

## BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Submission No. 15-131 August 17, 2015

Mr. Christopher J. Kirkpatrick Secretary of the Commission Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20581

RE: New NYBOT Member and Member Firm Equity Index Contract Volume Incentive Program and the Termination of Discounted Fee Rates for Certain NYBOT Equity Members and Member Firms in Russell Index Futures and Options - Submission Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Act and Regulation 40.6(a)

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended ("Act"), and Commission Regulation 40.6(a), ICE Futures U.S., Inc. ("IFUS" or "Exchange") submits notice that IFUS is launching a new NYBOT Equity Member and Member Firm Equity Index Contract Volume Incentive Program ("Program"), as set forth in Exhibit A, is terminating the discounted Exchange and clearing fee rates available to certain NYBOT Equity Members and Member Firms for all Russell Index Futures and Options Contracts, as described below.

Eligible NYBOT Equity Members and NYBOT Member Firms are currently charged \$0.10 and \$0.24 per side, respectively, for their proprietary trading in all IFUS contracts based on the Russell 1000 Index and \$0.15 and \$0.30 per side, respectively for their proprietary trading in all IFUS contracts based on the Russell 2000 Index. With the elimination of the discount rate, NYBOT Equity Members and NYBOT Member Firms will be charged \$0.60 per side for all IFUS contracts based on the Russell 1000 Index and \$1.30<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The discounted rate is available to individuals and firms that held Equity Membership at the time NYBOT was acquired by Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. Individuals who are currently Equity Members of NYBOT and who became Equity Members on or before January 12, 2007 and firms that are currently NYBOT Member Firms, which became NYBOT Member Firms prior to September 14, 2006 are eligible for the discount rate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Exchange is increasing the regular fee rate for all contracts based on the Russell 2000 index from \$1.20 to \$1.30 beginning September 1, 2015.

per side for all IFUS contracts based on the Russell 1000 Index.

Coinciding with the termination of the discounted rate for Russell Index Futures and Options Contracts, the Exchange is also launching the new Program, which will allow NYBOT Equity Members and Member Firms to earn discounted fees for their proprietary trading volume in Russell and MSCI index contracts. Participation in the Program is open to all individuals and entities currently eligible to receive the NYBOT Equity Member and Member Firm discounted fees that are being terminated. Eligible Participants who are enrolled in the Program and trade at least 1,000 sides of Russell contract volume and at least 1,000 sides of MSCI contract volume will receive a discounted fee of 25 cents per side for all Russell and MSCI index contracts. The full terms of the Program are set forth in Exhibit A.

The Exchange is not aware of any substantive opposing views with respect to the new Program and certifies that the new Program complies with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. In particular, the amendments comply with Core Principle 4 (Monitoring of Trading), Core Principle 9 (Execution of Transactions) and Core Principle 12 (Protection of Market Participants). The Program is structured so that they do not create incentives for participants to engage in market abuses such as manipulative trading or wash sales. In addition, the Exchange's Market Regulation Department actively monitors for trading abuses using electronic exception reports and will take appropriate action against any participants engaging in market abuses. The Program does not impact order execution priority or otherwise give participants any execution preference or advantage. The Exchange further certifies that a copy of this submission was posted on the Exchange's website concurrent with its filing with the Commission.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at 212-748-4021 or at jason.fusco@theice.com.

Sincerely,

Jason V. Fusco Assistant General Counsel

Market Regulation

Enc.

Division of Market Oversight cc:

New York Regional Office

# **EXHIBIT A**

# ICE Futures U.S., Inc. NYBOT Equity Member and Member Firm Equity Index Contract Volume Incentive Program

## **Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Program is to incentivize participants to increase their proprietary trading volumes in the covered products; this increased volume will benefit all participants in the marketplace.

## **Product Scope**

All Russell index futures and options contracts and all mini MSCI Index futures contracts.

# **Eligible Participants**

The Program is open only to individuals who were NYBOT Equity Members as of January 12, 2007 and to NYBOT Member Firms as of September 14, 2006, and who maintained such Equity Member or Member Firm status as of August 31, 2015.

# **Program Term**

The initial term of the Program shall commence on September 1, 2015 and the Program term shall end on August 31, 2016, unless extended by the Exchange. The Exchange reserves the right to amend or end the program and/or to terminate any participant at any time prior to that date.

#### **Obligations**

Participants are required to provide the Exchange with information acceptable to the Exchange detailing Participants' trading activity under the program, and the Exchange may require an additional third party verification report.

#### **Program Incentives**

In each calendar month, Participants who trade at least 1,000 sides of Russell Index futures and/or options contracts and at least 1,000 sides of mini MSCI Index futures contracts are eligible to pay a discounted Exchange and Clearing fee of 25 cents per side for their program volume in that calendar month.

#### **Monitoring and Termination of Status**

The Exchange shall monitor trading activity and Participants' performance and shall retain the right to revoke Participants' status if it concludes from review that a Program Participant has failed to meet its obligations or no longer meets the eligibility requirements of this Program.