

Trading system specification

Every Expert Advisor, indicator or trading platform we build starts with this document. Fill in what you know; leave what you do not — the gaps are the agenda for the scoping call. Rules that read cleanly become ambiguous in code, so be concrete: numbers, timeframes, examples.

1. Overview

Project name	
Your name, company, contact	
Platform	MetaTrader 4 · MetaTrader 5 · both · other
Type	Expert Advisor · indicator · panel · client application · copy trading · broker integration
One-paragraph description	What it does, for whom, and what success looks like
Deadline and budget band	

2. Markets and data

Symbols	<i>e.g. XAUUSD, EURUSD; any symbol; suffix handling (XAUUSD.m)</i>
Timeframes	<i>Chart timeframe(s) the logic runs on; higher timeframes referenced</i>
Sessions	<i>Trading hours in server time or a named session; days excluded</i>
Broker / server	<i>Demo and live servers, account type, leverage, contract size, 5-digit / 3-digit</i>
Data needed beyond price	<i>News calendar, external signals, order book, other symbols</i>

3. Entry rules be exact — one condition per line

LONG ENTRY CONDITIONS

All of / any of ... Indicator values with parameters. Market-structure terms defined (what is a break of structure to you?).

Example: "Close of M5 candle above the high of the last swing high (5-bar fractal) while H1 EMA 50 > EMA 200".

SHORT ENTRY CONDITIONS

Mirror of long, or different? State it.

Entry order type	<i>Market · limit · stop; price offset; expiry for pending orders</i>
Filters	<i>Spread max, slippage max, news blackout, max trades per day, one position per symbol, direction filter</i>
Confirmation / re-entry	<i>Re-enter after stop? Wait N bars? Only once per signal?</i>

4. Exit rules

Stop loss	<i>Fixed pips · ATR multiple · structure-based · % of balance; where exactly</i>
Take profit	<i>Fixed · R multiple · structure target · trailing; partial closes at which levels and what fraction</i>
Break-even	<i>When it moves and by how much</i>
Trailing stop	<i>Type, step, activation</i>
Time-based exits	<i>Close at session end? Before news? After N bars?</i>
Manual override	<i>Should the EA manage positions opened by hand?</i>

5. Risk and money management

Position size	<i>Fixed lot · % risk per trade · fixed money; rounding rules; min/max lot</i>
Daily / weekly limits	<i>Max loss, max trades, max open positions, max exposure per symbol and total</i>
Drawdown protection	<i>Stop trading at X% drawdown? Reset when?</i>
Correlation / hedging	<i>Allowed to hold opposite positions? Same symbol multiple times?</i>
Prop-firm rules	<i>Daily drawdown, max loss, consistency, news rules — if the account is evaluated</i>

6. Edge cases what should happen when...

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Terminal restarts with positions open | ☐ Symbol not found or trading disabled |
| ☐ Broker requotes or rejects an order | ☐ Two signals in the same bar |
| ☐ Partial fill on entry or exit | ☐ Account balance below minimum lot risk |
| ☐ Spread widens past the filter mid-trade | ☐ Server time vs. local time mismatch |
| ☐ Price gaps over the stop at market open | ☐ Connection lost for N minutes |

7. Interface and reporting

On-chart display	<i>Panel, labels, lines, buttons; what must be visible at a glance</i>
Inputs	<i>Which parameters must be adjustable from the inputs dialog</i>
Alerts and notifications	<i>Pop-up, push, email, Telegram, webhook — for which events</i>
Logging and journal	<i>What to log per trade; export format</i>

8. Testing and acceptance

Backtest period and quality	<i>Dates, tick data source, modelling quality expected</i>
Forward test	<i>Demo period before live; what counts as pass</i>
Acceptance criteria	<i>How you will decide it matches this document — list 3–5 checks</i>

9. Delivery

Deliverables	<i>Source (.mq4/.mq5/.mqh), compiled build, documentation, test reports, VPS deployment</i>
Licensing	<i>Single account · account list · expiry · none</i>
Support window	<i>Defect window and support expectations after handover</i>
Confidentiality	<i>NDA required? Yes / no / already signed</i>

Prepared by · date

Approved by · date