

Jonathan Little's Tournament Poker Cheat Sheet

- Think about the action on every street of every hand before you act.
- Do NOT play robotically.
- Don't play the same style all the time.
- Adjust your playing style to your specific opponents.
- Exploit your opponents' tendencies.
- Raise with a different range based on your stack size.
- When calling a raise, you need to ensure you are getting at least 10:1 implied odds with your small pocket pairs.
- When the effective stack is greater than 40 BBs, try to play lots of pots in position, especially when you think you can get heads-up against opponents who play poorly post-flop.
- You MUST get well out of your comfort zone and blatantly exploit your opponents' weaknesses if you want to become a big winner.
- If you only pay attention to your own two cards, your position, and your chip stack, you are certain to fail in the long run.
- You MUST focus on your opponents.
- Pay attention to EVERY SINGLE HAND that takes place at the poker table.
- Take mental notes about your opponents.
- If you have a bad memory, write notes in a notepad.
- Take notes on what each specific player does incorrectly.
- Always put your opponent on a RANGE OF HANDS rather than a specific hand.
- Value bet when you think you have the best hand most of the time AND you think your opponent will call with most of his range.
- Value bet relatively weak made hands on the turn against loose players who never fold any made hand or draw.
- Do NOT value bet when you think you have the best hand most of the time and you think your opponent will fold most of his range that you beat.
- Do NOT value bet the turn and river against tight players who will fold all their worse hands and call with all their better hands.
- Be less inclined to value bet when losing will leave you with a significantly less profitable stack.
- Pot control to avoid getting blown off your hand and to induce your opponent to bluff.
- Do NOT pot control when your opponents will pay you off poorly.
- Do NOT pot control when your opponents will not bluff the river.
- Against players who play too many hands too passively:
 - Value bet them relentlessly.
 - Fold to them when they apply significant pressure.
 - Bluff them on later streets when they have a marginal hand AND you think they will fold.
- Against players who play too many hands too aggressively:
 - Realize they often have marginal hands even when they apply pressure.
 - They will usually fold if you apply aggression.
 - If you induce them to bluff, do not fold decently strong holdings.
 - Bluff them on scary boards.
- Against players who play too few hands too passively:
 - Relentlessly steal their blinds.
 - Fold to their aggression.
- Against players who play too few hands too aggressively:
 - They are usually not capable of folding hands they perceive as strong.
 - Play hands with huge implied odds.
 - Do not stack off with hands worse than top pair, top kicker.
 - Relentlessly steal their blinds.
- Against players who play well:
 - If your opponent thinks you're tight, bluff a lot.
 - If your opponent thinks you're wild, play tightly.
 - Apply aggression in intelligent spots.
 - Fold when it is clear they want to put money in the pot.
 - It is usually smart to avoid them and focus on the weak players.



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Things to Focus on BEFORE a Tournament:

Bankroll and Mindset

Do I have the proper bankroll of at least 50 to 100 buy-in's?

If I don't, am I in the mindset to play properly as if I was properly bankrolled?

Sleep

Did I get a full night's sleep?

Breakfast

Did I eat a healthy breakfast?

Study

Did I study my previous games to find my errors?

Mental Focus

Is my mind clear such that playing poker is the ONLY thing that matters now?



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Things to Focus on DURING Each Hand of a Tournament:

Effective Stack Size

How should I alter my play based on the effective stack size?

Payout Structure

Should the payout structure alter my decisions?

Expectation

How do I maximize my expectation for THIS hand?

Notes

Am I writing down my difficult hands so I can review them later?

My Opponent

What do I know about my opponent?

What are my opponent's tendencies?

What can I do to take advantage of my opponent's tendencies?

What does my opponent know or think he knows think about me?

Is my opponent doing anything to take advantage of me?

What should I do to be sure my opponent is not taking advantage of me?

Should I play in an exploitable or balanced manner against my opponent?

Things to Focus on AFTER a Tournament:

The Good

What did I do well?

The Bad

What did I do poorly?

Get Specific

Are there any specific hands I have problems with?

Discuss with Friends

Did I discuss my difficult hands with my friends and post them on the FloatTheTurn.com forums?

Improve My Weaknesses

What aspect of my game do I need to work on the most BEFORE my next tournament?

Take Action

What steps can I take IMMEDIATELY to ensure I play better next time?

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