THE PRE-TRADE READ FOR XAU/USD

The Gold Read Card

Run this top to bottom before you click buy or sell. If you cannot fill a line, you are not ready to enter.

The order is the method. Risk is named before the entry. No box is ticked on a feeling. A read you can explain is a plan; a read you cannot explain is a guess.

1 CONTEXT · THE MOOD

What is gold reacting to today? Dollar, real rates, risk appetite. What is the market leaning on right now?

Fails when: context tells you to bring a coat, not which street to walk. Never trade on mood alone.

2 STRUCTURE · TOP DOWN

Higher timeframe first. Trend or range? Where is the last real break (BOS / CHoCH)? Does the lower timeframe agree?

Fails when: a clean break is a stop hunt. A break against the bigger trend is suspect until proven.

3 ZONE · WHERE PRICE REACTS

Which fresh supply or demand zone is price near? Is it a waiting area, not a promise?

Fails when: "price is at support so I buy" is a hope. Price can slice straight through a perfect box.

4 SESSION · TIMING

Which session (Asia / London / New York)? Any high-impact news due in the next hour?

Fails when: a quiet hour drifts, a loud hour traps. News can void any read in seconds.

5 CONFLUENCE · REASONS THAT AGREE

List the independent reasons pointing the same way. One reason is a coin flip. If they do not stack, stand aside.

Fails when: three ways of saying one thing feel like three reasons. Use confluence to reject trades, not to fall in love.

6 RISK FIRST · NAME THE LOSS

Where am I wrong (invalidation)? Stop goes there. Size the position by a fixed % of the account, decided before the entry.

Fails when: you size for the win you want instead of the loss you can survive.

7 TRIGGER · A DEFINED REASON TO ACT

Did the pre-defined trigger actually appear at the zone? If not, there is no trade. Then execute the written plan, nothing more.

Fails when: you enter early "before it runs". A trigger you invent on the spot is not a trigger.

Trade the process, not the guess. Trade with me, not for you.

Marcus, founder of **HARCOS INVEST FX**