



## Margin Application & Agreement

### Margin Trading

A Margin Account allows you to borrow cash from Firsttrade to purchase securities. The loan in the account is collateralized by the securities you purchase. You may also trade in a margin account with your own settled cash and no extra interest or fees will be charged if you do not borrow money from Firsttrade. Trading in a margin account would allow you to use unsettled funds—this will avoid all the settlement date-related violations that could happen in a cash account.

While you hold securities using margin, if the value of the stock drops significantly, the account holder will be required to deposit more cash, more marginable securities, or sell a portion of the securities to maintain the minimum margin requirements.

### Did you know that you can now apply for Margin online?

Simply login to your account, go to “My Account” > “Profile” > “Account Status.” Click on the “Add Margin” button and follow the onscreen instructions to complete your request.

Unable to add Margin online? Just complete this form and send the first 4 pages to Firsttrade using one of the following methods:

- **Document Upload:** Upload completed form via the Form Center after logging into your Firsttrade account, click on “Customer Service” > “Form Center” > “Upload Form”
- **Email:** [account.service@firsttrade.com](mailto:account.service@firsttrade.com)

Please review this document thoroughly to make sure that you understand the risks and benefits of trading with margin.



30-50 Whitestone Expressway  
Ste. A301, Flushing, NY 11354  
Client Services: (800) 869-8800  
From Overseas: (718) 961-6600

# CUSTOMER MARGIN & SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

This Customer Margin and Short Account Agreement (the "Agreement") sets forth the respective rights and obligations of Apex and the Customer (all as defined below) in connection with the Customer's margin account opened with Apex for the purchase and sale of securities and/or the borrowing of funds. The Customer understands that Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex") has been designated as the brokerage 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.** "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 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 your discretion become unsatisfactory to you, or be deemed insufficient by you, 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 advisor 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 of 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.** Until receipt from the Customer of written notice to the contrary, you may accept from and rely upon the Customer's Registered Investment Advisor (the "Advisor") (a) orders for the purchase or sale of securities and other property, and (b) any other instructions concerning the Customer's accounts. The Customer confirms to you that the Customer is relying for any advice concerning the Customer's accounts solely on the Advisor. The Customer understands that all representatives, employees and other agents with whom the Customer communicates concerning the Customer's account are agents of the Advisor 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 Advisor 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 Advisor 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 the brokerage firm 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 Advisor.

**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;

# CUSTOMER MARGIN & SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

- 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 ADVISOR, OR THE AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR CONTROL PERSONS OF YOU OR THE ADVISOR, 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 ADVISOR'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 10b-16 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's 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

# CUSTOMER MARGIN & SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness of a particular purpose or non-infringement. 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 registered investment advisor, 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 Advisor, 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. **Account 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 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.

BY SIGNING BELOW, THE CUSTOMER AGREES TO ALL TERMS OF THIS CUSTOMER MARGIN AND SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING: (1) THAT THE CUSTOMER'S MARGIN ACCOUNT SECURITIES MAY BE BORROWED BY YOU OR LOANED TO OTHERS; (2) RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT AND A COPY OF THE MARGIN DISCLOSURE STATEMENT; AND (3) THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE ON PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH 10 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS AGREEMENT THE CUSTOMER AGREES IN ADVANCE TO ARBITRATE ANY CONTROVERSIES WHICH MAY ARISE BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER, ADVISOR AND/OR YOU.

DATE OF DELIVERY OF MARGIN RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

*Signature*

*Print Name*

*Signature (Second Party, If Joint Account)*

*Print Name:*

*Date:*

# CUSTOMER MARGIN & SHORT ACCOUNT AGREEMENT

**FOR USE BY ENTITY ACCOUNTS ONLY (I.E. CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, TRUSTS):**

Is this account for a foreign bank? YES No

If Yes, Please list Agent for service of process:

Is this account for a foreign shell bank? YES No

Does this firm offer services to a foreign shell bank? YES No

**If Customer answered yes to any of the above questions, Corporations will need to complete Certification Regarding Correspondent Accounts.**

*Signature*

*Print Name*

*Title Date*



## Margin Risk Disclosure Statement

We are 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 us at [service@firsttrade.com](mailto:service@firsttrade.com) 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 our clearing firm, Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex"). If you choose to borrow funds from Apex, you will open a margin account. 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, we or Apex 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:

- **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 forced sale of those securities or other securities in your account.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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 customers under certain conditions, a customer does not have a right to the extension.
- **The IRS requires Broker Dealers to treat dividend payments on loaned securities positions as a substitute payment in lieu of a dividend.** A substitute payment is not, a qualified dividend and is taxed as ordinary income.
- **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.

### **CREDIT TERMS & POLICIES**

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

**Interest Charges.** Apex will charge interest on a daily basis on the credit it extends to you. The rate of interest charged by Apex is set by us and can be found at <https://www.firsttrade.com/content/en-us/pricing/marginrate>. 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.

Your daily-adjusted debit balance is calculated 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 us unpaid, your account may be adjusted to reflect interest charges you have incurred.

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

Please read clearing firm, **Apex Clearing Corporation's Margin Disclosure Statement** for additional margin information and credit terms & policies.



**DISCLOSURE**  
**MARGIN RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

❖ FINRA Rule 2264

Apex is furnishing this document to provide you with basic facts about purchasing securities on margin, and to alert you to the risks involved with trading securities in a margin account. Before trading 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:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.



- **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.
- **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.
- **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 customers under certain conditions, a customer does not have a right to the extension.
- **The IRS requires Broker Dealers to treat dividend payments on loaned securities positions as a “substitute payment” in lieu of a dividend**  
A substitute payment is not, a “qualified dividend” and is not taxed as ordinary income.
- **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**

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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.



## 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 systems 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 commission 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.

**Potential Registration Requirements.** Persons providing investment advice for others or managing securities accounts for others may need to register as either an "Investment Advisor" under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 or as a "Broker" or "Dealer" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such activities may also trigger state registration requirements.



## Self-directed Trading Account Risk Disclosure

All Firsttrade Accounts are self-directed. Customers are solely responsible for any and all orders placed in their Accounts and understand that all orders entered by them are unsolicited and based on their own investment decisions or the investment decisions of their duly authorized representative or agent. Consequently, any customer of Firsttrade agrees that neither Firsttrade nor any of its employees, agents, principals or representatives:

- solicit orders;
- recommend any security, transaction orders;
- provide investment advice in relation with Firsttrade account;
- make discretionary trades;
- produce or provide research;
- act as a market maker in any security;

The research materials that are available through [www.firsttrade.com](http://www.firsttrade.com) are intended for informational and educational purposes only. They do not constitute a recommendation to place an order or engage in any investment strategies.

All securities trading is speculative in nature and involves substantial risk of loss. It is very important that Customers understand all the risk of any form of trading. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission websites - <https://www.sec.gov> , <https://www.investor.gov> , and FINRA - <http://www.finra.org> , provide useful information for investors.