RISK-FIRST SYSTEM

GOLD / BTC / ETH FUTURES PLAYBOOK

BINANCE EDITION | ~$100 ACCOUNT | DATA > DOPAMINE

EQUITY	TRAINING R	DAILY BRAKE
$100	$0.50	-2R

A screen-friendly field guide for Binance USD□-M perpetuals: BTCUSDT, ETHUSDT and XAUUSDT. Built around stop placement, fixed-dollar sizing, liquidity sweeps, execution, review and a 30-100 trade validation protocol.

THE NON-NEGOTIABLE RESET	At 100x, $10-$25 of initial margin can control about $1,000-$2,500 of notional exposure. A 1% adverse move is therefore about $10-$25 before fees, slippage and funding. Liquidation or forced reduction may occur sooner. Margin is collateral; it is not your planned risk.

Prepared 21 November 2026 | Version 1.0

No system eliminates losses or stop-outs. The objective is to make every loss small, intentional, measurable and survivable.

00 PLAYBOOK MODULE

How to use this playbook

Read once end-to-end. Then trade from the one-page rules, checklist and journal - not from memory.

This manual is tailored to your current workflow: map support/resistance on 5m, 15m and 1h; check 4h, 1d and 1w context; use the 255 EMA as a directional filter; define entry, exit and stop in advance; trail when justified. It deliberately changes one thing: position size comes from the stop and fixed dollar risk, never from how much leverage or margin is available.

What this document is

- A process for converting a market idea into a pre-defined, capped loss.
- A testable framework for distinguishing a normal stop from a poor stop, bad entry, oversizing or execution failure.
- A validation program: paper trade first; advance only when the data support it.

What this document is not

- A promise of profit, win rate or income.
- A signal service or recommendation to trade any specific instrument, platform or direction.
- Legal, tax or investment advice. Indian rules and platform access can change; verify with qualified professionals and current official sources.

FIRST DECISION	If the venue minimum order size makes the calculated risk impossible, skip the trade. A smaller account does not justify a larger percentage risk.

Suggested sequence: print pages 23-26, complete the 30-trade paper phase, review, then decide whether to continue to 60 and 100 trades. Live trading is not an automatic next step.

01 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Account reality: leverage magnifies exposure

Separate four quantities every time: equity, margin, notional exposure and planned loss.

Term	Meaning	Your current pattern
Account equity	Total usable balance before open P&L.;	About $100.
Initial margin	Collateral posted to open a position.	About $10-$25.
Notional exposure	Price x quantity; the amount that moves with the market.	At 100x, roughly $1,000-$2,500.
Planned risk	Loss at the stop, including a cost/slippage buffer.	Must be calculated; it is not the margin.
Liquidation distance	Venue estimate where margin is insufficient.	Depends on maintenance margin, fees, funding, mark price, mode and other positions.

Exposure

Notional = initial margin x effective leverage

Examples assume isolated margin and ignore platform-specific tiers. Effective leverage can change as price and equity move.

Margin	Leverage	Approx. notional	0.5% adverse	1.0% adverse
$10	100x	$1,000	$5	$10
$25	100x	$2,500	$12.50	$25
$10	10x	$100	$0.50	$1
$10	3x	$30	$0.15	$0.30

WHY 100x IS FRAGILE

At 100x, a theoretical 1% move against the position consumes 100% of posted initial margin before considering maintenance margin and costs. In practice, liquidation can be closer than 1%. Stop orders are not guaranteed to fill at the trigger price.

Lower-risk alternatives

- Trade paper/simulated until the system has enough observations.
- Use much lower effective leverage (for example 1x-5x) and calculate quantity from risk; leverage is only a margin-efficiency setting.
- Use isolated rather than cross margin when available, so one position does not automatically draw on the whole account.
- Use smaller contract sizes or a venue/instrument whose minimum increment fits the risk budget.
- If no product fits a $0.50-$1.00 risk cap, do not trade this account live.

02 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Size from fixed dollar risk

The stop location answers “where is the idea wrong?” Quantity answers “how much may I lose there?”

Step 1: risk cap	**Dollar risk = account equity x risk percentage** Training default: 0.50% ($0.50 on $100). Absolute ceiling for a fully validated setup: 1.00% ($1.00).
Step 2: stop distance	**Stop distance = |entry - stop|** For inverse, quanto or non-linear contracts, use the venue P&L; calculator instead of this linear shortcut.
Step 3: quantity	**Quantity = (dollar risk - cost buffer) / loss per unit at stop** Round DOWN to the venue quantity step. Recalculate the rounded position’s loss.
Step 4: sanity check	**Planned total loss = price loss + fees + expected slippage + funding due before exit** Reject if total exceeds the cap or if liquidation is not safely beyond the stop.

Equity	0.25% risk	0.50% risk	0.75% risk	1.00% risk
$100	$0.25	$0.50	$0.75	$1.00
$80	$0.20	$0.40	$0.60	$0.80
$120	$0.30	$0.60	$0.90	$1.20

DAILY & WEEKLY BRAKES

Stop for the day at -2R or after 3 losing trades, whichever comes first. Stop for the week at -5R. “R” is the planned loss on one standard trade. No size increase to recover a drawdown.

Portfolio heat

BTC and ETH often move together. Gold can also react to the same macro event. Treat correlated trades as one risk cluster. Maximum open risk: 1R total during training; later, no more than 1.5R only if validated. Never count a tightened stop as risk-free until the order is acknowledged and realistically executable.

03 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Context, location, trigger

A support/resistance map is context. It becomes a trade only after a defined trigger and invalidation.

Layer	Timeframes	Question	Output
Regime	1w / 1d / 4h	Trend, range or transition? Major event risk?	Directional permission and no-trade zones.
Structure	1h / 15m	Where are swing highs/lows, acceptance zones and obvious liquidity?	Two or three zones - not a screen full of lines.
Execution	5m (optionally 1m only for fill)	Has price shown the exact trigger?	Entry, invalidation, quantity and target.
255 EMA	Chosen context timeframe	Is price clearly above/below with slope and structure aligned?	Filter, not a standalone signal or stop.

A-grade setup definition

1. Higher-timeframe context is clear enough to state in one sentence.
2. Price reaches a pre-marked zone; no chasing in the middle of the range.
3. A trigger closes: sweep-and-reclaim, break-and-retest, or rejection with structure shift.
4. Stop sits beyond structural invalidation plus a volatility buffer.
5. There is at least 1.5R realistic room to the first opposing liquidity/structure, after estimated costs.
6. No high-impact event is imminent; liquidity/spread are acceptable.

255 EMA rule

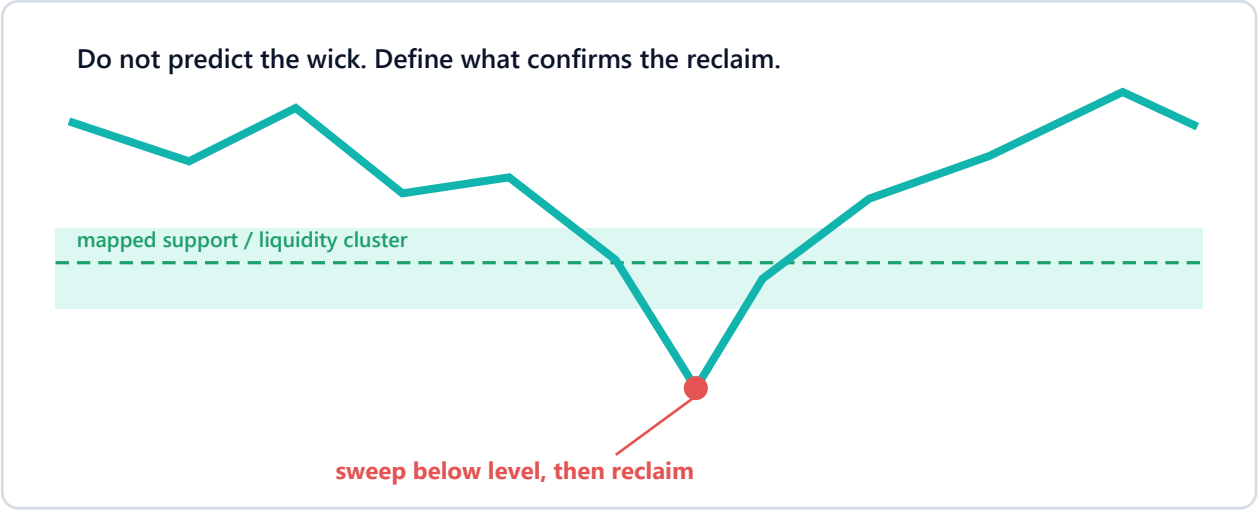
- Above a rising EMA: long setups permitted; shorts require a separate countertrend playbook and smaller risk.
- Below a falling EMA: short setups permitted; longs require a separate countertrend playbook and smaller risk.
- Flat EMA with repeated crossings: treat as range/transition; use range rules or stand aside.
- Never move a structural stop merely because price touches the EMA.

THE FILTER TEST If removing the EMA would make the setup impossible to explain, the setup is under-defined. Structure, location and trigger must carry the idea.

04 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Liquidity sweeps without the “stop hunt” story

Your stop is usually filled because price traded through its trigger, not because the market singled out your account.



Why stops cluster

Repeated highs/lows, round numbers, prior session extremes and obvious support/resistance attract stop orders and breakout orders. Price can move through them as liquidity is matched. That does not prove manipulation, and the label does not improve a trade. The useful question is whether your invalidation was inside ordinary noise.

Observation	Weak response	Process response
Price wicks through a level, then reclaims	Widen the stop after entry.	Wait for reclaim close; stop beyond sweep extreme plus buffer.
Stop fills, price later reaches target	Assume analysis was “right.”	Measure maximum adverse excursion and whether entry/stop obeyed rules.
Repeated stop-outs at same type of level	Remove stops.	Test entry delay, buffer and setup filter on 30+ samples.
Price gaps through stop	Blame the venue immediately.	Record trigger, mark/index/last price, fill, latency, spread and event. Escalate if evidence shows an error.

BETTER LANGUAGE

Replace “they hunted my stop” with: “Price traded through my trigger. Was the stop structurally valid, volatility-adjusted, correctly sized and properly executed?”

05 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Binance USD□-M order mechanics

Know which price triggers the order, what liquidation watches and what happens after a trigger.

Choice	How it behaves	Main failure mode	Use note
Stop-market	At trigger, submits market order.	Slippage; fill can be worse than trigger.	Usually prioritizes exit certainty over price certainty.
Stop-limit	At trigger, submits limit order.	May not fill in a fast move.	Dangerous as sole catastrophic protection.
Mark Price trigger	Binance calculated fair/mark price triggers stop.	May differ from chart Last Price.	Binance liquidation is triggered by Mark Price.
Last Price trigger	Latest futures trade triggers stop.	A fast or thin print can trigger.	Make the chart and trigger source explicit.
Reduce-only / Close Position	Designed to reduce or close exposure.	Mode, side or quantity mismatch can reject.	Confirm acknowledgement and open-order status.

BINANCE DEFAULT CHECK

On Binance Futures, stop-market orders use Mark Price as the default trigger in current support guidance, but settings can be changed. Never rely on memory: read the Working Type shown on the actual order.

Before every live order

- Isolated or cross margin?
- Mark, index or last-price trigger?
- One-way or hedge mode?
- Reduce-only enabled for exit orders?
- Maintenance-margin tier and estimated liquidation price?
- Minimum quantity, tick size and contract multiplier?
- Fee tier and maker/taker classification?
- Funding timestamp and expected funding?
- Does the stop remain server-side if the app disconnects?

STOP ≠ GUARANTEE

In a gap, outage, rapid move or illiquid book, the realized loss can exceed the plan. Keep account-level reserves and never size so that a normal execution error becomes ruinous.

Emergency rule

If a protective stop is rejected, missing or larger than intended: do not troubleshoot while exposed. Reduce/close according to the prewritten emergency procedure, then document the event. Do not add margin merely to postpone liquidation.

06 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Structure + ATR stop criteria

A good stop invalidates the trade and sits outside expected noise; a good size makes that stop affordable.

Long trade template

Structure stop	**Stop candidate = below the sweep low / confirmed swing low / zone boundary** Use the price that actually invalidates the setup, not a fixed percentage.
Volatility buffer	**Final stop = structure invalidation - k x ATR** Start testing k = 0.25-0.50 on the execution timeframe. This is a research range, not a universal optimum.

Short trades mirror the logic: stop above the invalidating high plus the ATR buffer. ATR must use a declared timeframe and period (for example ATR(14) on 5m). Do not silently switch settings trade by trade.

Stop approach	Accept when	Reject when
Pure structure	Swing/zone is clean; normal noise is small.	Stop sits exactly at an obvious equal high/low with no buffer.
Structure + ATR	Volatility changes materially across sessions.	ATR buffer makes reward-to-risk unrealistic.
Close-based invalidation	Tested strategy defines candle close as failure.	No catastrophic hard stop exists for fast moves.
Time stop	Setup should work promptly; time rule is tested.	Used emotionally because P&L; is uncomfortable.

Decision tree

1. Mark the invalidation price before calculating quantity.
2. Add the declared ATR buffer.
3. Calculate quantity from the fixed dollar risk.
4. Round down and include costs.
5. If size is below venue minimum, skip. If target is blocked before 1.5R, skip. If liquidation is not safely beyond stop, reduce leverage/margin mode or skip.

NEVER DO THIS	Do not move the stop farther after entry to avoid taking the planned loss. A wider stop is a new trade with larger risk and requires a flat-book reassessment.

07 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Entry and exit architecture

Pre-commit to the sequence so a fast chart cannot renegotiate your rules.

Setup	Trigger	Invalidation	First management action
Sweep & reclaim	Price trades beyond level, then candle closes back through it with response.	Beyond sweep extreme + ATR buffer.	No trail until +1R or clear new structure.
Break & retest	Close beyond level; retest holds; continuation trigger closes.	Beyond retest structure + buffer.	Consider partial only if tested and costs permit.
Trend pullback	HTF trend + 255 EMA alignment; pullback into zone; structure shift.	Beyond pullback swing + buffer.	Trail behind confirmed swings, not every candle.

Target hierarchy

- T1: nearest opposing structure/liquidity that allows the tested minimum reward-to-risk.
- T2: next higher-timeframe level only if price has room and the setup historically supports runners.
- Time exit: close if the expected impulse fails to begin within the tested number of candles.
- Event exit: flatten or reduce only according to a rule written before entry, not a headline reaction.

Trailing stop rule

Trailing too early converts good ideas into small losses. A simple rule to test: no discretionary trail before +1R; after +1R, trail only behind a confirmed swing on the execution timeframe or by a tested ATR multiple. Moving to breakeven is not automatically optimal: it can cluster the stop at the entry liquidity zone.

ONE CHANGE AT A TIME

During validation, compare one exit model at a time: fixed target, structure trail or hybrid. Mixing them opportunistically makes the results uninterpretable.

08 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Pyramiding: add only to proof

Adding to a losing position is averaging down, not controlled pyramiding.

Permitted only when all are true

- The original trade is in profit and has formed a new confirmed structure in the intended direction.
- The initial stop has been adjusted only under the tested trailing rule - never just to "make room."
- Total worst-case open risk after the add remains at or below the original 1R cap, including gap/slippage allowance.
- The add has its own entry, invalidation, quantity and reason.
- The combined liquidation point remains safely beyond all protective stops.

Forbidden

- Adding because price is closer to liquidation.
- Adding to improve average entry while the original thesis is failing.
- Using cross margin or extra deposits to keep a losing idea alive.
- Exceeding the daily/weekly loss brake because earlier adds were stopped.
- More than one add during the first 100-trade validation sample.

Example	Before add	After add	Allowed?
Winner forms new higher low	Risk reduced from $0.75 to $0.20; new add risks $0.35; total $0.55.	Total open worst case remains below $0.75.	Potentially, if rule-tested.
Loser nears stop	Original risk still $0.75; add would risk $0.50.	Total risk $1.25.	No.
Stop moved wider	Original risk expands from $0.75 to $1.40.	Add hides the risk increase.	No.

DEFAULT FOR NOW

No pyramiding for the first 30 paper trades. From trades 31-60, test a single predefined add model in a separate data column. Do not mix results with non-pyramid trades.

09 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Worked example: BTC

Illustrative arithmetic only; prices and venue specifications are hypothetical.

Input	Value
Account equity	$100
Risk cap	0.75% = $0.75
Illustrative entry	$90,000
Structural stop	$89,550
ATR buffer	$90
Final stop	$89,460
Distance	0.60% = $540 per BTC
Cost/slippage reserve	$0.10
Risk available for price move	$0.65

Quantity

$0.65 / $540 = 0.001203 BTC; round DOWN to venue step

Approx. notional = $108.27. At 100x, initial margin might be only ~$1.08, but planned risk remains ~$0.75 including reserve.

Contrast with margin-first sizing

If you instead deploy $10 margin at 100x, notional is about $1,000 or 0.011111 BTC. The same $540/BTC stop risks about $6.00 before costs - roughly 6% of a $100 account, which is six to twelve times the suggested training cap.

Method	Notional	Loss at 0.60% stop	Approx. account loss
Fixed-risk example	$108.27	$0.65 + costs	~0.75%
$10 margin at 100x	$1,000	$6.00 + costs	>6%
$25 margin at 100x	$2,500	$15.00 + costs	>15%

BTC EXECUTION NOTE

Perpetual funding, mark-price triggers, maintenance tiers and rapid liquidation cascades can materially change outcomes. Record the funding interval and trigger source.

10 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Worked example: ETH

Correlation with BTC means two trades can be one idea wearing two tickers.

Input	Value
Account equity	$100
Risk cap	$0.75
Illustrative entry	$3,000
Structure + ATR stop	$2,970
Distance	1.00% = $30 per ETH
Cost/slippage reserve	$0.10
Risk available	$0.65

Quantity

$0.65 / $30 = 0.021666 ETH; round DOWN

Approx. notional = $65.00. Margin at 5x would be ~$13; at 100x ~$0.65. Market risk at the stop is the same if quantity is the same.

BTC + ETH heat example

A $0.75 BTC risk plus $0.75 ETH risk is not necessarily two independent 0.75R bets. If both are long crypto during the same macro impulse, treat combined open risk as $1.50 (2R) and reject or split the single risk budget between them.

Choice	BTC risk	ETH risk	Cluster risk	Training decision
Only BTC	$0.75	$0	$0.75	Within 1R.
Split idea	$0.375	$0.375	$0.75	Within 1R, if venue sizes fit.
Full size both	$0.75	$0.75	$1.50	Reject during training.

MINIMUM SIZE CHECK

If rounding to the venue minimum creates more than $0.75 total risk, the correct size is zero. Do not compensate by tightening the stop inside noise.

11 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Worked example: XAUUSDT perpetual

Binance introduced USDT-settled TradFi perpetuals for eligible markets; availability and trading rules remain region- and contract-specific.

Input	Illustration
Account equity	$100
Risk cap	$0.75
Illustrative gold price	$2,700 per oz
Entry / stop	$2,700 / $2,694
Stop distance	$6 per oz
Cost/slippage reserve	$0.10
Risk available	$0.65

Quantity — **$0.65 / $6 = 0.1083 oz; round DOWN**

Notional at 0.10 oz is about $270; price risk at the stop is $0.60 before costs.

The contract trap

Binance USD□-M contracts use the symbol's current contract and quantity rules rather than a CFD broker's "standard lot" convention. Open Trading Rules for XAUUSDT and check quantity step, minimum quantity, minimum notional, price tick and leverage tier before every sizing change. If the smallest valid order loses more than the risk cap at the structural stop, the correct quantity is zero.

Tradable unit	P&L; for $6 move	Fits $0.75 cap?
0.10 oz	$0.60 + costs	Potentially.
1.00 oz	$6.00 + costs	No.
10 oz	$60 + costs	No.

GOLD EVENT RISK — US inflation, central-bank decisions, payrolls, dollar and yield shocks can create gaps and spread expansion. Define a no-entry window around high-impact events and test it.

12 PLAYBOOK MODULE

The trading-day operating loop

Preparation should reduce decisions once money is at risk.

Before session (10-15 minutes)

1. Check scheduled high-impact events and funding times.
2. Classify 1w/1d/4h regime; note 255 EMA relationship on the chosen context chart.
3. Mark prior day/week highs and lows, major 1h/15m zones and obvious equal highs/lows.
4. Select at most two scenarios: “If X, then Y; invalid below/above Z.”
5. Set the day’s R value, -2R loss brake and maximum one risk cluster.

At the setup

1. Wait for price to reach the marked location.
2. Confirm the exact trigger close.
3. Set structural + ATR invalidation.
4. Calculate quantity, costs and liquidation distance.
5. Place entry and protective exit; verify acknowledgements.
6. Take a screenshot immediately after fill.

During trade

- No widening stop. No adding to a loser. No new correlated position outside the heat cap.
- Manage only at pre-defined decision points.
- If emotional arousal is high, flatten only if that emergency rule was prewritten; otherwise follow the mechanical plan and step away.

After trade

- Screenshot exit; record planned vs realized R, MAE, MFE, slippage and rule adherence.
- Tag the stop-out type.
- After three trades or -2R, platform closed for the day.

QUALITY LIMIT	Maximum three trades per day during validation. A missed trade is data-free; an impulsive trade is contaminated data.

13 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Psychological guardrails

The goal is not to feel certain. It is to behave consistently while uncertain.

Trigger state	Common thought	Prewritten action
After stop-out	"It will reverse now."	10-minute lockout; screenshot; no immediate re-entry unless a separate setup was defined beforehand.
Two losses	"I need one winner back."	End session at -2R; no size change.
Missed move	"I must chase."	Log as missed; next entry only at new planned location.
Open profit retraces	"Take it before it disappears."	Follow tested target/trail; do not improvise.
Near liquidation	"Add margin/lots."	Emergency reduce/close; never average down.

Process score (0-5)

- +1: context and location pre-marked.
- +1: trigger matched the playbook.
- +1: quantity used fixed-dollar risk.
- +1: stop/target and order mechanics verified.
- +1: management and journal completed exactly.

Judge the day by average process score, not P&L.; A losing 5/5 trade is good execution. A winning 1/5 trade is dangerous reinforcement.

RECOVERY RULE After any rule-breaking trade: stop for the day. Return to simulation for the next five trades. Live size may resume only after five consecutive process scores of 5/5.

Probabilistic language

Avoid	Use instead
"This level must hold."	"If it holds under my trigger, I have a defined bet."
"My analysis was right."	"The realized path exceeded my invalidation."
"I need a high win rate."	"I need positive expectancy after costs across a valid sample."
"I can recover today."	"Today's risk budget is already spent."

14 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Probabilities and expectancy

One result says almost nothing. A distribution of rule-following trades is the evidence.

Expectancy	E = (win rate x average win in R) - (loss rate x average loss in R) - average costs in R Calculate separately by instrument, setup, session and market regime.

Win rate	Avg win	Avg loss	Gross expectancy
40%	2.0R	1.0R	+0.20R
50%	1.2R	1.0R	+0.10R
60%	0.7R	1.0R	+0.02R
70%	0.4R	1.0R	-0.02R

Costs can erase a thin edge

A gross +0.10R system with 0.12R average all-in costs is negative. Include entry fee, exit fee, slippage, spread, funding and any currency conversion. Use actual fills, not the fee table alone.

Uncertainty

- 30 trades is an early diagnostic, not proof.
- 60 trades may reveal whether a setup is stable across several conditions.
- 100 trades is still limited if split across three instruments and multiple setups.
- Do not promote a strategy based solely on total P&L; require adequate adherence and no single outlier dominating results.

NO GUARANTEES	Even a historically positive sample can fail in the future. Market regimes change; leverage makes estimation error more damaging.

15 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Stop-out analysis

Classify before changing the rules. Do not use a painful memory as a backtest.

Tag	Definition	Likely response
S1 Normal loss	Valid setup; stop and execution followed.	No change. Cost of the strategy.
S2 Noise stop	Valid thesis; stop inside ordinary tested volatility.	Test larger ATR buffer with smaller quantity.
S3 Late/chased entry	Entry far from planned location.	Improve trigger discipline; no stop tweak.
S4 Wrong structure	Invalidation did not match thesis.	Improve level/structure rules.
S5 Event/slippage	Gap, spread expansion, latency, outage.	Event filter; venue/order review; reduce risk.
S6 Rule breach	Oversize, widened stop, revenge, loser add.	Behavioral intervention; simulation reset.
S7 Correct stop, later reversal	Stop valid at time; market later formed new setup.	Do not relabel as error. Review re-entry rule separately.

For each stopped trade record

- MAE: maximum adverse excursion before exit, in R and ATR.
- MFE: maximum favorable excursion before/after exit over a fixed observation window.
- Distance from entry to planned zone; distance from stop to structure; ATR at entry.
- Trigger price source, stop trigger, fill, slippage, spread and whether liquidation was near.
- Screenshot before entry, after fill and after the observation window.

Change threshold

Do not change a rule after one or two S2 observations. Form a hypothesis after at least 10 comparable stop-outs or 30 total trades, then replay or paper-test the alternative on a separate sample. A wider stop must always produce a smaller quantity so dollar risk stays constant.

16 PLAYBOOK MODULE

30-100 trade validation plan

Advance by evidence, not by calendar time or confidence.

Phase	Trades	What stays fixed	Gate to continue
A: mechanics	1-30 paper	One setup; one execution TF; no pyramids; fixed 0.5R-1R model.	>=90% rule adherence; complete records; no unresolved order-mechanics errors.
B: robustness	31-60 paper	Same base rules; one declared variant (e.g., ATR buffer or one winner add).	Positive net expectancy after realistic costs is desirable, but stability and sample quality matter more.
C: confirmation	61-100 paper	Lock chosen rules; include different sessions/regimes.	No fatal risk flaw; drawdown tolerable; results not dependent on one outlier.
D: live pilot	Optional; 20 trades	Smallest size that fits <=0.25%-0.50% risk; isolated; no pyramids.	Execution resembles paper results; zero rule breaches.

Minimum review metrics

- Net expectancy in R after all costs.
- Win rate, average win, average loss, profit factor and max drawdown in R.
- Adherence percentage and process-score average.
- Median MAE/MFE; stop-out tags; slippage distribution.
- Performance by instrument, setup, time of day and regime.

Fail/hold conditions

- Any liquidation or loss materially beyond the emergency risk assumptions.
- Adherence below 90%.
- Missing data on more than 5% of trades.
- Positive result depends on one exceptional winner.
- Minimum contract size violates the risk cap.
- Repeated platform/order behavior you cannot explain.

PROMOTION IS OPTIONAL Completing 100 trades does not require going live. If the edge is unclear, simplify, revise one variable and start a fresh labeled sample.

17 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Trade journal template

One row per trade; screenshots linked by trade ID.

Field	Record
Identity	Trade ID; date/time; instrument; venue; session; long/short.
Context	1w/1d/4h regime; 255 EMA state; marked zone; event/funding proximity.
Setup	Setup name; trigger; entry; structural invalidation; ATR period/TF/value; buffer.
Risk	Equity; risk %; R dollars; quantity; notional; effective leverage; margin mode; liquidation estimate.
Orders	Trigger source; order types; reduce-only; planned target; expected fees/slippage/funding.
Result	Exit; gross P&L; all costs; net P&L; net R; MAE; MFE; slippage.
Behavior	Process score 0-5; rule breach; emotion 1-5; stop-out tag; lesson.
Evidence	Before, entry and after screenshots; exchange order/fill IDs.

Daily review

Question	Answer
Did I trade only A-grade locations and triggers?	
Was every position sized from fixed dollar risk?	
Did combined open risk remain within cap?	
Did I widen, average down, chase or revenge trade?	
What one process action will I repeat tomorrow?	

DATA HYGIENE Record immediately. Memory after P&L; is biased. Never edit the planned entry/stop/target fields after the trade; add a separate “actual” field.

18 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Weekly review template

Review process first, then outcomes, then one testable improvement.

Metric	This week	4-week rolling
Trades / valid trades		
Net R after costs		
Expectancy (R/trade)		
Win rate / avg win / avg loss		
Max drawdown (R)		
Average all-in cost (R)		
Rule adherence %		
Average process score / 5		
S1-S7 stop-out counts		

Review prompts

1. Which setup/instrument/regime contributed valid positive expectancy?
2. Were stop-outs caused by normal losses, noise, poor entries, execution or rule breaches?
3. Did BTC/ETH correlation increase risk beyond the stated cap?
4. Did actual costs differ from estimates?
5. Was any result dominated by one trade?
6. What is the single hypothesis for the next sample? What stays unchanged?

Drawdown response

Rolling drawdown	Response
-3R	Review only; no size increase.
-5R	Weekly stop. Audit data and execution.
-8R or 3 rule breaches	Return to paper trading; require 10 consecutive 5/5 process trades before reconsidering live.

19 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Pre-trade checklist

A “no” in any red box means no trade.

Context	[ ] Regime stated [ ] 255 EMA state clear [ ] Event/funding checked
Location	[ ] At pre-marked zone [ ] Not mid-range [ ] Realistic room to target
Trigger	[ ] Exact setup confirmed [ ] Candle/structure rule complete [ ] No chase
Stop	[ ] Structural invalidation [ ] ATR buffer declared [ ] Never to be widened
Risk	[ ] R dollars set [ ] Quantity rounded down [ ] Costs included [ ] Heat within cap
Venue	[ ] Contract multiplier known [ ] Trigger source known [ ] Isolated/cross checked
Orders	[ ] Protective stop accepted [ ] Reduce-only checked [ ] Liquidation safely beyond stop
Mind	[ ] No revenge/FOMO [ ] Daily brake not hit [ ] I accept full planned loss now

Trade ID: _____ Planned R: _____ Process signature: _____

20 PLAYBOOK MODULE

One-page operating rules

Keep this beside the trading screen.

#	Rule
1	Risk 0.50% of equity per paper-trade model; never exceed 1.00% on a validated setup. Live pilot starts at 0.25%-0.50%.
2	Quantity comes from fixed dollar risk and the structural + ATR stop. Margin never determines size.
3	No stop widening. No adding to losers. No deposit/additional margin to rescue a thesis.
4	Maximum one open risk cluster and 1R total open risk during training. BTC + ETH usually count together.
5	Daily stop: -2R or three losses. Weekly stop: -5R. Maximum three trades per day.
6	Trade only a pre-marked location plus a completed trigger. No mid-range entries or chasing.
7	No discretionary trailing before +1R; trail only by the chosen tested structure/ATR rule.
8	First 30 paper trades: one setup, no pyramiding. One variable may change only in the next labeled phase.
9	If minimum size, costs or liquidation make the risk cap impossible, position size is zero.
10	Every trade gets screenshots, MAE/MFE, costs, stop-out tag and a 0-5 process score.
11	Any rule breach ends the day and triggers five simulation trades with 5/5 scores.
12	No guarantees. Protect the ability to take the next valid sample.

THE SENTENCE “I do not need this trade to win. I need this trade to obey the system.”

21 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Costs, platform risk & Indian-resident considerations

Verify the exact instrument and venue before funding or trading. Rules differ across securities, commodities, forex, VDAs and offshore derivatives.

Costs to model

- Maker/taker fees on both entry and exit; spread; slippage; perpetual funding; borrowing/financing; conversion/withdrawal fees; taxes and recordkeeping.
- Liquidation fees or insurance-fund mechanisms; auto-deleveraging; maintenance-margin tiers.
- Downtime, order rejection, stale price feeds, API/app failures, custody/counterparty risk and withdrawal restrictions.

India checklist - not legal or tax advice

- For forex, RBI says permitted electronic forex transactions should use RBI-authorised electronic trading platforms or recognised stock exchanges; remittances under LRS for overseas margin or margin calls are not allowed.
- SEBI has cautioned Indian investors about unregulated foreign portals offering leveraged overseas derivatives and notes that Indian exchange investor protections and grievance mechanisms may be unavailable.
- FIU-IND requires qualifying VDA service providers to register as reporting entities and comply with AML/CFT obligations; check the provider's current status and scope.
- Income Tax Department guidance states gains from VDAs are subject to 30% tax plus applicable surcharge and cess under section 115BBH. Whether a derivative contract itself is treated as a VDA transfer, business income or otherwise can be fact-specific; section 194S/TDS and loss treatment may also require advice.
- Keep complete trade, deposit, withdrawal, fee, funding and wallet/exchange records. Consult an Indian CA and, for FEMA/platform legality, a qualified lawyer before using offshore leverage.

DO NOT ASSUME	FIU registration, app availability, a familiar payment rail or absence from an alert list does not by itself establish that every product, derivative or remittance is permitted or protected.

22 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Official references & verification date

Sources checked 21 November 2026. Always re-check because rules, lists and guidance change.

Reserve Bank of India - Forex Transactions FAQ
https://rbi.org.in/SCRIPTs/FAQDisplay.aspx?Id=146
Authorised platforms; FEMA warning; LRS margin-remittance restriction.

SEBI - Advisory in respect of Foreign Trading Portals (30 Oct 2018)
https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/oct-2018/advisory-in-respect-of-foreign-trading-portals_40848.html
High leverage, unregulated foreign portals and unavailable Indian investor protections.

FIU-IND - Downloads / current VDA service-provider AML guidance
https://fiuindia.gov.in/files/Downloads/Downloads.html
Current registration circulars and AML/CFT guidance.

FIU-IND - VDA service-provider registration circular
https://fiuindia.gov.in/pdfs/downloads/VDASP20012025.pdf
PMLA reporting-entity activities and registration framework.

Income Tax Department - ITR-2 FAQ
https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal/help/FileITR-2Online-FAQ
30% VDA gains statement and Schedule VDA disclosure.

RBI - Customer Due Diligence for transactions in Virtual Currencies (31 May 2021)
https://rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=12103&Mode;=0.&fn;=9
2018 circular set aside; KYC/AML/CFT and FEMA compliance remain relevant.

RBI - 2013 caution on virtual currencies
https://www.rbi.org.in/commonman/Upload/English/PressRelease/PDFs/PR1261241213.PDF
Financial, operational, legal, customer-protection and security risks.

Binance Developer Docs - USD□-M Futures REST API
https://developers.binance.com/en/docs/catalog/core-trading-derivatives-trading-usd-s-m-futures/api/rest-api/account
Official account, market-data and trading endpoint catalog; signed account endpoints require secure authorization.

Binance - Futures liquidation protocols
https://www.binance.com/en-AE/support/faq/detail/360033525271
Mark Price, maintenance margin and liquidation mechanics.

Binance - Futures funding rates
https://www.binance.com/en/support/faq/detail/360033525031
Funding payment formula, direction and interval caveats.

Binance - Futures order types
https://www.binance.com/en/support/faq/detail/360033779452
Stop-market, stop-limit and Mark/Last trigger choices.

Binance - USD□-M contract specifications
https://www.binance.com/en-AE/support/faq/detail/360033161972
Linear contract structure and minimum-notional rule.

Binance - TradFi perpetual contracts
https://www.binance.com/en/learn/binance-futures-tradfi-perpetual-contracts
XAUUSDT product description and regional-availability caveat.

Trading concepts and formulas in this playbook are educational synthesis, not sourced performance claims. Hypothetical prices are deliberately static examples and do not represent current market levels. Exchange contract specifications must be taken from the venue's current rulebook.

23 PLAYBOOK MODULE

Your 30-trade commitment

Sign only if every statement is true.

For my next 30 paper trades:

- I will use one named setup and one declared execution timeframe.
- I will risk a fixed dollar amount and calculate quantity from the stop.
- I will not use margin allocation as a substitute for risk sizing.
- I will not widen a stop, average down or pyramid.
- I will stop at -2R or three losses in a day, and -5R in a week.
- I will record all trades, including missed and rule-breaking trades, without rewriting the plan afterward.
- I will judge execution by adherence and the whole sample, not by one outcome.
- I understand that loss is possible, stops can slip and no playbook guarantees profit.

Name	
Start date	
Standard R in dollars	
Setup name	
Execution timeframe / ATR setting	
Daily and weekly brakes	-2R daily / -5R weekly
Signature	

FINAL PRINCIPLE Survival first. Consistency second. Evidence third. Size comes last.

End of playbook