

Writing SMART Goals

Creating great goals is critical to your poker success. A goal of simply, “I want to win the WSOP Main Event” just isn’t good enough. You’ve got to make SMART goals. A SMART goal is defined as being specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

Specific – Goals must be written clearly and simply, defining exactly what you intend to accomplish.

- SMART Goal: I will play in the \$10,000 Main Event in 2018 by saving \$560 per month starting February 2017.
- This is a very specific goal, detailing exactly what event you want to play, the year in which you’ll play it and what you’ll do to get there.

Measurable - Goals must be measurable. If you can’t measure them, how do you know you’ve achieved anything?

- With this goal, you know exactly how much money you have to save per month for 18 months to have the \$10K. This can even be broken down to weekly savings if you want.

Achievable - Goals must be achievable and not impossible; you should feel stretched and challenged by the goal, but it can’t be so obviously out of reach that you were doomed from the start.

- This ME goal is totally achievable. It all depends on your income, your ability to cut expenses, your ability to withdraw from your bankroll or your skills at bringing in more income.

Relevant – Your goal needs to matter to you and those around you.

- This goal of playing in the WSOP ME is relevant to every MTT player in the world. Maybe not so relevant to the cash game grinder, though. They’d be better off making a goal of playing cash games at the WSOP ME.

Time-bound – There must be a timeframe for your goals. Deadlines add a sense of urgency.

- For this ME goal, saving monthly for 18 months will put us just over \$10,000 by July of 2018, completing our goal just in time.

Besides financial goals like mine, as a poker player you can make any number of goals:

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| • Mental game goals | • How many tables you play when multi-tabling |
| • Number of hands/hours/tourneys played | • Study goals |
| • Videos watched | • Forum posts |

Before you play another session or study another hour, set some SMART poker goals for yourself to strive for and to set you on the path to poker success.

Here are some insights to help you achieve your goals:

Break it up into easier to manage milestone goals. **Make smaller support goals** to propel you to your big goal. **Map out what needs to happen** in order for you to likely achieve your goals. Leaks to fix and skills to gain. **Get others involved** because attaining goals is always easier to do as a team. **Use accountability** and let others know of your goal, preferably people who are invested in your success. **Periodic assessment** of your progress will ensure you’re on the right track and will allow you to make the necessary changes for you to achieve by the deadline you’ve set.