

## PORTFOLIO MARGINING RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### OVERVIEW OF PORTFOLIO MARGINING

1. Portfolio margining is a margin methodology that sets margin requirements for an account based on the greatest projected net loss of all positions in a “security class” or “product group” as determined by a model using multiple pricing scenarios. Pricing scenarios for options are based on changes in inputs to a theoretical pricing model, including the underlying price and volatility.
2. The goal of portfolio margining is to set levels of margin that more precisely reflect actual net risk. The customer may benefit from portfolio margining in that margin requirements that are calculated based on net risk are generally lower than alternative “position” or “strategy” based methodologies for determining margin requirements. Lower margin requirements allow the customer more leverage in an account.

### CUSTOMERS ELIGIBLE FOR PORTFOLIO MARGINING

3. To be eligible for portfolio margining, customers (other than broker-dealers or members of a national futures exchange) must be approved for writing uncovered options. If a customer (other than a broker-dealer or member of a national futures exchange) wishes to trade in unlisted derivatives, the customer must have and maintain at all times account equity of not less than five million dollars, aggregated across all accounts under identical ownership at the carrying broker-dealer and/or its United States regulated affiliated broker-dealers or Futures Commission Merchants. This identical ownership requirement excludes accounts held by the same customer in different capacities (e.g., as a trustee and as an individual) and accounts where ownership is overlapping but not identical (e.g., individual accounts and joint accounts). In addition to the requirements of the self-regulatory organization rule, carrying broker-dealers may have their own minimum equity requirement and possibly other eligibility requirements.

### POSITIONS ELIGIBLE FOR A PORTFOLIO MARGIN ACCOUNT

4. All margin equity securities (as defined in Section 220.2 of Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System), warrants on margin equity securities or on eligible indices of equity securities, equity-based or equity-index based listed options, and security futures products (as defined in Section 3(a)(56) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) are eligible to be margined in a portfolio margin account. In addition, a customer that has an account with equity of at least five million dollars may establish and maintain positions in unlisted derivatives (e.g., OTC swaps, options) on a margin equity security or an eligible index of equity securities that can be priced by a theoretical pricing model approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

### SPECIAL RULES FOR PORTFOLIO MARGIN ACCOUNTS

5. A portfolio margin account may be either a separate account or a sub-account of a customer’s standard margin account. In the case of a sub-account, equity in the standard account may be available to satisfy any margin requirement in the portfolio margin sub-account without transfer to the sub-account.
6. A portfolio margin account or sub-account will be subject to a minimum margin requirement of \$.375 for each listed option, unlisted derivative and security futures product, multiplied by the contract’s or instrument’s multiplier, carried long or short in the account. Other eligible products are not subject to a minimum margin requirement.
7. A margin deficiency in the portfolio margin account or sub-account, regardless of whether due to new commitments or the effect of adverse market movements on existing positions, must be met within three business days. Failure to meet a portfolio margin deficiency by the end of the third business day will result in a prohibition on entering any new orders, with the exception of new orders that reduce the margin requirement. Failure to meet a portfolio margin deficiency by the end of the third business day will result in the prompt liquidation of positions on the fourth business day, to the extent necessary to eliminate the margin deficiency.
8. Any shortfall in aggregate equity across accounts, when required, must be met within three business days. Failure to meet a minimum equity deficiency by the end of the third business day will result in a prohibition on entering any new orders, with the exception of new orders that reduce the margin requirement, beginning on the fourth business day and continuing until such time as the minimum equity requirement is satisfied, or if applicable, all unlisted derivatives are liquidated or transferred out of the portfolio margin account.
9. When a broker-dealer carries a regular cash account or margin account for a customer, the broker-dealer is limited by rules of The Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) such that the broker-dealer may permit OCC to have a lien against long option positions in those accounts. In contrast, OCC will have a lien against all long option positions that are carried by a broker-dealer in a portfolio margining account, and this could under certain circumstances, result in greater losses to a customer having long option positions in such an account in the event of the insolvency of the customer’s broker. Accordingly, to the extent that a customer does not borrow against long option positions in a portfolio margining account or have margin requirements in the account against which the long option can be credited, there is no advantage to carrying the long options in a portfolio margining account and the customer should consider carrying them in an account other than a portfolio margining account.

### SPECIAL RISKS OF PORTFOLIO MARGIN ACCOUNTS

10. Portfolio margining generally permits greater leverage in an account, and greater leverage creates greater losses in the event of adverse market movements.
11. Because the maximum time limit for meeting a margin deficiency is shorter than in a standard margin account, there is increased risk that a customer’s portfolio margin account will be liquidated involuntarily, possibly causing losses to the customer.
12. Because portfolio margin requirements are determined using sophisticated mathematical calculations and theoretical values that must be calculated from market data, it may be more difficult for customers to predict the size of future margin deficiencies in a portfolio margin account. This is particularly true in the case of customers who do not have access to specialized software necessary to make such calculations or who do not receive theoretical values calculated and distributed periodically by an approved vendor of theoretical values.
13. Trading of margin equity securities, warrants on margin equity securities or on eligible indices of equity securities, listed options, unlisted derivatives on margin equity securities or an eligible index of equity securities, and security futures products in a portfolio margin account is generally subject to all the risks of trading those same products in a standard securities margin account. Customers should be thoroughly familiar with the risk disclosure materials applicable to those products, including the booklets entitled “Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options” and “Security Futures Risk Disclosure Statement”. Because this disclosure statement does not disclose the risks and other significant aspects of trading in security futures and options, customers should review those materials carefully before trading these products in a portfolio margin account.
14. Customers should consult with their tax advisers to be certain that they are familiar with the tax treatment of transactions in margin equity securities, warrants on margin equity securities or on eligible indices of equity securities, listed options, unlisted derivatives on margin equity securities or an eligible index of equity securities, and security futures products, including tax consequences of trading strategies involving both security futures and option contracts.
15. The descriptions in this disclosure statement relating to eligibility requirements for portfolio margin accounts, and minimum equity and margin requirements for those accounts, are minimums imposed under the self-regulatory organization rules. Time frames within which margin and equity deficiencies must be met are maximums imposed under the self-regulatory organization rules. Broker-dealers may impose their own more stringent requirements.
16. Customers should bear in mind that the discrepancies in the cash flow characteristics of security futures and certain options are still present even when those products are carried together in a portfolio margin account. In addition, discrepancies in the cash flow characteristics of certain unlisted derivatives may also be present when those products are carried in a portfolio margin account. Both security futures and options contracts are generally marked to the market at least once each business day. Similarly, certain unlisted derivatives may also be marked to the market on a daily basis. However, there may be incongruity between the marking to the market of each eligible product in that marks may take place with different frequency and at different times within the day. For example, when a security futures contract is marked to the market, the gain or loss is immediately credited to or debited from, respectively, the customer’s account in cash. While a change in the value of a long option contract may increase or decrease the equity in the account, the gain or loss is not realized until the option is liquidated, exercised, or assigned. Accordingly, a customer may be required to deposit cash in the account in order to meet a variation payment on a security futures contract even though the customer is in a hedged position and has experienced a corresponding (but yet unrealized) gain on an option. Alternatively, a customer who is in a hedged position and would otherwise be entitled to receive a variation payment on a security futures contract may find that the cash is required to be held in the account as margin collateral on an offsetting option position.

The general provisions governing portfolio margining (including definitions used in this document) are set forth in NYSE Rule 431(g) and NASD Rule 2520(g), which can be found at [www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org).

## CUSTOMER MARGIN AND SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

This Customer Margin and Short Account Agreement (the "Agreement") sets forth the respective rights and obligations of Apex, the Introducing Broker and the Customer (all as defined below) in connection with the Customer's margin account opened with the Introducing Broker for the purchase and sale of securities and/or the borrowing of funds. The Customer understands that Apex has been designated as the clearing firm on the account and the Customer hereby acknowledges and agrees that the margin extended to the Customer hereunder is provided by Apex.

1. **Applicable Rules and Regulations.** All transactions shall be subject to the constitution, rules, regulations, customs and usages of the exchange or market and its clearing house, if any, upon which such transactions are executed, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement.
2. **Definitions.** "Introducing broker" means any brokerage firm, which introduces securities transactions on behalf of the Customer, which transactions are cleared through you, whether one or more. "Obligations" means all indebtedness, debit balances, liabilities or other obligations of any kind of the Customer to you, whether now existing or hereafter arising. "Securities and other property" shall include, but shall not be limited to, money, securities, commodities or other property of every kind and nature and all contracts and options relating thereto, whether for present or future delivery. "You", "your" or "Apex" refers to Apex Clearing Corporation. "Customer" refers to the party or parties signing this agreement.
3. **Breach; Security Interest.** Whenever in your discretion you consider it necessary for your protection, or for the protection of the Customer's Introducing Broker or in the event of, but not limited to; (i) any breach by the Customer of this or any other agreement with you or (ii) the Customer's failure to pay for securities and other property purchased or to deliver securities and other property sold, you may sell any or all securities and other property held in any of the Customer's accounts (either individually or jointly with others), cancel or complete any open orders for the purchase or sale of any securities and other property, and/or borrow or buy/in any securities and other property required to make delivery against any sale, including a short sale, effected for the Customer, all without notice or demand for deposit of collateral, other notice of sale or purchase, or other notice or advertisement, each of which is expressly waived by the Customer, and/or you may require the Customer to deposit cash or adequate collateral to the Customer's account prior to any settlement date in order to assure the performance or payment of any open contractual commitments and/or unsettled transactions. You have the right to refuse to execute securities transactions for the Customer at any time and for any reason. Any and all securities and other property now or hereafter held, carried or maintained by you in or for any of the accounts of the Customer (either individually or jointly with others), now or hereafter opened, including any accounts in which the Customer may have an interest, shall be subject to a first and prior lien and security interest for the discharge of all of the obligations of the Customer to you, whenever or however arising and without regard to whether or not you have made advances with respect to such securities and other property, and you are hereby authorized to sell and/or purchase any and all securities and other property in any of the Customer's accounts, and/or to transfer any such securities and other property among any of the Customer's accounts, to the fullest extent allowed by law and without notice where allowed. You shall have the right to transfer securities and other property so held by you from or to any other of the accounts of the Customer whenever you so determine.
4. **Liquidation.** In the event of the death of the Customer, or in the event the margin in any account in which the Customer has an interest shall in either your or the Introducing Broker's discretion become unsatisfactory to either you or the introducing broker, or be deemed insufficient by either you or the introducing broker, you are hereby authorized; (a) to sell any or all securities or other property which you may hold for the Customer (either individually or jointly with others); (b) to buy any or all securities and other property which may be short in such accounts; and/or (c) to cancel any open orders and to close any or all outstanding contracts; all without demand for margin or additional margin, notice of sale or purchase, or other notice or advertisement, and that any prior demand or notice shall not be a waiver of your rights provided herein. You may likewise accept and rely upon instructions which you receive from the introducing broker to effect any of the aforementioned transactions (as noted in (a), (b), and (c)). You shall have the discretion to determine which securities and other property are to be sold and which contracts are to be closed. Any such sales or purchases may be made at your discretion on any exchange, the over-the-counter market or any other market where such business is usually transacted, or at public auction or private sale, and you may be the purchaser for your own account.
5. **Cancellation.** You are authorized, in your discretion, should you for any reason whatsoever deem it necessary for your protection, without notice, to cancel any outstanding order, to close out the accounts of the Customer, in whole or in part, or to close out any commitment made on behalf of the Customer.
6. **Payment of Indebtedness Upon Demand.** The Customer shall at all times be liable for the payment upon demand of any obligations owing from the Customer to you, and the Customer shall be liable to you for any deficiency remaining in any such accounts in the event of the liquidation thereof (as contemplated in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement or otherwise), in whole or in part, by you or by the Customer; and the Customer shall make payment of such obligations upon demand.
7. **Liability for Costs of Collection.** The losses, costs and expenses, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, incurred and payable or paid by you in the (i) collection of a debit balance and/or any unpaid deficiency in the accounts of the Customer with you or (ii) defense of any matter arising out of the Customer's securities transactions, shall be payable to you by the Customer.
8. **Accounts Carried as Clearing Broker.** The Customer understands that you are carrying the accounts of the Customer as clearing broker by arrangement with the Customer's Introducing Broker through whose courtesy the account of the Customer has been introduced to you. Until receipt from the Customer of written notice to the contrary, you may accept from and rely upon the Customer's Introducing Broker (a) orders for the purchase or sale of securities and other property, and (b) any other instructions concerning the Customer's accounts. The Customer represents that the Customer understands that you act only to clear trades introduced by the Customer's Introducing Broker and to effect other back office functions for the Customer's Introducing Broker. The Customer confirms to you that the Customer is relying for any advice concerning the Customer's accounts solely on the Customer's Introducing Broker. The Customer understands that all representatives, employees and other agents with whom the Customer communicates concerning the Customer's account are agents of the Introducing Broker and not your representatives, employees or other agents. The Customer understands that you are not a principal of or partner with, and do not control in any way, the Introducing Broker or its representatives, employees or other agents. The Customer understands that you will not review the Customer's accounts and will have no responsibility for trades made in the Customer's accounts. You shall not be responsible or liable for any acts or omissions of the Introducing Broker or its representatives, employees or other agents. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the Customer initiates a claim against you in your capacity as clearing broker and does not prevail, the Customer shall be responsible for the costs and expenses associated with your defense of such claim. The Customer understands you shall be entitled to exercise and enforce directly against the Customer all rights granted to the Introducing Broker.
9. **Communications.** You may send communications to the Customer at the Customer's address on the New Account Application or at such other address as the Customer may hereafter give you in writing, and all communications so sent, whether by mail, telegraph, messenger or otherwise, shall be deemed given to the Customer personally, whether actually received or not. Reports of execution of orders and statements of accounts of the Customer shall be conclusive if not objected to in writing to you, the former within five (5) days and the latter within ten (10) days, after forwarding by you to the Customer by mail or otherwise.
10. **ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.** THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING AN ARBITRATION AGREEMENT THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:
  - a. ALL PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE EACH OTHER IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORM IN WHICH A CLAIM IS FILED;
  - b. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED.
  - c. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS;
  - d. THE ARBITRATORS DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD UNLESS, IN AN ELIGIBLE CASE, A JOINT REQUEST FOR AN EXPLAINED DECISION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY ALL PARTIES TO THE PANEL AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED HEARING DATE.
  - e. THE PANEL OF ARBITRATORS MAY INCLUDE A MINORITY OF ARBITRATORS WHO WERE OR ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY.
  - f. THE RULES OF SOME ARBITRATION FORUMS MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION MAY BE BROUGHT IN COURT.
  - g. THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORUM IN WHICH THE CLAIM IS FILED, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THIS

THE FOLLOWING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISCLOSURES ABOVE. ANY AND ALL CONTROVERSIES, DISPUTES OR CLAIMS BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER AND YOU, OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, OR THE AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR CONTROL PERSONS OF YOU OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, ARISING OUT OF, IN CONNECTION WITH, FROM OR WITH RESPECT TO (a) ANY PROVISIONS OF OR THE VALIDITY OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY RELATED AGREEMENTS, (b) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES HERETO, OR (c) ANY CONTROVERSY ARISING OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS, THE INTRODUCING BROKER'S BUSINESS OR THE CUSTOMER'S ACCOUNTS, SHALL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ARBITRATION PROCEDURE OF THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY ("FINRA"). THE DECISION AND AWARD OF THE ARBITRATOR(S) SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE AND BINDING UPON ALL PARTIES, AND ANY JUDGMENT UPON ANY AWARD RENDERED MAY BE ENTERED IN A COURT HAVING JURISDICTION THEREOF, AND NEITHER PARTY SHALL OPPOSE SUCH ENTRY.

No person shall bring a putative or certified class action to arbitration, nor seek to enforce any pre-dispute arbitration agreement against any person who has initiated in court a putative class action; or who is a member of a putative class who has not opted out of the class with respect to any claims encompassed by the putative class action until: (i) the class certification is denied; or (ii) the class is decertified; or (iii) the customer is excluded from the class by the court. Such forbearance to enforce an agreement to arbitrate shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this agreement except to the extent stated herein.

11. **Hypothecation.** Within the limitations imposed by applicable laws, rules and regulations, all securities now or hereafter held by you, or carried by you in any account for the Customer (either individually or jointly with others), or deposited to secure same, may from time to time, without any notice, be carried in your general loans and may be pledged, repledged, hypothecated or rehypothecated, separately or in common with other securities for the sum due to you thereon or for a greater sum and without retaining in your possession or control for delivery a like amount of similar securities. The IRS requires Broker Dealers to treat dividend payments on loaned securities positions as payments received in lieu of dividends for 1099 tax reporting purposes. Taxation of substitute dividend payments may be greater than ordinary on qualified dividends. It is understood, however, that you agree to deliver to the Customer upon demand and upon payment of the full amount due thereon, all securities in such accounts, but without obligation to deliver the same certificates or securities deposited by the Customer originally. Any securities in the Customer's margin or short account may be borrowed by you, or lent to others.

12. **Interest.** Debit balances in all the accounts of the Customer shall be charged with interest in accordance with your established custom, as disclosed to the Customer in the Customer Information Brochure pursuant to the provisions of Rule 10b016 of the Securities Exchange Act.

13. **Margin.** The Customer agrees to maintain in all accounts with you such positions and margins as required by all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, procedures and custom, or as you deem necessary or advisable. The Customer agrees to promptly satisfy all margin and maintenance calls.

14. **Sales.** The Customer agrees to specifically designate any order to sell a security, which the Customer does not own as a short sale, and understands that you will mark such order as a short sale. The Customer agrees that any order which is not specifically designated as a short sale is a sale of securities owned by the Customer, and that the Customer will deliver the securities on or before settlement date, if not already in the account. If the Customer should fail to make such delivery in the time required, you are authorized to borrow such securities as necessary to make delivery for the Customer's sale, and the Customer agrees to be responsible for any loss you may thereby sustain, or which you may sustain as a result of your inability to borrow such securities.

15. **Representations.** The Customer represents that the Customer is of majority age, that the Customer is not an employee of any exchange, or of any corporation of which any exchange owns a majority of the capital stock, or of a member of any exchange, or of a member firm or a member corporation registered on any exchange or of a bank, trust company, insurance company or of any corporation, firm or individual engaged in the business dealing either as broker or as principal in securities, bills of exchange, acceptances or other forms of commercial paper. If the Customer is a corporation, partnership, trust or other entity, the Customer represents that its governing instruments permit this Agreement, that all applicable persons have authorized this Agreement and that the Customer signatory is authorized to bind the Customer. The Customer represents that the Customer shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in connection with the Customer's account. The Customer further represents that no one except the Customer has an interest in the account or accounts of the Customer with you.

16. **Joint Account.** If the Customer shall consist of more than one person, the Customer's obligations under this Agreement shall be joint and several. You may rely on transfer or other instructions from any one of the Customers in a joint account, and such instructions shall be binding on each of the Customers. You may deliver securities or other property to, and send confirmations; notices, statements and communications of every kind, to any one of the Customers, and such action shall be binding on each of the Customers. Notwithstanding the foregoing, you are authorized in your discretion to require joint action by the joint tenants with respect to any matter concerning the joint account, including but not limited to the giving or cancellation of orders and the withdrawal of money, securities, futures or commodities. In the case of Tenants by the Entirety accounts, joint action will be required for all matters concerning the joint account. Tenants by Entirety is not recognized in certain jurisdictions, and, where not expressly allowed, will not be a permitted designation of the account.

17. **Other Agreements.** The Customer agrees to be bound by the terms of your **New Account Application/Customer Account Agreement**. If the Customer trades any options, the Customer agrees to be bound by the terms of your **Option Agreement**. The Customer understands that copies of these agreements are available from you and, to the extent applicable, are incorporated by reference herein. The terms of these other agreements are in addition to the provisions of this Agreement and any other written agreements between you and the Customer.

18. **Data Not Guaranteed.** The Customer expressly agrees that any data or online reports is provided to the Customer without warranties of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness of a particular purpose or noninfringement. The Customer acknowledges that the information contained in any reports provided by you is obtained from sources believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to its accuracy or completeness. Such information could include technical or other inaccuracies, errors or omissions. In no event shall you or any of your affiliates be liable to the Customer or any third party for the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any information made available to the Customer or for any decision made or taken by the Customer in reliance upon such information. In no event shall you or your affiliated entities be liable for any special incidental, indirect or consequential damages whatsoever, including, without limitation, those resulting from loss of use, data or profits, whether or not advised of the possibility of damages, and on any theory of liability, arising out of or in connection with the use of any reports provided by you or with the delay or inability to use such reports.

19. **Credit Check.** You are authorized, in your discretion, should you for any reason deem it necessary for your protection to request and obtain a consumer credit report for the Customer.

20. **Miscellaneous.** If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable; it shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement. The headings of each section of this Agreement are descriptive only and do not modify or qualify any provision of this Agreement. This Agreement and its enforcement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Texas and shall cover individually and collectively all accounts which the Customer has previously opened, now has open or may reopen with you, or any introducing broker, and any and all previous, current and future transactions in such accounts. Except as provided in this Agreement, no provision of this Agreement may be altered, modified or amended unless in writing signed by your authorized representative. This Agreement and all provisions shall inure to the benefit of your successors, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, your assigns, the Customer's Introducing Broker, and all other persons specified in Paragraph 10. You shall not be liable for losses caused directly or indirectly by any events beyond your reasonable control, including without limitation, government restrictions, exchange or market rulings, suspension of trading or unusually heavy trading in securities, a general change in economic, political or financial conditions, war or strikes. You may transfer the accounts of the Customer to your successors and assigns. This Agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the Customer.

21. **Sweep Program.** If the Customer elects to participate in a sweep program, the Customer acknowledges and agrees that: (a) the Customer has read and understands the sweep program terms and conditions available at <http://www.apexclearing.com/disclosures/>; (b) you may make changes to your sweep programs and products at any time, in your sole discretion and with or without notice to Customer; (c) the free credit balances in the Customer's Account may begin being included in the sweep program upon Account opening; and (d) you have no obligation to monitor the applicable sweep program elected for the Customer's Account or to make recommendations about, or changes to, the sweep program that might be beneficial to the Customer.

22. **SIPC Protection.** As a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), funds are available to meet customer claims up to a ceiling of \$500,000, including a maximum of \$250,000 for cash claims. For additional information regarding SIPC coverage, including a brochure, please contact SIPC at (202) 371-8300 or visit [www.sipc.org](http://www.sipc.org). Apex has purchased an additional insurance policy through a group of London Underwriters (with Lloyd's of London Syndicates as the Lead Underwriter) to supplement SIPC protection. This additional insurance policy becomes available to customers in the event that SIPC limits are exhausted and provides protection for securities and cash up to certain limits. Similar to SIPC protection, this additional insurance does not protect against a loss in the market value of securities.

23. **Tax Treaty Eligibility.** This agreement shall serve as the Customer's certification that you are eligible to receive tax treaty benefits between the country or (of) residence indicated on the new account form and the country(ies) of origin holding jurisdiction over the instruments held within the customer's account.

## MARGIN RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex Clearing") is furnishing this document to you to provide some basic facts about purchasing securities on margin, and to alert you to the risks involved with trading securities in a margin account. Before trading stocks in a margin account, you should carefully review the margin agreement provided by your broker. Consult your broker regarding any questions or concerns you may have with your margin accounts.

When you purchase securities, you may pay for the securities in full or you may borrow part of the purchase price from your brokerage firm. If you choose to borrow funds from your firm, you will open a margin account with the firm. The securities purchased are the firm's collateral for the loan to you. If the securities in your account decline in value, so does the value of the collateral supporting your loan, and as a result, the firm can take action, such as issue a margin call and/or sell securities in your account, in order to maintain the required equity in the account.

It is important that you fully understand the risks involved in trading securities on margin. These risks include the following:

- o **You can lose more funds than you deposit in the margin account.** A decline in the value of securities that are purchased on margin may require you to provide additional funds to the firm that has made the loan to avoid the forced sale of those securities or other securities in your account.
- o **The firm can force the sale of securities in your account.** If the equity in your account falls below the maintenance margin requirements under the law, or the firm's higher "house" requirements, the firm can sell the securities in your account to cover the margin deficiency. You also will be responsible for any shortfall in the account after such a sale.
- o **The firm can sell your securities without contacting you.** Some investors mistakenly believe that a firm must contact them for a margin call to be valid, and that the firm cannot liquidate securities in their accounts to meet the call unless the firm has contacted them first. This is not the case. Most firms will attempt to notify their customers of margin calls, but they are not required to do so. However, even if a firm has contacted a customer and provided a specific date by which the customer can meet a margin call, the firm can still take necessary steps to protect its financial interest, including immediately selling the securities without notice to the customer.
- o **You are not entitled to choose which security in your margin account is liquidated or sold to meet a margin call.** Because the securities are collateral for the margin loan, the firm has the right to decide which security to sell in order to protect its interests.
- o **The firm can increase its "house" maintenance margin requirement at any time and is not required to provide you advance written notice.** These changes in firm policy often take effect immediately and may result in the issuance of a maintenance margin call. Your failure to satisfy the call may cause the member to liquidate or sell securities in your account.
- o **You are not entitled to an extension of time on a margin call.** While an extension of time to meet margin requirements may be available to account holders under certain conditions, an account holder does not have a right to the extension.
- o **The IRS requires Broker Dealers to treat dividend payments on loaned securities positions as in-lieu dividends for 1099 tax reporting purposes.** Taxation of substitute dividend payments may be greater than ordinary interest on qualified dividends.
- o **Industry regulations may limit, in whole or in part, your ability to exercise voting rights of securities that have been lent or pledged to others.** You may receive proxy materials indicating voting rights for a fewer number of shares than are in your account, or you may not receive any proxy materials.

### APEX CREDIT TERMS AND POLICIES:

The following Disclosure of Credit Terms and Policies is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission and is part of your Apex Account—Customer Account Agreement. It describes the terms under which Apex Clearing extends credit and charges interest and how your obligations are secured by property in your Account.

**Interest Charges.** Apex Clearing will charge interest on a daily basis on the credit extended to you. The daily interest charges are calculated by multiplying your "daily adjusted debit balance" by the "daily margin interest rate." Generally speaking, your daily adjusted debit balance is the actual settled debit balance in your Margin and Short Account, increased by the value of securities held short and reduced by the amount of any settled credit balance carried in your Cash Account.

Apex Clearing calculates your daily-adjusted debit balance each day by adjusting your previous day's balance by any debits and credits to your account and by changes in the value of short positions. If your daily-adjusted debit balance is reduced because you deposit a check or other item that is later returned to Apex Clearing unpaid, Apex Clearing may adjust your account to reflect interest charges you have incurred.

Apex Clearing reserves the right to charge interest on debit balances in the Cash Account. Periodically, Apex Clearing will send you a comprehensive statement showing the activity in your account, including applicable interest charges, interest rates and adjusted daily debit balances.

**Daily Margin Interest Rate.** The "daily margin interest rate" is based on a 360-day year. It is calculated for each day by dividing the applicable margin interest rate shown in the table below by 360. Note that the use of a 360-day year results in a higher effective rate of interest than if a year of 365 days were used.

Apex Clearing sets the Base Rate at its discretion with reference to commercially recognized interest rates, industry conditions relating to the extension of margin credit and general credit market conditions.

Your margin interest rate will be adjusted automatically and without notice to reflect any change in the Base Rate. If your interest rate increases for any reason other than a change in the Base Rate, Apex Clearing will give you written notice at least 30 days prior to that change.

**Compounding Interest Charges.** Apex Clearing compounds interest on a daily basis. Interest charges will accrue to your account each day. Apex Clearing will include the charges in the next day's opening debit balance and charge interest accordingly. The interest rates described above do not reflect compounding of unpaid interest charges; the effective interest rate, taking into effect such compounding, will be higher.

**Initial Margin Requirements.** The Federal Reserve Board and various stock exchanges determine margin loan rules and regulations.

When you purchase securities on margin, you agree to deposit the required initial equity by the settlement date and to maintain your equity at the required levels. The maximum amount Apex Clearing currently may loan for common stock (equity) securities is 50% of the value of marginable securities purchased in your Margin and Short Account; different requirements apply to nonequity securities, such as bonds or options. If the market value of stock held as collateral increases after you have met the initial margin requirements, your available credit may increase proportionately. Conversely, if the market value decreases, your available credit may proportionately decrease.

Initial margin requirements may change without prior notice. Apex Clearing may impose anytime and without prior notice more stringent requirements on positions that in our sole discretion involve higher levels of risk; for example, higher limits may apply for thinly traded, speculative or volatile securities, or concentrated positions of securities.

You may purchase only certain securities on margin or use them as collateral in your Margin and Short Account. Most stocks traded on national securities exchanges, and some over-the-counter (OTC) securities are marginable. At our discretion, Apex Clearing reserves the right not to extend credit on any security.

Equity securities with a market value of less than \$3 per share may not be purchased on margin or deposited as margin collateral. If the market value of a security drops below \$3.00 per share, the security will not be assigned any value as collateral to secure your margin obligations.

**Margin Maintenance Requirements.** You must maintain a minimum amount of equity in your account to collateralize your outstanding loans and other obligations. Margin maintenance requirements are set:

- By the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and other regulatory agencies to the jurisdiction of which Apex Clearing are subject; **and**
- According to our sole discretion and judgment.

You agree to maintain in your Margin and Short Account collateral of the type and amount required by:

- Applicable exchange rules and federal regulations;
- Our Disclosure of Credit Terms and Policies; **or**
- As required by Apex Clearing, at Apex Clearing's discretion.

Margin maintenance requirements may change without prior notice.

Apex Clearing may issue a "margin call" (that is, a notification to deposit additional collateral) if your account equity falls below the margin maintenance requirement. This can happen for various reasons. The most common reasons are a decrease in the value of long securities held as collateral or an increase in the value of securities held short.

As a general guideline and when it is practicable to do so, Apex Clearing may (but is not required to) issue a margin call when the equity in your Margin and Short Account falls below a predetermined percentage of the market value of assets at risk (that is, the sum of the market values of the long and short equity security positions) in your Margin and Short Account. The amount of additional collateral Apex Clearing requires usually is an amount sufficient to raise your equity to minimum standards. For information on the current equity requirements, please contact Apex.

Apex Clearing retains absolute discretion to determine whether, when and in what amounts Apex Clearing will require additional collateral. In some situations, Apex Clearing may find it necessary to require a higher level of equity in your account. For example, Apex Clearing may require additional collateral if an account contains:

- Only one security or a large concentration of one or more securities; **or**
- Low-priced, thinly traded or volatile securities; **or if**
- Some of your collateral is or becomes restricted or non-negotiable or non-marginable.

Apex Clearing also may consider market conditions and your financial resources.

## OPTION AGREEMENT

In connection with any transactions in options which have been or may be purchased, sold, exercised or endorsed for the account holder's account with an introducing broker(s) which clears through Apex Clearing Corporation, the account holder agrees as follows:

**1. Definitions.** "Account Holder" means any person, persons or legal entity opening this account. "Apex Clearing" refers to Apex Clearing Corporation. "Introducing broker" means any brokerage firm which introduces securities transactions on behalf of the account holder, which transactions are cleared through Apex Clearing, whether one or more. "Obligations" means all indebtedness, debit balances, liabilities or other obligations of any kind of the account holder to Apex Clearing, whether now existing or hereafter arising. "Options" means all types of options, including puts, calls, equity, debt, index or otherwise. "Securities and other property" shall include, but shall not be limited to money, securities, commodities or other property of every kind and nature and all contracts and options relating thereto, whether for present or future delivery.

**2. Limits.** The account holder shall not, acting alone or in concert with others, exceed the position/exercise limits set forth by any exchange or market or by any other regulatory authority having jurisdiction.

**3. Authority, Execution of Orders, Security Interest.** The account holder hereby authorizes Apex Clearing in Apex Clearing's discretion, should Apex Clearing deem it necessary for Apex Clearing's protection for any reason, including death of the account holder, to buy, sell, or sell short for the account holder's account and risk, puts, calls or other forms of option and/or to buy, sell or sell short any part or all of the underlying shares represented by options endorsed by Apex Clearing for the account holder's account. Any and all expenses incurred by Apex Clearing in connection with such transactions shall be reimbursed by the account holder to Apex Clearing. The account holder understands and acknowledges that when transactions on the account holder's behalf are to be executed and the options are traded in more than one marketplace Apex Clearing may use Apex Clearing's discretion in selecting the market in which to enter the account holder's order unless the account holder specifically instructs otherwise. All monies, securities, or other property which Apex Clearing may hold in any account of the account holder shall be held subject to a general lien for the discharge of the account holder's obligations to Apex Clearing under this Agreement or otherwise. The decision to enter into options transactions was made entirely by the account holder without any investment advice from Apex Clearing.

**4. Notice, Exercise, Random Allocation.** The account holder is aware of Apex Clearing's requirements and time limitations for accepting an exercise notice and expiration date. The account holder understands that the account holder may not receive actual notice of exercise until the week following exercise. The account holder bears full responsibility for taking action to exercise or sell valuable options; however, in the absence of the account holder notifying the Introducing Broker to exercise a valuable options contract by 3 p.m. Central Standard Time on the last business day prior to the expiration date of the options contract, and the Introducing Broker instructing Apex Clearing to sell valuable options on the account holder's behalf within such time, the account holder agrees that Apex Clearing may exercise the options contract on the account holder's behalf. In the event of such exercise, the profit in excess of commission costs created thereby will be credited to the account holder's account. In the event that the commissions to be charged for such an expiration transaction exceeds the proceeds to be realized, the account holder agrees and hereby relinquishes the account holder's ownership in said option to Apex Clearing, and Apex Clearing may exercise such option for Apex Clearing's own account. If the account holder does not instruct the Introducing Broker to exercise the valuable option by the time stated above, and Apex Clearing for whatever reason, does not exercise such option on the account holder's behalf, the account holder hereby waives any and all claims for damage or loss which the account holder might at the time or any time thereafter have against Apex Clearing arising out of the fact that the option was not exercised. The account holder is aware that Apex Clearing utilizes a random method of allocation for all option(s) assignments received from the Option Clearing Corporation. Exercise assignment notices for options contracts are allocated among all customers' short positions within that series. This is accomplished by a manual procedure, which randomly selects from among all customer short positions, including positions established on the day of assignment, those contracts which are subject to exercise. All American short positions are liable for assignment at any time. The account holder understands that a more detailed description of this procedure is available upon request by the account holder.

**5. Uncovered Options.** The account holder agrees that in connection with any uncovered option(s) for the account holder's account, the account holder will not sell, during the life of such options, the underlying securities collateralizing such options, including any cash or securities which may accrue on the underlying covered securities until such options are closed, exercised or expired or the account holder has met the collateral requirements established by Apex Clearing and/or the Introducing Broker for carrying uncovered options. The account holder also agrees that the Introducing Broker and/or Apex Clearing, in Apex Clearing's sole discretion, may refuse any order to sell such underlying securities received from the account holder or by means of a "give up" basis through another firm unless, prior to such sale, the account holder has met the collateral requirements established by Apex Clearing and/or the Introducing Broker for carrying uncovered options. Apex Clearing has the right, in Apex Clearing's sole discretion, to permit the account holder to apply the proceeds of such sale to such collateral requirements.

**6. Risks.** The account holder is aware of the high degree of risk involved in options transactions and has given the Introducing Broker, in strict confidence, information to demonstrate that this account and the trading anticipated in connection therewith is not unsuitable for the account holder in light of the account holder's investment objectives, financial situation and needs, experience and knowledge. The account holder agrees to advise the Introducing Broker of any changes in the account holder's investment objectives, financial situation or other circumstances that may be deemed to materially affect the suitability of executing options transactions for the account holder's account.

**7. New Account Form, Disclosure Documents.** The account holder has reviewed the contents of the new account form and represents that they are accurate. Although certain types of transactions are indicated as anticipated, Apex Clearing and the Introducing Broker may execute any other types of transactions for the account holder's account upon the account holder's instructions. The account holder has received an Options Disclosure Document relating to options on the categories of underlying securities which the account holder has been approved for trading.

**8. Accounts Carried as Clearing Broker.** The account holder understands that Apex Clearing is carrying the accounts of the account holder as clearing broker by arrangement with the account holder's Introducing Broker through whose courtesy the account of the account holder has been introduced to Apex Clearing. Until receipt from the account holder of written notice to the contrary, Apex Clearing may accept and rely upon the Introducing Broker for (a) orders for the purchase or sale in said account of securities and other property, and (b) any other instructions concerning the account holder's accounts. The account holder represents that the account holder understands that Apex Clearing acts only to clear trades introduced by the account holder's Introducing Broker and to effect other back office functions for the account holder's Introducing Broker. The account holder confirms to Apex Clearing that the account holder is relying for any advice concerning the account holder's accounts solely on the account holder's Introducing Broker. The account holder understands that all representatives, employees and other agents with whom the account holder communicates concerning the account holder's account are agents of the Introducing Broker, and not Apex Clearing's representatives, employees or other agents. The account holder understands that Apex Clearing will not review the account holder's accounts and will have no responsibility for trades made in the account holder's accounts, including but not limited to for appropriateness or suitability. Apex Clearing shall not be responsible or liable for any acts or omissions of the Introducing Broker or its representatives, employees or other agents. The execution of any such trades shall not be deemed to be an approval of such trades. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the account holder initiates a claim against Apex Clearing in its capacity as clearing broker and does not prevail, the account holder shall be responsible for the costs and expenses associated with Apex Clearing's defense of such claim. The account holder understands Apex Clearing shall be entitled to exercise and enforce directly against the account holder all rights granted to the Introducing Broker.

**9. ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.** THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING AN ARBITRATION AGREEMENT THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

a. ALL PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE EACH OTHER IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORM IN WHICH A CLAIM IS FILED;

b. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED.

c. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS;

d. THE ARBITRATORS DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD UNLESS, IN AN ELIGIBLE CASE, A JOINT REQUEST FOR AN EXPLAINED DECISION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY ALL PARTIES TO THE PANEL AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED HEARING DATE.

e. THE PANEL OF ARBITRATORS MAY INCLUDE A MINORITY OF ARBITRATORS WHO WERE OR ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY.

f. THE RULES OF SOME ARBITRATION FORUMS MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION MAY BE BROUGHT IN COURT.

g. THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORUM IN WHICH THE CLAIM IS FILED, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THIS AGREEMENT.

THE FOLLOWING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISCLOSURES ABOVE. ANY AND ALL CONTROVERSIES, DISPUTES OR CLAIMS BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER AND YOU, OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, OR THE AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR CONTROL PERSONS OF YOU OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, ARISING OUT OF, IN CONNECTION WITH, FROM OR WITH RESPECT TO (a) ANY PROVISIONS OF OR THE VALIDITY OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY RELATED AGREEMENTS, (b) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES HERETO, OR (c) ANY CONTRACTS, INSTRUMENTS OR DOCUMENTS OF YOUR BUSINESS, THE INTRODUCING BROKER'S BUSINESS OR THE CUSTOMER'S ACCOUNTS, SHALL BE CONDUCTED

PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ARBITRATION PROCEDURE OF THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY ("FINRA"). THE DECISION AND AWARD OF THE ARBITRATOR(S) SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE AND BINDING UPON ALL PARTIES, AND ANY JUDGMENT UPON ANY AWARD RENDERED MAY BE ENTERED IN A COURT HAVING JURISDICTION THEREOF, AND NEITHER PARTY SHALL OPPOSE SUCH ENTRY.

No person shall bring a putative or certified class action to arbitration, nor seek to enforce any pre-dispute arbitration agreement against any person who has initiated in court a putative class action; or who is a member of a putative class who has not opted out of the class with respect to any claims encompassed by the putative class action until: (i) the class certification is denied; or (ii) the class is decertified; or (iii) the customer is excluded from the class by the court. Such forbearance to enforce an agreement to arbitrate shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this agreement except to the extent stated herein

**10. Other Agreements.** The account holder agrees to be bound by the terms of Apex Clearing's **Retirement Custodial Account Agreement, Customer Account Agreement**. If the account holder trades on margin or short accounts, the account holder agrees to be bound by the terms of Apex Clearing's **Customer Margin and Short Account Agreement**. The account holder understands that copies of these agreements are available from Apex Clearing and, to the extent applicable, are incorporated by reference herein. The terms of these other agreements are in addition to the provisions of this Agreement and any other written agreements between Apex Clearing and the account holder.

**11. Data Not Guaranteed.** The account holder expressly agrees that any data or online reports are provided to the account holder without warranties of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness of a particular purpose or non-infringement. The account holder acknowledges that the information contained in any reports provided by Apex Clearing is obtained from sources believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed as to its accuracy or completeness. Such information could include technical or other inaccuracies, errors or omissions. In no event shall Apex Clearing or any of Apex Clearing's affiliates be liable to the account holder or any third party for the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any information made available to the account holder or for any decision made or taken by the account holder in reliance upon such information. In no event shall Apex Clearing or Apex Clearing's affiliated entities be liable for any special incidental, indirect or consequential damages whatsoever, including, without limitation, those resulting from loss of use, data or profits, whether or not advised of the possibility of damages, and on any theory of liability, arising out of or in connection with the use of any reports provided by Apex Clearing or with the delay or inability to use such reports.

**12. Credit Check.** Apex Clearing is authorized, in Apex Clearing's discretion, should Apex Clearing for any reason deem it necessary for Apex Clearing's protection to request and obtain a consumer credit report for the account holder.

**13. Miscellaneous.** The account holder agrees that this Agreement and all transactions in the account holder's accounts shall be governed by the constitution, rules, regulations, customs, usages and bylaws of the Options Clearing Corporation and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and all exchanges or other facilities upon which options are traded for the account of the account holder. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable, it shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement. The headings of each section of this Agreement are descriptive only and do not modify or qualify any provision of this Agreement. This Agreement and its enforcement shall be governed by the law of the state of Texas and shall cover individually and collectively all accounts which the account holder has previously opened, now has open or may open or reopen with Apex Clearing, or any Introducing Broker, and any and all previous, current and future transactions in such accounts. Except as provided in this Agreement, no provision of this Agreement may be altered, modified or amended unless in writing signed by Apex Clearing's authorized representative. This Agreement and all provisions shall insure to the benefit of Apex Clearing and Apex Clearing's successors, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, Apex Clearing's assigns, the account holder's Introducing Broker, and all other persons specified in Paragraph 9. Apex Clearing shall not be liable for losses caused directly or indirectly by any events beyond Apex Clearing's reasonable control, including without limitation, government restrictions, exchange or market rulings, suspension of trading or unusually heavy trading in securities, a general change in economic, political or financial conditions, war or strikes. Apex Clearing may transfer the accounts of the account holder to Apex Clearing's successors and assigns. This Agreement shall be binding upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the account holder.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

- A. **Pledging.** The account holder understands that under Section 408(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if the account holder pledges any portion of the account holder's IRA as collateral for a loan, the amount so pledged will be treated as a distribution, and may be included in the account holder's gross income for the taxable year in which the account holder pledges the assets to the extent it represents earnings or be subject to excise taxes.
- B. **Prohibited Transactions.** The account holder understands that the extension of credit through margin, short selling positions, and uncovered options are not permitted in IRA accounts. If the account holder or the account holder's beneficiary engage in a prohibited transaction with the account holder's IRA, as described in Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the account holder's IRA may lose its tax-deferred or tax-exempt status, and the account holder must generally include the value of the earnings in the account holder's account in gross income for the taxable year the account holder engages in the prohibited transactions.
- C. **ERISA.** The account holder hereby represents, warrants, and covenants that the account holder's IRA is not subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and the account holder will not engage in any transaction in the account holder's IRA that involves any extension of credit by Apex.
- D. **No Advice.** The account holder has been provided with an opportunity to consult with the account holder's tax adviser regarding the advisability of holding options or conducting options strategies in the account holder's IRA account. The account holder has not and will not, rely on Apex Clearing for legal or tax advice in connection with engaging in options transactions in the account holder's IRA. The account holder will not hold Apex Clearing responsible for any adverse tax consequences or penalties that the account holder or the account holder's IRA may incur in connection with options transactions.
- E. **Obligations.** The account holder understands that the account holder is solely responsible for ensuring that sufficient assets are maintained in the account holder's IRA to cover all potential obligations arising from the holding of options and conducting any options strategies, including any potential assignment and exercise. The account holder acknowledges responsibility for not conducting options transactions that can result in liabilities or obligations in excess of the account holder's IRA account balance. Apex shall not be responsible for the dishonor of any transaction due to an insufficient balance in the account holder's IRA. If an assignment creates a short position or debit balance, Apex is authorized to immediately cover deficit in the account holder's IRA with other assets in the account holder IRA account.
- F. **Indemnification.** By signing this Agreement, the account holder hereby agrees to indemnify and hold Apex Clearing, Apex Clearing's affiliates, and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents, and their respective successors and assigns, harmless from and against any and all losses (including but not limited to consequential damages), liabilities, tax consequences (including excise taxes, penalties and interest), demands, claims and expenses, attorneys' fees, damages (including consequential, incidental, special or exemplary) arising out of any actions or omissions by Apex Clearing, or Apex Clearing's agents in connection herewith, which are not caused by Apex Clearing's gross negligence or willful misconduct. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement and shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, each party's respective successors, assigns, heirs, and personal representatives.
- G. **Option Levels**
- Level 1 Covered calls, including:
    - o Covered calls sold against stocks held long in your brokerage account
    - o Buy-writes (simultaneously buying a stock and writing a covered call) Covered call roll-ups/roll-downs
  - Level 2 All Level 1 strategies, plus:
    - o Married puts
    - o Long calls
    - o Long puts
    - o Long straddles
    - o Long strangles
    - o Covered puts (short stock and short put position)
  - Level 3 All Levels 1 and 2 strategies, plus:
    - o Equity debit spreads
    - o Equity credit spreads
    - o Equity calendar/diagonal spreads
    - o Index debit spreads
    - o Index credit spreads
    - o Index calendar/diagonal spreads
  - Level 4 All Level 1, 2, and 3 strategies, plus:
    - o Naked equity puts
  - Level 5 All Level 1, 2, 3, and 4 strategies, plus:
    - o Naked equity calls
  - Level 6 All Level 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 strategies, plus:
    - o Naked index calls
    - o Naked index puts

### **Risk Disclosure for Uncovered Option Writers**

There are special risks associated with uncovered option writing which expose the investor to potentially significant loss. Therefore, this type of strategy may not be suitable for all customers approved for options transactions.

1. The potential loss of uncovered call writing is unlimited. The writer of an uncovered call is in an extremely risky position, and may incur large losses if the value of the underlying instrument increases above the exercise price.
2. As with writing uncovered calls, the risk of writing uncovered put options is substantial. The writer of an uncovered put option bears a risk of loss if the value of the underlying instrument declines below the exercise price. Such loss could be substantial if there is a significant decline in the value of the underlying instrument.
3. Uncovered option writing is thus suitable only for the knowledgeable investor who understands the risks, has the financial capacity and willingness to incur potentially *substantial* losses, and has sufficient liquid assets to meet applicable margin requirements. In this regard, if the value of underlying instrument moves against an uncovered writer's options position, the investor's broker may request significant additional margin payments. If an investor does not make such margin payments, the broker may liquidate stock or options positions in the investor's account, no prior notice in accordance with the investor's margin agreement.
4. For combination writing, where the investor writes both a put and a call on the same underlying instrument, the potential risk is unlimited.
5. If a secondary market in options were to become unavailable, investors could not engage in closing transactions, and an option writer would remain obligated until expiration or assignment.
6. The writer of an American-style option is subject to being assigned an exercise at any time after he has written the option until the option expires. By contrast, the writer of a European-style option is subject to exercise assignment only during the exercise period.

**NOTE:** It is expected that you will read the booklet entitled **CHARACTERISTICS AND RISKS OF STANDARDIZED OPTIONS** given to you at the time you opened your account. Additional copies are also available upon request from your broker. In particular your attention is directed to the chapter entitled Risks of Buying and Writing Options. This statement is not intended to enumerate all of the risks entailed in writing uncovered options.

## **DISCLOSURE: CHARACTERISTICS AND RISKS OF STANDARDIZED OPTIONS**

Please review the most current OCC (Options Clearing Corporation) and Apex Fintech Solutions disclosures relating to options trading:

OCC Options Disclosure Document

<https://www.theocc.com/company-information/documents-and-archives/options-disclosure-document>

Apex Fintech Solutions Disclosures

<https://apexfintechsolutions.com/legal/disclosures/>

## Day-Trading Risk Disclosure Statement

You should consider the following points before engaging in a day-trading strategy. For purposes of this notice, a "day-trading strategy" means an overall trading strategy characterized by the regular transmission by a customer of intra-day orders to effect both purchase and sale transactions in the same security or securities.

- *Day trading can be extremely risky.* Day trading generally is not appropriate for someone of limited resources and limited investment or trading experience and low risk tolerance. You should be prepared to lose all of the funds that you use for day trading. In particular, you should not fund day-trading activities with retirement savings, student loans, second mortgages, emergency funds, funds set aside for purposes such as education or home ownership or funds required to meet your living expenses. Further, certain evidence indicates that an investment of less than \$50,000 will significantly impair the ability of a day trader to make a profit. Of course, an investment of \$50,000 or more will in no way guarantee success.
- *Be cautious of claims of large profits from day trading.* You should be wary of advertisements or other statements that emphasize the potential for large profits in day trading. Day trading can also lead to large and immediate financial losses.
- *Day trading requires knowledge of securities markets.* Day trading requires in-depth knowledge of the securities markets and trading techniques and strategies. In attempting to profit through day trading, you must compete with professional, licensed traders employed by securities firms. You should have appropriate experience before engaging in day trading.
- *Day trading requires knowledge of a firm's operations.* You should be familiar with a securities firm's business practices, including the operation of the firm's order execution systems and procedures. Under certain market conditions, you may find it difficult or impossible to liquidate a position quickly at a reasonable price. This can occur, for example, when the market for a stock suddenly drops, or if trading is halted due to recent news events or unusual trading activity. The more volatile a stock is, the greater the likelihood that problems may be encountered in executing a transaction. In addition to normal market risks, you may experience losses due to system failures.
- *Day trading will generate substantial commissions, even if the per trade cost is low.* Day trading involves aggressive trading, and generally you will pay commissions on each trade. The total daily commissions that you pay on your trades will add to your losses or significantly reduce your earnings. For instance, assuming that a trade costs \$16 and an average of 29 transactions are conducted per day, an investor would need to generate an annual profit of \$111,360 just to cover commission expenses.
- *Day trading on margin or short selling may result in losses beyond your initial investment.* When you day trade with funds borrowed from a firm or someone else, you can lose more than the funds you originally placed at risk. A decline in the value of the securities that are purchased may require you to provide additional funds to the firm to avoid the forced sale of those securities or other securities in your account. Short selling as part of your day-trading strategy also may lead to extraordinary losses, because you may have to purchase a stock at a very high price in order to cover a short position.

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## Anti-Money Laundering

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. This notice answers some questions about your firm's Customer Identification Program (CIP).

*What types of information will I need to provide?* When you open an account, your firm is required to collect information such as the following from you: your name, address, date of birth, Identification number: (a) US Citizen: taxpayer identification number (social security number or employee identification number), or (b) Non-US Citizen: taxpayer identification number, passport number, and country of issuance, alien identification card number, or government-issued identification showing nationality, residence, and a photograph of you. You may also need to show your driver's license or other identifying documents. A corporation, partnership, trust or other legal entity may need to provide other information such as its principal place of business, local office, employer identification number, certified articles of incorporation, government issued business license, a partnership agreement or a trust agreement.

US Department of the Treasury, Securities and Exchange Commission, FINRA and New York Stock Exchange rules already require you to provide additional information, such as net worth, annual income, occupation, employment information, investment experience and objectives, and risk tolerance.

*What happens if I don't provide the information requested or my identity can't be verified?* Your firm may not be able to open an account or carry out transactions for you. If your firm has already opened an account for you, they may have to close it.

We thank you for your patience and hope that you will support the financial industry's efforts to deny terrorists and money launderers access to America's financial system.

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## Apex Clearing Corporation Privacy Policy

Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex") carries your account as a clearing broker by arrangement with your broker/dealer as introducing broker. At Apex, we understand that privacy is an important issue for customers of our introducing firms. It is our policy to respect the privacy of all accounts that we maintain as clearing broker and to protect the security and confidentiality of non-public personal information relating to those accounts. Please note that this policy applies to former customers as well as current customers.

### Personal Information Collected

In order to service your account as clearing broker, information is provided to Apex by your introducing broker, who collects information from you in order to provide the financial services that you have requested.

The information collected by your introducing broker and provided to Apex may come from the following sources:

1. Information received from you, such as your name, address, telephone number, social security number, occupation and income;
2. Information relating to your transactions, including account balances, positions and activity;
3. Information which may be received from consumer reporting agencies, such as credit bureau reports and other information relating to your creditworthiness;
4. Information which may be received from other sources with your consent or with the consent of your introducing broker.

### Sharing of Nonpublic Personal Information

Apex does not disclose nonpublic personal information relating to current or former customers of introducing brokers to any third parties, except as required or permitted by law, including but not limited to any obligations of Apex under the USA PATRIOT Act, and in order to facilitate the clearing of customer transactions in the ordinary course of business.

Apex has multiple affiliates and relationships with third party companies. Examples of these companies include financial and non-financial companies that perform services for us such as data processing and companies that perform securities executions on your behalf. We may share information among our affiliates and these third party companies,, as permitted by law, in order to better service your financial needs.

### Security

Apex strives to ensure that our systems are secure and that they meet industry standards. We protect personal information that is provided to Apex by your introducing broker by maintaining physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that either meet or exceed applicable law. Where appropriate, we employ firewalls, encryption technology, user authentication systems (i.e. passwords and personal identification numbers) and access control mechanisms to control access to systems and data. Third parties who may have access to such personal information must also agree to follow appropriate standards of security and confidentiality. We instruct our employees to use strict standards of care in handling the personal financial information of customers. As a general policy our staff will not discuss or disclose information regarding an account except with authorized personnel of your introducing broker or as required by law or pursuant to regulatory request and/or authority.

### Access to Your Information

You may access your account information through a variety of media offered by your introducing broker and Apex (i.e. statements or online services). Please contact your introducing broker if you require any additional information.

### **Changes to Apex Clearing's Privacy Policy**

Apex reserves the right to make changes to this policy.

### **How to Get in Touch with Apex Clearing about this Privacy Policy**

For your reference, this policy has been posted to our website at [www.apexclearing.com](http://www.apexclearing.com). For more information relating to Apex privacy policy, please contact:

Apex Clearing Corporation  
ATTN: Compliance Department  
350 N. St. Paul,  
Suite 1300  
Dallas, TX 75201  
1-800-696-3585

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## **Business Continuity Plan: FINRA Rule 4370**

As a fully disclosed and omnibus clearing firm, Apex Clearing has developed a Disaster Recovery ("D/R") Plan to ensure business continuity. In our capacity as clearing firm, we provide a variety of services that require the provision of continual technological and operational support to your broker. In connection with accomplishing business continuity, we have established a remotely independent D/R Site as a major component of our D/R Plan. This Site has the resources in place to operate and maintain business critical processes in the event that our headquarters in Dallas, Texas cannot be occupied due to anything from a natural disaster to a terrorist attack, whether or not such an event affects only our firm or is more regional in scope. The D/R Plan contemplates restoration of critical processes within a twenty-four hour time span. Please note that the specifics of our D/R Plan are subject to modification. You may obtain a copy of our most current D/R Plan at [www.apexclearing.com](http://www.apexclearing.com) or by requesting in writing a copy of the plan. Inquiries should be directed to: Apex Clearing Corporation Attn: Compliance Department, 350 N. St. Paul, Suite 1300, Dallas, Texas 75201.

## **SIPC**

As a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), funds are available to meet customer claims up to a ceiling of \$500,000, including a maximum of \$250,000 for cash claims. For additional information regarding SIPC coverage, including a brochure, please contact SIPC at (202) 371-8300 or visit [www.sipc.org](http://www.sipc.org).

Our clearing firm has purchased an additional insurance policy through a group of London Underwriters (with Lloyd's of London Syndicates as the Lead Underwriter) to supplement SIPC protection. This additional insurance policy becomes available to customers in the event that SIPC limits are exhausted and provides protection for securities and cash up to an aggregate of \$600 million. This is provided to pay amounts in addition to those returned in a SIPC liquidation. This additional insurance policy is limited to a combined return to any customer from a Trustee, SIPC and London Underwriters of \$150 million, including cash of up to \$2.15 million. Similar to SIPC protection, this additional insurance does not protect against a loss in the market value of securities.

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## **EXTENDED HOURS TRADING RISK DISCLOSURE**

- **Risk of Lower Liquidity.** Liquidity refers to the ability of market participants to buy and sell securities. Generally, the more orders that are available in a market, the greater the liquidity. Liquidity is important because with greater liquidity it is easier for investors to buy or sell securities, and as a result, investors are more likely to pay or receive a competitive price for securities purchased or sold. There may be lower liquidity in extended hours trading as compared to regular market hours. As a result, your order may only be partially executed, or not at all.
- **Risk of Higher Volatility.** Volatility refers to the changes in price that securities undergo when trading. Generally, the higher the volatility of a security, the greater its price swings. There may be greater volatility in extended hours trading than in regular market hours. As a result, your order may only be partially executed, or not at all, or you may receive an inferior price in extended hours trading than you would during regular market hours.
- **Risk of Changing Prices.** The prices of securities traded in extended hours trading may not reflect the prices either at the end of regular market hours, or upon the opening of the next morning. As a result, you may receive an inferior price in extended hours trading than you would during regular market hours.
- **Risk of Unlinked Markets.** Depending on the extended hours trading system or the time of day, the prices displayed on a particular extended hours system may not reflect the prices in other concurrently operating extended hours trading systems dealing in the same securities. Accordingly, you may receive an inferior price in one extended hours trading system than you would in another extended hours trading system.
- **Risk of News Announcements.** Normally, issuers make news announcements that may affect the price of their securities after regular market hours. Similarly, important financial information is frequently announced outside of regular market hours. In extended hours trading, these announcements may occur during trading, and if combined with lower liquidity and higher volatility, may cause an exaggerated and unsustainable effect on the price of a security.
- **Risk of Wider Spreads.** The spread refers to the difference in price between what you can buy a security for and what you can sell it for. Lower liquidity and higher volatility in extended hours trading may result in wider than normal spreads for a particular security.
- **Risk of Lack of Calculation or Dissemination of Underlying Index Value or Intraday Indicative Value ("IIV").** For certain Derivative Securities Products, an updated underlying index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in extended trading hours. Since the underlying index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during the pre-market and post-market sessions an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain Derivative Securities Products in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

# PRIVACY POLICY

Apex Clearing Corporation (“Apex”) carries your account as a clearing broker by arrangement with your broker-dealer or registered investment advisor as Apex’s introducing client. At Apex, we understand that privacy is an important issue for customers of our introducing firms. It is our policy to respect the privacy of all accounts that we maintain as clearing broker and to protect the security and confidentiality of non-public personal information relating to those accounts. Please note that this policy generally applies to former customers of Apex as well as current customers.

## Personal Information Collected

In order to service your account as a clearing broker, information is provided to Apex by your introducing firm who collects information from you in order to provide the financial services that you have requested. The information collected by your introducing firm and provided to Apex or otherwise obtained by Apex may come from the following sources and is not limited to:

- Information included in your applications or forms, such as your name, address, telephone number, social security number, occupation, and income;
- Information relating to your transactions, including account balances, positions, and activity;
- Information which may be received from consumer reporting agencies, such as credit bureau reports;
- Information relating to your creditworthiness;
- Information which may be received from other sources with your consent or with the consent of your introducing firm.

In addition to servicing your account, Apex may make use of your personal information for analysis purposes, for example, to draw conclusions, detect patterns or determine preferences.

## Sharing of Non-public Personal Information

Apex does not disclose non-public personal information relating to current or former customers of introducing firms to any third parties, except as required or permitted by law, including but not limited to any obligations of Apex under the USA PATRIOT Act, and in order to facilitate the clearing of customer transactions in the ordinary course of business.

Apex has multiple affiliates and relationships with third party companies. Examples of these companies include financial and non-financial companies that perform services such as data processing and companies that perform securities executions on your behalf. We may share information among our affiliates and third parties, as permitted by law, in order to better service your financial needs and to pursue legitimate business interests, including to carry out, monitor and analyze our business, systems and operations.

## Security

Apex strives to ensure that our systems are secure and that they meet industry standards. We seek to protect non-public personal information that is provided to Apex by your introducing firm or otherwise obtained by Apex by implementing physical and electronic safeguards. Where we believe appropriate, we employ firewalls, encryption technology, user authentication systems (i.e. passwords and personal identification numbers) and access control mechanisms to control access to systems and data. Apex endeavors to ensure that third party service providers who may have access to non-public personal information are following appropriate standards of security and confidentiality. Further, we instruct our employees to use strict standards of care in handling the personal financial information of customers. As a general policy, our staff will not discuss or disclose information regarding an account except; 1) with authorized personnel of your introducing firm, 2) as required by law or pursuant to regulatory request, or 3) as authorized by Apex to a third party or affiliate providing services to your account or pursuing Apex’s legitimate business interests.

## Access to Your Information

You may access your account information through a variety of media offered by your introducing firm and Apex (i.e. statements or online services). Please contact your introducing firm if you require any additional information. Apex may use “cookies” in order to provide better service, to facilitate its customers’ use of the website, to track usage of the website, and to address security hazards. A cookie is a small piece of information that a website stores on a personal computer, and which it can later retrieve.

## Changes to Apex's Privacy Policy

Apex reserves the right to make changes to this policy.

## How to Get in Touch with Apex about this Privacy Policy

For reference, this Privacy Policy is available on our website at [www.apexclearing.com](http://www.apexclearing.com). For more information relating to Apex’s Privacy Policy or to limit our sharing of your personal information, please contact:

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PF10130-UPMA 12/17/2019