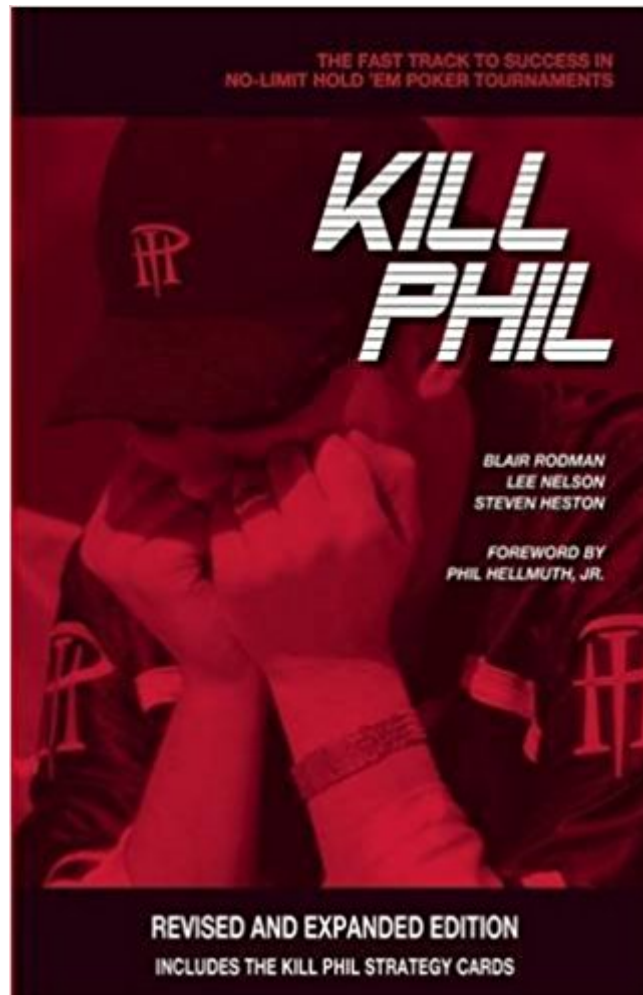


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# Kill Phil: The Fast Track To Success In No-Limit Hold 'em Poker Tournaments



## Synopsis

Thanks to television, the Internet, and the incredible popularity of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, when Kill Phil was first published in 2006, tournament poker had become the richest sport in the world. The problem was that no-limit hold'em was dominated by a handful of experienced and skilled professional players. Kill Phil turned the tables on the pros by introducing a strategy that allowed even an absolute novice to compete against the best players in the world. The Kill Phil strategy remains highly effective when used in confrontations with even the world's best players, but tournament play is evolving. This revised edition reflects the new trends in tournament poker by refining the use of the all-in move and providing adaptations that take into account the new style of hyper-aggressive play. At its core, though, Kill Phil remains what it's been from the start; the best method possible for entering the exciting and potentially lucrative poker-tournament arena. Read Kill Phil and: Learn an abbreviated system; the "Kill Phil Rookie" that's simple enough to be mastered within an hour and powerful enough to make you competitive in your first tournament. Climb the Kill Phil ladder, learning more powerful strategies as you gain real-time experience. Adjust your play for success in online tournaments, Sit-n-Go's, and single-table satellites. As a special bonus, this new edition contains the complete set of strategies formatted as they appear on the Kill Phil strategy cards; an added \$14.95 value!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is going to change the way you approach tournament no limit holdem. It will be an essential book to round out your no limit tournaments library. The subtle beauty is that this approach

can allow inexperienced or moderately experienced players to negate some of the skill edge veteran and expert players hold. This book is a detailed and expanded version of "The System" described in David Sklansky's "Tournament Poker for Advanced Players", which Sklansky designed to allow a complete novice to be competitive in a big buy in tournament. Before "Kill Phil" was published many of the young, aggressive players were already using this type of approach with good success against the veteran tournament pros. It is an interesting strategy which if you don't know and understand will leave you behind against the rest of the players who do know it. I will go out on the proverbial limb here and predict that this book will become an instant classic and "must own" book in any players no limit tournament library. It is that good. It is not the "Holy Grail" for no limit tournaments, but because it is so powerful, you must understand how to use it and when it is being used against you. It does have drawbacks certainly, but used as described will minimize some of the skill gap for lesser experienced players where they may be put to tough decisions too often. The core of the system is a combination of math and psychology; the system has you making some hyper aggressive plays with hands that don't seem to warrant it, but the psychology of the all in bet coupled with the possibility of elimination if you call- and either guess wrong or are outdrawn -make it a devastatingly effective strategy in the right situations.

I suppose I understand where these authors are coming from; they know that the WSOP and WPT hype has brought a lot of new players into the game of hold 'em, particularly into tournament play. Now, the best way to become a quality poker player is to rack up experience at the tables; but, they offer this book as a short-cut to the impatient. Allegedly, this is to help them do better while learning the game. But I question that approach because the Kill Phil strategy is largely formulaic. Exactly how does one learn the game while following a relatively fixed formula? And what exactly does the formula consist of? Essentially, it involves pushing all-in before the flop or folding. The authors rarely ever discuss playing past the pre-flop stage, referring derisively to such tactics as "smallball." Folks, hold 'em is not a game that's supposed to be played with only two cards; waiting to see a five card hand before deciding to play for all your chips should not properly be classified as "smallball," whatever the authors say on the matter. You can still make "longball" plays after you've seen if you have an actual hand or not (and whether your opponent is likely to have something). What does this system offer? Basically, this book concedes that you're a sub-par poker player and unable to compete with quality poker players at their own level; so, instead of doing that, the book offers a fairly mindless system to employ to force coin-toss confrontations against your opponents. Basically, if there's a certain amount of money in the pot, and you're likely to be 50-50 or so against any hand

your opponent might have, the book advises you to push all-in pre-flop.

Great poker players want to enter a lot of pots and beat the amateur players on the late streets. This is small ball poker. Kill Phil allows you to side step the advantage of the pros by getting all the money into the pot before the flop--before the pros can outplay you later on in the hand. This is long ball poker. The great thing about this book is that while you are using the long ball tactics, you can learn small ball tactics by observing other players. So rather than getting eaten up in a tournament, you are going further and learning at the same time. Another good thing about the book is that as the blinds and antes increase, all of the players should start adjusting to long ball tactics. Some players don't know how to make the proper adjustments, so they fall short at the end. This is where even an advanced player would benefit from the book. Because the techniques work extremely well when blinds and antes have increased and decisions need to be made for greater portions of your chip stack, I have found this system to be most effective in the turbo style NL tournaments. There are different levels of Kill Phil, going from basic to advanced. As you move through the system, you are not just moving all in with AA or KK like you would at the basic level. You play more flops and become an aggressive force at the table. I would say this belongs on the book shelves of most regular NL tournament players. The book is easy to read and the concepts are pretty simple to use the day you get the book at the most basic level. Additional thoughts: I have had this book for about 6 months now and it has done wonders for my tournament play.

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