

Pot Odds

Pot Odds are calculated by taking the size of a bet or raise, and then dividing by the size of the pot before the call, plus the size of the call.

For example, if there are 3 BB in a pot, and an opponent bets 1 BB, the pot odds offered to the player facing that bet are $1/(4+1) = 1/5$ or 20%.

At the end of a hand (as the last action before showdown), these odds can be interpreted as **the percentage of the time the player facing the bet needs to win in order to break even.**

In the above example, if the player wins 20% of the time, their expected value is $(.20) \times (4) - (.8) \times (1) = 0$, so this is a play with zero expected value.

(explanation, the first multiplication comes from the .2 chance of winning, multiplied by the +4 BB won, the second comes from the .8 chance of losing, and the one blind lost).

Example: I was getting the correct pot odds, so I decided to call.