

## US CFTC Withdraws Event Contracts Rule Proposal and Staff Sports Advisory

On 04 February 2026, the US CFTC formally [withdrew the notice of proposed rulemaking titled “Event Contracts”](#) that had been published on 10 June 2024 vide [CFTC Staff Letter 26-04](#). The US CFTC confirmed it does not intend to issue final rules with respect to the proposal and also withdrew the [Staff Advisory on Certain Contract Markets \(Staff Letter 25-36\)](#) issued on 30 September 2025.

The US CFTC Chairman stated it was withdrawing the proposed rules to reconsider them in light of various forms of state regulatory actions and litigation concerning the US CFTC’s exclusive jurisdiction over event contract derivatives listed on designated contract markets. Chairman Selig characterised the 2024 proposal as a departure into merit regulation and indicated the Commission would advance a new rulemaking grounded in the Commodity Exchange Act. He further noted that the 2025 staff advisory had inadvertently created confusion and uncertainty for market participants.

The withdrawal effectively removes the prior administration’s proposed prohibition on political and sports related event contracts. Chairman Selig has directed to commence a new rulemaking process to establish comprehensive, principles based standards for event contracts rather than categorical bans.

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9179-26>)

## US CFTC and US SEC Hold Joint Harmonisation Event on Crypto Regulation

On 26 January 2026, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (US CFTC) and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US SEC) announced a joint public event titled [“SEC – CFTC Harmonisation: U.S. Financial Leadership in the Crypto Era.”](#) The event was rescheduled from 27 January to 29 January 2026 and held at US CFTC headquarters in Washington, D.C.

SEC Chairman Atkins announced that the existing crypto initiative, Project Crypto, would now proceed as a joint US SEC–CFTC effort. Both chairmen framed the initiative around three pillars: regulatory clarity, inter agency coordination and support for permissionless innovation.

The joint harmonisation sets out a bilateral regulatory framework aimed at eliminating jurisdictional fragmentation in digital asset oversight. It is a doctrinal departure from the enforcement driven posture of prior administrations and creates a clearer regulatory pathway for multi-product platforms, intermediaries and infrastructure providers.

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9170-26> / <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9172-26>)

## US CFTC Launches Innovation Advisory Committee and Appoints 35 Member Panel

On 12 January 2026, United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Michael S. Selig **officially launched** the **Innovation Advisory Committee** (IAC), renamed from the former Technology Advisory Committee and seeking nominations for additional IAC membership. The body is structured to include a balance of viewpoints from the financial industry, regulatory bodies, financial technology providers, public interest groups, academia and market infrastructure firms.

On 12 February 2026, the **CFTC announced the full 35 member IAC panel**. The Innovation Advisory Committee includes prominent crypto industry executives such as Brian Armstrong of Coinbase, Brad Garlinghouse of Ripple, Hayden Adams of Uniswap Labs and Tyler Winklevoss of Gemini. Traditional market operators including Terry Duffy of CME Group and Adena Friedman of Nasdaq also joined the panel, alongside prediction market leaders Shayne Coplan of Polymarket and Tarek Mansour of Kalshi. The committee's mandate covers artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, novel derivatives products and adaptive regulatory frameworks. Its formation represents the most extensive industry engagement initiative undertaken by the CFTC on digital assets and financial innovation to date.

The establishment of the IAC is a step towards collaborative policymaking, and also enables CFTC to receive direct industry input as Congress advances digital asset market structure legislation that would expand the agency's oversight authority over spot digital commodity markets.

(Source: <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9167-26> / <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/9182-26>)

## United States Securities and Exchange Commission: Paul Tzur and David Morrell Appointed Deputy Directors of the US SEC Division of Enforcement

On 12 January 2026, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced the appointment of **Paul H. Tzur and David M. Morrell as Deputy Directors of the Division of Enforcement**.

US SEC Chairman Paul S. Atkins stated: *"Paul and David are excellent attorneys and dedicated public servants, I am delighted to have such talented individuals join the Division of Enforcement to aid in its critical role of protecting investors and the markets."*

Judge Margaret A. Ryan, Director of the US SEC's Division of Enforcement stated: *"Paul and David both have a wealth of experience as experienced trial, litigation, and appellate lawyers. Their experience, intellect, and common sense will serve them well as they assume leadership over enforcement investigations and litigations in several offices that play a key role in achieving our investor protection mission. I welcome them to our talented enforcement team, they are very well-regarded practitioners, and I am extremely pleased that Paul and David agreed to return to public service."*

Mr. Tzur assumes responsibility for enforcement programmes in the Chicago, Atlanta, and Miami Regional Offices, while Mr. Morrell oversees New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, jurisdictions that collectively account for a substantial share of complex securities fraud, market abuse, issuer disclosure, and asset management enforcement actions.

Mr. Tzur stated: *"I am honored and thrilled to be joining the SEC. I look forward to working with Chairman Atkins, the Commission, and Director Ryan to identify and pursue sensible enforcement actions that aim to protect investors and maintain U.S. markets as the most trusted in the world."*

Mr. Morrell stated: *"It is a privilege to join the Division of Enforcement in advancing its mission of protecting the integrity of our financial markets through proper enforcement of U.S. securities laws."*

(Source: <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026-4-paul-tzur-david-morrell-named-deputy-directors-division-enforcement>)

## United States Securities and Exchange Commission under Data Protection & Examinations to Host Hybrid Outreach Event on Regulation S-P Compliance for Small Firms

On 9 January 2026, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced a [hybrid compliance outreach event](#) focused on helping small registered firms implement recent amendments to [Regulation S-P](#), the SEC's core investor data protection and privacy rule. Scheduled for 22 January 2026, it addresses an important market-integrity risk i.e. the increasing exposure of investor personal information arising from cyber incidents, inadequate safeguards, and insufficient incident-response preparedness at smaller market participants.

Regulation S-P amendments impose operationally testable obligations around safeguarding customer information, incident response, and regulatory interaction during examinations. The US SEC's decision to conduct a final, workshop-driven outreach by combining compliance guidance with simulated examination scenarios is an enforcement-adjacent posture: firms are expected to understand not only what the rule requires, but how exam staff will assess compliance.

It is a regulatory compliance outreach, which applies to US SEC-registered firms, particularly small advisers and broker-dealers, that are subject to Regulation S-P. The core regulatory focus is the implementation of new data protection and incident-response obligations, and firms' readiness for US SEC examinations assessing those obligations.

During the event, US SEC staff will explain substantive compliance requirements, outline examination expectations, and conduct a hands-on Incident Response tabletop exercise, including review of a sample document request list and a mock examination session.

Regulation S-P is issued under the US SEC's authority pursuant to the [United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934](#), the [Investment Advisers Act of 1940](#), and related federal securities statutes governing broker-dealers and investment advisers. The rule establishes requirements for the protection of customer information, including safeguards policies and procedures. The recent amendments to Regulation S-P, heighten expectations around incident response, governance, and examination readiness.

(Source: <https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026-3-sec-host-hybrid-event-regulation-s-p-small-firms>)

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