Pocket Cheat Sheet

The two pages every live cash-game player keeps at the table

— Starting-hand guide

Full-ring (9-handed), first in the pot. Raise these; fold the rest. "s" = suited, "o" = offsuit. Against a raise, use a much tighter range.

POSITION	OPEN-RAISE WITH
Early UTG, UTG+1	AA–77 · AK, AQ · AJs, ATs · KQs, KJs · QJs
Middle MP, LJ	+ 66–55 · AJo · A9s–A5s · KQo · KTs · QTs · JTs · T9s
Hijack	+ 44–22 · ATo · KJo · QJo · A4s–A2s · K9s · Q9s · J9s · 98s · 87s
Cutoff	+ A9o · KTo · QTo · JTo · K8s–K6s · T8s · 97s · 76s · 65s
Button	+ most suited hands, offsuit aces, K9o, Q9o, J9o, T9o, 98o, suited gappers
Small blind	Raise a range similar to the cutoff when folded to you; avoid limping

— Equity needed to call a bet

BET SIZE	¼ POT	⅓ POT	½ POT	⅔ POT	¾ POT	POT	2× POT
Equity needed	17%	20%	25%	29%	30%	33%	40%

USEFUL PREFLOP NUMBERS

Any pocket pair: 5.9% (1 in 17) · Pocket aces: 0.45% (1 in 221) · Pocket pair flops a set+: 11.8% · Unpaired hand pairs on the flop: 32.4% · Suited hand flops a flush: 0.84%

— Common draws

DRAW	OUTS	FLOP → RIVER	TURN → RIVER
Gutshot straight	4	16%	9%
Two overcards	6	24%	13%
Open-ended straight	8	31%	17%
Flush draw	9	35%	20%
Flush + gutshot	12	45%	26%
Flush + open-ended	15	54%	33%

— Rule of 4 and 2

Multiply your outs by 4 (flop, two cards to come) or by 2 (one card to come) for a fast estimate of your chance to hit.

OUTS	8	9	12	15	20
Flop · river	32%	36%	48%	60%	80%
Turn · river	16%	18%	24%	30%	40%

THE FIRST RULE

Poker money is money you can afford to lose. Not rent, not savings, not borrowed money. If that is not true for you today, the most profitable decision you can make is to wait.

BANKROLL GUIDELINE

Live NL cash: 30–50 buy-ins for your current stake. Move down the moment you fall under the floor — no exceptions for "I'm due."