



# **RISK DISCLOSURE AND WARNING NOTICE**

## **NOV 2022**



**SquaredFinancial (CY) Limited**

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## 1. Introduction

**1.1** This Risk Disclosure and Warning Notice ("Notice") is provided to you (our Client and prospective Client) in accordance with the Provision of Investment Services, the Exercise of Investment Activities, the Operation of Regulated Markets and Other Related Matters Law 87 (I)/2017, as subsequently amended from time to time ("the Law"), which is applicable to Squared Financial (CY) Limited ("the Company", "we").

**1.2** All Clients and prospective Clients should read carefully the following risk disclosures and warnings contained in this Notice, before applying to the Company for a Trading Account and before they begin to trade with the Company. However, it is noted that this document cannot and does not disclose or explain all of the risks and other significant aspects involved in dealing in the Financial Instruments offered by the Company. This notice was designed to explain in general terms the nature of the risks involved when dealing in Financial Instruments on a fair and non-misleading basis.

**1.3** The Company executes Client Orders in relation to Contracts for Differences ("CFDs") in stocks, commodities, indices and currency pairs (FX), etc.

## 2. Charges and Taxes

**2.1** The Provision of Services by the Company to the Client may be subject to fees, available on the Company's [Website](#). Before the Client begins to trade, he should obtain details of all fees, commissions, charges for which the Client may be liable. It is the Client's responsibility to check for any changes in the charges.

**2.2** If any charges are not expressed in monetary terms (but, for example, as a percentage or formula), the Client should ensure that he understands what such charges are likely to amount to.

**2.3** The Company may change its costs and associated charges at any time.

**2.4** There is a risk that the Client's trades in any financial instruments may be or become subject to tax and/or any other duty for example because of changes in legislation or his personal circumstances. The Company does not warrant that no tax and/or any other stamp duty will be payable. The Company does not offer tax advice.

**2.5** The Client is responsible for any taxes and/or any other duty which may accrue in respect of his trades.

- 2.6** It is noted that taxes are subject to change without notice.
- 2.7** If required by applicable Law, the Company shall deduct at source from any payments due to the Client such amounts as are required by the tax authorities to be deducted in accordance with applicable Law.
- 2.8** It is possible that other costs, including taxes, relating to Transactions carried out on the Trading Platform may arise for which the Client is liable and which are neither paid via us nor imposed by the Company.
- 2.9** It is noted that the Company's prices in relation to CFDs trading are set/quoted in accordance to the Company's [Best Interest and Order Execution Policy](#). It is noted that Company's prices may be different from prices reported elsewhere. The prices displayed on the Company's Trading Platform reflects the last known available price at the moment prior to placing any Order, however, the actual execution price of the Order may differ, in accordance with the Company's Best Interest and Order Execution Policy and Client Agreement. As such, the price that the Client receives when he opens or closes a position may not directly correspond to real time market levels at the point in time at which the sale of the CFD occurs or reflect the prices of third party brokers/providers.

### 3. Third Party Risks

- 3.1** The Company may pass money received from the Client to a third party (e.g. an intermediate broker, a bank, a market, a settlement agent, a clearing house or OTC counterparty located outside Cyprus or the) to hold or control in order to effect a Transaction through or with that person or to satisfy the Client's obligation to provide collateral (e.g. initial margin requirement) in respect of a Transaction. The Company has no responsibility for any acts or omissions of any third party to whom it will pass money received from the Client.
- 3.2** The legal and regulatory regime applying to any such third-party person will be different from that of Cyprus and in the event of the insolvency or any other equivalent failure of that person, the Client's money may be treated differently from the treatment which would apply if the money was held in a Segregated Account in Cyprus. The Company will not be liable for the solvency, acts or omissions of any third party referred to in this clause.
- 3.3** The third party to whom the Company will pass money may hold it in an omnibus account and it may not be possible to separate it from the Client's money, or the third party's

money. In the event of the insolvency or any other analogous proceedings in relation to that third party, the Company may only have an unsecured claim against the third party on behalf of the Client, and the Client will be exposed to the risk that the money received by the Company from the third party is insufficient to satisfy the claims of the Client with claims in respect of the relevant account. The Company does not accept any liability or responsibility for any resulting losses. In general, accounts held with institutions, including omnibus account(s), face various risks, including the potential risk of being treated as one account in case the financial institution in which the funds are held defaults. Under such circumstances any applicable deposit guarantee scheme may be applied without consideration of the Client as the ultimate beneficial owners of the Omnibus Account. In addition, resolution measures may be taken in such a case, including the bail-in of Client funds.

**3.4** The Company may deposit Client money with a depository who may have a security interest, lien or right of set-off in relation to that money.

**3.5** A Bank or Broker through whom the Company deals with could have interests contrary to the Client's Interests.

## **4. Insolvency**

**4.1.** The Company's insolvency or default or the insolvency or default of any parties involved in Transactions undertaken by the Company on the Client's behalf (including without limitation brokers, execution venues and liquidity providers), may lead to positions being liquidated or closed out without the Client's consent. In the unlikely event of the Company's insolvency, segregated client funds cannot be used for reimbursement to the Company's creditors. If the Company is unable to satisfy repayment claims, eligible claimants have the right to compensation by the Investor Compensation Fund as stated below.

**4.2** The Company as the issuer of a CFD may become temporarily or permanently insolvent, resulting in its inability to meet its obligations. The solvency of an issuer may change due to one or more of a range of factors including the financial prospects of the issuing company, the issuer's economic sector and/or the political and economic status of the countries where it and/or its business are located. The deterioration of the issuer's solvency will influence the price of the securities that it issues.

## 5. Investor Compensation Fund

**5.1** The Company participates in the Investor Compensation Fund for Clients of Investment Firms regulated in the Republic of Cyprus. Claims of the covered Clients against the Company may be compensated by the Investor Compensation Fund where the Company is unable, due to its financial circumstances. Compensation shall not exceed twenty thousand Euros (EUR 20.000) for each entitled Client. For more details please refer to the “Investor Compensation Fund Notice” found on the Company’s Website under the ‘[Legal](#)’ section.

## 6. Technical Risks

**6.1** The Client and not the Company shall be responsible for the risks of financial losses caused by failure, malfunction, interruption, disconnection or malicious actions of information, communication, electricity, electronic or other systems.

**6.2** If the Client undertakes transactions on an electronic system, he will be exposed to risks associated with the system including the failure of hardware, software, servers, communication lines and internet failure. The result of any such failure may be that his Order is either not executed according to his instructions or it is not executed at all. The Company does not accept any liability in the case of such a failure.

**6.3** The Client acknowledges that the unencrypted information transmitted by e-mail is not protected from any unauthorized access.

**6.4** At times of excessive deal flow the Client may have some difficulties to be connected over the phone or the Company’s Platform(s)/system(s), especially in fast Market (for example, when key macroeconomic indicators or news are released).

**6.5** The Client acknowledges that the internet may be subject to events which may affect his access to the Company’s Websites and/or the Company’s trading Platform(s)/system(s), including but not limited to interruptions or transmission blackouts, software and hardware failure, internet disconnection, public electricity network failures or hacker attacks. The Company is not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from such events which are beyond its reasonable control or for any other losses, costs, liabilities, or expenses (including, without limitation, loss of profit) which may result from the Client’s inability to access the Company’s Website and/or Trading System or delay or failure in sending orders or Transactions.

**6.6** In connection with the use of computer equipment and data and voice communication networks, the Client bears the following risks amongst other risks in which cases the Company has no liability of any resulting loss:

- (a) Power cut of the equipment on the side of the Client or the provider, or communication operator (including voice communication) that serves the Client.
- (b) Physical damage (or destruction) of the communication channels used to link the Client and provider (communication operator), provider, and the trading or information server of the Client.
- (c) Outage (unacceptably low quality) of communication via the channels used by the Client, or the channels used by the provider, or communication operator (including voice communication) that are used by the Client.
- (d) Wrong or inconsistent with requirements settings of the Client Terminal.
- (e) Untimely update of the Client Terminal.
- (f) The use of communication channels, hardware and software, generate the risk of non-reception of a message (including text messages) by the Client from the Company.
- (g) Malfunction or non-operability of the Trading Platform, which also includes the Client Terminal.

**6.7** The Client may suffer financial losses caused by the materialization of the above risks, the Company accepts no responsibility or liability in the case of such a risk materializing and the Client shall be responsible for all related losses he may suffer.

## **7. Trading Platform**

**7.1** The Client is warned that when trading in an electronic Trading Platform he assumes risk of financial loss which may be a consequence of amongst other things:

- a) Failure of Client's devices, software and poor quality of connection.
- b) The Company's or Client's hardware or software failure, malfunction or misuse.
- c) Improper work of Client's equipment.
- d) Wrong setting of Client's Terminal.
- e) Delayed updates of Client's Terminal.

**7.2** The Client acknowledges that only one Instruction is allowed to be in the queue at one time. Once the Client has sent an Instruction, any further Instructions sent by the Client are ignored and the "orders is locked" message appears until the first Instruction is executed.

**7.3** It is understood that the connection between the Client Terminal and the Company's Server may be disrupted at some point and some of the Quotes may not reach the Client Terminal.

**7.4** The Client acknowledges that when the Client closes the order placing/ deleting window or the position opening/closing window, the Instruction, which has been sent to the Server, shall not be cancelled.

**7.5** Orders may be executed one at a time while being in the queue. Multiple orders from the same Trading Account in the same time may not be executed.

**7.6** The Client acknowledges that when the Client closes the Order, it shall not be cancelled.

**7.7** In case the Client has not received the result of Force Majeure Events the execution of the previously sent Order but decides to repeat the Order, the Client shall accept the risk of making two Transactions instead of one.

**7.8** The Client acknowledges that if a Pending Order in a CFD has already been executed but the Client sends an instruction to modify its level, the only instruction, which will be executed, is the instruction to modify Stop Loss and/or Take Profit levels on the position opened when the Pending Order triggered.

## **8. Force Majeure Events**

**8.1** In case of a Force Majeure Event the Company may not be in a position to arrange for the execution of Client Orders or fulfil its obligations under the Client Agreement with the Client. As a result, the Client may suffer financial loss.

**8.2** According to the Client Agreement, the Company will not be liable or have any responsibility for any type of loss or damage arising out of any failure, interruption, or delay in performing its obligations under the Client Agreement where such failure, interruption or delay is due to a Force Majeure Event.

## **9. Communication between the Client and the Company**

**9.1** The Client shall accept the risk of any financial losses caused by the fact that the Client has received with delay or has not received at all any notice from the Company.

**9.2** The Client acknowledges that the unencrypted information transmitted by e-mail is not protected from any unauthorized access.



**9.3** The Company has no responsibility if unauthorized third persons have access to information, including electronic addresses, electronic communication and personal data, access data when the above are transmitted between the Company and the Client or when using the internet or other network communication facilities, telephone, or any other electronic means.

**9.4** The Client is fully responsible for the risks in respect of undelivered Company Online Trading System internal mail messages sent to the Client by the Company as they are automatically deleted within 3 (three) calendar days.

## **10. Abnormal Market Conditions**

**10.1** The Client acknowledges that under Abnormal Market Conditions the period during which the Orders are executed may be extended or it may be impossible for Orders to be executed at declared prices or may not be executed at all.

**10.2** Abnormal Market Conditions include but not limited to times of rapid price fluctuations of the price, rises or falls in one trading session to such an extent that, under the rules of the relevant exchange, trading is suspended or restricted, or there is lack of liquidity, or this may occur at the opening of trading sessions.

## **11. Foreign Currency**

**11.1** When a Financial Instrument is traded in a currency other than the currency of the Client's country of residence and/or Trading Account, any changes in the exchange rates may have a negative effect on its value, price and performance and may lead to losses for the Client.

## **12. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLEX FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS such as CFDs**

**12.1. Trading in CFDs is VERY SPECULATIVE AND HIGHLY RISKY** and is not suitable for all members of the general public but only for those investors who:

- a) understand and are willing to assume the economic, legal and other risks involved.
- b) considering their personal financial circumstances, financial resources, life style and obligations are financially able to assume the loss of their entire investment.
- c) have the knowledge to understand CFDs trading and the Underlying assets and Markets.

- i. The Company will not provide the Client with any advice relating to CFDs, the Underlying Assets and Markets or make investment recommendations of any kind. If the Client does not understand the risks involved, he should seek advice and consultation from an independent financial advisor. If the Client still does not understand the risks involved in trading in CFDs, he should not trade at all.
- ii. CFDs are derivative financial instruments deriving their value from the prices of the underlying assets/markets in which they refer to (for example currency, equity indices, stocks, metals, indices futures, forwards etc.). Although the prices at which the Company trades are set by an algorithm developed by the Company, the prices are derived from the Underlying Assets/Market. It is important therefore that the Client understands the risks associated with trading in the relevant underlying asset/market because fluctuations in the price of the underlying asset/market will affect the profitability of his trade.

**12.2. Leverage and Gearing:** In order to place a CFD Order, the Client is required to maintain a margin. Margin is usually a relatively modest proportion of the overall contract value. This means that the Client will be trading using "leverage" or "gearing". This means a relatively small market movement can lead to a proportionately much larger movement in the value of the Client's position, and this can work either against the Client or for the Client.

A relatively small market movement will have a proportionately larger impact on the funds the Client has deposited or will have to deposit; this may work against the Client as well as for the Client. The Client may sustain a total loss of initial Margin funds and any additional funds deposited with the Company to maintain his position. If the market moves against the Client's position and/or Margin requirements are increased, the Client may be called upon to deposit additional funds on short notice to maintain his position. Client should also consider that at market opening and closing times and prior to announcements, the market spread may widen substantially. Failing to comply with a request for a deposit of additional funds, may result in closure of his position(s) by the Company on his behalf and he will be liable for any resulting loss or deficit. It is important that you monitor your positions closely.

**12.3. Risk-reducing Orders or Strategies:** The placing of certain Orders (e.g. "stop-loss" orders, where permitted under local law, or "stop-limit" Orders), which are intended to limit losses to certain amounts, may not be adequate given that markets conditions make it impossible to execute such Orders, e.g. due to illiquidity in the market. Strategies using combinations of positions, such as "spread" and "straddle" positions may be as risky as taking

simple "long" or "short" positions. Therefore, Stop Limit and Stop Loss Orders cannot guarantee the limit of loss.

**12.4. Volatility:** Some Financial Instruments trade within wide intraday ranges with volatile price movements. Therefore, the Client must carefully consider that there is a high risk of losses. The price of a Financial Instrument is derived from the price of the Underlying Asset in which the Financial Instruments refers to. Financial Instruments and related Underlying Markets can be highly volatile. The prices of Financial Instruments and the Underlying Asset may fluctuate rapidly and over wide ranges and may reflect unforeseeable events or changes in conditions, none of which can be controlled by the Client or the Company. Under certain market conditions it may be impossible for a Client Order to be executed at declared prices leading to losses. The prices of Financial Instruments and the Underlying Assets will be influenced by, amongst other things, changing supply and demand relationships, governmental, agricultural, commercial and trade programs and policies, national and international political and economic events and the prevailing psychological characteristics of the relevant market place.

**12.5. Margin:** The Client acknowledges and accepts that, regardless of any information which may be offered by the Company, the value of CFDs may fluctuate downwards or upwards and it is even probable that the investment may become of no value. This is owed to the margining system applicable to such trades, which generally involves a comparatively modest deposit or margin in terms of the overall contract value, so that a relatively small movement in the Underlying Market can have a disproportionately dramatic effect on the Client's trade. If the Underlying Market movement is in the Client's favour, the Client may achieve a good profit, but an equally small adverse market movement can not only quickly result in the loss of the Clients' entire deposit

**12.6. Liquidity:** Liquidity risk refers to the capacity to readily monetize assets without suffering a significant discount in their prices. The Client accepts and acknowledges that the Underlying Instruments on some Derivative Products on offer by the Company may be inherently illiquid or sometimes face persistent liquidity strains due to adverse market conditions.

### **12.7. Contracts for Differences**

**12.7.1.** CFDs available for trading with the Company are non-deliverable giving an opportunity to make profit on changes in the Underlying Asset (stocks, currencies,

commodities, precious metals and any other asset according to the Company's discretion from time to time). If the Underlying Asset movement is in the Client's favour, the Client may achieve a good profit, but an equally small adverse market movement can not only quickly result in the loss of the Clients' entire deposit but also any additional commissions and other expenses may be incurred. So, the Client must not enter into CFDs unless he is willing to undertake the risks of losing entirely all the money which he has invested and also any additional commissions and other expenses incurred.

**12.7.2.** Investing in CFDs carries risks and the Client should be aware of above risks. Transactions in CFDs may also have a contingent liability and the Client should be aware of the implications of this as set in point iv below.

**12.8. Off-exchange transactions in Derivative Financial Instruments:** C CFDs offered by the Company are off-exchange transactions. While some off-exchange markets are highly liquid, transactions in off-exchange or non-transferable derivatives may involve greater risk than investing in on-exchange derivatives because there is no exchange market on which to close out an Open Position. It may be impossible to liquidate an existing position, to assess the value of the position arising from an off-exchange transaction or to assess the exposure to risk. Bid prices and Ask prices need not be quoted, and, even where they are, they will be established by dealers in these instruments and consequently it may be difficult to establish what a fair price is.

The Company is using an Online Trading System for transactions in CFDs which does not fall into the definition of a recognized exchange or Multilateral Trading Facility and so do not have the same protection.

**12.9. Contingent Liability Investment Transactions:**

**12.9.1.** Contingent liability investment transactions, which are margined, require the Client to make a series of payments against the purchase price, instead of paying the whole purchase price immediately. The Margin requirement will depend on the underlying asset of the Financial Instrument. Margin requirements can be fixed or calculated from current price of the underlying instrument and it can be found on the website of the Company.

**12.9.2.** If the Client trades in futures, Contracts for Differences or sell options, he may sustain a total loss of the funds he has deposited to open and maintain a position. If the market moves against the Client, he may be called upon to pay substantial additional funds at short notice to maintain the position. If the Client fails to do so within the time required, his position may

be liquidated at a loss and he will be responsible for the resulting deficit. It is noted that the Company will not have a duty to notify the Client for any Margin Call to sustain a loss making position.

**12.9.3.** Even if a transaction is not margined, it may still carry an obligation to make further payments in certain circumstances over and above any amount paid when the Client entered the contract.

**12.9.4.** Contingent liability investment transactions which are not traded on or under the rules of a recognised or designated investment exchange may expose the Client to substantially greater risks.

**12.10. Suspensions of Trading:** Under certain trading conditions it may be difficult or impossible to liquidate a position. This may occur, for example, at times of rapid price movement if the price rises or falls in one trading session to such an extent that under the rules of the relevant exchange trading is suspended or restricted. Placing a Stop Loss will not necessarily limit the Client's losses to the intended amounts, because market conditions may make it impossible to execute such an Order at the stipulated price. In addition, under certain market conditions the execution of a Stop Loss Order may be worse than its stipulated price and the realized losses can be larger than expected. At market opening and closing times and prior to announcements, the market spread may widen substantially. Consequently, you must ensure that you have sufficient funds on your account to cover this eventuality.

**12.11. No Delivery:** It is understood that the Client has no rights or obligations in respect to the Underlying Assets/Instruments relating to the CFDs he is trading. There is no delivery of the Underlying Asset.

**12.12. Slippage:** Slippage is the difference between the expected price of a Transaction in a CFD, and the price the Transaction is actually executed at. Slippage often occurs during periods of higher volatility (for example due to news events) making an Order at a specific price impossible to execute and also when large Orders are executed when there may not be enough interest at the desired price level to maintain the expected price of trade.

**12.13. Swap Values:** If a Client holds any positions overnight then an applicable swap charge will apply. The swap values are stated on the Company's website and accepted by the Client during the account registration process as they are described in the Company's Agreement. The swap rate is mainly dependent on the level of interest rates as well as the Company's fee for having an open position overnight. The Company has the discretion to change the level of

the swap rate on each CFD at any given time and the Client acknowledges that he will be informed by the Company's websites. The Client further acknowledges that he is responsible for reviewing the CFDs specifications located on the Company's websites for being updated on the level of swap value prior to placing any order with the Company.

### **13. Advice and Recommendations**

**13.1.** The Company will not advise the Client about the merits of a particular Transaction or give him any form of investment advice and the Client acknowledges that the Services do not include the provision of investment advice in CFDs or the Underlying Assets and Markets. The Client alone will enter into Transactions and take relevant decisions based on his own judgement. In asking the Company to enter into any Transaction, the Client represents that he has been solely responsible for making his own independent appraisal and investigation into the risks of the Transaction. He represents that he has sufficient knowledge, market sophistication, professional advice and experience to make his own evaluation of the merits and risks of any Transaction. The Company gives no warranty as to the suitability of the products traded under this Agreement and assumes no fiduciary duty in its relations with the Client.

**13.2.** The Company will not be under any duty to provide the Client with any legal, tax or other advice relating to any Transaction. The Client should seek independent expert advice if he is in any doubt as to whether he may incur any tax liabilities. The Client is hereby warned that tax laws are subject to change from time to time.

**13.3.** The Company may, from time to time and at its discretion, provide the Client (or in newsletters which it may post on its Website or provide to subscribers via its Website or the Trading Platform or otherwise) with information, news, market commentary or other information but not as a service. Where it does so:

- (a) the Company will not be responsible for such information;
- (b) the Company gives no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, correctness or completeness of such information or as to the tax or legal consequences of any related Transaction;
- (c) this information is provided solely to enable the Client to make his own investment decisions and does not amount to investment advice or unsolicited financial promotions to the Client;

- (d) if the document contains a restriction on the person or category of persons for whom that document is intended or to whom it is distributed, the Client agrees that he will not pass it on to any such person or category of persons;
- (e) the Client accepts that prior to dispatch, the Company may have acted upon it itself to make use of the information on which it is based. The Company does not make representations as to the time of receipt by the Client and cannot guarantee that he will receive such information at the same time as other clients;

**13.4.** It is understood that market commentary, news, or other information provided or made available by the Company are subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

## **14. No Guarantees of Profit**

The Company provides no guarantees of profit or of avoiding losses when trading. Customer has received no such guarantees from the Company or from any of its representatives. Customer is aware of the risks inherent in trading and is financially able to bear such risks and withstand any losses incurred.

## **15. Regulatory and Legal Risk**

A change in laws and regulations may materially impact a Financial Instrument and investments in a sector or market. A change in laws or regulations made by a government or a regulatory body or a decision reached by a judicial body can increase business operational costs, lessen investment attractiveness, change the competitive landscape and as such alter the profit possibilities of an investment. This risk is unpredictable and may vary from market to market.