

News Trading Methods Cheat Sheet: 9 Ways to Protect an EA

Every EA owner eventually asks the same question: how do I stop it trading through the news? There are nine honest methods, and they differ in cost, reliability and how much of the calendar they cover. This sheet compares them so you can pick deliberately.

The nine methods, compared

#	Method	Cost	Strength	Weakness
1	Manual pause: you switch AutoTrading off before releases	Free	Total control	You must be awake, every time, forever
2	EA built-in news filter input (minutes before/after)	Free if present	Automatic, per-EA	Depends on the EA's calendar source being right
3	Third-party news filter indicator/EA add-on	Free–paid	Works with EAs that lack filters	Another moving part; server time offsets
4	Calendar via WebRequest (EA reads an online calendar)	Free	Live data	Needs URL whitelist + internet; breaks silently if the feed changes
5	Fixed time blocks: same release times weekly/monthly (e.g. US CPI day)	Free	Simple, robust	Misses unscheduled events and time changes
6	Spread gate: no entries when spread exceeds X	Free	Catches surprise events too	Doesn't close existing positions; spikes can precede the gate
7	Equity/drawdown guard: halt all trading at a daily loss cap	Free–paid	Limits damage from every cause, not just news	Reactive — damage up to the cap still happens
8	Close-all before the event (flatten, don't just pause)	Free	No open exposure through the spike	Pays spread to exit and re-enter; can crystallise losses
9	Broker-side: choose not to run the EA on data days (session rules in the EA)	Free	Removes whole risk days	Blunt: skips some perfectly good days

Picking your stack

- ☐ Minimum serious stack: method 2 or 3 (entries blocked) + method 7 (damage capped). One prevents, one limits.
- ☐ If your EA holds positions for days, add method 8's decision explicitly: flatten or hold — but decide before the calendar does.
- ☐ Whatever you pick, test it once on demo through a real red-folder release and read the log. An untested filter is a hope with a settings page.
- ☐ Write your server-time offset on this sheet: most "the filter didn't work" stories are a two-hour offset wearing a disguise.

The cheat-sheet rule: news protection fails in layers or not at all. A method that blocks entries but lets a basket ride the spike has protected your future trades and abandoned your current ones.

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