RUN CLUB ACADEMY · SETUP GUIDE

# OPEN YOUR BROKERAGE ACCOUNT

Picking a broker and setting it up right, U.S. and international. Robinhood's U.S. account is where most of the Run Club starts. If you're outside the U.S., or just want options, here is how to get set up on the most common alternatives, plus the settings worth knowing whichever one you pick.

## QUICK COMPARISON

| BROKER | BEST FOR | AVAILABILITY |
|---|---|---|
| **Robinhood** | Simple U.S. trading, beginner-friendly app | U.S. account covered in this guide (see note) |
| **Charles Schwab (thinkorswim)** | Full-service broker with the thinkorswim trading platform and strong research tools | U.S. residents, plus a separate Schwab International account for many non-U.S. residents |
| **Webull** | Advanced charting, active and options traders | U.S. plus a growing list of other countries (Canada, UK, Australia, parts of Asia and Latin America, etc.). Check your country first |
| **Interactive Brokers (IBKR)** | Widest global reach, professional-grade tools | 150+ countries. The most likely option outside the U.S./UK |

**Which account?** Whichever broker you pick, open an **individual brokerage account**. Skip retirement (IRA), joint and business accounts for now. Availability by country changes over time and often depends on your citizenship and residency documents. Always confirm on the broker's own site before assuming you're eligible. Note on Robinhood: this guide covers its U.S. account. Robinhood has also launched apps in some other regions with different products, so check what's offered where you live.

# 01 ROBINHOOD

The account most of the Run Club uses. U.S. residents.

**OPEN ROBINHOOD WITH LV'S LINK →**

runclubacademy.com/go/robinhood

> Affiliate disclosure: LV may earn a commission or reward when you sign up through these links. It costs you nothing extra, and she only lists tools she uses or teaches with.

## SETUP STEPS

1. Download the Robinhood app (iOS or Android) or go to robinhood.com
2. Sign up with your email or phone number and create a password
3. When it asks which account to open, choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement/IRA account)
4. Verify your identity: full legal name, address, date of birth, SSN and a government-issued ID
5. Link a bank account (Plaid instant verification, or enter it manually)
6. Make your first deposit

# 02 CHARLES SCHWAB (THINKORSWIM)

Schwab's trading platform is thinkorswim: you open a Schwab account, then use thinkorswim to trade. Steps below are for U.S. residents.

schwab.com

## SETUP STEPS

1. Go to schwab.com and select Open an Account
2. Choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement, IRA or joint account)
3. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, SSN, government ID
4. Link a bank account and fund the account
5. Once it's open, download thinkorswim (desktop, web or mobile) and log in with your Schwab login

Outside the U.S.? Schwab offers a dedicated Schwab International account for non-U.S. residents. Search "Schwab International Account" on their site; the application and requirements differ from the standard U.S. account.

# 03 WEBULL

Available in the U.S. and a growing number of other countries. Worth checking if you're outside the U.S. and Robinhood isn't an option.

`webull.com`

## SETUP STEPS

1. Download the Webull app or go to webull.com and select your country/region
2. Sign up with your email or phone number
3. Choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement/IRA account)
4. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, tax ID/SSN if applicable, government ID
5. Link a bank account or a funding method available in your region
6. Make your first deposit

# 04 INTERACTIVE BROKERS (IBKR)

The most workable option for most people outside the U.S./UK, given how many countries it supports.

`interactivebrokers.com`

## SETUP STEPS

1. Go to interactivebrokers.com and select Open Account
2. Choose your country of residence and an **individual** account
3. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, tax residency info, government ID. The application is more detailed than Robinhood's or Webull's, so expect more questions about your financial background
4. Fund the account by bank transfer (options vary by country)

## 05 SETTINGS WORTH TURNING ON

**DRIP (dividend reinvestment).** Usually under Settings → Investing or Dividends. Automatically reinvests dividend payouts into more shares instead of leaving them as idle cash.

| SETTING | WHY IT HELPS |
|---|---|
| **Two-factor authentication (2FA)** | Protects your account. Turn it on immediately, on any broker |
| **Biometric login (Face ID / fingerprint)** | Faster, secure login |
| **Price and news notifications** | Stay on top of positions without constantly checking |
| **Fractional shares (if offered)** | Buy part of a share of an expensive stock |
| **Extended-hours trading** | Trade pre-market or after-hours, if that fits your plan |
| **Interest on uninvested cash** | Idle cash earns something instead of sitting at 0% |

## 06 HABITS WORTH BUILDING EARLY

- Don't let one position become an oversized chunk of your account.
- Know the difference between a cash account and a margin account before you enable margin. Margin adds real risk, including owing money beyond your deposit.
- Set up watchlists for the tickers you follow.
- Default to limit orders over market orders, for more control over your fill price.

## 07 BEFORE YOU TRADE OPTIONS

Once you're approved, learn the fundamentals before your first contract: calls and puts, strikes, expiration, risk management and position sizing. That's exactly what LV's free course covers.

**START THE FREE COURSE →** runclubacademy.com/begin/

Rather learn live? Join the free class at runclubacademy.com/webinar/live/. Want to talk it through with the team? Book a call at runclubacademy.com/book/.

# 08 BEFORE YOUR FIRST TRADE: SET YOUR OCO

Most new traders lose because they trade without a stop loss. The fix is an order type, not willpower: an **OCO** (one cancels the other). It is a profit target (a limit order) and a stop loss (a stop order) sent together as one ticket. Whichever fills first cancels the other, with no help from you.

A beginner will not have fast execution. The OCO is already working before the move happens, so it does not depend on your reaction time. Place one on every trade, before you look away.




## THINKORSWIM DESKTOP: BRACKET ON A NEW TRADE

1. Open thinkorswim desktop and go to the **Trade** tab → **All Products**. Type the symbol.
2. Click the **Ask** price (or open the Symbol menu) → **Buy custom** → **with OCO Bracket**. Order Entry now shows three rows: your **BUY**, a **SELL LIMIT** (the target) and a **SELL STOP** (the stop). The same thing lives in the **Advanced Order** dropdown as **1st trgs OCO**: first order triggers the OCO.
3. Fill in the BUY row the way you normally would (quantity, limit price).
4. In the SELL LIMIT row, type the price of your plan for the win. In the SELL STOP row, type the price where you are wrong. Order type STOP gets you out at the next available price; STOPLIMIT only fills at your limit or better and can leave you in a fast market.
5. Set both child legs to **GTC** (good till cancelled), so the bracket keeps working tomorrow if you hold overnight. Leave it DAY only if you will be flat by the close.
6. Click **Confirm and Send**. Read the Order Confirmation Dialog: one buy, one sell limit above, one sell stop below. Then **Send**.
7. Check the **Monitor** tab → **Activity and Positions**. After the buy fills, both sell legs show as working. When one fills, the other cancels by itself.

## ALREADY IN THE TRADE WITH NO BRACKET?

1. **Monitor** tab → **Activity and Positions** → find the position.
2. Right-click it → **Create closing order** → **with OCO Bracket**.

3. Type the target in the SELL LIMIT row and the stop in the SELL STOP row, set both GTC, Confirm and Send.

Want the stop to follow price up? In the order type column click **STOP** and change it to **TRAILSTOP**. The offset defaults to −$0.10; click it to switch to a percentage. A trailing stop steps up as price rises and never moves back down. It can be the stop leg of your OCO.

### THINKORSWIM MOBILE APP

1. thinkorswim mobile: **Trade** → type the symbol → **Buy** (or tap the option contract) to open the order editor.
2. At the bottom of the order editor look for **Create advanced order** (your app may word it slightly differently) and pick **1st trgs OCO**. Fill the sell limit (target) and sell stop (stop), both GTC, then review and **Send**.
3. Already in the trade on your phone? **Positions** → tap the position → look for **Create closing order** and choose the OCO bracket. Confirm the exact labels in your own app once; they move between versions.

**Robinhood:** options orders still have no OCO and no trailing stop (stock and ETF OCO is rolling out now; options are promised for early next year). Until then, use thinkorswim for any options trade you can't babysit.

Steps checked against Schwab's own thinkorswim tutorials, October 2026. Menus change; if a label has moved, search the thinkorswim Learning Center for "OCO bracket".

---

## THE TOOLS LV USES

### TRADINGVIEW

Charts. Where LV reads the market before she touches anything.

runclubacademy.com/go/tradingview

### ALPHA FUNDED

A funded-trader program: you trade the firm's capital under its rules after passing its evaluation. Read the rules and fees before you pay for anything.

runclubacademy.com/go/alphafunded

LV's live trading signals are a **separate, optional add-on** on Whop. Not included in any Run Club program.
whop.com/the-run-club-611b/products/

> Affiliate disclosure: LV may earn a commission or reward when you sign up through these links. It costs you nothing extra, and she only lists tools she uses or teaches with.

---

**Education, not financial advice. Options involve risk and aren't suitable for everyone; you can lose all of the money you put into an option, and margin can make you owe more than you deposited. Nothing here tells you what to buy or sell, and no result is promised. Broker features, fees, availability and approval rules change: confirm everything on the broker's own site before you open an account.**

TRCA LLC, doing business as Run Club Academy. Robinhood, Charles Schwab, thinkorswim, Webull, Interactive Brokers, TradingView and Alpha Funded are independent companies; their names, menus and order types are described for education only and change over time. Questions: write to therunclublv@gmail.com. runclubacademy.com