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| | **LUDLOW EXCHANGE, LLC**<br>DESIGNATED CONTRACT MARKET | **Ticker**<br><br>MLSWIN |

# MLS WINNER

Self-Certification of the MLS Winner Contract Pursuant to CFTC Regulation 40.2(a)
Includes:

1. Cover Letter (with Certifications) (Public)
2. Public Appendix A: Terms and Conditions of the Contract (Public)
3. Confidential Appendix B: Analysis of Compliance with Core Principles

**SUBMITTED VIA CFTC PORTAL**

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

**Re: Self-Certification of the MLS Winner Contract Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act and CFTC Regulation 40.2(a)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act (the "Act"), 7 U.S.C. § 7a-2(c), and Commission Regulation 40.2(a), 17 C.F.R. § 40.2(a), Ludlow Exchange, LLC ("Ludlow" or the "Exchange"), a registered designated contract market doing business as Novig, hereby notifies the Commission of its election to self-certify the MLSWinner Contract (the "Contract") for listing on the Exchange.

A concise description and analysis of the contract follows:

**The Contract.** This contract is an event contract based on the winner of a specific MLS soccer match identified by the Exchange. When entering the contract, a participant selects one of the two teams to win the match; in matches the Exchange lists as three-way markets, the participant may instead select the team or a draw. If the selected outcome is the official result at the end of regular playing time, the contract pays its fixed settlement value of one dollar, and if it is not, the contract settles at zero. In a two-way market, if the match ends in a draw, the settlement value is divided equally and each side receives fifty cents; in a three-way market, a draw is a selectable outcome that settles accordingly. Extra time and penalty shootouts are not counted unless the market is expressly defined to include them. The contract may be voided if the match is not played to a result or its outcome cannot otherwise be determined. Each listing corresponds to a single scheduled match identified by the Exchange.

**Contract Mechanics.** The Contract operates with a $1.00 Settlement Value, a $0.001 Minimum Tick, and a $50,000-per-strike-per-Member Position Accountability Level. Contract iterations will be issued on a recurring basis, with each instance corresponding to the hedging and informational trading needs of the Exchange's Members.

**Core Principles Compliance.** The Contract is not readily susceptible to manipulation: the Underlying is determined by objective, publicly verifiable criteria, and the underlying events are characterized by substantial liquidity and broad observability. The enclosed Concise Explanation and Analysis summarizes the Contract's economic purpose and compliance with each applicable Core Principle; a detailed analysis is provided in Confidential Appendix B.

**Certifications.** Pursuant to Section 5c of the Commodity Exchange Act and Commission Regulation 40.2(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that:

**(i)** the Contract complies with the Act and the Commission's regulations thereunder; and

**(ii)** concurrently with the filing of this submission, the Exchange has posted on its public website at *https://www.ludlowexchange.com/filings* a notice of pending product certification and a copy of this submission (excluding any materials for which confidential treatment has been requested).

**Confidential Treatment.** Confidential treatment is requested for Confidential Appendix B pursuant to 17 C.F.R. §§ 40.8 and 145.9 and FOIA Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), as set forth more fully in the accompanying FOIA Confidential Treatment Request.

**Enclosures.** Enclosed with this letter are: (i) Public Appendix A: Terms and Conditions of the Contract; (ii) Confidential Appendix B: Analysis of Compliance with Core Principles; and (iii) FOIA Confidential Treatment Request.

Sincerely,

Calvin Smith
Head of Markets
Ludlow Exchange, LLC

# PUBLIC APPENDIX A: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

## MLS Winner

| | |
|---|---|
| **PRODUCT NAME** | MLS Winner |
| **RULEBOOK CODE** | SOC-001 |
| **CONTRACT TYPE** | Event Contract |
| **ISSUANCE** | Recurring (per scheduled event) |
| **UNDERLYING CATEGORY** | Sports: Soccer |

## CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

For the Contract certified by this submission, the variables used in these terms and conditions take the following values:

| **Variable** | **Value** |
|---|---|
| <game> | DC United vs. Nashville SC |
| <team 1> | DC United |
| <team 2> | Nashville SC |
| <competitor> | Nashville SC |
| <date> | August 1, 2026 |
| <time period> | Full Match |

## GENERAL TERMS

**Scope:** These rules shall apply to this Contract.

**Type:** The type of Contract is an Event Contract.

**Issuance:** These Rules apply solely to the Contract identified in the Contract-Specific Terms.

**Underlying:** The Underlying for this Contract is the official outcome of **<time period>**, as recorded by the Source Agency and determined in accordance with the **<time period>** definition and the Payout Criterion. Revisions to the Underlying made after the Expiration Time will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

**Source Agency.** The Source Agency for this Contract is Major League Soccer ("MLS"), including any successor entity resulting from an official name change or reorganization of MLS.[1]

The Expiration Value shall be determined exclusively from the following hierarchy, applied in order (i) the official box score as published by MLS; (ii) ESPN; (iii) the Associated Press; (iv) Fox Sports. No other source may be used to determine the Expiration Value. Once the Expiration Value has been determined, subsequent revisions to official statistics or scoring decisions shall not reopen or alter the Expiration Value.

**Void:** The conditions under which a Contract on **<game>** may be settled to Void are specified throughout this Contract. All Voids will settle on the basis of the Fair Value Settlement Rule.

**Payout Criterion:** The Contract will settle as follows:

**(i) Full match, two-way market.** Where **<time period>** is the entire **<game>** and the Exchange has not designated **<game>** as a three-way market**:** if **<competitor>** is the official winner of **<game>**, the Member holding the YES side of the Contract will receive $1.00; if the other team is the official winner, the Member holding the NO side of the Contract will receive $1.00. If **<game>** ends in a draw, the Member holding the YES side and the Member holding the NO side will each receive $0.50 per Contract. If the outcome of **<game>** cannot be determined, or as otherwise specified in this Contract, the Contract will settle to Void.

**(ii) Full match, three-way market.** Where **<time period>** is the entire **<game>** and the Exchange has designated **<game>** as a three-way market at the time of listing, a Member may select **<team 1>**, **<team 2>**, or Draw as **<competitor>**. If **<game>** resolves to the selected outcome as recorded by the Source Agency, the Member holding the YES side receives $1.00; if <game> resolves to a different outcome, the Member holding the NO side receives $1.00. A draw is a valid, determined settlement outcome in a three-way market and does not result in a split or a Void. If the outcome of **<game>** cannot be determined, or as otherwise specified in this Contract, the Contract will settle to Void.

**(iii) Designated segment.** Where **<time period>** is a designated segment of **<game>**: if **<competitor>** scored more goals than the other team during **<time period>**, the Member holding the YES side receives $1.00; if the other team scored more goals during **<time period>**, the Member holding the NO side receives $1.00. If **<team 1>** and **<team 2>** score an equal number of goals during **<time period>**, the Member holding the YES side and the Member holding the NO side will each receive $0.50 per Contract. If the outcome of **<time period>** cannot be determined, or as otherwise specified in this Contract, the Contract will settle to Void.

[1] This entity is not affiliated or associated with Ludlow Exchange, LLC. Neither this entity nor any of its affiliates sponsors, endorses, sells, promotes, approves, or is otherwise involved with this Contract or any other product offered by Ludlow Exchange. Any reference to this entity is solely for purposes of identifying the underlying event and the applicable settlement source.

## SOCCER-SPECIFIC TERMS AND RULES

**<game>**: Refers to a specific soccer **<game>** specified by the Exchange, identified by the two participating teams and the scheduled date, and where applicable the round or series designation (e.g., Nashville SC vs. LA Galaxy).

**<team 1>** and **<team 2>** refer to the soccer franchises, teams, programs, or clubs participating in **<game>**, as identified by the Exchange, including but not limited to official team names, abbreviations, colors, cities or institutions of origin, nicknames, or any other identifying characteristics. If a team undergoes a name change, relocation, rebranding, or similar change where there is operational continuity, the Contract will continue to reference that team under its updated designation, and open Contracts will remain valid and unaffected.

**<competitor>:** is the team in **<game>** selected by the Member upon entering into the Contract. The teams eligible to be selected are **<team 1>** and **<team 2>** as defined in these Rules.

**<date>:** Refers to the date of **<game>** in Eastern Time, as designated by the Exchange at the time of listing. In the event of a rescheduled game, the Exchange will update **<date>** to reflect the newly scheduled date of **<game>** per the Scheduling and Postponement Rule. If the Exchange cannot unambiguously identify a makeup game as the rescheduled **<game>**, the Contract will be Void.

**Commencement:** Commencement refers to the opening kick-off of **<game>**.

**Extra Time:** Refers to any overtime period(s) of **<game>,** including penalty shootouts.

**<time period>** refers to the portion of the contest over which the Payout Criterion is measured and is limited to one, and only one, of the following:

- First Half
- Second Half
- Regulation
- Full Match
- Full Match Including Extra Time (where designated)

No other values are permitted.

## EVENT RESULT AND SETTLEMENT

**Official Match and Winner Rule.** If **<time period>** is a full match, and the Governing Body records an official result of **<game>,** Contracts settle on that result, unless otherwise specified in this Contract. A result recorded by the Governing Body by reason of forfeit or award, where **<game>** was not played to a result on the field, is not an official result for purposes of this Contract, and the Contract will settle to Void.

If **<time period>** is a segment of **<game>**, and **<game>** is suspended or abandoned prior to an event occurring that can determine the Expiration Value of the Contract (such as the conclusion of the first half

if **<time period>** is the first half), the Contract will settle to Void, unless the result of that segment has already been completed and recorded by the Governing Body.

For illustration purposes, if **<game>** is stopped early but the Governing Body records an official result under its own rules, Contracts settle on that result, unless otherwise specified in these rules; if **<game>** is forfeited, awarded, or otherwise not played to a result on the field, Contracts will settle to Void unless the outcome was already determined.

**Extra Time and Penalties Rule:** Extra time, golden goal periods, and penalty shootouts do not constitute part of the applicable playing time. By default, they are excluded from the Underlying and from settlement of every market under this Contract. This exclusion applies unless the Market Title or Description expressly defines the market to include extra time and/or penalties (for example, a "To Advance" or "To Lift The Trophy" market, which is settled on which side advances including any extra time and penalty shootout). Where a market is so defined, only the specific additional periods named in the market count, and only for that market; all other markets remain settled at the end of the applicable playing time.

**Determined-Outcome Carve-Out:** Notwithstanding any void provision, a Contract whose Payout Criterion is unequivocally determined before a suspension, postponement, shortening, or other interruption will be settled on that determined outcome. (For example, a team has been declared the official winner by forfeit before the interruption.)

**Three-Way Market Exception:** Where the Exchange has designated **<game>** as a three-way market at the time of listing, settlement follows Payout Criterion (ii). For the avoidance of doubt, a draw is a valid settlement outcome only where it results from the completion of the applicable playing time; a level score arising from abandonment, suspension, or any cause other than the completion of applicable playing time is not a valid draw and the Contract settles to Void under the Fair Value Settlement Rule.

**No Result and Data Availability Rule:** If the Source Agency has not recorded a result sufficient to determine the Expiration Value upon the conclusion of **<game>**, the Exchange will wait up to 48 hours from the conclusion of **<game>** for the Source Agency to record such a result. If the Source Agency has not recorded a result sufficient to determine the Expiration Value by the end of that 48-hour period, the Contract settles to Void.

## SCHEDULING AND POSTPONEMENT

**Scheduling and Postponement Rule:** As used in this Rule, the "originally scheduled start time" and the "scheduled calendar day" of **<game>** are determined by **<date>** as designated by the Exchange at the time of listing, and are updated only where the Exchange formally reschedules **<game>** and updates **<date>** pursuant to the definition of **<date>**. A delay, suspension, or postponement does not by itself update **<date>**.

The postponement window under this Rule is 48 hours, or 45 days where **<game>** is a playoff or postseason game as designated by the Source Agency.

If **<game>** does not Commence on its scheduled calendar day, the Contract settles to Void unless (i) the Exchange has updated **<date>** and **<game>** Commences on the updated calendar day, or (ii) **<game>** Commences within the postponement window of its originally scheduled start time.

If **<game>** Commences but is then suspended or delayed before the Expiration Value can be determined, the Contract settles to Void unless **<game>** resumes within the postponement window of the time of suspension.

If **<game>** is abandoned due to external conditions after the scheduled start time but before Commencement, such abandonment is treated as a postponement, and this Rule applies as if **<game>** had not Commenced.

## CONTINGENCIES

**Extraordinary Circumstances Rule:** In the event of an extraordinary circumstance that renders a team or player unable to compete in **<game>**, or that otherwise materially affects the Underlying or the integrity of the settlement process, including but not limited to the death, serious injury, or incapacitation of one or more players, coaches, or staff members, the Exchange may determine, based upon the information reasonably available at the time, that settling the Contract to Void is necessary to prevent manipulation, price distortion, or a disruption of the settlement process. Absent such a determination, Contracts settle in accordance with the other provisions of this Contract, and if **<game>** is completed and an official result is recorded by the Source Agency, Contracts settle on that result notwithstanding the circumstance. The Exchange will make any determination under this Rule as promptly as reasonably practicable, will publish notice of the determination and a summary of its basis on its website, and will maintain a contemporaneous record of the information relied upon. All determinations under this Rule are final.

**General Market Suspension Rule:** The Exchange may suspend trading in any Contract at any time pending clarification of an unusual or uncertain event that may affect the outcome or validity of **<game>**, where the Exchange determines that continued trading may result in manipulation, price distortion, or a disruption of the settlement process. For illustration purposes, the Exchange may suspend trading upon a credible but unconfirmed report that **<game>** has been postponed, that a result is under official review, or that a participant is unable to compete, pending confirmation of whether and how **<game>** will proceed. The Exchange will resolve the suspension, by resuming trading or issuing a determination, within 24 hours of the suspension or, where it cannot do so, will extend the suspension for a stated further period, not to exceed the Expiration Date. Upon resolution of the underlying uncertainty or expiry of the final stated period, affected Contracts will be resolved under the applicable settlement provisions of this Contract or will settle to Void if the Exchange determines that this will reduce the possibility of manipulation or disorderly trading on the market. The Exchange will publish notice of any suspension, extension, or resolution on its website, and will record the basis for each contemporaneously. All determinations under this Rule are final.

**Contingencies**: Before Settlement, the Exchange may, at its sole discretion, initiate the Market Outcome Review Process pursuant to the Rulebook. If an Expiration Value cannot be determined on the Expiration

Date, the Exchange has the right to determine payouts pursuant to the Rulebook or settle the Contract to Void.

## FAIR VALUE SETTLEMENT RULE

Fair Value Settlement Rule: Where a Contract settles to Void, or where any other provision of this Contract provides for settlement at fair value, the Exchange will resolve all affected Contracts pursuant to this Rule.

(a) **Reference Time.** The "Reference Time" is the earliest of: (i) the suspension, interruption, or termination of **<game>**; (ii) any halt of trading in the Contract imposed by the Exchange in connection with the circumstance giving rise to settlement under this Rule; and (iii) the first public report of that circumstance. Where the Exchange reasonably determines that the circumstance was reflected in trading in the Contract before the earliest of these times, the Exchange may set an earlier Reference Time. Where the precise time of any event described in this paragraph cannot reasonably be determined, the Exchange may rely on an approximate time.

(b) **Calculation Window.** The "Calculation Window" is the 30-minute period ending at the Reference Time or, where the Contract has been listed for trading for less than 30 minutes as of the Reference Time, the period from listing to the Reference Time.

(c) **Fair Value Price.** The "Fair Value Price" is the time-weighted average, over the Calculation Window, of a composite price for the outcome referenced by the Contract, calculated from: (i) prices for the same outcome published by independent, widely disseminated commercial markets, converted to implied prices by removing the embedded margin from each source pursuant to a consistent, documented normalization methodology; and (ii) the midpoint of the best bid and best offer for the Contract on the Exchange. The composite will reflect no fewer than two independent sources under clause (i) where available, combined with the Exchange's own market data pursuant to a weighting methodology established by the Exchange and applied consistently across Contracts. The Fair Value Price will not be less than $0.00 or greater than the Settlement Value, and will be rounded to the nearest Minimum Tick, with a value falling exactly between two ticks rounded to the tick closer to the composite price at the Reference Time.

(d) **Data Integrity.** In determining the Fair Value Price, the Exchange may exclude from the composite (i) any Transaction or quotation on the Exchange that the Exchange reasonably determines resulted from anomalous, erroneous, non-bona-fide, or manipulative activity; (ii) any interval during which the market in the Contract on the Exchange was one-sided, or during which the width of the bid-offer spread or the displayed size rendered quotations unreliable; and (iii) any external source whose published prices are stale, materially divergent from the other sources without apparent basis, suspended, or otherwise unreliable during the Calculation Window.

(e) **Fallbacks.** If one component of the composite is unavailable or unreliable during the Calculation Window, the Fair Value Price will be determined from the remaining component or components. If neither sufficient external source prices nor sufficient reliable two-sided activity on the Exchange is available during the Calculation Window, the Exchange will apply the following, in order, using the first source that yields a reliable Fair Value Price: (i) the most recent period of no

less than 30 minutes within the 24 hours preceding the Reference Time in which the composite can be reliably calculated; (ii) contemporaneous prices of related Contracts listed on the Exchange that reference **<game>**; and (iii) if no reliable Fair Value Price can be determined from the foregoing, the affected Contracts will be resolved without a Fair Value Price, and Members will receive the return of funds that are at risk in the market.

(f) **Settlement.** Where a price is determined, each affected Contract will settle with the Member holding the YES side receiving the Fair Value Price per Contract and the Member holding the NO side receiving the Settlement Value minus the Fair Value Price per Contract, in lieu of any other payout under this Contract.

(g) **Determination, Notice, and Finality.** The Exchange will determine the Fair Value Price no later than the day after the Expiration Date, unless the Market Outcome Review Process has been initiated, in which case the timeline of that process governs. The Exchange will publish the Fair Value Price and a summary of the basis for its determination on its website, and will maintain a contemporaneous record of the data considered, any exclusions or fallbacks applied, and the resulting calculation. Any determination made by the Exchange under this Rule is final.

For illustration purposes:

- in the event **<game>** is suspended after kick-off with the selected team ahead and is never completed, no official winner is recorded and the Contract settles to Void. Where independent commercial markets published prices for the selected team implying $0.78 and $0.82 after removal of embedded margin, and the midpoint of the best bid and best offer on the Exchange averaged $0.80 over the same period, the composite price, calculated from those external prices together with the Exchange's own market data and time-weighted over the Calculation Window, is $0.80, and the Exchange settles the YES side at $0.80 and the NO side at $0.20 per Contract.
- the Exchange may exclude from the composite a burst of Transactions between related accounts on the Exchange that does not reflect genuine market interest, or an external source whose published prices are stale or diverge materially from all other sources during the Calculation Window without apparent basis; in each case the Fair Value Price is calculated from the remaining reliable components. And where **<game>** is a lightly traded market in which no external source publishes prices and the Exchange's own quotations during the Calculation Window are too sparse and wide to be reliable, the Exchange looks first to the most recent period within the preceding 24 hours in which the composite can be reliably calculated, then to related Contracts on **<game>**, and, failing those, resolves the Contract by returning Member funds.

## CONTRACT MECHANICS

**Minimum Tick:** The Minimum Tick size for the Contract shall be $0.001.

**Position Accountability Level:** The Position Accountability Level for the Contract shall be $50,000 per strike, per Member.

**Expiration Time:** The Expiration Time of the Contract shall be the time at which the Expiration Value can first be determined pursuant to the applicable rules of this Contract.

**Expiration Date:** The Expiration Date of the Contract shall be the earlier of (a) the date on which the Expiration Time occurs, or (b) the fifteenth day following the day on which **<game>** is played to completion, or, where **<game>** does not validly Commence under the Scheduling and Postponement Rule, the last day on which it could have validly Commenced (in which case the Expiration Time is 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time). The Expiration Date operates as a hard backstop; no settlement or expiration event occurring after the Expiration Date will affect the Contract. If the Expiration Time has not occurred by the date determined under clause (b), the Contract settles on that date pursuant to the applicable rules of this Contract, and no later occurrence of the Expiration Time will affect the Contract.

**Last Trading Date:** The Last Trading Date of the Contract will be the same as the Expiration Date. The Last Trading Time will be the same as the Expiration Time.

**Settlement Date:** The Settlement Date shall be no later than the day after the Expiration Time occurs, or, where settlement is determined under the Fair Value Settlement Rule or the Market Outcome Review Process has been initiated, as provided in those provisions. Settlement occurs on the Settlement Date in accordance with the Rulebook.

**Settlement Value:** The Settlement Value for this Contract is $1.00, unless the Contract settles to Void, in which case the Contract settles pursuant to the Fair Value Settlement Rule.

**Expiration Value:** The Expiration Value is the value of the Underlying on the Expiration Date at the Expiration Time.

**Determination Finality Rule:** The determination of the Expiration Value is final, and corrections, protests, scoring changes, rulings, or similar actions taken by the Source Agency with regard to **<game>** made after Expiration will not affect the Expiration Value.

## TRADING PROHIBITIONS APPLICABLE TO INSIDERS AND DECISION MAKERS

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Trading in this Contract is subject to Rule 5.11 of the Exchange Rulebook, which prohibits trading by:

- Persons possessing material nonpublic information relating to the Underlying.
- Players, coaches, officials, judges, referees, decision makers, or other persons capable of influencing the Underlying.
- Employees or affiliates of the applicable Source Agency.
- Any other persons prohibited from trading under Rule 5.11.

Additional restrictions applicable to Exchange personnel and Affiliates are contained in Rules 2.12 and 2.13 of the Exchange Rulebook.