



@korvin_d

ALEXANDER TKACH

- Professional online poker player
- Member of the series from the Ukrainian poker room «PokerMatch»
- Live Tournament Specialist

Alexander, you have been a professional online poker player for almost 12 years. What is its fundamental difference of a game playing at the green table in the casino, and what are the main advantages? How did the formation of the online gambling industry begin, and when did the first distribution of virtual cards take place?

Yes, I am a professional poker player. I am not limited to the online environment, but I also prefer to play live offline. Of course, online poker has its advantages, since you can not leave your home, but the main plus is that in this format there is an opportunity to win back a lot. At the same time, at least 10, at least 20 tournaments are held. You can open cash tables.

I would not classify poker as a game of chance; most people who are not engaged in this activity think so. However, a tournament poker is still a sport. In Ukraine, it is recognized as a sports game. If you take live cash, then it is considered a gambling game. There are more opportunities for entertainment there. But I'm still a tournament specialist. A tournament is a sport!

The first online poker room started operating in 1998. On the 1st of January the cards were dealt for the first time online at Planet Poker. Since then, the number of poker websites has been constantly growing.

When we talk exactly about Ukraine, everything has been variable here. At the moment, online poker has been officially recognized as a sport. In Kyiv, in Khreshchatyk, there is a huge two-storied club; everything is legal and everything is all right. I got to know the game in 2010. Being a student, I played not even for money, but for play chips, in «Texas Hold'em» for the first time. I haven't changed the format yet.

“

**POKER IS BASED ON THREE THINGS:
A RIGHT APPROACH TO THE CAPITAL,
MATHEMATICS AND PSYCHOLOGY**

Are you a gambler? Some players follow an intellectual challenge for themselves, others pursue the goal of getting thrills, as it is impossible to predict which side luck will be on today. Or is it possible to predict?

Am I a gambling person? To some extent yes, I am; but I don't lose my head! I saw players who lost crazy money, got into debt, could not stop... Gambling people to the marrow of their bones cannot live without playing. They just need these emotions like air. And I prefer to remain cool-headed and a sober-minded!

What is poker actually – movie fortune, bluff and Hollywood charisma, sports or pure mathematics?

There is such an incredible mix, a little bit of everything together. Yes, this is a sport, because the more you develop, train, the more you win. This includes pure mathematics, I would also add psychology. Poker is based on 3 things: a right approach to the capital (bank management), mathematics and psychology. If one of them leaves much to be desired or is poor, then the poker career will not be successful enough.

What platforms do you play on? What are the most popular and cool poker rooms? Would you like to take part in a major offline tournament and which one?

I mainly play at «PokerStars», which is owned by the Canadian corporation Stars Group, where the software is the most pleasant. «WINAMAX» is also a cool French playing field. «PartyPoker», «GGNetwork» became leaders. I also play in 888. I took part in Ukrainian series from «PokerMatch». Great atmosphere, final tables...

And what about the law? What are the obstacles when you play online poker?

Each country has its own laws. It is forbidden to play in Turkey, Americans are not allowed to play publicly on «PokerStars». The iPoker Network, which consists of a large number of individual websites, has a poker playground where Ukrainians are not allowed to play there.

According to the latest data from the European Gambling and Betting Association (EGBA), the expected gross income from online gambling will reach 29.3 billion euros in 2022. This industry is extremely profitable, so online gambling has been legalized in a number of European countries, in particular in Denmark, France, Great Britain and some areas of Germany.

“

**IN UKRAINE, ONLINE POKER IS
RECOGNIZED AS A SPORTS GAME**

Why is online poker not for everyone? What are the risks and dangers for a beginner who «takes» virtual cards for the first time? How to become the best and win all the opponents? What qualities does a player need to win?

I must say right away that it will be difficult for gambling people. For example, two aces are dealt, you seem to have a strong position, but you lose: lost once, lost for the second time. And that's enough, a person loses his head, starts to play badly.

There is such a concept of «tilt», and if a player is resistant to it, then everything will work out in the best way. Otherwise, he will start to lower his bankroll (ed. the total amount of the player's money allocated to him for playing poker), drain the capital.

It is also important to understand that one day in poker is 90% of luck and 10% of maths, and a year in poker is 90% of

maths and 10% of luck. Because some beginner can come and win a large amount of money on the very first day, but if he plays poorly, does not develop himself, then he can lose big money in a year.

No doubt you need to practise a lot to be the best at poker. You are to spend much time working on the game itself and practising. You are to learn how to deal cards, study special programs and play with artificial intelligence (solvers) not during the game.

“

**A YEAR IN POKER IS 90% OF MATHS
AND 10% OF LUCK**

People believe that the world of gambling is closely connected with cheating. What dangers face poker players in tournaments? Have you ever witnessed any cases of cheating in online poker in your practice, and how not to be caught by swindlers?

There are a lot of cases. For example, Black Friday, when the US Department of Justice confiscated the domains of the largest poker rooms so that players had no access to accounts and funds. Many regulars had to get into debt; others were forced to leave the country in order to be able to play on other websites if poker was their only source of income. Large poker rooms began to develop quickly new markets in Europe and Asia.

I know that as a result of closing of one of the largest website «PokerTilt» many players have lost money in their accounts, and only recently «PokerStars» has bought the resource and settled with them.

Cheat games with hints are common online; bots are a popular topic when you play with artificial intelligence. He's still ahead. There are a lot of videos on YouTube, for example, when a player was caught on the fact that he had a bot from the administration connected to him.

