



# SHORTSTACK STRATEGY

## Handout

### Basics

How do you play before the flop?

What hands can you hold on the flop?

How do you play after the flop?

Your roadmap through the first limits





## Basics



With how much money do you sit down? When do you leave the table?

Limit	You sit down at the table with ...	You rebuy when you have...	You leave the table with ...
Every Limit	20 Big Blinds	less than 15 Big Blinds	more than 25 Big Blinds
NL10 (0.05 / 0.10)	\$2	\$1.50 or less (to \$2)	more than \$2.50
NL20 (0.10 / 0.20)	\$4	\$3 or less (to \$4)	more than \$5
NL25 (0.10 / 0.25)	\$5	\$3.75 or less (to \$5)	more than \$6.25
NL50 (0.25 / 0.50)	\$10	\$7.50 or less (to \$10)	more than \$12.50

## What is your position at the table?

The position is always based on who currently holds the dealer button.



<b>D</b> Dealer
2 late positions
3 middle positions
3 early positions
2 blind positions



## How do you play before the flop?

### Which cards do you play?



#### The Starting Hand Chart

##### *No one has raised before you*

You are in ...	You play ..
Early Position	JJ, QQ, KK, AA and AK
Middle Position	99, TT, JJ, QQ, KK, AA, AQ, AK
Late Position or the Blinds	77, 88, 99, TT, JJ, QQ, KK, AA, KQ, AJ, AQ, and AK

You raise to 4 big blinds + 1 big blind for every player that entered the hand before you.

##### *There were raises before or after you*

Who raised?	You go All-In with ...
Exactly one player has raised before you	JJ, QQ, KK, AA and AK
There was more than 1 raise before you	KK and AA
There was a raise behind you	TT, JJ, QQ, KK, AA, and AK

If there was a raise in front of you or behind you, you go directly all-in.  
If your hand isn't listed as being playable in the given situation, you fold it.

### How much do you raise to?

#### **There were no raises in front of you:**

- You raise to 4 times the big blind + 1 big blind for every play that entered the hand before you.

#### **There were raises before you:**

- You go directly all-in.

#### **There were raises behind you:**

- You go directly all-in.



## Which hands can you hold on the flop?

### Made Hands

▶ Top pair



▶ Overpair



▶ Two Pair



▶ Three of a kind of better ...

### Drawing Hands

▶ OESD



▶ Flush draw





## How do you play on the flop?

---

### You bet, raise and try to go all-in with ...

- ▶ ... every top pair, if you have at least a jack as a kicker.
- ▶ ... every overpair, three of a kind, or better hand.
- ▶ ... every OESD or Flushdraw but only if you raised before the flop.

### Furthermore:

- ▶ ... If you don't have one of the above mentioned hands you check and fold if your opponent bets.
- ▶ ... If you didn't raise before the flop you also fold your OESDs or Flushdraws.
- ▶ ... If you raised before the flop, did not hit anything, but only have one opponent, you bet once as a bluff.
- ▶ ... If you raised before the flop and are up against one opponent you raise 2/3 of the pot as a bluff. If he calls the bet or raises, you give up the bluff.
- ▶ ... If you raised before the flop and the pot is already bigger than twice your chipstack at the beginning of the betting round you will definitely go all-in.

### How much do you bet?

- ▶ ... If no one has bet before you, you bet 2/3 of the pot.
- ▶ ... If this means betting more than half your remaining stack, you go directly all-in.
- ▶ ... If someone has bet before you and you have a hand you can go all-in with, you go all-in.
- ▶ ... If there is a raise behind you, you go all-in.



## Your guide through the first limits

---

### Your personal roadmap

The starting point for your poker career is the \$50 + bonus, which you receive as starting capital after having passed the quiz. With this money you start playing NL10 (0.05/0.10).



#### You play NL10 (0.05/0.10)

- The big blind is \$0.10.
- You sit down at the table with \$2.00.
- You play this limit until you have \$150.



#### You play NL25 (0.10/0.25)

- The big blind \$0.25.
- You sit down at the table with \$5.00.
- You play until you have \$300.
- If you start losing and your bankroll drops to \$60, you move back down to NL10.



#### You play NL50 (0.25/0.50)

- The big blind is \$0.50.
- You sit down at the table with \$10.00.
- You play this limit until you have \$600.
- If you start losing and your bankroll drops to \$150, you move back down to NL25.



**PokerStrategy.com**  
The Professional Poker School