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The DTR Eval Buyer Checklist

Avoid buying a new account with the same old behavior.

PURPOSE

Traders about to buy another evaluation after failing the last one.

FORMAT

Research note, protocol, and field worksheet.

USE

Print before the session. Mark up after execution.

Why another eval can become another bill

A new login feels like a clean slate, but the trader brings the same operating system into it.

If you cannot name what broke the last account, you are probably funding the same mistake again.

The buyer pre-check

Name what broke the last account: oversizing, revenge, chasing, moving stops, bad setups, ignoring daily loss, no review, or no first-loss protocol.

Write the exact prevention rule. Then define what you will track on the new account.

The support question

Ask whether you need coaching, accountability, a smaller account, or fewer trades.

The honest answer determines whether a standard eval or coached eval is the better buy.

Worked example

A trader fails by overtrading after losses. Buying a larger account is not the fix.

The buying condition becomes: I only buy the next eval if I have a written first-loss protocol and a max-trade rule.

Operating note

A brief only matters if it changes the next decision under pressure.

Keep this document close enough to use before the trade, not after the damage is already visible in the account.

The standard is simple: fewer explanations, cleaner rules, and written evidence that your behavior is becoming more repeatable.

Field Notes

The last account broke because:

The rule that would have prevented it is:

The behavior I will track every day is:

The support I need is:

The account size and product that match my current process is:

References behind this framework

- **Day trading survival math.** Barber, Lee, Liu, Odean, and Zhang find that aggregate day-trader performance is negative and estimate that 97% of day traders are likely to lose money in the future.
[Learning Fast or Slow? SSRN](#)
- **Loss aversion under pressure.** Prospect theory explains why losses often change behavior more than equivalent gains. That is the psychological root of revenge trading, stop-moving, and payout fear.
[Kahneman and Tversky, Prospect Theory](#)
- **Trader self-coaching.** Brett Steenbarger's work frames trading performance as a process of structured self-observation, concrete goals, and daily behavioral change.
[Wiley, The Daily Trading Coach](#)
- **Mental-game execution.** Jared Tendler's trading psychology work treats tilt, fear, revenge, and confidence as repeatable performance leaks that need correction systems, not motivation.
[Jared Tendler, The Mental Game of Trading](#)
- **Prop-firm benchmark reality.** Public prop-firm estimates vary widely. Some industry roundups cite 5-10% pass rates and about 7% receiving payouts; harsher payout-rate estimates are far lower. The honest move is to cite the benchmark used.
[QuantVPS prop firm statistics](#)
- **DTF internal launch-to-date snapshot.** Production data checked May 17, 2026: DTF's launch-to-date approved-or-better payout account rate benchmarks roughly 3x above the low-end public prop-firm payout estimate. The useful proof is the rate, not raw volume.
[DTF production data snapshot](#)