

## Chapter 353A

### Options on Micro E-mini Standard and Poor's 500 Stock Price Index™ Futures

#### 353A00. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

This chapter is limited in application to options on Micro E-mini Standard and Poor's 500 Stock Price Index™ futures ("Micro E-mini S&P 500 Index futures" or "futures"). In addition to this chapter, options on futures shall be subject to the general rules and regulations of the Exchange as applicable.

Unless otherwise specified, times referenced herein shall refer to and indicate Chicago time.

##### 353A00.A. Primary Listing Exchange

For the purposes of this chapter a Primary Listing Exchange shall be as defined in the "Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility Submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission Pursuant to Rule 608 of Regulation NMS Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" approved 31 May 2012 by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), as amended from time to time (SEC, SRO Rulemaking, National Market System Plans, File 4-631).

##### 353A00.B. Regulatory Halt

For the purposes of this chapter a Regulatory Halt shall be as defined in the "Plan to Address Extraordinary Market Volatility Submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission Pursuant to Rule 608 of Regulation NMS Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" approved 31 May 2012 by the SEC, as amended from time to time (SEC, SRO Rulemaking, National Market System Plans, File 4-631) and as implemented under New York Stock Exchange Rule 80B for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility or under Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 4121 for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility.

#### 353A01. OPTIONS CHARACTERISTICS

##### 353A01.A. Contract Months, Trading Hours, and Trading Halts

Options shall be listed for expiration on such dates and shall be scheduled for trading during such hours as may be determined by the Exchange, *provided that* there shall be no trading in options when trading is halted in the Primary Futures Contract Month pursuant to Rule 35802.I.

In accordance with Rule 35802.I. the Exchange shall determine, in its sole discretion, the futures delivery month that represents such Primary Futures Contract.

##### 353A01.B. Trading Unit

The trading unit shall be an option to buy in the case of a call, or to sell in the case of a put, one (1) Micro E-mini S&P 500 Index futures contract (Chapter 353).

##### 353A01.C. Minimum Fluctuations

Option prices shall be quoted in Index points. Each Index point shall represent \$5.00 per option contract.

Subject to Rule 353A01.C.1., the minimum price fluctuation shall be 0.25 Index points (equal to \$1.25 per option contract), *provided that* trades at price levels equal to or less than 5.00 Index points may occur at price levels that are integer multiples of 0.05 Index points (equal to \$0.25 per option contract), and provided that trade may occur at a price level of 0.05 Index points irrespective of whether such trade results in the liquidation of positions for both parties to such trade.

##### 1. Option Spreads and Combinations

Any option contract that trades as a component of a spread or combination shall be traded at a price that conforms to the applicable minimum price fluctuation as set forth in this Rule, *provided that* for any option spread or combination that trades at a net premium of 5.00 Index points or less, each option contract comprised within such spread or combination may trade in price increments of 0.05 Index points.

**353A01.D. Underlying Futures Contract****1. American Style Options in the March Quarterly Cycle (“Quarterly options”)**

For any American style option for which the expiration month is in the March quarterly cycle (i.e., March, June, September, or December), the Underlying Futures Contract shall be for delivery in such option’s expiration month.

Example: For a given year, futures for delivery in March shall be the Underlying Futures Contract for a March Quarterly option.

**2. European Style End of Month Options**

For any European style End of Month option, the Underlying Futures Contract shall be for delivery on the third Friday of the March quarterly cycle month next following such option’s expiration, subject to Rule 35303.A.

Examples: For a given year, futures for delivery in March shall be the Underlying Futures Contract for a January European style End of Month option and for a February European style End of Month option. Futures for delivery in June shall be the Underlying Futures Contract for a March European style End of Month option.

**3. European Style Weekly Options**

For any European style Weekly option, the Underlying Futures Contract shall be for delivery on the third Friday of the March quarterly cycle month next following such option’s expiration, subject to Rule 35303.A.

Examples: For a given year, futures for delivery in June shall be the Underlying Futures Contract for third (3rd) March, fourth (4th) March, first (1st) April, second (2nd) April, third (3rd) April, fourth (4th) April, first (1st) May, second (2nd) May, third (3rd) May, fourth (4th) May, first (1st) June, and second (2nd) June European style Weekly options. Futures for delivery in September shall be the Underlying Futures Contract for third (3rd) June and fourth (4th) June European style Weekly options.

The Exchange shall not list a European style 4<sup>th</sup> Weekly option for trading in any instance where such option’s expiration would occur on the last Business Day of a month.

**353A01.E. Exercise Prices**

On any Business Day, the Exchange shall ensure that all Quarterly (Rule 353A01.D.1), European Style End of Month (Rule 353A01.D.2) and European Style Weekly (Rule 353A01.D.3) put and call options that are exercisable into a given Underlying Futures Contract are listed for trading at all eligible exercise prices as follows:

**100 Point Exercise Prices**

All exercise price levels that are integer multiples of 100 Index points (e.g., 2300, 2400, 2500) and that lie within a range from 50 percent below to 30 percent above the daily settlement price of such Underlying Futures Contract for the first preceding Business Day.

**50 Point Exercise Prices**

All exercise price levels that are integer multiples of 50 Index points (e.g., 2400, 2450, 2500) and that lie within a range from 40 percent below to 20 percent above the daily settlement price of such Underlying Futures Contract for the first preceding Business Day.

**10 Point Exercise Prices**

All exercise price levels that are integer multiples of 10 Index points (e.g., 2480, 2490, 2500) and that lie within a range from 25 percent below to 10 percent above the daily settlement price of such Underlying Futures Contract for the first preceding Business Day.

**5 Point Exercise Prices**

As of the Business Day on which such put and call options have 35 or fewer calendar

days until expiration, and on any Business Day thereafter until the expiration of such options, all exercise price levels that are integer multiples of 5 Index points (e.g., 2490, 2495, 2500) and that lie within a range from 15 percent below to 5 percent above the daily settlement price of such Underlying Futures Contract for the first preceding Business Day.

New options may be listed for trading on any Business Day up to and including the termination of trading in such options.

The Exchange may modify the provisions governing the establishment of exercise prices as it deems appropriate.

#### **353A01.F. Position Limits, Exemptions, Position Accountability and Reportable Levels**

The applicable position limits and/or accountability levels, in addition to the reportable levels, are set forth in the Position Limit, Position Accountability and Reportable Level Table in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section of Chapter 5.

A Person seeking an exemption from position limits for bona fide commercial purposes shall apply to the Market Regulation Department on forms provided by the Exchange, and the Market Regulation Department may grant qualified exemptions in its sole discretion.

Refer to Rule 559 for requirements concerning the aggregation of positions and allowable exemptions from the specified position limits.

#### **353A01.G. Nature of Options**

Upon exercise of a put option by the buyer of such option, the seller of such option shall incur the obligation to assume a long position in one Underlying Futures Contract (Rule 353A01.D.) at such option's exercise price (Rule 353A01.E.). Upon exercise of a call option by the buyer of such option, the seller of such option shall incur the obligation to assume a short position in one Underlying Futures Contract at such option's exercise price.

##### **1. Quarterly Options**

The buyer of a Quarterly option (Rule 353A01.D.1.) may exercise such option at any time prior to its expiration.

##### **2. European Style Weekly Options and European Style End of Month Options**

The buyer of a European style End of Month option (Rule 353A01.D.2.) or a European style Weekly option (Rule 353A01.D.3.), or a may exercise such option only at its expiration.

#### **353A01.H. [Reserved]**

#### **353A01.I. Termination of Trading**

##### **1. Quarterly Options**

Trading in any Quarterly option shall terminate on the same date and at the same time as the termination of trading in such option's Underlying Futures Contract (Rule 353A01.D.1.).

##### **2. European Style End of Month Options**

Trading in any European style End of Month option shall terminate at 3:00 p.m., or at noon in the case of an early scheduled close of the Primary Listing Exchange (Rule 353A00.A.), on the last Business Day of such option's expiration month.

If the market in the Underlying Futures Contract for such option does not open on the day scheduled for termination of option trading, then trading in such option shall terminate, and such option shall expire, on the next day on which the market in such Underlying Futures Contract is open for trading.

##### **3. European Style Weekly Options**

Trading in any European style Weekly option shall terminate at 3:00 p.m., or at noon in the case of an early scheduled close of the Primary Listing Exchange (Rule 353A00.A.), on the Friday designated by the Exchange as such option's expiration date. For a given calendar month:

Trading shall terminate in European style First Weekly options, and such options shall expire, on the first Friday of such month.

Trading shall terminate in European style Second Weekly options, and such options shall expire, on the second Friday of such month.

Trading shall terminate in European style Third Weekly options, and such options shall expire, on the third Friday of such month.

Trading shall terminate in European style Fourth Weekly options, and such options shall expire, on the fourth Friday of such month.

If such Friday is not a scheduled Business Day, then trading in expiring options shall be scheduled to terminate on the Business Day first preceding such Friday, *provided that* the Exchange shall not list European style Weekly options for trading in any such instance where the Business Day first preceding such Friday would be the last Business Day of the preceding calendar month (in accord with Rule 353A01.D.3.).

If the market in the Underlying Futures Contract for such option does not open on the day scheduled for termination of option trading and for option expiration, then trading in such option shall terminate, and such option shall expire, on the next day on which the market in such Underlying Futures Contract is open for trading.

#### **4. Unscheduled Market Holiday**

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, if the Primary Listing Exchange (Rule 353A00.A.) is closed in observance of an unscheduled market holiday on a day previously scheduled as a Business Day, then trading in option contracts that had been scheduled to expire on such day shall terminate, and such option contracts shall expire, on the Business Day immediately preceding such unscheduled market holiday.

#### **353A01.J. [Reserved]**

### **353A02. EXERCISE AND ASSIGNMENT**

In addition to the applicable procedures and requirements of Chapter 7, the following shall apply to the exercise of options.

#### **353A02.A. Exercise**

##### **1. Quarterly Options**

Any Quarterly option (Rule 353A01.D.1.) may be exercised by the buyer on any Business Day on which such option may be traded. To exercise such option, the clearing member representing the option buyer shall present an exercise notice to the Clearing House by 5:30 p.m., or by such other time as the Exchange may designate, on the day of exercise.

Any unexercised option shall expire at 5:30 p.m. on the last day of trading in such option (Rule 353A01.I.). Any option that is in the money, and that has not been liquidated or exercised prior to its termination of trading, shall be exercised automatically upon expiration, in the absence of contrary instructions. Such contrary instructions must be delivered to the Clearing House, by the clearing member representing the buyer of such option, no later than 5:30 p.m., or at such other time as may be designated by the Exchange, on the last day of trading in such option.

An expiring call option shall be in the money if the Final Settlement Price of such option's Underlying Futures Contract (Rule 353A01.D.) on such option's Expiration Date is strictly above such option's exercise price and shall be out of the money if such settlement price is at or below such option's exercise price.

An expiring put option shall be in the money if the Final Settlement Price of such option's Underlying Futures Contract on such option's Expiration Date is strictly below such option's exercise price and shall be out of the money if such Final Settlement Price is at or above such option's exercise price.

## 2. European Style Weekly Options and European Style End of Month Options

Any European style End of Month option (Rule 353A01.D.2.) or European style Weekly option (Rule 353A01.D.3.) may be exercised only at, and not before, the expiration of such option.

Following termination of trading in expiring options, any such option that is in the money shall be automatically exercised by the Clearing House, and any such option that is out of the money shall be abandoned by the Clearing House. For the avoidance of doubt, no such option that expires in the money may be abandoned, and no such option that expires out of the money may be exercised.

Whether an option expires in the money or out of the money shall be determined by the Exchange, in its sole discretion, by reference to the Fixing Price of such option's Underlying Futures Contract (Rule 353A01.D.). The Exchange, in its sole discretion, shall set such Fixing Price on the last day of trading in such option equal to the Fixing Price of the E-mini S&P 500 Index futures pursuant to Rule 358A02.A as rounded to the nearest integer multiple of 0.01 Index points.

An expiring call option shall be in the money if the corresponding Fixing Price is strictly above such option's exercise price and shall be out of the money if the corresponding Fixing Price is at or below such option's exercise price.

An expiring put option shall be in the money if the corresponding Fixing Price is strictly below such option's exercise price and shall be out of the money if the corresponding Fixing Price is at or above such option's exercise price.

### 353A02.B. Assignment

For a given option contract, an exercise notice accepted by the Clearing House in accordance with Rule 353A02.A. shall be assigned by the Clearing House through a process of random selection to clearing members carrying open short positions in such option contract. A clearing member to whom such exercise notice has been assigned shall be notified thereof as soon as practicable following such assignment.

The clearing member to whom such exercise notice has been assigned shall be assigned a short position in such option's Underlying Futures Contract (Rule 353A01.D.) if such option is a call, or a long position in such option's Underlying Futures Contract if such option is a put. The clearing member representing the option buyer making exercise shall be assigned a long position in such option's Underlying Futures Contract if such option is a call, or a short position in such option's Underlying Futures Contract if such option is a put.

All such futures positions shall be assigned at a price equal to the exercise price of such option contract, and shall be marked to market (in accordance with Rule 814) on the Business Day on which the Clearing House accepts such exercise notice.

### 353A03. [RESERVED]

### 353A04. CORRECTIONS TO OPTION EXERCISES

Corrections to option exercises may be accepted by the Clearing House after 5.30 p.m. and up to the beginning of final option expiration processing (in accord with Rule 353A02.A.), *provided that* such corrections are necessary due to: (1) a bona fide clerical error, (2) unreconciled Exchange option transaction(s), or (3) an extraordinary circumstance where the clearing firm and customer are unable to communicate final option exercise instructions prior to 5.30 p.m. The decision as to whether a correction is acceptable will be made by the President of the Clearing House, or the President's designee, and such decision will be final.

(End Chapter 353A)