

Chapter 359

E-mini Nasdaq-100 Index® Futures

35900. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

This chapter is limited in application to E-mini Nasdaq-100 Index futures (“futures”). In addition to this chapter, 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.

35900.A. Market Decline

For the purposes of this chapter a Market Decline shall be as defined in New York Stock Exchange Rule 7.12 for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility or in Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 4121 for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility.

35900.B. 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).

35900.C. 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 7.12 for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility or under Nasdaq Stock Market Rule 4121 for Trading Halts Due to Extraordinary Volatility.

35901. CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

Each futures contract shall be valued at \$20.00 times the Nasdaq-100 Index (“Index”).

35902. TRADING SPECIFICATIONS

35902.A. Trading Schedule

Futures contracts shall be scheduled for trading during such hours and for delivery in such months as may be determined by the Exchange.

35902.B. Trading Unit

The unit of trading shall be \$20.00 times the Index.

35902.C. Price Increments

Bids and offers shall be quoted in Index points. The minimum price increment shall be 0.25 Index points, equal to \$5.00 per contract, except for intermonth spreads executed pursuant to Rule 542.A., for which the minimum price increment shall be 0.05 Index points, equal to \$1.00 per intermonth spread.

35902.D. 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.

35902.E. [Reserved]

35902.F. [Reserved]

35902.G. Termination of Trading

Trading in expiring futures shall terminate at the regularly scheduled start of trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market on the Business Day scheduled for determination of the Final Settlement Price (Rule 35903.A.) for such futures.

35902.H. [Reserved]**35902.I. Price Limits and Trading Halts**

Futures trading shall be subject to Price Limits as set forth in this Rule. For the purpose of this Rule the Exchange shall determine, in its sole discretion, the futures delivery month that represents the Primary Futures Contract Month and when such Primary Futures Contract Month is limit bid or limit offered.

1. Daily Determination of Price Limits

For a given Business Day, Price Limits applicable to a futures contract for a given delivery month shall be calculated on the basis of the corresponding Reference Price (Rule 35902.I.1.a.) and the corresponding Offsets (Rule 35902.I.1.b.), as follows:

7% Price Limits = Reference Price minus 7% Offset, and Reference Price plus 7% Offset

13% Price Limit = Reference Price minus 13% Offset

20% Price Limit = Reference Price minus 20% Offset

1.a. Reference Prices for Price Limits

For a given Business Day, for futures for a given delivery month, the Exchange shall set a contract Reference Price on the first preceding Business Day, as follows:

Tier 1

Such Reference Price shall be based on the volume-weighted average price of transactions in such futures on the CME Globex electronic trading platform during the interval (i) between 2:59:30 p.m. and 3:00:00 p.m., or (ii) in the case of an early scheduled close of the Primary Listing Exchange, between 11:59:30 a.m. and noon, or (iii) in the event of an unscheduled early close of the Primary Listing Exchange, the final thirty (30) seconds of the Primary Listing Exchange trading day ("Reference Interval").

Tier 2

If no such transaction occurs during the Reference Interval, then such Reference Price shall be based on the average of midpoints of bid/ask spreads for such futures quoted on CME Globex during the Reference Interval, provided that the Reference Price calculation shall exclude the midpoint value for any such bid/ask spread that is wider than 1.00 Index points (equal to two (2) minimum price increments).

Tier 3

If such Reference Price cannot be determined pursuant to Tier 1 or Tier 2, then the Exchange, in its sole discretion, shall set such Reference Price by alternative means which may include, but are not limited to, derivation by reference to the basis relationship between such futures contract's price and the Index, or application of Tier 1 and Tier 2 calculations to successive time intervals of increasing length, in integer multiples of thirty (30) seconds, until suitable price data are obtained.

The resultant Reference Price value shall be rounded down to the nearest integer multiple of 0.25 Index points. Such Reference Price, so rounded, shall be used for determination of the corresponding Price Limits.

For newly listed futures for a given delivery month, the Exchange shall set, in its sole discretion, a Reference Price value for the purpose of determining Price Limits for the first day of trading in such futures.

1.b. Offsets for Price Limits

For a given Business Day, the Exchange shall determine Offsets on the basis of the Index value ("I") at the close of trading on the Primary Listing Exchange (Rule 35900.B.) on the first preceding Business Day, as follows:

7% Offset = 7% of I (0.07 x I)

13% Offset = 13% of I (0.13 x I)

20% Offset = 20% of I (0.20 x I)

Each resultant Offset value shall be rounded down to the nearest integer multiple of 0.25 Index points. Each such Offset, so rounded, shall be used in determination of the corresponding Price Limits.

2. Application of Price Limits from Start of Trading Day to 8:30 a.m.

From the start of any Trading Day until 8:30 a.m., there shall be no trading in futures for a given delivery month at any price that is either strictly lower than or strictly higher than the range defined by the 7% Price Limits (Rule 35902.I.1.) applicable to such futures on such Trading Day.

Without limitation to the foregoing, the start of any Trading Day generally shall coincide with the start of the CME Globex trading session at 5:00 p.m. on the evening first preceding such Trading Day.

During this period of time, the contract shall also be subject to dynamic price fluctuation limits as set forth in Rule 589.D. and in the Special Price Fluctuation Limits and Daily Price Limits Table in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section of Chapter 5.

3. Application of Price Limits and Trading Halts from 8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Except as provided in Rules 35902.I.3.a. and 35902.I.3.b., from 8:30 a.m. until and including 2:25 p.m., or from 8:30 a.m. until and including 11:25 a.m. in the case of an early scheduled close of the Primary Listing Exchange, futures for a given delivery month shall trade subject to the corresponding Price Limits (Rule 35902.I.1.), as follows:

There shall be no futures trading at any price strictly lower than the corresponding 7% Price Limit, unless the Primary Futures Contract Month becomes limit offered at its 7% Price Limit.

At such time as the Primary Futures Contract Month becomes limit offered at its 7% Price Limit, the Exchange shall initiate a 2-minute observation interval. At the conclusion of such observation interval:

If the Primary Futures Contract Month is not limit offered at its 7% Price Limit, futures trading shall continue subject to the corresponding 13% Price Limit.

If the Primary Futures Contract Month remains limit offered at its 7% Price Limit, futures trading shall halt for two (2) minutes, and shall then resume subject to the corresponding 13% Price Limit.

At such time as the Primary Futures Contract Month becomes limit offered at its 13% Price Limit, the Exchange shall initiate a 2-minute observation interval. At the conclusion of such observation interval:

If the Primary Futures Contract Month is not limit offered at its 13% Price Limit, futures trading shall continue subject to the corresponding 20% Price Limit.

If the Primary Futures Contract Month remains limit offered at its 13% Price Limit, futures trading shall halt for two (2) minutes, and shall then resume subject to the corresponding 20% Price Limit.

There shall be no futures trading at any price strictly lower than the corresponding 20% Price Limit.

3.a. Regulatory Halts

At such time as the Primary Listing Exchange may declare a Regulatory Halt (Rule 35900.C.) in response to a Level 1 (7%) Market Decline in the S&P 500 Index, futures trading shall halt. Futures trading shall resume 10 minutes after the Regulatory Halt commences on the Primary Listing Exchange subject to the corresponding 13% Price Limit.

At such time as the Primary Listing Exchange may declare a Regulatory Halt in response to a Level 2 (13%) Market Decline in the S&P 500 Index, futures trading shall halt. Futures trading shall resume 10 minutes after the Regulatory Halt commences on the Primary Listing Exchange subject to the corresponding 20% Price Limit.

At such time as the Primary Listing Exchange may declare a Regulatory Halt in response to a Level 3 (20%) Market Decline in the S&P 500 Index, futures trading shall halt for the remainder of the trading session.

3.b. Unscheduled Non-Regulatory Halts

If an unscheduled trading halt that is not also a Regulatory Halt occurs on one or more Primary Listing Exchanges between 8:30 a.m. and 2:25 p.m., or between 8:30 a.m. and 11:25 a.m. in the case of an early scheduled close of the Primary Listing Exchange(s), then futures trading shall be subject to such trading halts or such price limits as the Exchange, in its sole discretion, may determine to be appropriate.

4. Application of Price Limits from 2:25 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

From 2:25 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or from 11:25 a.m. to noon in the case of an early scheduled close on the Primary Listing Exchange, trading in futures for a given delivery month shall be subject only to the corresponding 20% Price Limit (Rule 35902.I.1.).

At such time as the Primary Listing Exchange may declare a Regulatory Halt in response to a Level 3 (20%) Market Decline in the S&P 500 Index, futures trading shall halt for the remainder of the trading session.

5. Application of Price Limits from 3:00 p.m. to Close of Trading Day

From the close of trading on the Primary Listing Exchange at 3:00 p.m., or at noon in the case of an early scheduled close on the Primary Listing Exchange, until the close of the current Trading Day, trading in futures for a given delivery month shall be subject to an upper Price Limit equal to the corresponding Reference Price determined on the current Business Day (Rule 35902.I.1.a.) plus the 7% Offset determined on the current Business Day (Rule 35902.I.1.b.).

Trading in such futures also shall be subject to a lower Price Limit set as the corresponding Reference Price determined on the current Business Day minus the 7% Offset determined on the current Business Day, provided that such lower Price Limit shall be no lower than the 20% Price Limit (Rule 35902.I.1.) applicable to the current Trading Day.

During this period of time, the contract shall also be subject to dynamic price fluctuation limits as set forth in Rule 589.D. and in the Special Price Fluctuation Limits and Daily Price Limits Table in the Interpretations & Special Notices Section of Chapter 5.

Without limitation to the foregoing, the close of the current Trading Day generally shall coincide with the close of the CME Globex trading session on such Trading Day.

35903. SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES

Delivery shall be by cash settlement.

35903.A. Final Settlement Price

For a futures contract for a given delivery month, the Final Settlement Price shall be a special opening quotation of the Index. Such special opening quotation shall be determined on the third Friday of such delivery month and shall be based on the Nasdaq Official Opening Price (“NOOP”) of each of the component stocks of the Index.

If the Index is not scheduled to be published on the third Friday of the contract delivery month, then such Final Settlement Price shall be scheduled for determination on the first preceding Business Day on which the Index is scheduled to be published.

If the Nasdaq Stock Market does not open on the day scheduled for determination of such Final Settlement Price, then the Final Settlement Price shall be a special opening quotation of the Index on the next following day on which the Nasdaq Stock Market is open for trading.

If a component stock of the Index does not trade on the day scheduled for determination of such Final Settlement Price, and the Nasdaq Stock Market is open for trading, then for the purpose of calculating such Final Settlement Price the price of such stock shall be its closing price on the first preceding Nasdaq Stock Market trading day, provided that the Exchange, in its sole discretion, may instruct that the price of such stock shall be the NOOP of such stock on the next following Nasdaq Stock Market trading day.

35903.B. Final Settlement

Clearing members holding open positions in an expiring futures contract at its termination of trading (Rule 35902.G.) shall make payment to or receive payment from the Clearing House in accordance with normal variation margin procedures based on such expiring contract’s Final Settlement Price (Rule 35903.A.).

35904. [Reserved]

35905. [Reserved]

35906. BASIS TRADE AT INDEX CLOSE (“BTIC”) AND BASIS TRADE AT CASH OPEN (“TACO”) TRANSACTIONS

All BTIC transactions and TACO transactions must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Rules 524.B. and 524.C., respectively.

35906.A. Block Trade Requirements

1. BTIC block trades must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Rule 526. For a BTIC block trade executed on a given Trading Day on or before the scheduled close of the underlying primary securities market, the corresponding futures price shall be made by reference to the Index closing value for the current Trading Day. For a BTIC block trade executed on a given Trading Day after the scheduled close of the underlying primary securities market, the corresponding futures price shall be made by reference to the Index closing value for the next Trading Day.
2. TACO block trades must be executed in accordance with the requirements of Rule 526. For a TACO block trade executed on a given Trading Day on or before the scheduled opening auction on the Primary Listing Exchange, the corresponding futures price shall be made by reference to the Index special opening quotation ("SOQ") for such Trading Day. For a TACO block trade executed on a given Trading Day after the scheduled start of the opening auction on the Primary Listing Exchange, the corresponding futures price shall be made by reference to the SOQ for the next Trading Day.

35906.B. Price Assignment Procedures

1. The futures price of a BTIC transaction shall be determined by the Exchange at 3:45 p.m. (or within 45 minutes after the close of the primary securities market in the case of an early scheduled close of the primary securities market). Such price determination shall be deemed final.
2. The futures price of a TACO transaction made by reference to the Index SOQ for a given Trading Day shall be determined by the Exchange no later than 3:00 p.m. on such Trading Day. Such price determination shall be deemed final.

35906.C. Minimum Price Increments

The valid basis or price increment applied either to the Index closing value to establish the BTIC futures price or to the Index SOQ to establish the TACO futures price must be an integer multiple of the contract minimum price increment of 0.05 index points.

(End Chapter 359)

INTERPRETATIONS AND SPECIAL NOTICES RELATING TO CHAPTER 359

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