

# STUDY SESSION 7

## Planning Your Hand

# Key Points

- Always have a game plan when deciding how to play your hand.
- That plan should include how you will react to various situations both pre and post Flop.
- Understand that your plan may change mid hand based on various factors, such as board texture and actions from your opponent(s).
- Your plan must take stack sizes into account.
- You must pay attention to the cadence of the hand and make necessary adjustments.
- Always have an exit plan (ie know when to fold).

# Building your Plan

(Information Infrastructure / Pre-Flop)

- What is your position in the hand?
- What is your current table image?
- How tight / loose are your opponent's playing, especially with you?
- Are you opening the pot or has it already been opened?
- What are the potential effective stacks? Do you have fold equity?
- What will you do if your hand is 3-bet?
- Are there any good spots for you to 3-bet?

# Building your Plan

## (Information Response / Post-Flop)

- How many opponents are you facing?
- What type of opponent(s) are you facing?
- What is your position?
- Do you have the betting lead?
- How did the pre-Flop / previous street betting progress?
- What is the board texture? Has it hit your perceived range? Has it hit your opponent's perceived range?
- How have your opponent's reacted to the Flop / Turn / River?
- What are the effective stacks? Do you have any fold equity?
- Are you telling a compelling story?
- Is your hand (actual or represented) strong enough to continue?

# Meta Game Considerations

- Are you playing an advanced opponent or a player with whom you have a lot of history?
- If yes, you plan needs to factor this in as this opponent will likely be able to put you on a hand and play an effective counterstrategy.
- You may have to play your hand in fashion outside GTO (Game Theory Optimal ie the best possible way to play any given hand under a given circumstance).
- The actual strength of your hand can actual come into play here rather than just perceived ranges, etc.
- Meta game concepts do not come into play if there are multiple players in the pot (ie your advanced or familiar opponent has to take the other player into consideration as well).

# Final Thoughts

- “Failing to plan is planning to Fail.”
- Don’t overthink it. Some plans are as simple as “I fold pre-flop”.
- Pay attention at all times, including hands you are not in. You will receive important information that can / should / will affect future decisions you make.
- If you are uncertain what to do, you’re probably better off folding.
- Make your plays consistent (Open with raises and not limps with all hands you plan to play, make your value bets and bluffs look the same, etc.).
- Planning makes decision-making easier than winging it.