

DTR TRADER RESEARCH LIBRARY

The DTR Prop Firm Mistake Map

Find the real mistake behind the failed account before blaming the wrong thing.

PURPOSE

Traders trying to diagnose why an evaluation failed.

FORMAT

Research note, protocol, and field worksheet.

USE

Print before the session. Mark up after execution.

Why failed evals are data

A failed account feels like a verdict. Treated correctly, it is a diagnostic.

The point is not to excuse bad rules from firms. The point is to find the behavior you control before buying the next account.

The four common account killers

Rushing the pass: oversizing, forcing trades, ignoring quality, trading outside plan.

No first-loss rule: one red trade becomes two or three.

Stop-loss drift: invalidation turns into hope.

No review loop: the same mistake repeats because no rule is created.

The fix map

Rushing requires slower targets and decision-quality tracking.

First-loss failure requires a pause and loss tag.

Stop drift requires invalidation before entry.

No review requires one written adjustment before the next session.

Worked example

A trader blames the trailing drawdown, but the review shows size doubled after two wins.

The mistake is rushing the pass. The fix is a green-to-red protection rule, not a new firm.

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.

The account failed after this behavior:

The closest mistake category is:

The trigger was:

The rule that would have stopped it is:

Before buying again, I need:

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](#)