

**THE NASDAQ OPTIONS MARKET LLC
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2019061065704**

TO: The Nasdaq Options Market LLC
c/o Department of Enforcement
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”)

RE: Jefferies LLC, Respondent
Broker-Dealer
CRD No. 2347

Pursuant to Rule 9216 of The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”)¹ Code of Procedure, Jefferies LLC (“Jefferies” or the “firm”) submits this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent (“AWC”) for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, Nasdaq will not bring any future actions against the firm alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. The firm hereby accepts and consents, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of Nasdaq, or to which Nasdaq is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by Nasdaq:

BACKGROUND

Jefferies has been a member of The Nasdaq Options Market LLC (“NOM”) since April 2012 and a FINRA member since March 1963. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jefferies Group LLC, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jefferies Financial Group Inc., a diversified holding company. Jefferies provides investment banking and brokerage services. The firm is headquartered in New York, New York, and has approximately 2,100 registered persons.

RELEVANT PRIOR DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

The firm has prior relevant disciplinary history specifically relating to the accurate recording of order receipt and transmission times.

In July and August 2019, Jefferies consented to a censure and a total fine of \$84,000 allocated among Nasdaq Phlx LLC, NYSE American LLC, and Cboe Exchange, Inc. for violations of § 17(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and

¹ All Nasdaq Options Market LLC disciplinary matters are governed by the Nasdaq Code of Procedure.

Exchange Act Rule 17a-3 thereunder, and the recordkeeping and related supervisory rules of those exchanges, for its failure to maintain accurate order receipt and order transmission times for certain of its manual options orders routed to exchange floor brokers in 2016.²

SUMMARY

This matter arises from a 2019 examination of the firm conducted by FINRA's Department of Market Regulation on behalf of NOM and other options exchanges. The examination found that from October 2018, through June 2020, Jefferies failed to comply with the recordkeeping requirements of Exchange Act § 17(a) and Exchange Act Rule 17a-3 thereunder, and NOM Rule Chapter IX, Section 1.³ In addition, during the relevant period, Jefferies failed to establish, maintain, and enforce a supervisory system reasonably designed to achieve compliance with Exchange Act Rule 17a-3 and NOM Rule Chapter IX, Section 1 in violation of NOM Rule Chapter III, Section 1,⁴ and Nasdaq Rules 3010 and 2010A.⁵

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

1. The recordkeeping provisions of the federal securities laws and NOM rules are designed to ensure that regulators have access to important information about securities transactions. Access to complete and accurate transaction records is essential for effective surveillance and examination of broker-dealers by NOM and other regulators.
2. Exchange Act §17(a) and Exchange Act Rule 17a-3(a)(6)(i) thereunder require broker-dealers, such as Jefferies, to create a memorandum of each brokerage order, and of any other instruction, given or received for the purchase or sale of securities, whether executed or unexecuted. The rule requires the memorandum to show, among other things, the time the order was received and the time of order entry.⁶
3. NOM Rule Chapter IX, Section 1, and subsequently Options 6E, Section 1, requires Options Participants to make, keep current and preserve such books and records as Nasdaq Regulation may prescribe pursuant to the Rules of the Exchange and as may be prescribed by the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.
4. During the relevant period, Jefferies failed to accurately record order receipt and/or transmission times within its order management system ("OMS") for certain options orders electronically routed to NOM. Specifically, in October 2018 and February

² Nasdaq Phlx LLC Matter No. 20160487695.

³ As of December 6, 2019, NOM Rule Chapter IX, Section 1 was renumbered to Options 6E, Section 1.

⁴ As of December 6, 2019, NOM Rule Chapter III, Section 1 was renumbered to Options 9, Section 2.

⁵ As of December 6, 2019, Nasdaq Rule 3010 was relocated to General 9, Section 20, and Nasdaq Rule 2010A was renumbered and relocated to Nasdaq General 9, Section I(a).

⁶ Rule 17a-3(a)(6) defines the time of order entry as "the time when the member, broker or dealer transmits the order or instruction for execution."

2019, Jefferies implemented coding updates that caused its OMS to incorrectly capture the user's workstation/desktop time rather than the server time synchronized with the Network Time Protocol⁷ as the source for timestamps for all option orders. As a result, the firm failed to record accurate timestamps on approximately 2,941 options orders electronically routed to NOM and other option exchanges.

5. Accordingly, Jefferies violated Exchange Act § 17(a) and Exchange Act Rule 17a-3 thereunder, and NOM Rule Chapter IX, Section 1, and subsequently Options 6E, Section 1, during the relevant period.
6. NOM Rule Chapter III, Section 1, and subsequently Options 9, Section 2, provides that no Options Participant shall engage in conduct in violation of the Exchange Act or Rules thereunder, the Rules of the Exchange or the Rules of the Clearing Corporation insofar as they relate to the reporting or clearance of any Exchange transaction, or any written interpretation thereof. Every Options Participant shall supervise persons associated with the Participant to assure compliance therewith.
7. Nasdaq Rule 3010, and subsequently General 9, Section 20, in relevant part, provides that each member shall establish and maintain a system to supervise the activities of each registered representative and associated person that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations and with applicable Nasdaq rules.
8. Nasdaq Rule 2010A, and subsequently General 9, Section 1(a), provides that a member, in the conduct of its business, shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade.
9. During the relevant period, Jefferies' procedures applicable to its Derivatives Trading Desk correctly described the documentation requirements of Exchange Act Rule 17a-3 and NOM rules, including the requirement to record a timestamp on order memoranda when an options order is entered, transmitted, and executed. Jefferies' procedures further required each desk head to review order tickets for accuracy and completeness.
10. Jefferies failed to have, however, a supervisory system reasonably designed to ensure that any updates or changes it made to its OMS did not impact the system's accurate timestamp function. Specifically, the firm did not perform any testing to ensure that the October 2018 and February 2019 changes to its OMS would not impact the automated timestamping of its options orders.
11. Accordingly, Jefferies violated NOM Rule Chapter III, Section 1, subsequently Options 9, Section 2, Nasdaq Rule 3010, subsequently General 9, Section 20, and Nasdaq Rule 2010A, subsequently General 9, Section 1(a), during the relevant period.

⁷ Network Time Protocol is a protocol used to synchronize computer clock times in a network (i.e., from desktops to servers).

B. The firm also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

1. Censure; and
2. A total fine in the amount of \$225,000 (\$10,000 payable to NOM).⁸

The firm agrees to pay the monetary sanction upon notice that this AWC has been accepted and that such payment is due and payable. It has submitted a Payment Information form showing the method by which it proposes to pay the fine imposed.

The firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that it is unable to pay, now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction imposed in this matter.

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

The firm specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under Nasdaq's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Formal Complaint issued specifying the allegations against the firm;
- B. To be notified of the Formal Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and
- D. To appeal any such decision to the Nasdaq Review Council and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, the firm specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudgment of the Chief Regulatory Officer, the Nasdaq Review Council, or any member of the Nasdaq Review Council, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

⁸ The remainder of the fine shall be allocated to BOX Exchange LLC, Cboe Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc., Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, MIAX PEARL, LLC, Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC, Nasdaq Phlx LLC, NYSE American LLC, and NYSE Arca, Inc. for similar violations.

The firm further specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

The firm understands that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by FINRA's Department of Enforcement and the Nasdaq Review Council, the Review Subcommittee, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to Nasdaq Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against the firm; and
- C. If accepted:
 - 1. This AWC will become part of the firm's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by Nasdaq or any other regulator against the firm;
 - 2. Nasdaq may release this AWC or make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with Nasdaq Rule 8310 and IM-8310-3; and
 - 3. The firm may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. The firm may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of Nasdaq, or to which Nasdaq is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects the firm's right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which Nasdaq is not a party.
- D. The firm may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. The firm understands that it may not deny the charges or make any statement that is inconsistent with the AWC in this Statement. This Statement does not constitute factual or legal findings by Nasdaq, nor does it reflect the views of Nasdaq or its staff.

The undersigned, on behalf of the firm, certifies that a person duly authorized to act on its behalf has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that it has agreed to the AWC's provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce the firm to submit it.

August 5, 2022

Date

Jefferies LLC
Respondent

By: Cynthia B. Adams
Cynthia B. Adams
Managing Director

Accepted by The Nasdaq Options Market LLC:

August 23, 2022

Date

Steven Tanner
Steven Tanner
Senior Counsel
Department of Enforcement

Signed on behalf of The Nasdaq Options Market LLC, by delegated authority from the Director of ODA