

# HPS Variables

By Wyckoff Labs | User Guide | v1.0 | February 2026

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A pre-trade checklist that sits directly on your chart, helping you confirm your key variables before every entry. Discipline is the edge — this indicator helps you keep it.

## The Problem

Every trader knows the feeling — you see a setup, excitement kicks in, and you enter without checking all your criteria. Impulse trades erode your edge over time, not because your system is broken, but because you skip the process.

## The Solution

HPS Variables forces you to slow down and verify each variable before pulling the trigger. Toggle each item in the indicator settings as you confirm it on the chart. The checklist updates in real-time with visual feedback — progress bar, color shifts, and a clear READY signal when all variables are confirmed.

Feature	Description
Pre-Trade Checklist	4 key variables to confirm before every entry
Progress Bar	Visual fill from empty to full as you confirm variables
Status Counter	Shows 0/4 through to READY with color feedback
Row Highlighting	Confirmed items glow green, unchecked stay dim
Green Border	Activates when all 4 confirmed — your go signal

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6 Position Options	Place anywhere on chart, avoids other indicators
Educational Tooltips	Every variable explains what to look for
Zero Performance Impact	Pure overlay, no calculations

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# 1 Getting Started

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## Installation

1. Open TradingView and navigate to any chart
2. Click **Indicators** (fx icon) in the top toolbar
3. Search for "**HPS Variables By Wyckoff Labs**"
4. Click to add it to your chart
5. The checklist appears on the right side of your chart in its default position

## First Look

When first added, all 4 variables are unchecked. The status shows **0/4** in gray and the progress bar is empty. As you confirm variables in the settings, the checklist comes to life with color feedback and progress tracking.

### Quick Start

Double-click the indicator name on your chart to open settings. Check each variable as you confirm it on the chart. Watch the progress bar fill and the status update in real-time.

## Compatibility

Works on **any instrument** (forex, crypto, gold, indices) and **any timeframe**. The checklist is a pure overlay with zero performance impact — it doesn't run any calculations or process price data. It simply displays your pre-trade confirmation state.

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## 2 The 4 HPS Variables

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Each variable represents a critical checkpoint in the Wyckoff methodology. All four must be confirmed before a trade qualifies as a valid setup.

### 1 Quality RTZ (Return to Zone)

**The question:** Is this a high probability ranging environment?

A quality RTZ lays the foundation of a high probability range. It represents a high probability liquidity curve or trendline liquidity trail — lows getting stacked in distribution models, highs getting stacked in accumulation models. The key question is: is there any supply or demand preventing price from reaching the technical target?

**What to look for:** Can the RTZ be drawn from range high/low to market structure high/low? Check for **primary highs/lows** (main pivot points connecting the liquidity curve) and **internal highs/lows** (highs/lows created between primary points, including individual candles getting stacked). When there is no S/D between primary and internal highs/lows, you have a HP RTZ.

**Important nuances:** Not all models will have a perfect RTZ — that's OK, but it needs to be decent. There will be situations where the final part of the RTZ has more aggressive price action. This does not invalidate the total RTZ — it can be labeled as final manipulation before expansion. An OBIF in the middle of a liquidity curve does not invalidate a quality RTZ, especially if located between internal highs/lows. When looking at the RTZ, examine the lower timeframe composition — is it all liquidity, or is there LTF S/D blocking the path?

### 2 Range Duration

**The question:** Is there a minimum 1-day duration from tap 1 to BOS?

A high probability range will have a minimum duration of **one full day** — measured from tap 1 to the break of structure. This is not about candle count; it's about the **time spent** from the first tap to the BOS. Ranges that develop too quickly rarely carry the institutional weight needed for a meaningful expansion.

**What to look for:** Measure the time from tap 1 to the BOS. If less than one full trading day has passed, the range is likely irrelevant. Focusing on ranges with 1+ day duration helps you avoid trading ranges that lack the accumulation or distribution time needed for a significant move. Longer durations generally indicate more institutional positioning.

### 3 Quality 3rd Tap POI

**The question:** Is the 3rd tap POI located at a high probability S/D area near tap 1?

A quality 3rd tap POI is a high probability supply or demand area located around tap 1 — preferably one that deviates (sweeps past) tap 1. The location of the POI relative to tap 1 is the critical factor. If there are two potential S/D POIs for a 3rd tap, always prioritize the one where price would be closest to tap 1 or would deviate tap 1.

**POI selection criteria:** The 3rd tap POI must be a HP POI with: good OBIF (order block with imbalance and inefficiency), good location at a pivot point, liquidity being swept, and a LTF inefficiency — not just liquidity sitting on a block. The same rules apply for entry levels (EL): if there are different higher lows (or lower highs), pick the one closest to tap 1.

**Exceptions:** If the 3rd tap is deviating tap 1, no refined POI is needed. If a higher low already grabbed liquidity, it is not a liquidity point — use the next higher low instead. If a tap had its own individual model, the 3rd tap POI is not a liquidity target. If the 3rd tap has an aggressive move into the POI, look for a LTF topping/bottom formation or TCT-in-TCT.

### 4 Quality BOS (Break of Structure)

**The question:** Has structure broken with real displacement and S/D creation?

A quality bullish BOS has a V-shaped move towards the market structure high, creating proper price displacement above the MS point. The move is an aggressive expansion away from the 3rd tap mitigation, often creating demand that supports price upward. A quality BOS protects your stop loss. Invert this logic for bearish BOS.

**What makes a bad BOS:** A slow, grinding move toward the MS high with little price displacement. This slow move creates sellside liquidity, giving price a reason to return. A bad BOS will target your invalidation — your stop loss becomes part of the liquidity. Look for: S/D creation on the BOS, expansion away from the break, and BOS inside the volume profile as an added confluence.

#### Key Principle

All 4 variables must align. If even one is missing, the setup is incomplete. This is the discipline that separates consistent traders from gamblers. The checklist exists to protect you from yourself.

#### Additional Notes

S/D over EL reduces room for error in distribution schematics. S/D under EL reduces room for error in accumulation schematics.

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BOS inside Volume Profile is a +1 confluence. Range inefficiency is also a +1.

When you have accumulation into the 3rd Tap POI, the demand will be disrespected — the schematic was created to send price higher to fill short positions. Invert for distribution into accumulation.

Verify if a high/low is a true liquidity point. If it already grabbed liquidity with an aggressive expansion and S/D creation, it is NOT a liquidity target and should not be part of the RTZ.

## 3 Visual Feedback System

The checklist provides multiple layers of visual feedback so you always know exactly where you stand at a glance.

### Progress Bar

A block-character progress bar sits below the header. It fills from left to right as you confirm variables, giving you an instant visual read on completion.

State	Progress Bar	Color
0/4 confirmed	■■■■■	Gray (border color)
1/4 confirmed	■■■■■	Red — not enough to trade
2/4 confirmed	■■■■■	Amber — getting closer
3/4 confirmed	■■■■■	Amber — almost there
4/4 confirmed	■■■■■	Green — ready to trade

### Status Counter

The top-right of the checklist shows a status that updates as you confirm variables. It progresses from "0/4" (gray) through "2/4" (amber) to the final state.

Variables Confirmed	Status Text	Color
0	0/4	Gray — no confirmation yet
1	1/4	Gray — still early
2-3	2/4 or 3/4	Amber — building confidence
4 (all)	READY	Green — setup is valid

### Row Highlighting

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Each confirmed variable gets a subtle green background tint, making it visually distinct from unchecked items. The text also shifts from dim gray to bright white, and the checkbox icon changes from an empty circle to a green checkmark.

## **Green Border**

When all 4 variables are confirmed, the entire table border shifts to green with a thicker frame. This is your unmistakable go signal — visible at a glance from anywhere on your chart.

## 4 Display Settings

Setting	Default	Description
Table Position	Middle Right	Where the checklist appears. 6 options available.
Text Size	Normal	Small, Normal, or Large. Adjust for your screen.
Hide When All Unchecked	Off	Hides the table entirely when no items are confirmed.

### Position Recommendations

Position	Best For
Middle Right	Default. Clean placement, avoids Sessions indicator info panel at top-right.
Top Right	If you're not using Sessions By Wyckoff Labs or similar top-right tables.
Top Left	If your chart has indicators anchored to the right side.
Middle Left	Alternative if right side is crowded.
Bottom Right	Keeps it near the price action at the bottom of the screen.
Bottom Left	Use if Sessions legend is in bottom-left (they won't overlap).

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## 5 How to Use It

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### Pre-Trade Workflow

Follow this process every time you identify a potential setup:

#### Step 1: Spot the Setup

You see a potential trade forming on the chart. Before doing anything else, open the HPS Variables settings.

#### Step 2: Check Quality RTZ

Ask yourself: is this a high probability ranging environment? Is there any S/D preventing price from reaching the target? Can you draw the RTZ from range high/low to MS high/low with liquidity stacking? If the path is clear, check the box.

#### Step 3: Check Range Duration

Measure the time from tap 1 to BOS. Has at least one full trading day passed? If the range developed too quickly, it likely lacks institutional weight. If it qualifies, check the box.

#### Step 4: Check Quality 3rd Tap

Is the 3rd tap POI a HP S/D area located near tap 1? Does it have good OBIF, pivot point location, and LTF inefficiency? If there are multiple POIs, are you using the one closest to tap 1? If it qualifies, check the box.

#### Step 5: Check Quality BOS

Is the BOS a V-shaped move with displacement above/below the MS point? Did it create S/D on the move? A good BOS protects your SL — a bad BOS creates liquidity that targets your invalidation. If the break shows real commitment, check the box.

#### Step 6: Read the Status

If the status shows "READY" with a green border, your setup is valid. If any variable is missing, do NOT take the trade.

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**After the  
Trade**

Once you've entered (or passed on) the trade, uncheck all variables to reset for the next setup. If you have 'Hide When All Unchecked' enabled, the table disappears until you start confirming your next trade.

## **The Golden Rule**

If you cannot check all 4 boxes, you do not take the trade. No exceptions. No rationalizing. The checklist exists to protect your capital from your own impulses. Trust the process.

## 6 Pairing with Sessions By Wyckoff Labs

HPS Variables is designed to pair perfectly with **Sessions By Wyckoff Labs** — our session mapping indicator. Together, they give you a complete on-chart trading workflow.

### Recommended Layout

Indicator	Position	Purpose
Sessions By Wyckoff Labs	Info panel: Top Right	Session structure, ranges, and key levels
HPS Variables	Middle Right	Pre-trade checklist and confirmation
Sessions Legend	Bottom Left (auto)	Color-coded session legend

### Combined Workflow

1. **Sessions** tells you where you are — which session is active, what the ranges look like
2. **Session H/L levels** show you key structural references from previous sessions
3. **HPS Variables** is your gate — confirm all 4 before entry
4. Only when both indicators align do you have a qualified trade

#### Pro Setup

Use Sessions on **Pro** mode (boxes + candles + H/L + overlap) with HPS Variables on **Middle Right**. This gives you full session context plus a confirmation gate — the complete Wyckoff Labs trading workflow on a single chart.

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## 7 Troubleshooting

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### Checklist not visible on chart

Check that **Hide When All Unchecked** is not enabled (or confirm at least one variable). Also verify the table position isn't behind another indicator's overlay.

### Checklist overlaps with Sessions indicator

Move HPS Variables to **Middle Right** or **Middle Left** — Sessions uses Top Right for its info panel. They're designed to coexist without overlap.

### Text too small or too large

Adjust **Text Size** in Display settings. Normal works for most screens, use Large for ultra-wide monitors or Small for compact layouts.

### Variables don't reset between trades

You need to manually uncheck each variable in settings after completing a trade. This is intentional — it forces you to actively reset your mental state for the next setup.

### Green border doesn't appear

The green border only activates when **all 4** variables are checked. Even 3/4 will show amber status with a normal border. Check that every item is confirmed.

## 8 About Wyckoff Labs

Wyckoff Labs builds precision tools for serious traders. Our mission is to give retail traders the same structural edge that institutional desks have — through better tools, better data, and better methodology.

### Our Ecosystem

Product	Description
TradeOS	Professional trading journal built for prop firm traders. Track your trades, analyze performance, and optimize your strategy.
Sessions By Wyckoff Labs	TradingView indicator that maps Asia, London, and New York sessions onto your chart to help you identify key market hours.
HPS Variables	Pre-trade checklist indicator with real-time visual feedback. Confirms your 4 key variables before entering a trade.
Trading Education	Structured education rooted in Wyckoff methodology. Learn to read the market through price action and volume analysis.

### Discipline is the edge.

Visit [wyckofflabs.com](https://wyckofflabs.com) to access TradeOS, our full indicator suite, and structured Wyckoff education. Build the process. Trust the process.

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