# Preflop Charts: Open Raise in 6-max Poker Cash Games

by Nick Korolev, in consultation with other pro players.

In this article, I'll show you the opening hands charts from all positions in a classic 6-max poker cash game. I will explain how to use these preflop ranges and when to consider deviations from a given strategy. I recommend using the charts in <u>Freebetrange</u> poker tool - they're available right after signing up.

### Definitions

We'll start with position definitions. In a classic short-handed poker game, there are 6 players, and their positions at the table are called accordingly: EP, MP, CO, BU, SB, BB.



A Raise on preflop is considered an Open Raise (in other words - Raise First In, RFI ) if there is no one who entered the game by raise or limp before that Raise happened.

Recommended sizing for opening raise is 2.5bb from all positions except SB. From Small Blind we usually use a slightly increased 3bb sizing, to avoid giving the player in the big blind too good odds for a call.

Let's look at the ranges of open raises from each position separately.

## Early position (EP), or Under The Gun (UTG)

If you are sitting in an Early Position, you're very first to act when a hand is started. Logically, as you have the entire table to act after you, you'll have the tightest opening range among all the positions. The balanced opening range from the early position would include 15-17% of all starting hands.

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
АКо	КК	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s			
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s							
AJo	KJo		IJ	JTs								
АТо				Π	T9s							
					99							
						88						
							77					
								66				
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*Early position Open Raise chart. Purple hands - always raise. Blue hands - raise only when a weak player is on the big blind.* 

As you can see we have to fold a lot of playable hands from the UTG position at the poker table. You can try to play more hands, but an analysis of millions of hands speaks clearly that even the best players will be losing money in the long run if they deviate too much from the mentioned range.

Note that the range is dynamic, that is, it implies adjustment to the features of the opponents acting after you on preflop. We can take risks and enter the game with a wider range if we potentially end up in a profitable spot with a weak player.

## Middle position (MP), or Hi-Jack (HJ)

The second position to act on preflop and your opening range becomes a bit wider. You can profitably enter a game by open raise with 19-22% of hands.

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
АКо	КК	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s		
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s						
AJo	KJo	QJo	IJ	JTs	J9s							
АТо	КТо	QTo		Π	T9s							
A90					99							
						88						
							77					
								66				
									55			
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*Middle position RFI preflop range. Purple hands - always open raise. Blue hands - raise only when a weak player is on the big blind.* 

Compared to the early position, we can open more off-suited Broadway, suited K-high, Q-high, and J-high hands. And again we take into account table structure: we open more hands in case we have an increased probability of a call from a weak player.

# Cutoff (CO)

We're just one position away from the Button. Only 4 players to act after us, and obviously, we can open raise more hands than from the previous position. Good players' RFI range from the Cutoff position usually contains 25-30% of starting poker hands.

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
АКо	КК	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s				
AJo	KJo	QJo	IJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s					
АТо	КТо	QTo	JTo	Π	T9s	T8s						
A90					99	98s						
A80						88	87s					
							77	76s				
								66	65s			
A50									55	54s		
										44		
											33	
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Cutoff Open Raise preflop chart. Purple hands - always raise. Blue hands - optional raise (If BTN is a tight player and/or BB is a weak player).

When we are in the Cutoff seat, we have only one obstacle to being in a great position postflop - the player on the Button. So if you know that this player is tight and doesn't come into play often, feel free to play more hands.

## Button (BTN or BU)

The best position in poker. This is where you will earn the most money. You are one of the last to act preflop. There are only two players behind you, who will also be out of position with you postflop if they enter the game (they will be forced to act first).

All of these facts suggest that you need to play a wide range of hands. And it's true: the RFI of a good player in this position varies from 40 to 48%.

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
АКо	КК	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	IJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	
АТо	КТо	QTo	JTo	Π	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s			
A9o	K9o	Q90	J90	Т9о	99	98s	97s	96s				
A8o	K80	Q80		Т8о	980	88	87s	86s	85s			
A70	K7o						77	76s	75s	74s		
A6o								66	65s	64s		
A50									55	54s	53s	
A4o										44		
A3o											33	32s
A2o												22
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Button RFI range. Purple hands - always raise. Blue hands - optional raise (If SB and BB are weak or tight players).

The Button is also the position from which you most need to evaluate the playing style of your opponents behind you. If the blinds are very tight, you should definitely open more hands, as you will often just win the pot preflop. If the players behind you are weak, you should also expand your range so that you are in position and can exploit your opponents' postflop weaknesses. But be careful if there are aggressive players behind you: they know that you are opening a wide range from the Button and can often re-raise, that is, "3-Bet" you.

## Small Blind (SB)

You are left 1-on-1 with the player in the Big blind. Since the chances of them being dealt a good hand are slim, you can open raise with a wide range here. However, remember that your opponent has already made a mandatory bet and will be less willing to leave the pot. Also, they will be in position postflop, so it'll motivate them to call or even 3bet you more often and aggressively than against other positions.

A balanced opening range from the small blind includes 39-47% of hands.

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
АКо	КК	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	IJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	
АТо	КТо	QTo	JTo	Π	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s			
A9o	K90	Q90	J90	Т9о	99	98s	97s	96s				
A8o	K8o	Q8o		Т8о	980	88	87s	86s	85s			
A70	K7o						77	76s	75s	74s		
A6o								66	65s	64s		
A50									55	54s	53s	
A4o										44		
A3o											33	32s
												22
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Small Blind RFI chart. Purple hands - always raise. Blue hands - optional raise (If BB is weak or folds too often).

### Conclusion

Open raising is one of the most fundamental preflop actions. It is very important to use the correct ranges as they shape your play on all subsequent streets. Use our charts as a base, and don't forget to adjust your ranges according to the playing styles of the opponents after you.

If you sign up for <u>Freebetrange</u>, you'll have all the mentioned charts at hand in an intuitive Editor. So if you think you'll need to adapt them a bit to your style, you can easily do that.

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> CO	o K8o Q8o J8o T8o 98o 88 87s 86s 85s 84s 83s 82s Mixed colors ▲	
> BTN	o K7o Q7o J7o T7o 97o 87o 77 76s 75s 74s 73s 72s + Add mixed color	
> SB	o K6o Q6o J6o T6o 96o 86o 76o 66 65s 64s 63s 62s	
<b>&gt;</b> BB		Suited Aces Off-Suited Aces
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