

DTR TRADER RESEARCH LIBRARY

The DTR Prop Firm Survival Scorecard

Score the behaviors that determine whether an account survives long enough to pay out.

PURPOSE

Traders trying to decide whether they are ready for another prop account.

FORMAT

Research note, protocol, and field worksheet.

USE

Print before the session. Mark up after execution.

Why passing is the wrong finish line

A trader can pass with behavior that will fail the funded account. Rushing, oversizing, and emotional recovery may work once, but they do not scale to payouts.

The scorecard measures the behaviors that must survive after the evaluation is over.

The five scores

Setup discipline, risk discipline, stop discipline, loss recovery, and review process each receive 0, 1, or 2 points.

The point is not to feel judged. The point is to locate the weak link before you pay for another account.

Score meaning

0-4: do not buy another account yet. Fix the process.

5-7: you have potential, but one behavior is leaking.

8-10: you are building payout behavior.

Worked example

A trader scores 8 on setup and risk but 0 on loss recovery. That trader does not need a new strategy.

They need a first-loss protocol, because the account only breaks after pressure arrives.

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

My setup discipline score is:

My risk discipline score is:

My stop discipline score is:

My loss recovery score is:

The lowest score tells me to fix:

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](#)