

11/18/2021

SUBMITTED VIA CFTC PORTAL

Secretary of the Commission
Office of the Secretariat
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

Re: KalshiEX LLC – CFTC Regulation 40.2(a) Notification Regarding the Initial Listing of the “Will the United States boycott the 2022 Olympics?” Contract

Dear Sir or Madam,

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Section 40.2(a) of the regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, KalshiEX LLC (Kalshi) hereby notifies the Commission that it is self-certifying the “Will the United States boycott the 2022 Olympics?” contract (Contract).

Along with this letter, Kalshi submitted the following documents:

- A concise explanation and analysis of the Contract;
- Certification;
- Appendix A with the Contract’s Terms and Conditions;
- Confidential Appendices with further information; and
- A request for FOIA confidential treatment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elie Mishory
Chief Regulatory Officer
KalshiEX LLC
emishory@kalshi.com

KalshiEX LLC

New Contract Submission: Will the United States boycott the 2022 Olympics?

Ticker: OLYM

Kalshi Contract Category: Political Decision

U.S. Olympic Boycott

11/18/2021

CONCISE EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, INCLUDING CORE PRINCIPLES AND THE COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS THEREUNDER

Pursuant to Commission Rule 40.2(a)(3)(v), the following is a concise explanation and analysis of the product and its compliance with the Act, including the relevant Core Principles, and the Commission's regulations thereunder.

I. Introduction

The “Will the United States boycott the 2022 Olympics?” Contract is a contract relating to whether the President will announce a diplomatic or full boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. After careful analysis, Kalshi (hereafter referred to as “Exchange”) has determined that the Contract complies with its vetting framework, which has been reviewed by the CFTC and formed part of the Exchange’s application for designation as a Contract Market (“DCM”) that was approved by the Commission.

On November 18, 2021, President Joe Biden stated that a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing by the United States was “something we are considering”.¹ Such a move would be an incredible setback for the thousands of American athletes who intend to participate in their events, in addition to the panoply of firms who have spent millions of dollars on sponsorships for the Games and the athletes themselves. Even though a diplomatic boycott might allow such athletes to compete, the move would likely overshadow their participation and reduce the financial upside from participating. This contract provides those firms and individuals an opportunity to hedge their exposure to such an announcement.

Further information about the Contract, including an analysis of its risk mitigation and price basing utility, as well as additional considerations related to the Contract, is included in Confidential Appendices B, C, and D.

¹<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/biden-says-he-considering-diplomatic-boycott-2022-beijing-olympics-n1283971>

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulations 40.2(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that the listing of the Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations under the Act.

General Contract Terms and Conditions: The Contract operates similar to other binary contracts that the Exchange lists for trading. The minimum price fluctuation is \$0.01 (one cent). Price bands will apply so that Contracts may only be listed at values of at least \$0.01 and at most \$0.99. Further, the Contract is sized with a one-dollar notional value and has a minimum price fluctuation of \$0.01 to enable Members to match the size of the contracts purchased to their economic risks. The Exchange has further imposed position limits (defined as maximum loss exposure) of \$25,000 USD on the Contract. As outlined in Rule 5.12 of the Rulebook, trading shall be available at all times outside of any maintenance windows, which will be announced in advance by the Exchange. Members will be charged fees in accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Rulebook. Fees are charged in such amounts as may be revised from time to time to be reflected on the Exchange's Website. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading. That new Source Agency and Underlying would be objective and verifiable. Kalshi would announce any such decision on its website. All instructions on how to access the Underlying are non-binding and are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time. Furthermore, the Contract's payout structure is characterized by the payment of an absolute amount to the holder of one side of the option and no payment to the counterparty. During the time that trading on the Contract is open, Members are able to adjust their positions and trade freely. After trading on the Contract has closed, the Expiration Value and Market Outcome are determined. The market is then settled by the Exchange, and the long position holders and short position holders are paid according to the Market Outcome. In this case, "long position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "Yes" side of the Contract and "short position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "No" side of the Contract. If the Market Outcome is "Yes," meaning that President Joe Biden has announced that the United States will boycott (either diplomatically or in full) the 2022 Winter Olympic Games (please see Appendix A for the legally binding details), then the long position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the short position holders receive no payment. If the Market Outcome is "No," then the short position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the long position holders receive no payment. Specification of the circumstances that would trigger a Market

Outcome of “Yes” are included below in the section titled “Payout Criterion” in Appendix A.

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5c OF THE COMMODITY
EXCHANGE ACT, 7 U.S.C. § 7A-2 AND COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING
COMMISSION RULE 40.2, 17 C.F.R. § 40.2**

Based on the above analysis, the Exchange certifies that:

- The Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations thereunder.
- This submission (other than those appendices for which confidential treatment has been requested) has been concurrently posted on the Exchange's website at <https://kalshi.com/regulatory/filings>.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the exchange at ProductFilings@kalshi.com.



By: Eliezer Mishory
Title: Chief Regulatory Officer
Date: 11/18/2021

Attachments:

Appendix A - Contract Terms and Conditions

Appendix B (Confidential) - Further Considerations

Appendix C (Confidential) - Source Agency

Appendix D (Confidential) - Compliance with Core Principles

APPENDIX A – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF CONTRACTS TRADED ON KALSHI

Official Product Name: Will the United States boycott the 2022 Olympics?

Ticker and Rulebook: OLYM

OLYM

Scope: These rules shall apply to this contract.

Underlying: The Underlying for this Contract is statements and press releases from [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov). Revisions to the Underlying made after Expiration will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

Instructions: Statements and press releases are available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/>. These instructions on how to access the Underlying are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time.

Source Agency: The Source Agency is the White House.

Type: The type of Contract is a Binary Contract.

Issuance: After the initial Contract, Contract iterations will be listed on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the Exchange and corresponding to the risk management needs of Members.

Payout Criterion: The Payout Criterion for the Contract encompasses the Expiration Values that contain an announcement or recommendation that:

- Athletes representing the United States will not/do not attend or will not/do not compete at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games; AND/OR
- Spectators from the United States will not/do not attend the 2022 Winter Olympic Games; AND/OR
- No official United States government delegation (will) attend the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. It is not sufficient for the announcement to state that the President and/or Vice President and their families will not be attending, even if the word “boycott” is used.

Minimum Tick: The Minimum Tick size for the referred Contract shall be \$0.01.

Position Limit: The Position Limit for the \$1 referred Contract shall be \$25,000 per Member.

Last Trading Date: The Last Trading Date of the initial iteration of the Contract will be the same day as the Expiration Date. The Last Trading Time will be the same as the Expiration time.

Settlement Date: The Settlement Date of the initial iteration of the Contract shall be no later than the day after the Expiration Date, unless the Market Outcome is under review pursuant to Rule 7.1.

Expiration Date: The Expiration Date of the Contract shall be the sooner of the day following the occurrence of an event that is encompassed in the Payout Criterion and February 4, 2022.

Expiration time: The Expiration time of the initial Contract iteration shall be 10:00 AM ET.

Settlement Value: The Settlement Value for this Contract is \$1.00.

Expiration Value: The Expiration Value is the value of the Underlying as documented by the Source Agency on the Expiration Date at the Expiration time.

Contingencies: Before Settlement, Kalshi may, at its sole discretion, initiate the Market Outcome Review Process pursuant to Rule 6.3(c) of the Rulebook. Additionally, as outlined in Rule 7.2 of the Rulebook, if any event or any circumstance which may have a material impact on the reliability or transparency of a Contract's Source Agency or the Underlying related to the Contract arises, Kalshi retains the authority to designate a new Source Agency and Underlying for that Contract and to change any associated Contract specifications after the first day of trading.