concerning an application for assignment in an option when there are more applicants for assignment in a particular option than there are positions available:

(A) - (B) No Change.

(C) the applicant's prior performance as a specialist, SQT or RSQT based on [evaluations conducted pursuant to Exchange] good standing pursuant to Rule 510.

(c) – (d) No Change.

(e) An appeal to the Board/designee [of Directors]from a decision of the Exchange may be requested by a member or member organization interested therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. Any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 507 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee [of Directors]composed of three (3) [Directors, of whom at least one (1) shall be an Independent]members. The person requesting review shall be permitted to submit a written statement to and/or appear before this special committee. The Secretary of the Exchange shall certify the record of the proceeding, if any and the written decision and shall submit these documents to the special committee. The special committee's review of the action shall be based solely on the record, the written decision and any statement submitted by the person requesting the review. The special committee shall prepare and deliver to such person a written decision and reasons therefore. If the special committee affirms the action, the action shall become effective ten (10) days from the date of the special committee's decision. There shall be no appeal to the Board/designee [of Directors]from any decision of the special committee.

(f) No Change.

• • • *Commentary:* -----

.01 - .04 No Change.

Rule 508. Transfer Application

Any proposed agreement between or among specialist units to transfer one or more options classes already allocated to a specified specialist unit shall be identified to the Exchange in writing before the proposed transfer. An agreement to transfer [or lease]a specialist unit's options classes may not become effective until approved by the

Exchange. Failure to provide the Exchange prior notice of a transfer in accordance with this Rule, or failure to obtain Exchange approval of a transfer, permits the Exchange to recover the allocated securities and reallocate them pursuant to Rule 506[and 511].

* * * * *

Rule 510. Good Standing for Specialist, SQT, and RSQT[Performance Evaluation]

(a) To remain in good standing as a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT, the specialist, SQT, or RSQT must:

i. continue to meet the requirements established in SEC Rule 15c3-1(a)(6)(i), and the requirements set forth in the Series 500 Rules in the Rules of the Exchange;

ii. continue to satisfy the specialist, SQT or RSQT qualification and market making requirements specified by the Exchange, as amended from time to time;

iii. comply with the Rules of the Exchange and the Options Rules as well as the rules of the Options Clearing Corporation and the rules of the Federal Reserve Board; and

iv. pay on a timely basis such member, transaction and other fees as the Exchange shall prescribe.

(b) The good standing of a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT may be suspended, terminated or otherwise withdrawn, as provided in the Exchange's rules, if any of said conditions for approval cease to be maintained or the specialist, SQT, or RSQT violates any of its agreements with the Exchange or any of the provisions of the Rules of the Exchange or of the Options Rules.

(c) Appeal rights

An appeal by a specialist (including Remote Specialist), SQT, or RSQT to the Board/designee from a decision of the Exchange may be requested by a member or member organization interested therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. Any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 510 shall be heard by a special committee of the Board/designee composed of three (3) members. The person requesting review shall be permitted to submit a written statement to and/or appear before this special committee. The Secretary of the Exchange shall certify the record of the proceeding, if any and the written decision and shall submit these documents to the special committee. The special committee's review of the action shall be based solely on the record, the written decision and any statement submitted by the person requesting the review. The special committee shall prepare and deliver to such person a written decision and reasons therefore. If the special committee affirms the action, the action shall become effective ten (10) days from the date of the special

committee's decision. There shall be no appeal to the Board/designee from any decision of the special committee.

[(a) Performance Evaluation. The Exchange will periodically conduct an evaluation of member organizations who have Streaming Quote Traders ("SQTs") and Remote Streaming Quote Traders ("RSQTs"), as defined in Rule 1014, to determine whether they have fulfilled performance standards relating to, among other things, quality of markets, efficient quote submission to the Exchange (including quotes submitted through a third party vendor), competition among market makers, observance of ethical standards, and administrative factors.

(b) Exchange Review of Minimum Performance Standards. The Exchange may review the Performance Evaluations and in addition may consider any other relevant information including, but not limited to, trading data, regulatory history and such other factors and data as may be pertinent in the circumstances. If the Exchange finds any failure by the SQTs and RSQTs to meet Minimum Performance Standards, the Exchange may take the following actions, after written notice and after opportunity for an informal meeting:

- (i) Restriction of assignments to additional (not currently allocated) options;
- (ii) Suspension, termination, or restriction of an assignment in one or more options; or
- (iii) Suspension, termination, or restriction of the SQT's and RSQT's registration in general.

(c) Informal Meeting Following Failure to Meet Minimum Performance Standards. If the Exchange finds any failure by an SQT or RSQT to meet Minimum Performance Standards, the Exchange will provide written notice to the SQT or RSQT. The SQT or RSQT may request and the Exchange may hold an informal meeting with the SQT or RSQT to discuss the failure to meet minimum standards and to explore possible remedies. Written notice of the meeting will be given and no verbatim record will be kept. If, after receiving such notice, the SQT or RSQT refuses or otherwise fails without reasonable justification to meet with the Exchange, the Exchange may refer the matter to the Business Conduct Committee for the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Rule 960.

If the Exchange believes there are no mitigating circumstances that would demonstrate substantial improvement of or reasonable justification for the failure to meet Minimum Performance Standards, the Exchange may take remedial action pursuant to subsection (b) of this Rule.

(d) An appeal to the Board of Directors from a decision of the Exchange pursuant to subsection (b)(ii) or (b)(iii) of this Rule may be requested by a member or member organization interested therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered.

(e) If an SQT's or RSQT's assignment in an option has been terminated pursuant to paragraph (b) above, the SQT or RSQT may not be re-appointed as a SQT or RSQT in that option for a period not to exceed six months.

••• *Commentary:* -----

.01 On a monthly basis, the Exchange will evaluate the following Minimum Performance Standards for each SQT and RSQT:

(a) Percentage of total quotes that represent the PBBO. If the percentage of the total quotes that represent the PBBO is in the lowest quartile of all SQTs or RSQTs for two or more consecutive months, this may be considered sub-standard performance (that is, performance that does not attain Minimum Performance Standards).

(b) Quoting requirements pursuant to Rule 1014. If an SQT or RSQT fails to meet the quoting requirements as prescribed by the Rule, this may be considered sub-standard performance (that is, performance that does not attain Minimum Performance Standards).

(c) The number of requests for quote spread parameter relief will also be considered for the purposes of evaluating performance standards.

(d) To evaluate efficient quote submission to the Exchange, the Exchange will utilize both quote-to-trade and quote-to-contracts traded ratios to evaluate how a SQT or RSQT optimizes the submission of quotes submitted to the Exchange pursuant to Rule 1014.

.02 The Exchange may evaluate the first month's SQT or RSQT performance even if it is not a full calendar month.]

Rule 511. Reserved.[Specialist Allocation and Performance Evaluation

(a) The Specialist Performance Evaluation standards and procedures contained under this subsection of Rules shall govern Exchange decisions on: (1) allocating new options classes; (2) reallocating options classes for substandard performance; (3) determining whether a specialist unit that has been transferred an options class is performing adequately in order to retain the transferred security; and (4) determining whether a staff reorganization or material change with respect to a specialist unit has affected the ability of the specialist unit to continue to perform adequately in order to retain its securities.

(b) Allocations. The Exchange shall allocate new options classes, approve transfers or reallocate existing options classes to applicants based on the results of such factors as the Exchange deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, Specialist Performance Evaluations or Special Circumstance Evaluations. Among the factors that the Exchange may consider in making such decisions are: the number and type of securities in which

applicants are currently registered; the personnel, capital and other resources of the applicant; recent allocation decisions within the past eighteen months; the desirability of encouraging the entry of new specialists into the Exchange's market; order flow commitments; any prior transfers of specialist privileges by the applicant and the reasons therefore and such policies as the Board instructs the Exchange to follow in allocating or reallocating securities. The Exchange may also consider: trade correction data; exemptive relief data; quality of markets data; and observance of ethical standards and administrative responsibilities. Solely with respect to options book allocations or reallocations, past or contemplated voluntary delisting of options books by options specialists, done in the best interest of the Exchange, will not be viewed negatively by the Exchange in making allocation and reallocation decisions. Recognition is given that evaluation results may not be available for new specialist units or recently reorganized specialist units. The Exchange may establish separate or additional criteria for evaluating new or recently reorganized specialist units, particularly where evaluation results are unavailable or are only available for a limited period of time. All allocations shall initially be made on a temporary basis for a period of up to 180 days within which time the Exchange may commence a Special Circumstance Evaluation. The Exchange is empowered to allocate option classes for a limited period of time or subject to such other terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

(i) **New Product Specialist Unit Allocation.** When an eligible specialist unit develops or is instrumental in developing or bringing a new product to the Exchange, the Exchange may consider such fact as a conclusive factor in the allocation of the new product and may allocate the new product to such specialist unit without soliciting any other specialist units pursuant to Rule 506. For the purposes of this rule, a new product is anything other than common stock of an operating company, or options or futures on common stock of an operating company or straight debt of an operating company. An operating company, for purposes of this definition, is any issuer other than one which is or holds itself out as being engaged solely in the business of investing in securities; provided that operating company shall include any issuer referred to in Sections 3(b), 3(c)(2)(A), 3(c)(3), 3(c)(5), 3(c)(6), 3(c)(8) or 3(c)(9) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 or Rules 3a-2, 3a-5 and 3a-6 thereunder (17 C.F.R. 270.3a-2; 17 C.F.R. 270.3a-5 and 17 C.F.R. 270.3a-6, respectively).

(ii) **Licensing or Other Acquisition of a Product.** In the case of any options or futures product that involves the licensing or other acquisition of an index, trademark, tradename, patent or other intellectual property, the Exchange may, as a condition of allocating the book, require a specialist unit (i) to indemnify and hold harmless the Exchange and/or any third party against any potential liabilities associated therewith and/or (ii) to pay or undertake to pay the Exchange and/or any third party any amounts related to the licensing of the product or any amounts related to the use of intellectual property; and/or (iii) to enter into any agreement or undertakings with the Exchange and/or any third party otherwise concerning the intellectual property; provided that no such agreement or undertaking shall confer upon such specialist unit any proprietary or ownership rights with respect to such intellectual property or the book. For the purposes of this rule, any requirement that involves that a specialist unit

enter into a licensing or other agreement for the acquisition of an index, trademark, tradename, patent or other intellectual property or to indemnify and hold harmless the Exchange and/or any third party against potential liabilities associated therewith and/or to pay or undertake to pay the Exchange or any third party any amounts related to the licensing of a product or any amounts related to the use of intellectual property and/or to enter into any other type of agreement or undertaking with the Exchange or third party is not a business transaction pursuant to Phlx Rule 1023.

(c) Specialist Performance Evaluations. The Exchange will at least annually conduct an evaluation of specialist units on the Exchange to determine whether they have fulfilled performance standards that may include, but are not limited to trade correction data, exemptive relief data, quality of markets data, proper execution of duties as a specialist unit, competition among market makers and in representing the Exchange as a specialist unit, observance of ethical standards, and administrative factors.

In addition to the data in the Specialist Performance Evaluations, the Exchange may also consider any other relevant information including, but not limited to, trading data, regulatory history, the number of requests for quote spread parameter relief, how a specialist unit optimizes the submission of quotes through the Specialized Quote Feed as defined in Rule 1080 by evaluating the number of individual quotes per quote block received by the Exchange, and such other factors and data as may be pertinent in the circumstances.

(d) Minimum Performance Reviews. As part of the Specialist Performance Evaluations, the Exchange will conduct Minimum Performance Reviews on at least an annual basis and may conduct such evaluations as often as on a monthly basis regarding whether specialist units meet Minimum Performance Standards.

(i) Minimum Performance Standards.

(A) The percentage of time that the specialist unit represents or exceeds the PBBO in the options allocated to the unit. If a specialist unit is in the lowest quartile of all specialist units for two or more consecutive months, this may be considered sub-standard performance (that is, performance that does not attain Minimum Performance Standards); and

(B) Fulfillment of quoting requirements pursuant to Rule 1014. If a specialist unit fails to meet the quoting requirements as prescribed by Rule 1014, this may be considered sub-standard performance (that is, performance that does not attain Minimum Performance Standards).

(ii) If the Exchange finds any failure by a specialist unit to meet Minimum Performance Standards, the Exchange may take the following actions, after written notice and after opportunity for an informal meeting:

(A) Restriction of assignments to additional (not currently allocated) options;

(B) Suspension, termination, or restriction of an assignment in one or more options; or

(C) Suspension, termination, or restriction of the specialist unit's or specialist's registration in general.

(iii) **Informal Meeting Following Failure to Meet Minimum Performance Standards.** If the Exchange finds any failure by a specialist unit to meet Minimum Performance Standards as set forth in this Rule, the Exchange will provide written notice to the specialist unit. The specialist unit may request and the Exchange may hold an informal meeting with the head specialist and any other appropriate specialist of the specialist unit to discuss the failure to meet minimum standards and to explore possible remedies. Written notice of the meeting will be given and no verbatim record will be kept. If, after receiving such notice, the specialist unit refuses or otherwise fails without reasonable justification to meet with the Exchange, the Exchange may refer the matter to the Business Conduct Committee for the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Rule 960.

If the Exchange believes there are no mitigating circumstances that would demonstrate substantial improvement of or reasonable justification for the failure to meet Minimum Performance Standards, the Exchange may take remedial action pursuant to subsection (d)(ii) of this Rule.

(iv) An appeal to the Board of Directors from a decision of the Exchange pursuant to subsection (d)(ii)(B) or (d)(ii)(C) of this Rule may be requested by a specialist unit or specialist therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered.

(v) If a specialist unit's allocation in an option has been terminated pursuant to subsection (d)(i)(A) of this Rule, the specialist unit may not receive a specialist allocation in the terminated option(s) for a period not to exceed six months. If a specialist unit's allocation in an option(s) has been terminated pursuant to subsection (d)(i)(B) of this Rule, the specialist unit may not receive a specialist allocation in the terminated option(s) for a period not to exceed twelve months.

(e) **Special Circumstance Evaluations.** The Exchange may also conduct Special Circumstance Evaluations whenever there are circumstances that warrant such reviews. This includes, but is not limited to, where the Exchange believes that a specialist unit's performance in a particular market situation was so egregiously deficient as to call into question the Exchange's integrity or impair the Exchange's reputation for maintaining efficient, fair and orderly markets. Special Circumstance Evaluations may incorporate the same review methodology and procedures as established for routine Specialist Performance Evaluations or reviews of Minimum Performance Standards, although Special Circumstance Evaluations may instead or in addition examine such other matters related to a specialist unit's performance as the Exchange deems necessary and appropriate. After a Special Circumstance Evaluation the Exchange may after written

notification remove and reallocate one or more securities that were allocated to such specialist unit.

(i) Special Circumstance Evaluations may also include, but are not limited to:

(A) An evaluation within the 180 day period after one or more option classes have been allocated by the Exchange to a specialist unit. Such evaluation will include consideration of whether the specialist unit is complying with the commitments that it made either orally at an appearance before the Exchange or on its written application. If the Exchange determines that the specialist unit has not complied with any of the commitments that it made when applying for the options class including but not limited to commitments regarding capital, personnel and order flow, the specialist unit will be afforded 30 days in which to comply with such commitments and if it does not do so, the Exchange may, after written notice, remove and reallocate one or more securities that were allocated to such specialist unit.

(B) An evaluation within the 120 day period after a transfer (including a lease) of one or more options classes has become effective or when there has been a material change in the specialist unit. In cases where a head specialist has departed the unit, the evaluation shall also consider the background and ability of the successor head specialist. In the case where a transfer has been effected, the Exchange shall evaluate the performance of the specialist unit with respect to the newly acquired options classes. If the Exchange believes that such performance is inadequate, the specialist unit will be afforded 30 days in which to improve its performance after the Exchange indicates why the performance is inadequate and if it does not do so, the Exchange may, after written notice, remove and reallocate the transferred options classes.

(ii) An appeal to the Board of Directors from a decision of the Exchange pursuant to subsection (e) of this Rule may be requested by a specialist unit or specialist therein by filing with the Secretary of the Exchange written notice of appeal within ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered.

(iii) If a specialist unit's allocation in an option has been terminated pursuant to subsection (e) of this Rule, the specialist unit may not receive a specialist allocation in the terminated option(s) for a period not to exceed six months.

(f) Any appeal from a decision pursuant to Rule 511(d) or (e) shall be heard by a special committee of the Board of Directors composed of three (3) Directors, of whom at least one (1) shall be an Independent. The person requesting review may appeal by filing a written notice thereof with the Secretary of the Exchange within ten (10) days after a decision. The person requesting review shall be permitted to submit a written statement to and/or appear before this special committee. The Secretary of the Exchange shall certify the record of the proceeding, if any and the written decision and shall submit these documents to the special committee. The special committee's review of the action shall

be based solely on the record, the written decision and any statement submitted by the person requesting the review. The special committee shall prepare and deliver to such person a written decision and reasons therefor. If the special committee affirms the action, the action shall become effective ten (10) days from the date of the special committee's decision. There shall be no appeal to the Board of Directors from any decision of the special committee.

• • • *Supplementary Material:* -----

.01 For any extension of trading hours contiguous to an existing trading segment, the specialist privileges of the current specialist during that time should automatically and mandatorily be extended to cover the additional trading hours.

.02 For additional non-contiguous trading segments in any security, or additional types of options, the existing specialist is to be given priority consideration in any allocation proceeding for specialist privileges during the additional time period or covering the additional options.

.03 In the event the existing specialist applies for but is not granted specialist privileges during the additional trading segment in any security or for the trading of additional types of options, the Exchange shall, in a written decision, show cause for its determination to grant specialist privileges to another specialist.

.04 Solely with respect to any extension of trading hours for any foreign currency option between the hours of 11 P.M. and 4:30 A.M. Philadelphia Time, a demarcation time shall be established whereby any extension of trading hours and associated specialist trading privileges prior to 3:20 A.M. shall be extended to the evening segment specialist and any extension of trading hours and associated specialist trading privileges after 3:40 A.M. shall be extended to the daytime segment specialist.

.05 Reference to "specialist unit" within this Rule 511 means the unit as a whole or any subpart of its operation that is acting in a specialist capacity on the Exchange and is subject to evaluation. A specialist unit may have one or more individual "specialists."]

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