Series 30 Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

50 Questions	**1h** Time limit	**70%** Passing score
$90 Exam fee	**NFA** Governing body	

The numbers to remember

- 50 scored questions (true/false and multiple choice)
- 60 minutes (1 hour) time limit
- 70% passing score
- $90 exam fee
- $45 cancellation/reschedule fee
- Passing score valid for 2 years to support an approval application
- No corequisite exam required
- Retake wait: 30 days after a 1st or 2nd fail, 180 days after a 3rd fail

Content domains and weights

No official weighting by domain is published for the Series 30 — every listed area is fair game on any given form, so don't skip any of them betting on light coverage. The named domains from the official study outline are:

- General; General Account Handling and Exchange Regulations
- IB General; CPO/CTA General
- Customer Information and Risk Disclosure (Know Your Customer)
- Communications with the Public and Promotional Material
- Discretionary Account Regulation
- Anti-Money Laundering Requirements
- Disclosure by FCMs/IBs and by CPOs/CTAs for costs associated with futures transactions
- CPO/CTA Disclosure Documents

High-yield review areas

- Know Your Customer requirements — these get tested from multiple angles across true/false and multiple choice items, so make sure you can state the rule, not just recognize it.
- The difference between IB supervisory duties and CPO/CTA supervisory duties — a classic source of confusion since both categories sound similar on the page.
- Which disclosure obligation belongs to which registrant type (FCM/IB vs. CPO/CTA) — build a quick mental table pairing registrant to disclosure duty.
- Discretionary account oversight rules, since discretion introduces extra supervisory duties a branch manager must actively monitor.
- AML requirements — compact, self-contained, and easy to lock in during a final review pass the night before.
- Promotional material and public communications rules — know what triggers extra review or approval before something goes out.

Top traps

- Assuming a passing score is usable indefinitely — remember it only supports an approval application filed within 2 years of your pass date.
- Confusing FCM/IB cost-disclosure rules with CPO/CTA cost-disclosure rules — they're separate topics with separate obligations.
- Overlooking that a broker-dealer sponsor with proof of FINRA branch manager qualification may exempt you from testing entirely — verify this with your firm before assuming you must sit for the exam.
- Underestimating retake wait times — a third fail means a 180-day wait, not 30, before your next attempt.
- Reading true/false items too quickly and missing a single qualifying word that flips the correct answer.
- Treating the exam as untimed pressure-free trivia — with 50 questions in 60 minutes, unresolved hesitation on early items eats into time you need later.

Official sources

- NFA — Study Outline for Futures Industry Exams — NFA: https://www.nfa.futures.org/registration-membership/study-outlines/index.html
- NFA — Series 30 – NFA Branch Manager Exam (formerly, Branch Managers Exam – Futures) | FINRA.org: https://www.finra.org/registration-exams-ce/qualification-exams/series30
- NFA — Proficiency Requirements — NFA: https://www.nfa.futures.org/registration-membership/how-to-register/proficiency-requirements.html