

The Fundamentals of Power Poker for low stakes Texas Hold'em Live Tournaments by David Soede

Contributed by David Soede
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Do you like playing poker but seem to lose more often than you win? Have you wondered why some players consistently win or cash and what they know that you don't? Would you like to understand pro poker players approach to the game and how they think? Would you like to improve your poker and start winning more money more often?

I can help you stop losing and start winning more frequently . . .

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If you just like playing with friends at the club and don't mind regularly spending money on a night out and entertainment, and think it's mostly luck that determines the result and enjoy the gambling side . . . then this course is not for you.

If you have played for many years and think you know all you need and don't want to study or work on your game . . . then this course is not for you.

If you are prepared to learn some new concepts, and work at applying them, and are willing to commit to a regular timeslot, then this course is for you Who am I and what are my results?

If you are looking for a coach or teacher in anything, you want to know if they can do it well themselves, and if they can teach (not every successful sportsperson is a good coach). I do not think I am a great poker player, but I am working on it. My main strength is I can read books or watch videos by experts, understand them and apply it, and then explain to others depending on where they are at and what they can handle (not everyone is great at maths).

I am also an experienced and qualified teacher in English, currently teach chess to CCGS students at lunch time and cricket after school, and was an instructor in snowboarding, surfing and sailboarding.

Results:

- I've played the \$105 Friday night game at Settlers with Poker Down Under (and the \$105 game at Diggers before that) for 72 games over 2 years with an ROI over 150% (on average I win >\$270 per game for an average profit of ~\$170).

I have played 4 x 2-day tournaments:

- 2012 Jan Central Coast Poker Championships @ Mingara; Buyin \$110; Runners 121; Place 1st; Won \$5K
- 2012 Feb UPT \$100K @ Halekulani; Buyin \$40 sat; Runners 100; Place 5th (my AK beaten by AT all-in preflop); Won \$5K
- 2012 June ANZPT @ Canberra; Buyin \$1100; Runners 98; Place 16th & Bubble; Won \$0
- 2013 Jan PDU Top 10 @ Settlers & Duttons; Buyin \$0, \$30 (add-on); Runners 64; Place 1st; Won \$2K
- Total Buyins \$1280, total winnings \$11,930 for a total profit of \$10,650 and an ROI over 830%

I have also played 4 x \$330 buyin tournaments at The Star with no cashes - so that return is a pretty dismal 0%!

I would say: a moderately successful amateur poker player profitable in low stakes live NLHE tournaments. What is the course like?

I favour a small group (max 6) structured course approach with materials to assist students and use presentations, videos, worked examples and references for follow-up.

I have read about 15 books on tournament strategy for Texas Hold'em tournaments and will be using the 'Harrington on Hold'em' trilogy, the Kill Phil / Kill Everyone / Kill Elky (aka The Raisers Edge) trilogy and Sklansky's 'Tournament Poker for Advanced Players' as the basis for the Fundamentals course.

I run the course in my home starting about 8pm and finishing around 10pm. It runs for 8 weeks and includes these topics:

- Hole Card Rankings and tiers
- Preflop Ranging and Play
- Flop textures
- Post flop Ranging and Play
- Odds & hand odds with outs and probabilities, pot odds & expressed & implied

- Positive vs. Negative Expected Value (EV)
- Bet sizing for maximum profit
- Stack sizes vs. blinds vs. others (Q & M)
- Position – the 5 types and how to adjust play
- Image and styles – yours and others, how to classify TAG vs. LAG vs. Passive and how to adjust and why
- Bluffing – the misunderstood & abused art, the optimum balance, boards and spots to bluff & not to bluff
- Betting patterns, tells and table talk.
- The fundamental questions to ask when considering betting / raising vs. calling or folding.
- The levels of poker and levelling wars
- Independant Chip Model (ICM) and inflection points
- Identifying errors and leaks in your game (& fixing them!)
- Randomising / Deception & Mixing it upWhat is the cost of course?

\$40 per week for 8 weeks so \$320 payable in advance – I want students committed to finish the whole course and put consistent effort in. As it’s the first time I have run this course I am making it available at a 25% discount for the first 6 students who register, or only \$240, as a one-time introductory offer.

In addition, if you aren’t satisfied after the first 2 lessons, I will give you a full refund

I am also willing to consider a sharing of winnings over a certain number of tournaments at a certain buyin level in an agreed period of time – for example:

- 20 x \$105 Friday night @ Settlers with Poker Down Under over 1 year
- 7 x \$330 Mon / Wed @ The Star over 1 year
- 1 x \$1100 Vanuatu & 10 x \$105 @ Settlers with Poker Down Under over 1 year
- No tournaments below \$50 considered, buyins must exceed \$2,000, 1 year is the longest period considered
- Each tournament cash results in a payment to me
- Capped at \$800 payable to me (once you have won more than \$1600 you are clear)

This option means no cash payable up front, and if you end up playing that number of tournaments and not cashing in any, the lessons are on me (free). For example say you intend playing every 2nd \$105 Friday night @ Settlers for a year, and you win the first (\$1,005), come third in the 6th (\$405) and win the 14th (\$1,100). You would pay me \$450 ($\$1,005 - \$105 = \900, divided by 2 = \$450) for that one, \$150 for the 3rd place ($(\$405 - \$105)/2$) and then \$200 only for the win in the 14th to reach the cap of \$800. Anything you win after that is all yours. If instead of winning the 14th tournament you bubbled, and had no cashes in the next 6 tournaments but won the 21st tournament for \$2,000, you would keep all the winnings and would have paid me a total of \$600. f you don’t play all the tournaments as agreed, you pay full the cost of the course.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I miss a lesson?

I will give you the materials to study during the week and answer any questions by email. You can also request a “make-up” session for \$50 for an hour (as it’s one-on-one we should be able to cover it adequately in an hour). I will also consider allowing you to sit-in on a future lesson on that topic depending on student numbers and timing.

Do you give private (one-on-one) lessons?

Yes, but I prefer to do so after students have taken my fundamentals course, so they understand the various concepts and interactions in play when analysing hands and overall game.

You’re too expensive / not good value / I can’t afford it.

I am doing my best to make it affordable for low stakes regular players and offer a “shared winnings” option with no upfront cost – in fact I risk not receiving anything at all. I suggest if you were going to outlay over \$2,000 in a year on poker tournaments then investing 10% of that in some coaching to improve your game will return a profit in that year – let alone many future years going forward. I could earn much more money per hour working in IT instead of coaching but I love poker and enjoy seeing students improve. Everyone’s idea of value is relative – I’m looking at lessons from one of Australia’s top pros who charges \$250 per hour and I think that’s cheap – I’ll be using this course to subsidise my lessons with him.

I could learn all that stuff from books / videos myself.

Of course – that’s how I did. I’ll even give you a list of recommended books I’ve bought and read! I am unashamedly using the best poker pros and books around as the basis for my course. Some people find they learn better by listening in person, asking questions and working through examples, or watching short videos and discussing aspects, than reading books.

Are there any special rules?

The first rule of Fight Club is there is no talking about Fight Club . . . You can tell anyone you want you are taking lessons with me, but you can’t say who the other students in the course are. It’s private and their business, so I insist on confidentiality. Some players don’t want others to know they are taking lessons, and some players don’t want opponents to know they take the game seriously and know all these concepts, to conceal their edge and generate more profit. There is no belittling anyone’s play or opinions during discussions.

My house is non-smoking and shoeless inside. On the plus side you are welcome to enjoy a soft drink, or a coffee from the residential barista-in-training :)

If you'd like to contact me you can email "david at soede dot net" or call 02 4388 2294 / 0414 995 762 (I work 8 til 5pm so may not answer the mobile Mon-Fri, and my reception at home is poor).