TBF TRADING ACADEMY

Orderflow Basics

Reading footprint, delta, and absorption to time entries.

Module: 07 — Orderflow

For educational purposes only. Trading involves risk of loss.

What is orderflow?

Orderflow is the study of executed trades in real time — who is buying, who is selling, at what price, and with what aggression. Where technical analysis shows you where price has been, orderflow shows you what is happening right now.

Core tools

Footprint chart

Displays the volume traded at each price inside each candle, split between bid (sell aggression) and ask (buy aggression).

Delta

Delta = ask volume – bid volume. Positive delta = buyers aggressive. Divergence between price and delta is a leading reversal signal.

Cumulative Volume Delta (CVD)

Running total of delta across the session. When price makes a new high but CVD does not, aggressive buyers are exhausted.

Volume profile

Horizontal distribution of volume. High-volume nodes (HVN) attract price; low-volume nodes (LVN) get sliced through.

Absorption vs exhaustion

- Absorption: heavy aggressive volume hits a level but price barely moves — passive orders are eating the flow. Fade the aggressors.
- Exhaustion: aggressive volume dries up at a level and price stalls — the move is running out of fuel.

Combining orderflow with SMC

Use SMC to locate the zone, orderflow to time the entry. Example: price sweeps a HTF liquidity pool into a bullish OB — you wait for footprint absorption (heavy sell volume, no downside progress) before entering long. This converts a probabilistic setup into a confirmed one.

Getting started without a paid platform

- TradingView: use the volume delta and CVD indicators (free).
- Track session volume profile on the 1H chart.
- Journal the 3 largest volume candles of the session and what happened next.

Orderflow Basics — Chart Example