Signal Pilot Education Hub

Order Flow Trading Checklist

From Lesson 3: Price Action is Dead, Order Flow is King

Use this checklist to read Time & Sales tape, interpret footprint charts, and trade with institutional order flow using Volume Oracle.

📋 Pre-Trade: Read the Order Flow

- [ ] **Check Time & Sales tape for aggression**

- 3+ consecutive large aggressive orders in your direction

- Green trades (buy aggression) for longs

- Red trades (sell aggression) for shorts

- Size clustering (10k+ contracts = institutional flow)

- [ ] **Analyze footprint chart patterns**

- Imbalances (5:1 or 10:1 buy/sell ratio at price levels)

- Absorption (high volume, price holds = strong hand)

- Exhaustion (high volume, price rejects = move done)

- [ ] **Detect iceberg orders (optional)**

- Order book shows same size after large volume traded

- Institution defending a level (absorption setup)

- [ ] **Confirm Volume Oracle regime**

- Trending: Trade WITH aggressive flow

- Ranging: Trade mean reversion (absorption at extremes)

- Volatile: Skip trade (conflicting signals)

✅ Entry Criteria (All Must Be Met)

- [ ] Volume Oracle regime supports your direction (trending or ranging)

- [ ] Janus Atlas structural confirmation (sweep, breakout, or support hold)

- [ ] Plutus Flow delta aligns with your direction

- [ ] Time & Sales shows 3+ large aggressive orders in your direction

- [ ] Footprint shows imbalance or absorption pattern (not mixed flow)

- [ ] No conflicting signals (aggressive flow both ways = wait)

🎯 Trade Execution

Entry:

- [ ] Enter after aggressive flow confirmation (not before)
- [ ] Wait for confirmation candle close
- [ ] Entry price: $_
- [ ] Order flow type: _ (absorption / exhaustion / imbalance)

Stop Loss:

- [ ] Place stop beyond structure (1.5-2× ATR)

- [ ] If absorption setup: Stop below absorbed level
- [ ] If exhaustion setup: Stop beyond exhaustion zone
- [ ] Stop price: $_
- [ ] Position size: _ (based on stop distance)

Take Profit:
- [ ] Target 1 (1.5R): $_
- [ ] Target 2 (2R): $_
- [ ] Target 3 (trailing): Use Pentarch events to trail

🚫 Invalidation Criteria (Exit Immediately)

- [ ] Order flow reverses (large aggressive orders against your position)
- [ ] Absorption fails (price breaks through absorbed level)
- [ ] Regime shifts (Volume Oracle changes to volatile)
- [ ] Footprint shows conflicting imbalances (both sides aggressive)

📊 Post-Trade Review

Order flow accuracy:
- Did aggressive flow predict the move? _____

Footprint patterns:
- Which pattern worked best (imbalance/absorption/exhaustion)? _____

Tape reading:
- Did you spot the institutional flow early enough? _____

Lesson learned:
- _____

Win/Loss: _ R-multiple: _

Remember:
- ✅ Price shows WHERE, order flow shows WHY
- ✅ Aggressive flow = conviction (market orders show urgency)
- ✅ Footprints reveal the battle (buy vs sell at each price)
- ✅ Iceberg orders = hidden institutional positioning
- ✅ Regime context is critical (same flow, different regime = different outcome)

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