

# Sit-N-Go Strategy for Full Tilt Poker

This is a Great Online Poker Strategy guide, because it is very short and it works. This is a way to earn a small living playing poker online without risking much.

First of all, this strategy only works with online poker rooms that have nine people per table, not ten. The best one that I know of is [Full Tilt Poker](#). Also, [Poker Stars](#) has tables of 9 players. There are other online poker rooms with nine per table, but I don't know which ones.

I love the Full Tilt site because it has the best stuff to get with your player points, including custom jerseys (just like the pros wear on TV). Also you get your deposit bonus money in 10% increments; unlike Party Poker where you have to earn it all or nothing by playing a certain number of real money hands by a set deadline.

You can try this out first with play money to prove the strategy without any risk. When you do decide on depositing real money, [Full Tilt](#) will match your first deposit (up to \$600).

This strategy works best on the \$5 and the \$10 Sit-N-Go (SNG's) single table tournaments. The reason why is because the players are mostly beginners and not the best players. Matter of fact, if you follow my strategy on \$5 or \$10 **SNG** tourneys then you will come in the money at least 75% of the time, for sure.

Why is having 9 people at the table so important? Because the key to this strategy is patience and waiting for other players to knock each other out. I will teach you how to slide into the money without playing hardly any hands. With both 9 and 10 man tournaments, the top 3 places pay. So, the top 33% pay with 9

players and only 30% pay with 10 players. I know it doesn't look like much of a difference, but it is one less person you have to beat. Of course this make the prize money slightly lower, but this strategy is about making easy money, not big money.

Why not play in the 6 people SNG's? Because there are too many cheaters online that prey on the 6 person tables. These are either a group of friends all playing at the same table, while at the same time they are talking to each other on the phone or chatting on [MSN Messenger](#); telling each other what cards that have and colluding in other ways like building pots.

Or maybe it's one guy with 4 CPU's, a router and an IP Blocker playing under 4 different accounts. Both of these are done everyday; more often then you want to know. Not to mention the players using add-on software, like odds calculators that actually tell the player if they should bet or fold. The most popular one would have to be [Texas Calculatem](#).

But don't worry too much about cheaters when you are playing low limit poker; I'm sure the cheaters have bigger *fish* to fry!

The prize money break down is the same for a 10 man SNG and 9 man SNG. First place takes 50% of the total prize money. Second place takes 30%, and Third place takes the remaining 20%.

The plan here is to come in any one of the top 3 spots so you always get a paycheck and don't lose any money. I can almost guarantee that you will come in the money (top 3 places) almost every time if you follow the rules outlined below. You will come in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> much more than 1<sup>st</sup> because we are NOT playing to win the tournament, we are playing to get a paycheck and not lose any money.

Also, let me warn you: Do NOT try this strategy on Multi table tournaments (MTTs). MTTs are all about aggressive play and big draws.

Aggressive play is the secret to No Limit Poker in General, but not this “sure thing” type of strategy. And this strategy is for No Limit SNGs only, because we are depending on other poor players to dump off their chips and go **All-in** way too much. Sit-N-Go’s are good practice for final tables of MTT, but the strategy is much different. You see, if you make a final table in a MTT, then you are already in the money; you have a paycheck. Now, you just want to play to win, because the prize money from 9<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> is a huge gap. At a MTT, you need to take a few more risks as opposed to SNG’s where you should take the more conservative road. When you have a real tough decision to make about folding or going all in you should lean towards all-in for MTT, and lean towards folding for SNGs.

### **The Plan:**

Early in the tourney: Hardly play ANY hands at all for the first 3 levels of the game. If you get dealt a huge starting hand like AA, KK, QQ, or AK then throw in a nice pre-flop raise about 4 times the blind. I Call these Level 1 Starting Hands. You want to take this pot down before the flop to eliminate any chance of being out drawn and suffering a bad beat.

Doyle Brunson once said (about pocket Aces): “You can either win a small pot or lose a big one.” Your raise should take down the pot right there or at least narrow down the competition to only one or two other players seeing the flop. This is good, because the strong starting hands play best against fewer players.

It’s hands like suited connectors that are best against many callers. You see, starting hand charts are good info, and you should know

how each of the possible 169 hands ranks against each other (I am only counting 169 hands because I am ignoring suits, except when both cards are the same suit).

However, new evidence has come to light recently. A group of college students used a computer to run over 5 billion test hands of Texas Hold 'em to find out what hands truly win the most. They found that it is not so cut and dry as ranking the hands from #1 (AA) to number 169 (2,7 off suit). Some hands performed better depending on the number of players in the hand. Playing high cards and pocket pairs only did well when it was heads-up or 2-3 other players. Playing smaller connected and suited cards do better when playing against 5-8 players. There is another eBook that goes into more depth about this. You can find it on the same webpage where you found this book: [www.king0hearts.com](http://www.king0hearts.com)

If you get Level 2 starting hand (JJ, 1010, 99, 88, 77, Ax(suited), KJ, KQ, AQ): With these hands you want to see a flop, but only if it's cheap. These hands can get you in a lot of trouble, so proceed with caution. Don't call with these hands if there are a couple players re-raising pre-flop. You really don't want to get involved in a big pot against big slick (AK) when you are holding KQ, KJ, or AQ. You will end up flopping top pair and then you won't be able to get away from the hand, and you will get beat because of your **smaller kicker**.

When it comes to No Limit tournament poker, you are better off with small suited connectors than something like A-10. The reason why is that if you hit a flop with suited connectors, you will have a monster hand and will get paid off if someone is holding an overpair or even top pair. If you hit a flop with A-10, then you could be in a lot of trouble if you hit top pair and someone else has an Ace with a better kicker.

Now, if you completely miss a flop with your suited connectors, then it is very easy for you to get away from the hand. But it can be hard to get away from that A-10.

Level 3 Hands: (Small Pocket Pairs and suited connectors):  
These hands can be great if you hit a lucky flop, but that happens less often than you think. You can limp in with these hands early in the tournament while the blinds are still small. But if someone raises before it gets to you then just fold. Later on in the tournament when you near the **bubble** (the money line) these hands are useless. Only play them when you are on one of the blinds, or if you have a huge chip lead. You will very rarely have a big chip lead using this strategy though. **The overall plan is to slide into the money.**

As a matter of fact, you will find that you are often in one of the bottom spots most of the game; that is just fine. Even though you might be in last place, it doesn't mean that you will be the next player eliminated. Remember we are playing low limit poker here with stupid players. Trust me, they will drop like flies. Just keep your head down and before you know it you look up and there will only be 4-5 players left. You can make it to the final five without ever playing a hand!

### **Final four:**

Now that you have made it to the final four you are going to see the game completely changes its dynamic. All of a sudden everybody becomes very tight; and so should you. The worst possible result of a tournament is coming in one spot before the money. I would rather be the first person bumped out than come in forth. So, keep up the tight play and only play Level 1 and 2 hands.

Even if you think some big stack is stealing your blinds and

pushing you around. Let Him. Be very conservative with your chips now, you must hold on until one more person is eliminated.

What if the blinds are going up and I'm short stacked?

This can happen using my strategy, but fear not, the games not over yet. If your stack gets down to only 5-6 times the big blind, then it's time to make a move. Once you are at this point you can't afford to wait for Level 1 hands anymore. If you don't do something then you will be **blinded out**. If you are dealt any Ace or any pocket pair, then go **All-in**. I call this going into "survival mode". I might even start survival mode when I have 7-10 times the Big Blind left. Don't forget the blinds will be going up again soon.

Now, if there is a raise before it's your turn to act, then you might want to pick a better spot to go all-in with a hand like 33 or A/rag. Ace/rag is a great hand for heads-up shootouts, but not when someone raises pre-flop; it is way too likely that you are up against another ace with a better kicker and that makes you a huge **dog** (4 to 1).

When you push in your short stack, three things can happen:

1) Everybody folds and you collect the blinds and antes. This is good because it buys you another round to catch a good hand. Everybody folding is the most common result, because more often than not the other player has nothing. And unless the other player has something decent; they just CAN'T call an all-in bet. Remember, we are on the bubble here and nobody wants to be the next on out.

2) If your stack is quite small, then there is a good chance that someone with a big stack might call you with a mediocre hand like

a suited Queen or a J-10. They might even call with worse than that, like a 6-7 off-suit, just because for them to call might only be a small percentage of their stack with a chance to knock you out. Even if they lose the hand, they will still be a chip leader. This is also good because more often than not nothing comes on the flop. If you and the other player both miss the **board** then you will win because you have a made hand. (Ace high or a pair).

Having an Ace or a pocket pair is HUGE when it come to a shootout with only one other player.

3) You get very unlucky with your timing and your opponent has a Level 1 hand. When this happens, you are pretty much screwed, unless you out draw him. You will most likely be about a 4-1 **dog** if he has an Ace with a better kicker or a higher pocket pair.

### **The Final 3 Players:**

Once you are in the final three, you have made the money! Anything more is just gravy. At this point you can now change up your game. You don't need to be such a tight ass now. Get crazy, throw some money in the pot, go All-in. You will find that people will actually fold to you quite a bit now because you have earned a reputation of only playing the best starting hands and everybody expects you to be tight. Have no fear now, because if you are eliminated now you will still earn money and that is your goal. Coming in third is just fine! Of course, once you've made the final 3, it only takes two to three nice hands to win the whole thing, no matter how small your stack is.

Yes there is much more money for 1<sup>st</sup> place than 3<sup>rd</sup>, but be happy with any place that pays. It's the smart economical way to play. Usually the players that do win first a lot also place outside of the money a lot. You are much better off to come in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> almost every time.

Try out this strategy on Full Tilt at \$5 buy in until you have mastered the “flow” of this plan. Once you are placing 7-8 out of 10 times you are ready to move up to the \$10 buy ins. You can play for less then \$5 at Full Tilt, but it’s not worth your time for the small amount of money to be won. When you have mastered this strategy at the \$10 level you will have your self a pretty easy stay at home job that pays about \$15 an hour US on average. It’s not tons of money, but it’s better than a real job and you only get better and better at online poker as you keep building up your experience. It’s tax free money too.

Here is what kind of money to expect:

\$10+ \$1 buy in Sit-N-Go:

1<sup>st</sup> pays: \$45

2<sup>nd</sup> pays: \$27

3<sup>rd</sup> pays: 18

Now you must subtract \$11 from that because of your \$10 investment, plus the \$1 entry fee for the house. So your profit is:

1<sup>st</sup> - \$34

2<sup>nd</sup> - \$16

3<sup>rd</sup> - \$9

Now, each one of these SNG tourneys will take 45-70 minutes. They usually last about an hour and rarely go over. You will find that you can play one per hour and have a little break in between to rest you brain. If you follow my plan you will mostly come in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will occasionally catch a bad break and not place in the top 3 (about 2-3 out of 10). This happens in no limit poker, there are still bad beats. And of course you will win 1<sup>st</sup> about 1 or 2 out of 10. So you will average out somewhere in between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which would pay you about \$12.50 hour. I know it’s not tons of money, but it’s better money than being a “sandwich artist” at Subway. And you can work in your pajamas. You can also double that to \$25 an hour if you play 2 sit n gos at the same time. Make sure you master 1 table before you play 2 at once.

**The key thing to remember is you are also building your poker experience.**

Of course, if you play the \$5 games, then your hourly wage will be half. But it won't take long before you're ready for the \$10 games. You can also use this strategy with higher limit games, but do realize that as the limits go up, the skill level and IQ of the players go up. You won't find so many guys making stupid all-in moves as much as you do at the low limit tables.

Never forget there is no substitute for playing good poker. Always try to make the best decisions. But, when in doubt, lean towards the more conservative play. Fold when in doubt. Remember the plan: Play tight and slide into the money. Don't worry about winning the whole thing until AFTER you've made the money.

Also, if you really want to play Sit-N-Go tournaments for a living like I do, then you must try this program: It's called [Sit and Go Shark](#) and it's a program that runs beside your game when you are playing Sit-N-Go tournaments. It is programmed to know virtually every possible situation you can get into playing in a single table tournament. It tells you exactly what to do to win. With this program running I place in 8 out of 10 Sit-N-Go tournaments, consistently. This program is free if you sign up at one of their affiliate poker rooms, or you can buy it directly from them for \$79.95 US. It's worth every penny. I make most of my income playing Sit-N-Go's. Just click on the link above to be taken directly to their webpage.

**Some more General Tips for Sit and Gos**

-Don't bet more than you need to. If 300 chips will get your point across, then don't bet 1000 in case you are getting trapped.

-Don't ever fall in love with a hand. Show some discipline and learn how to lay down hands. Better safe than sorry. Remember, you can't re-buy into a S-N-G like a cash game.

-Don't bluff with more than 3 players in the hand. Low limit players are hard to bluff, so don't do it too much, pick your spots. Mostly bluff when stealing blinds. If someone comes over the top; get out!

-Low limit (poor) players are really easy to trap, so when you flop a monster in early position; check it and let some idiot try and bluff the pot by over betting it. Then you raise the minimum and he will either go all-in to re-bluff you and scare you out or he will call you because he feels "pot committed". Speaking of pot committed, I don't fully believe it. If you're quite sure that you're beat in a hand, then just fold. There is no point throwing good money away after bad. Same for pot odds, don't depend on them too much during Sit-N-Go's. Don't call off too many chips on draws. If someone makes a huge bet on the flop and you have an open ended strait draw or 4 to a flush, you really should just let it go, unless you have the chips to spend. Wait to put your money in when you already have a made hand.

-If you're going to take a stab at a pot to try and steal it, then do it on the flop, not the turn or river. If I'm in a pot with only 1-3 players and everybody limps in and then the flop comes off with big scare cards; like A-K-3. Then I will throw a small bet out there (about 2X the minimum bet). This usually works, because if someone had an Ace or King with a decent kicker, they would have raised a bit pre flop as a value bet. You keep this bet pretty small because you want it to look like you want a call. And if you do get raised on your bluff you didn't risk too much, and can just fold. Another good flop to try and steal a pot with is something like: 7-8-9. Most players will fold to your bet even if

they have top pair because it's just too scary that you might have flopped a strait.

-Be Patient! You might get a little bored using my system, and want to play some bad hands. **Have some discipline, and play smart, all the time.** If you have a short attention span, like most people in this day and age, then multi-task. I personally have two monitors on my computer, so I can watch movies or TV with one and play poker on the other. Or, I play two SNG's at a time to double my hourly wage.

-Raising pre-flop should only be done to narrow down the field. You do this with big hands so you don't let someone suck out (out draw you) with a bad hand.

-Do most of your betting and gambling on the flop, not before. After the flop you have a good idea of what direction the hand is going. Pre-flop you know nothing. Two black Aces in the hole are useless if the board flops 3 connected hearts.

-It's a good idea to steal the blinds once in a while when the timing is right. For example: If everyone folds to you and you are on the button, then you should raise 3-4 times the blind no matter what you have (once in a while). But if you only raise 2 times the blind, then the blinds will call you with almost anything. This won't help you much because this gives you no information about your opponent's hands. If you raise 3-4 times the blind and are called, then at least you have some information that your opponent has a pretty big hand.

Almost always bet the flop if you pre-flop raise. This almost always takes down the pot right there. And if you are raised then you know where you stand and can get out of the hand without losing too many chips.

You wouldn't get away with playing this soft in a live tournament because in real life, players will sooner or later pick up on the fact that you only play monster starting hands. But online, players just don't pay attention that well and there is such a turnover of players.

This strategy also works really good at No Limit ring games (cash games). If you only play monster hands, you will do well. When it comes to cash games; play loose/aggressive at a tight table and play tight at a loose table.

## **Glossary:**

**All in:** When a player wagers every single chip he has at once. If a player goes All-in and loses that hand then the players tournament is over. This is only done often in No Limit poker.

**Board:** The five community cards in the middle of the table.

**Blinded Out:** When the blinds get higher in comparison to the size of your chip stack. This is when you need to make a move and just push all-in with the first Ace or Pocket Pair.

**Bubble:** Placing on the bubble is when you place just before the money. Being the 'Bubble Boy' means that you came in the very spot before the money. (In S-N-G's that would be 4<sup>th</sup> place)

**Dog:** Short for Underdog.

**Kicker:** (also called 'sidecard') This is your second card. So if you and another player both showdown with top pair, then whosever kicker is higher will win the pot.

**MTT:** Multi Table Tournaments. These tournaments are typically 40-1000 people.

**Pot-Committed:** When you have so many chips invested into a pot that you feel obliged to make a call to protect your investment.

**Rag:** A Bad card that mathematically usually won't amount to anything unless you get a miracle flop.

**Shootout:** When all the chips are in pre-flop. The players cards are

usually turned up before any of the board cards are run. This is where the power of your starting hand is very important, but anything can happen.

**S-N-G:** “Sit and Go”. S-N-G refers to any online poker tournament with only 1 or 2 tables. Unlike scheduled tournaments, S-N-G’s start up every time there are enough people to play. Typically 9-45  
**Tourney:** Short for tournament.

I hope enjoyed my strategy guide, it really does work. Building up a little extra on-line bank roll is nice so you can afford to enter some of those MTTs, and go for the big money.

Look for other guides by me coming out very soon, exclusively at [www.king0hearts.com](http://www.king0hearts.com)

Cheers,  
Primo V.

Questions? Comments?  
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