



Pot Odds and Implied Odds

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In this article, I explain both Pot Odds and Implied Odds and how to use both in your decision making.

Pot Odds

Pot Odds are defined as the ratio of the current size of the pot to the cost of calling a bet or raise. This ratio results by reducing the two factors: The size of the pot and the cost of calling.

Example: Our opponent bets \$5 into a \$25 pot on the turn. What are our Pot Odds?

We are calling a bet of \$5 to win \$30 (\$25 pot + his \$5 bet). This can be defined as 30:5 which reduces to 6:1 or 6 to 1.

Implied Odds

Implied Odds are defined as the ratio of the remaining effective stack to the cost of calling a bet or raise. The ratio results by reducing the two factors: The size of the effective stack remaining and the cost of calling.

Effective Stack: The maximum amount any player may wager based on the stacks of players involved in the hand.

Example: Our opponent bets \$5 into a \$25 pot on the turn. If we were to call, we'd have \$10 left in our stack and our opponent has \$15 after his bet. What are our Implied Odds?

We are calling a bet of \$5 bet with \$10 left in our stack after we call. This can be defined as \$10:\$5 which reduces to 2:1 or 2 to 1 Implied Odds.

Using Both Pot and Implied Odds

When making an odds-based decision, we must use both Pot and Implied Odds. Thus we must take into account 3 factors: Pot Size, Effective Stack and the Cost of Calling.

Example: Our opponent bets \$5 into a \$25 pot on the turn. If we were to call, we'd have \$10 left in our stack and our opponent has \$15 after his bet. What are our Total Odds?

We are calling a bet of \$5 to win a pot of \$30 (\$25 pot + his \$5 bet). So our Pot Odds are 6:1. We're calling a bet of \$5 with \$10 behind, so our Implied odds are 2:1. The Total Odds then to call a turn bet are 8:1 or also listed as 8 to 1.

When to use Flop or Turn Odds

We use the odds to draw on the flop when we know we'll be able to see both cards after calling this bet such as when either ourselves or our opponent is all in. We use the odds for the turn when we are not sure if we'll be able to see both cards without having to put another bet in.

Example: Our opponent bets \$5 into a \$10 pot on the flop and we have a flush draw. If we were to call, the effective stack would be \$20. Thus our Pot Odds are 3:1, Implied Odds are 4:1, and our Total Odds are 7:1

Since we're on the flop and we're going to have to call a turn bet too, we have to use the odds for 1 card to come (turn). We need 4.1:1 Total Odds to make the call and we're getting 7:1 so we should call assuming we get his stack when we hit our flush.

If our opponent had bet \$10 into a \$10 pot then the effective stack would be \$15. Thus our Pot Odds would become 2:1, Implied Odds 1.5:1, and the Total Odds would be 3.5:1. Now we should fold because we need 4.1:1 Total Odds to call.

In this article I've explained to you what Pot Odds and Implied Odds are and how to use them in our play. Knowing how to use both Pot Odds and Implied Odds in your post-flop decision making will allow you to play your draws better than your opponent and profit by doing so.

