**Chapter 1 General Principles and Concepts (1 – 29)**

**What is Hand Reading?**

**The Importance of Information**

**The Importance of Position**

**Live Poker Stats**

**Ranges and Combinations**

Once a particular card hits the board, the number of possible villain hand combos decreases due to the card removal effect. For example, if you don’t have and ace or king in the hole, then villain has 16 AK combos – four suited and 12 offsuit. If A♣ flops, then villain has 12 combos left – three suited and nine offsuit.

**Donkey Gamer Ranges**

**Styles of Play**

A player’s poker style (aggressive risk-takers, analytical, etc.) is heavily entwined with his personality. **Most people are prisoners of their personalities**. And so are their poker styles (Nits, LAGs, TAGs, Rocks, Maniacs, Regs, Calling Stations, Weak-Tight, etc.).

You must realize that styles and the game you’re in go hand-in-hand → a given style in an online $1/$2 may not translate to the same style in a live $25/$50, online 6-max, or WSOP tournament. For example, a tight style in a cash game would most likely spell disaster in a tournament with 20-minute levels if that tight style were played consistently throughout the tournament. Bottom line is that **context is important**.

There are three major preflop styles:

1. Loose → VPIP, limps a lot, likes to see lots of flops.
2. Aggressive → PFR and 3-bet, no cheap flops.
3. Stubborn → CPFR and CCPF.

**Loose players** are easiest to “label”. Simply count the number of hands an opponent decides to play. The more hands the higher their VPIP (Vegas DG around 37%, Online around 22%). It is helpful to **label a player’s style relative to a solid winning player in that game**. Note that VPIPs at 37% is very loose considering that solid winning players have VPIPs somewhere closer to an optimal VPIP near 15%. Again context is everything. If a very solid player with excellent postflop skills plays against a donkey, that solid player is will widen his range, that is pump up his VPIP, in order to pummel the very loose donkey postflop.

**Aggressive players** have high PFR and 3-bet frequencies (Vegas DG PFR ~6% and 3-bet ~1%). The typical donkey is well below the optimal PFR ~9% and 3-bet ~3%. Low PFR / low 3-bet can be labeled as passivity and combining that with high VPIP refines the donkey’s label as **loose-passive**.

**Expected Value and Ranges**

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