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# AIProp vs FTMO

## A Head-to-Head Structural Benchmark of Two Prop Trading Models

*AIProp and FTMO finish effectively tied (7.59 vs 7.51) but win on opposite dimension clusters: AIProp on rule freedom, behavioural tooling, and capital ceiling; FTMO on operating history, payout trust, and platform breadth.*

## Executive Summary

***Bottom line.***

AIProp and FTMO finish effectively tied: 7.59 vs 7.51 across nine weighted dimensions. The 0.08-point margin sits within the precision of an ordinal scoring framework. Each firm wins meaningfully on different dimension clusters; neither dominates the comparison.

***Why this matters now.***

The prop trading category is splitting between two operating models. Incumbents (referred to as Era II firms in the AIProp Research Hub category framework) compete on trust-at-scale: operating history, payout volume, and review depth — FTMO is the category-defining example. Era III firms compete on structural design: AI-assisted execution, behavioural infrastructure, deferred-fee pricing, and verifiable payouts — AIProp is the most structurally complete example. The relative strength of these two models is the central category question for the 2026–2028 period.

***Who wins where.***

AIProp leads on five dimensions: rule surface (10.0 vs 5.0), behavioural tooling (9.0 vs 6.5), funding architecture (9.0 vs 7.0), automation and infrastructure (8.0 vs 7.5), and cohort evidence support (8.0 vs 4.0). FTMO leads on two dimensions but with high weight: operating history (10.0 vs 3.0) and payout trust signals (9.5 vs 7.0). The two firms are at near-parity on affiliate economics (8.5 vs 7.0) and pricing (7.5 vs 8.0).

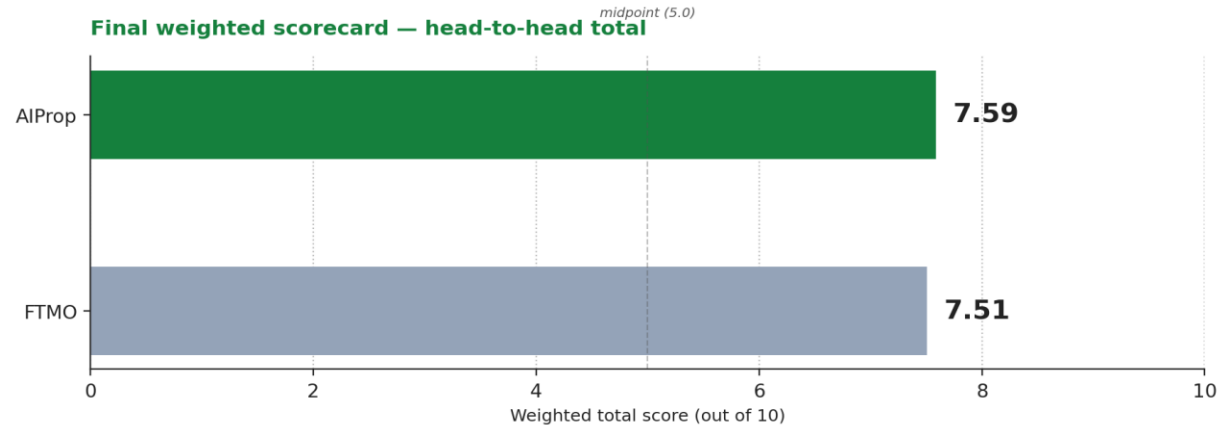


*Figure 1 — Effectively tied overall result. AIProp 7.59 vs FTMO 7.51 across nine weighted dimensions; the 0.08-point gap sits within the precision of an ordinal scoring framework. Methodology in Section 1; full breakdown in Section 11.*

***Key risks to the headline result.***

AIProp's structural-design advantages depend on continued operation, evidence accumulation, and feature investment. The firm has not yet been tested through a full market cycle. Cohort evidence is observational and self-selected. Platform breadth is concentrated on cTrader. FTMO's incumbency advantages depend on continued payout reliability and review-base maintenance, both of which are sensitive to industry-wide solvency events. Either firm's position could shift materially within 12–18 months.

***Strategic framing.***

Trader fit is segment-specific, not universal. The optimal firm choice depends on which compounding curve a trader values more: time-based incumbency (where FTMO leads automatically) or structural design (where the leader can shift faster as design choices evolve). The Strategic Implications section that follows maps four audience groups (traders, affiliates, AIProp management, and investors) to the actionable consequences of this result.

## Strategic Implications

A near-tie aggregate result has different consequences for different audiences. The four implication paragraphs below map the dimension-level pattern to the audiences for whom this result is most actionable. Implications are framed analytically, not as recommendations to any specific party.

### For traders

The optimal firm choice is segment-specific. Discretionary traders sensitive to rule constraints, algorithmic traders requiring full automation permission, and traders prioritising integrated behavioural infrastructure should map to AIProp. Traders prioritising operating longevity, payout-history depth, multi-platform execution flexibility, and the lowest-friction perception of trust should map to FTMO.

Traders for whom no single dimension dominates should treat the two firms as substitutes and choose on secondary criteria — ticket size preference, jurisdictional fit, or platform familiarity. The full Trader Fit Matrix in Section 12 disaggregates this further.

### For affiliates

AIProp's 15.0% entry rate (vs FTMO Bronze 8.0%) and multi-tier override architecture favour affiliates building referral bases or recruiting other affiliates. FTMO's Gold and Platinum tiers (15.0% and 20.0% with free-Challenge bonuses) favour established solo affiliates who can sustain monthly volume thresholds. Lifetime affiliate value depends on referral conversion durability — FTMO's decade of operating history reduces the risk that referred traders churn due to firm-side instability, which is a meaningful offset to AIProp's headline-rate advantage. Affiliates promoting both firms (where compatible with each programme's terms) likely capture more value than affiliates committed to either alone.

### For emerging Era III firms

The dimension-level pattern indicates where structural-design firms can compete with incumbents and where they cannot. Rule freedom, behavioural tooling, capital ceiling, and cohort evidence transparency are dimensions on which design-led firms can match or exceed an incumbent within the first 24 months of operation — these are infrastructure choices that compound with cohort growth, not with calendar time. Operating history, cumulative payout scale, and review-base depth are dimensions on which design-led firms cannot compete on a short timeframe regardless of design quality — these compound with calendar time alone, and shortcuts (e.g. acquiring an older entity) carry brand-integrity risk. The strategic question for any Era III entrant is not how to beat the incumbent on incumbency dimensions, but how to maximise the trader-decision weight on dimensions where structural design is the determinant.

### For investors and partners

A near-tie aggregate result with structurally divergent dimension patterns indicates a category that has not yet consolidated around a single dominant model. The next 12–24 months will resolve whether trader-decision weights shift toward structural design (favouring Era III models) or remain anchored on incumbency (favouring FTMO and similar Era II firms). Capital allocation in this category should weight (a) the firm's position on whichever dimension cluster the allocator believes will dominate the next category cycle, and (b) the firm's ability to sustain that position as competitor design choices narrow the gap on individual dimensions — multi-tier affiliate structures, on-chain payout verification, and integrated behavioural metrics are all replicable, while operating history is not.

## 1. Scope, Method, and Scoring Framework

### 1.1 Why FTMO as the Benchmark

FTMO is the most appropriate single-firm benchmark for AIProp for three reasons. First, FTMO is the most-cited reference point in the prop trading category, with 3.5M+ customers across 140+ countries [11] and a 4.8/5 Trustpilot rating across 40,000+ reviews [12] — establishing it as the implicit baseline against which retail traders evaluate competing offerings. Second, FTMO's rule architecture (10.0% profit target, 5.0% maximum daily loss, 10.0% maximum loss, 50.0% best-day rule) [1] defines the structural template that the majority of competitors have copied since 2020. Third, FTMO and AIProp share core operational primitives — demo-account simulation, profit-share rewards, scaling roadmap, multi-asset coverage, EA permissions — which means structural divergence between the two firms isolates differences in commercial and behavioural design rather than fundamental product category.

### 1.2 Nine-Dimension Scoring Framework

Each firm is scored 0–10 on nine dimensions, weighted by relevance to a typical prop trader's purchase decision. Weights are calibrated from independent review-content analysis emphasising trust, rule design, total cost, and infrastructure depth as principal decision variables. Sub-scoring rationale is stated in each dimension section so scores are reproducible by other analysts using the same evidence base.

| Dimension | Weight | What it measures |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Operating History & Track Record | 15% | Years in operation, cumulative payouts, customer base scale, multi-cycle solvency record. |
| 2. Funding Architecture | 12% | Challenge path diversity, capital ceiling, scaling roadmap, profit-split structure. |
| 3. Rule Surface (Trader Friction) | 14% | Six-dimension friction index: consistency, news, weekend, automation, fee, hidden rules. |
| 4. Automation & Infrastructure | 12% | EA / AI / algorithmic permissions, platform breadth, execution flexibility. |
| 5. Payout Trust Signals | 16% | Verification mechanism, payout cadence, review depth, brand presence. |
| 6. Behavioural Tooling | 10% | Integrated behavioural metrics, AI coaching, journaling, research output. |
| 7. Affiliate Economics | 8% | Commission rates, override structure, payout cadence, programme breadth. |
| 8. Pricing & Fee Structure | 8% | Total commitment per tier, fee timing, refund mechanics, incentive alignment. |
| 9. Cohort Evidence Support | 5% | Published cohort data linking firm structure to trader outcomes. |

*Table 1 — Nine-dimension scoring framework. Weights sum to 100%. Calibrated from trader-decision relevance signals in independent review-content analysis.*

### 1.3 Scoring Approach

Within each dimension, the firm scoring highest receives 9–10; subsequent firms are scored relative to the leader using disclosed data points listed in the relevant section. Scoring is ordinal compression of multiple structural features into a single dimension score, not continuous on a single quantitative metric. The framework is an analytical synthesis tool, not a statistical index. Where a firm leads decisively on a dimension (e.g. FTMO on operating history) the leader scores 10.0 and the laggard is scored proportionally based on the magnitude of the gap on disclosed metrics.

### 1.4 Confidence Taxonomy

Each data point is classified by disclosure quality. Fully disclosed data is published directly by the firm on a primary URL and is reproducible by URL retrieval. Aggregator-derived data is sourced from independent third-party review platforms (Finance Magnates, Trustpilot, FXEmpire, PropFirmMatch). Promotion-adjusted pricing reflects a discount or limited-time offer; list and promotional values are reported separately where both are observable. Partially disclosed data is published in one location with material gaps. All scores in this paper rest predominantly on fully disclosed evidence.

### 1.5 Data Cut-off and Limitations

All data reflects publicly available information as of April 2026 unless otherwise noted. FTMO materially revised its product line in February 2026 with the launch of the 1-Step FTMO Challenge [2]; this paper documents both 1-Step and 2-Step variants. AIProp pricing and rule architecture is sourced from aiprop.com [13]. Findings should be re-validated within two quarters given category velocity.

### 1.6 Headline Scorecard Preview

The radar visualisation below shows dimension-level scores side-by-side. AIProp’s shape extends furthest on rule freedom, automation, and behavioural tooling; FTMO’s shape extends furthest on operating history and payout trust. The two firms intersect at funding architecture, pricing, and affiliate economics.

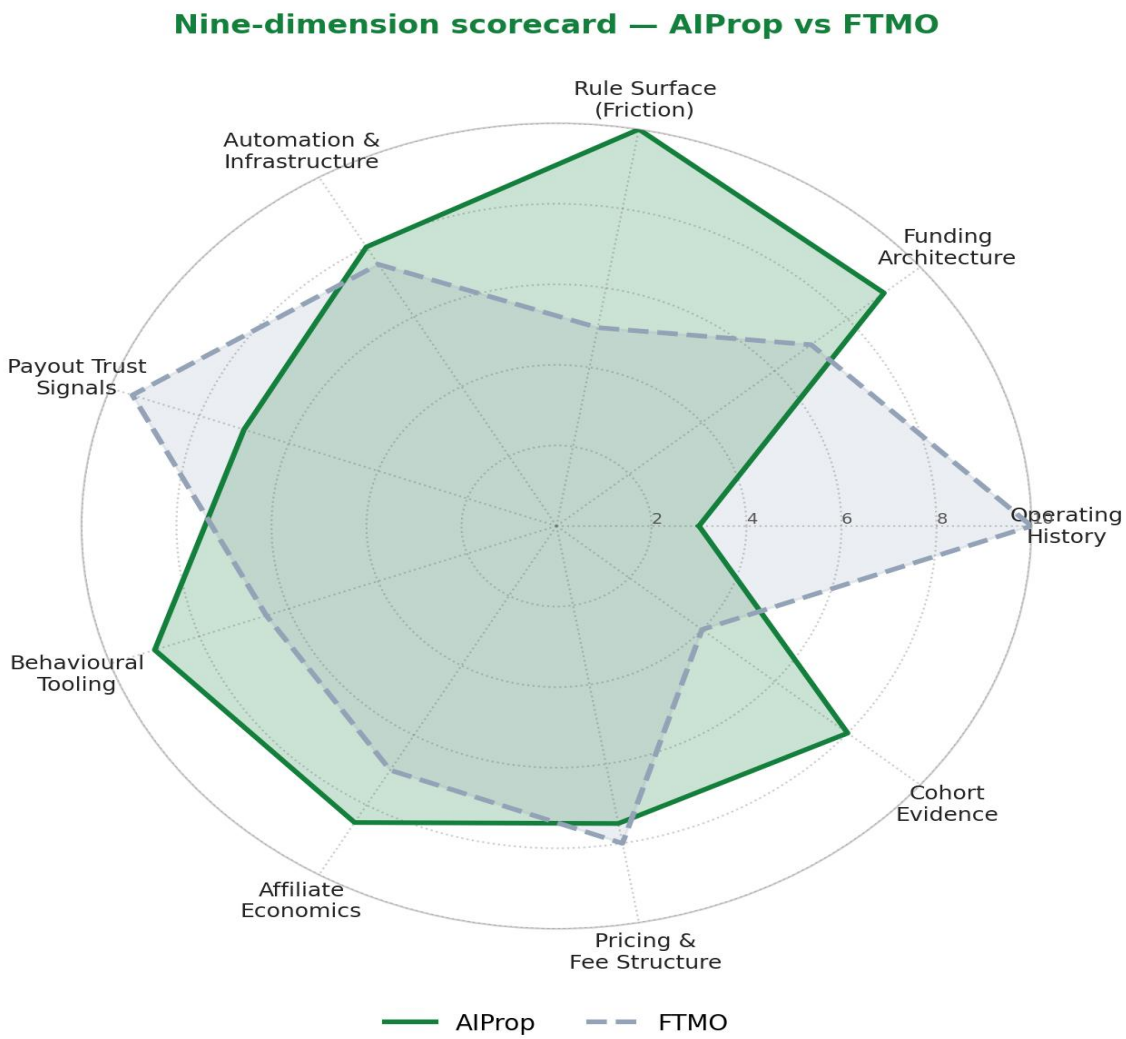


*Figure 2 — Nine-dimension scorecard radar, AIProp vs FTMO. Each axis scored 0–10. Dimension definitions in Table 1; sub-scoring rationale in Sections 2–10.*

## 2. Operating History and Track Record

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Operating History** | 15% | **3.0 / 10** | **10.0 / 10** |

### 2.1 Firm Profiles

The two firms occupy structurally different positions on operating history. FTMO is the longest-running multi-asset incumbent at category scale; AIProp is an early Era III entrant. The operating-history asymmetry is the single largest dimension differential in this paper.

| Dimension | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Founded | 2024 | 2015 [3] |
| Operating history (April 2026) | ~1.5 years | ~10.0 years [3] |
| Headquarters | Dubai Silicon Oasis, UAE | Prague, Czech Republic [7] |
| Legal entity | AI Prop – FZCO (No. 63721) | FTMO Evaluation Global s.r.o. |
| Cumulative payouts (disclosed) | $1.7M+ [16] | $450M+ [7] |
| Customer base | Thousands (early-stage) | 3.5M+ across 140+ countries [11] |
| Trustpilot rating | 4.4/5 (early review base) | 4.8/5 (~40,000+ reviews) [12] |
| Multi-cycle solvency record | Not yet tested | Survived 2020, 2023, 2024 industry contractions |
| Industry recognition | Forex Expo Dubai 2025 sponsor | Multiple Deloitte Fast 50 listings [7] |

*Table 2 — Firm profile side-by-side. AIProp data from aiprop.com [13][14][15][16] and AIProp exclusive data [17]. FTMO data from primary firm disclosures [1][3] and Finance Magnates [7], CoinLaw [11], Trustpilot [12]. Confidence: fully disclosed.*

### 2.2 Score Justification

**FTMO 10.0:** Anchors the dimension. Ten years of continuous operation [3], $450M+ cumulative payouts [7], 3.5M+ customer base [11], 40,000+ Trustpilot reviews [12], and a multi-cycle solvency record spanning the 2020 pandemic shock, the 2023–2024 prop industry contraction (during which competitors including MyForexFunds and True Forex Funds shut down), and the MetaQuotes broker restrictions of 2023. No firm in the category exceeds FTMO on any of the four sub-axes that this dimension measures.

**AIProp 3.0:** AIProp scores low because all four sub-metrics are at very early-stage values relative to FTMO: 1.5 years of operation, $1.7M+ cumulative payouts [16], thousands (not millions) of customers, and an early Trustpilot review base. The firm has not yet been tested through a full market cycle. The 3.0 score — rather than 1.0–2.0 — reflects credit for credible operating fundamentals: jurisdictional licensing in Dubai (FZCO entity), disclosed broker partnership, blockchain-verified per-payout records [16], and a published research programme [17]. These are signals of operational maturity beyond what an early-stage firm typically presents. Operating history will compound with calendar time alone.

## 3. Funding Architecture

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Funding Architecture** | 12% | **9.0 / 10** | **7.0 / 10** |

## 3.1 Challenge Paths and Ceilings

FTMO operates two evaluation paths: the 2-Step FTMO Challenge and the 1-Step FTMO Challenge launched February 2026 [2]. AIProp operates four challenge archetypes: 1-Phase, 2-Phase, Instant Funded, and Pass-First-Pay-Later [13]. The PFPL model has no FTMO equivalent and represents the most material commercial divergence on this dimension.

| Dimension | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Challenge paths | 1-Phase, 2-Phase, Instant, PFPL [13] | 1-Step, 2-Step [2][3] |
| Path count | 4 | 2 |
| Maximum funding ceiling | $5,000,000 (scaling roadmap) [13] | $2,000,000 (Scaling Plan) [3] |
| Standard funded ceiling (single account) | Up to $1,000,000 [13] | $200,000 ($400,000 combined) [3] |
| Profit split (initial) | Up to 90.0% [13] | 80.0% (2-Step) / 90.0% (1-Step) [2][3] |
| Profit split (post-scaling) | Up to 90.0% [13] | 90.0% [3] |
| Time limit on Challenge | No fixed time limit [13] | No fixed time limit (2026) [2] |
| Minimum trading days | 3 (PFPL) [13] | 4 (both 1-Step and 2-Step) [1][2] |

*Table 3 — Challenge path structure. AIProp data from aiprop.com pricing page [13]. FTMO data from Trading Objectives [1], 1-Step Challenge announcement [2], and How it Works [3]. Confidence: fully disclosed.*

## 3.2 Score Justification

***What this dimension measures.***

Funding architecture captures challenge path diversity, capital ceiling, single-account ceiling, profit-split structure, and time-limit flexibility. The dimension answers the trader question: "Does this firm offer an evaluation route and a scaling pathway that match my capital ambition and trading style?"

***Scoring rubric.***

A score of 10.0 would require: four-or-more challenge archetypes, scaling ceiling above $5M, single-account ceiling above $1M, 90%+ profit split achievable from first reward, no minimum-day or time-limit constraints, and a structurally distinctive fee timing model. A score of 5.0 represents typical mid-tier industry offering: two paths, $200K–$500K ceiling, 80%–85% profit split, standard upfront fee model.

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Challenge path diversity | 25% | 10 | 7 |
| Capital ceiling (scaling roadmap) | 25% | 9 | 7 |
| Single-account ceiling | 20% | 10 | 6 |
| Profit split structure | 20% | 8 | 8 |
| Time / minimum-day flexibility | 10% | 8 | 8 |
| Sub-component weighted total | 100% | 9.15 | 7.10 |

*Table 3a — Funding Architecture sub-component breakdown. Sub-weights sum to 100%; weighted totals (9.15 / 7.10) round to dimension-level scores of 9.0 / 7.0.*

**AIProp 9.0:** Four challenge archetypes (1-Phase, 2-Phase, Instant Funded, PFPL) versus FTMO's two; 2.5× the FTMO scaling ceiling ($5M roadmap [13] vs $2M cap [3]); single-account ceiling 5× higher than FTMO's ($1M PFPL [13] vs $200K Standard FTMO [3]). The Pass-First-Pay-Later configuration is structurally distinctive within this head-to-head: FTMO does not offer a PFPL equivalent. Several other prop firms operate PFPL or pay-after-pass tracks (documented in AIProp Working Paper BM-2026-02); among the two firms benchmarked here, only AIProp ties a portion of evaluation revenue to trader pass [13]. AIProp loses 1.0 versus a perfect score because (a) the $5M ceiling is a roadmap rather than a presently-achieved trader instrument, and (b) the 90% profit split is the high-end of disclosed range rather than guaranteed across all paths.

**FTMO 7.0:** Two well-defined challenge paths (1-Step launched February 2026 [2] and 2-Step [1]), 90.0% profit split achievable through Scaling Plan [3], $2M scaling ceiling [3], no time-limit constraint as of 2026 [2], and clean per-tier pricing transparency. FTMO scores well above mid-tier on the dimension because the path design is mature and the 1-Step product addresses a key trader-segment gap that the 2-Step alone left unfilled. FTMO sits 2.0 points below AIProp because: (a) path count is half (2 vs 4), (b) capital ceiling is structurally lower ($2M vs $5M roadmap), (c) single-account ceiling is materially lower ($200K standard vs $1M PFPL), and (d) the upfront-fee model preserves the firm-trader incentive misalignment that PFPL partially solves.

### *Why not a wider gap?*

A 4-point gap (AIProp 9.0 vs FTMO 5.0) could be argued by an analyst weighting commercial alignment (PFPL incentive structure) heavily. The 2.0-point gap reflects that FTMO's funding architecture is genuinely strong on its own terms — the absence of PFPL is not a defect, it is a different commercial model that has supported a decade of category leadership. AIProp's lead reflects breadth and ceiling, not categorical superiority.

## 4. Rule Surface and Trader Friction

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rule Surface (Friction)** | 14% | **10.0 / 10** | **5.0 / 10** |

## 4.1 Trading Objectives

FTMO Trading Objectives are codified across the 1-Step and 2-Step products. The 2-Step FTMO Challenge requires a 10.0% profit target in Phase 1, 5.0% in Verification, with 5.0% maximum daily loss and 10.0% maximum loss [1]. The 1-Step FTMO Challenge applies 3.0% MDL and 10.0% maximum loss with end-of-day trailing [2]. Both products apply the 50.0% Best Day Rule on funded accounts [1][2]. AIProp publishes a 4.0% PFPL profit target with 5.0% daily loss, 8.0% trailing maximum drawdown, and no consistency rule [13].

| Rule | AIProp (PFPL) | FTMO 2-Step | FTMO 1-Step |
|---|---|---|---|
| Profit target | 4.0% [13] | 10.0% / 5.0% [1] | 10.0% [2] |
| Maximum daily loss | 5.0% [13] | 5.0% [1] | 3.0% [2] |
| Maximum total loss | 8.0% (trailing) [13] | 10.0% (static) [1] | 10.0% (EOD trailing) [2] |
| Best Day Rule (consistency) | None [13] | 50.0% on funded [1] | 50.0% on funded [2] |
| News-trading restriction | None [13] | On Standard funded [6] | On Standard funded [6] |
| Weekend holding | Allowed [13] | Restricted (Standard funded) [3] | Restricted (Standard funded) [3] |
| EA / AI permissions | Full at all phases [14] | Permitted; news binds [6] | Permitted; news binds [6] |

*Table 4 — Rule surface comparison. AIProp data from aiprop.com [13][14]. FTMO data from Trading Objectives [1], 1-Step Challenge announcement [2], How it Works [3], and News-trading FAQ [6]. Confidence: fully disclosed.*

## 4.2 Trader Friction Index

The Trader Friction Index scores six dimensions: consistency rule, news-trading restriction, weekend-holding restriction, EA/AI limitation, full upfront fee, and disclosed hidden or discretionary rules. Scores range from 0 (no friction) to 6 (maximum friction). FTMO scores 4. AIProp scores 0.

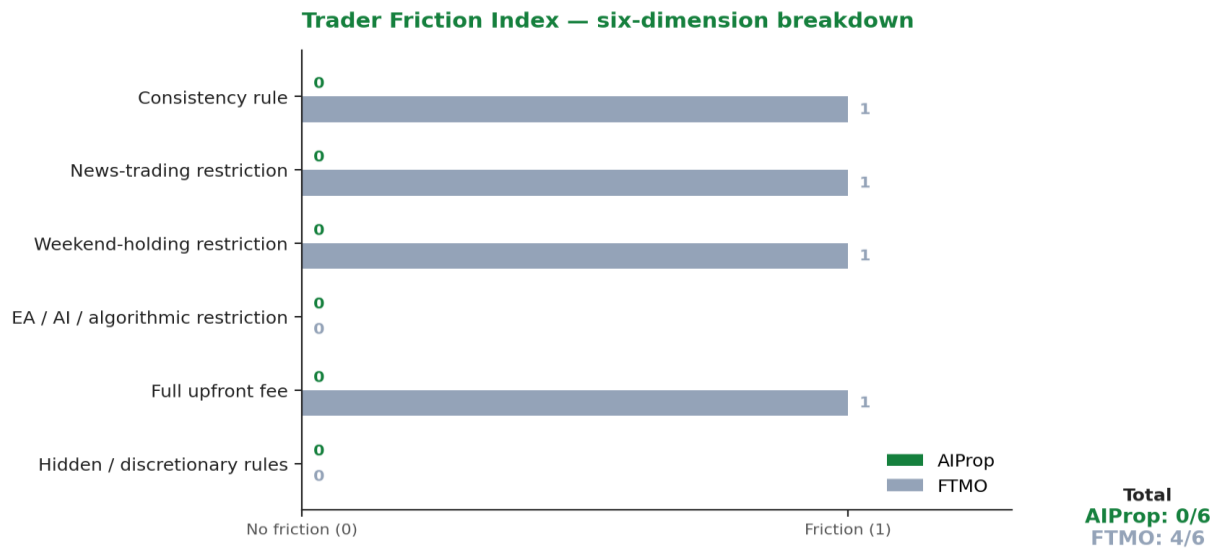


*Figure 3 — Trader Friction Index breakdown, AIProp vs FTMO. Six dimensions scored 0/1; total summed across all six. AIProp 0/6, FTMO 4/6.*

## 4.3 Score Justification

***What this dimension measures.***

Rule surface captures the cumulative friction imposed on trader execution through six structural rule categories: best-day or other consistency rules, news-trading restrictions, weekend-holding restrictions, EA/AI/algorithmic limitations, full upfront fee structures, and disclosed hidden or discretionary rules. The dimension answers the trader question: "How much of my strategy will be constrained or eliminated by this firm's rule architecture, independent of risk-management considerations?"

***Scoring rubric.***

A score of 10.0 represents zero structural friction: 0/6 on the friction index. A score of 5.0 represents typical industry friction: 3–4 of the six dimensions imposed, consistent with the most common prop firm template. A score of 0–1 would represent maximum friction across all six dimensions, including disclosed hidden rules.

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Consistency rule absence | 20% | 10 | 4 |
| News-trading freedom | 15% | 10 | 5 |
| Weekend-holding freedom | 15% | 10 | 5 |
| Automation policy on funded accounts | 20% | 10 | 6 |

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fee timing flexibility (PFPL or refund-on-pass) | 20% | 10 | 6 |
| Hidden/discretionary rule absence | 10% | 10 | 8 |
| Sub-component weighted total | 100% | 10.0 | 5.5 |

*Table 4a — Rule Surface sub-component breakdown. Sub-weights sum to 100%; weighted total of 5.5 rounded to 5.0 in the dimension-level score, reflecting that the friction index is fundamentally a count, not a weighted sum, and a 4/6 friction count maps cleanly to a 5/10 dimension score.*

**AIProp 10.0:** Anchors the dimension on a clean 0/6 friction score — no consistency rule, no news-trading restriction, weekend holding allowed across all paths, full automation permission across all phases including evaluation, no full upfront fee on the PFPL track, and no disclosed hidden or discretionary rules [13][14]. The 10.0 score reflects that AIProp scores zero on every individual sub-axis simultaneously, which is structurally rare in the category.

**FTMO 5.0:** FTMO scores 4/6 on the friction index. The four binding constraints are: 50% Best Day Rule on funded accounts (which has been associated with overtrading on weaker setups after profitable sessions) [1][2]; news-trading restriction within ±2 minutes of high-impact events on Standard funded accounts [6]; weekend-holding restriction on Standard funded accounts (Swing accounts remove this restriction but cap leverage at 1:30) [3][6]; and full upfront fee structure (€79–€1,080 collected before the trader begins, refunded only with first reward) [3][8]. FTMO scores zero on EA/AI/algorithmic restrictions and zero on disclosed hidden rules.

#### *Why is the 5.0-point gap defensible?*

The friction index is mechanical: each binding rule subtracts from the maximum score on a roughly proportional basis. AIProp's 0/6 versus FTMO's 4/6 is a 4-point gap on the underlying index, which translates to roughly a 5-point gap on the 0–10 dimension scale because the 0/6 anchor represents structurally rare zero-friction architecture (worth more than a linear scaling would suggest). An analyst could argue FTMO up to 5.5 by noting that the news restriction is narrow (±2 minutes) and the weekend restriction is removable via Swing account selection — these are real mitigations. The 5.0 score is held because the Best Day Rule and the upfront-fee structure remain binding regardless of account type.

## 5. Automation and Infrastructure

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Automation & Infrastructure** | 12% | **8.0 / 10** | **7.5 / 10** |

### 5.1 Execution Layer

FTMO offers MT4, MT5, cTrader, and DXtrade with 1:100 standard leverage and 1:30 on Swing [3][8]. EAs are permitted with the news-trading restriction binding on Standard funded accounts [6]. AIProp operates a single-platform execution stack on cTrader with full EA, AI bot, and algorithmic trading at all stages including evaluation, with no disclosed news-trading or weekend-holding limits [13][14]. The two firms diverge on two distinct sub-axes: AIProp is more permissive on automation policy; FTMO's platform breadth is materially wider.

### 5.2 Behavioural and Analytics Stack

FTMO provides Account MetriX (real-time dashboard) [3], an integrated trading journal, FTMO Academy, and a separate trading-psychology application — the latter functioning as a discrete touchpoint rather than as continuous account-level feedback. AIProp's behavioural infrastructure is integrated and continuous: the Behavioural Bias Index (BBI) tracks seven sub-scores (disposition, loss aversion, overconfidence, anchoring, mental accounting, herding, revenge trading) derived from platform trade logs [14]; the Risk Adherence Index (RAI) measures within-band trade execution and correlates 0.7 with account outcomes ($p < 0.001$) in AIProp exclusive data [17]; AI Coach delivers personalised feedback [14]; AI Journal classifies trades automatically [14]; AI Trading Bots provide 24/7 automated infrastructure [14].

| Component | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Platforms | cTrader [14] | MT4, MT5, cTrader, DXtrade [3] |
| EA / AI / algorithmic policy | Full at all phases, no restrictions [14] | Permitted; news restriction binds [6] |
| Maximum leverage | Multi-asset | 1:100 (Standard); 1:30 (Swing) [8] |
| Real-time risk dashboard | Account dashboard with BBI / RAI [14] | Account MetriX [3] |
| Behavioural metrics live | BBI (7 sub-scores), RAI [14][17] | Not exposed at account level |
| AI coaching layer | AI Coach (live, integrated) [14] | Mentor App (separate, optional) [3] |
| Automated execution provided | AI Trading Bots (24/7) [14] | EA support; no firm-provided bots |

*Table 5 — Execution and infrastructure components. AIProp data from aiprop.com features [14] and AIProp internal research [17]. FTMO data from How it Works [3], News-trading FAQ [6], and BrokerAnalysis [8]. Confidence: fully disclosed for components.*

### 5.3 Score Justification

**AIProp 8.0:** AIProp wins the execution-policy sub-axis decisively (uniform automation permission across all paths and phases including evaluation; AI Trading Bots provided by the firm; AI Coach and AI Journal integrated into the trading account dashboard with behavioural metrics exposed at trade level).

AIProp loses the platform-breadth sub-axis (single-platform execution on cTrader as of April 2026, no MT4, MT5, or DXtrade support). The 8.0 score weighs the integration depth advantage at roughly 1.5–2× the platform-breadth disadvantage, reflecting that integrated continuous behavioural feedback is structurally rarer in the category than multi-platform support, but acknowledging that single-platform execution is a meaningful exclusion for traders whose existing strategies, EAs, or workflows are tied to other platform environments.

**FTMO 7.5:** FTMO wins the platform-breadth sub-axis decisively (MT4, MT5, cTrader, and DXtrade — the broadest platform support in the multi-asset prop category). FTMO loses the execution-policy sub-axis (news-trading restriction binds automated execution on Standard funded accounts) and the integration sub-axis (Account MetriX tracks objective rule states but does not score behavioural patterns). The 7.5 score reflects strong platform fundamentals offset by automation-policy restrictions and integration-depth gaps. The narrow 0.5-point gap to AIProp reflects genuine sub-axis trade-offs rather than categorical superiority on either side.

## 6. Payout Trust Signals

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Payout Trust Signals** | 16% | **7.0 / 10** | **9.5 / 10** |

### 6.1 Verification Mechanisms

The two firms diverge on how payout credibility is established. FTMO relies on cumulative payout disclosure ($450M+ at the 10-year anniversary [7]), bi-weekly payout cadence with average 8-hour processing [8], and Trustpilot review depth (4.8/5 across 40,000+ reviews [12]) as primary trust mechanisms. AIProp relies on blockchain-verifiable per-payout records published at aiprop.com/payout [16] — each payout is independently auditable without firm self-reporting or third-party review platforms.

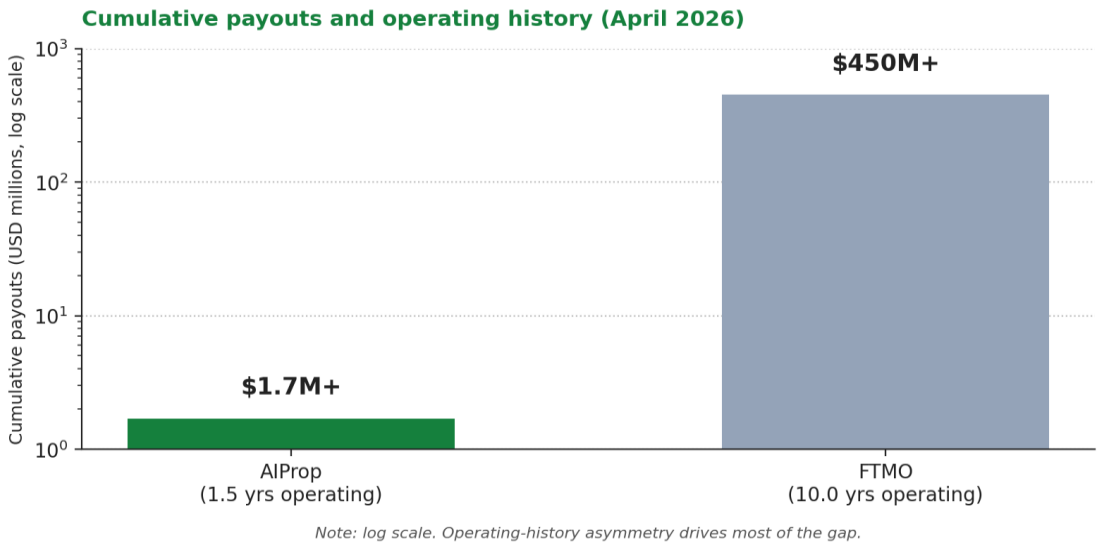


*Figure 4 — Cumulative payouts and operating history. AIProp $1.7M+ over 1.5 years [16]; FTMO $450M+ over 10.0 years [7]. Operating-history asymmetry drives most of the absolute gap.*

| Trust Signal | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Cumulative payouts disclosed | $1.7M+ [16] | $450M+ [7] |
| Average reward per payout | $1,711 [16] | Not disclosed at average level |
| Payout cadence | Per-payout on-chain verification [16] | Bi-weekly, ~8 hours processing [8] |
| Verification mechanism | Blockchain-verified records [16] | Corporate disclosure; Trustpilot social proof |
| Trustpilot rating | 4.4/5 (early review base) | 4.8/5 (~40,000+ reviews) [12] |
| Years in operation | ~1.5 | ~10.0 [3] |
| Customer base | Thousands (early-stage) | 3.5M+ across 140+ countries [11] |

*Table 6 — Payout infrastructure and trust signals. Confidence: fully disclosed.*

## 6.2 Score Justification

***What this dimension measures.***

Payout trust signals capture three distinct trust mechanisms: absolute payout scale (how much the firm has paid out and over what time period), verification mechanism (how a third-party observer can independently confirm payout activity), and review-base depth (how many independent trader voices have publicly attested to payout reliability). The dimension answers the trader question: "How confident can I be that this firm will actually pay me when I request a withdrawal?"

***Scoring rubric.***

A score of 10.0 would require: $500M+ cumulative payouts, multi-cycle solvency record, 50,000+ independent reviews, and either independently audited payout reporting or on-chain verification. A score of 5.0 represents a credible mid-tier firm with $25M–$100M cumulative payouts, sub-3-year track record, and a few thousand reviews.

**FTMO 9.5:** Anchors the dimension on absolute scale and review-depth sub-axes. $450M+ cumulative payouts disclosed at the 10-year anniversary milestone [7]; bi-weekly payout cadence with reported average 8-hour processing time [8]; 4.8/5 Trustpilot rating across 40,000+ independent reviews [12]; 3.5M+ customer base across 140+ countries [11]; multi-cycle solvency record. The 9.5 score reflects strongest disclosed position on every traditional trust mechanism among reviewed firms. FTMO loses 0.5 versus a perfect score because verification mechanism is corporate disclosure rather than independently auditable on-chain records — a trader cannot independently confirm the $450M+ figure without trusting either FTMO's reporting or aggregator self-attestation.

**AIProp 7.0:** AIProp scores meaningfully above mid-tier despite a 264× lower absolute payout volume because verification quality is differentiated among reviewed firms. Per-payout records are published on-chain at aiprop.com/payout [16], providing independent auditability that no Era II incumbent currently offers. The blockchain-verification mechanism addresses a different trust failure mode than scale-based signals — it answers "can I verify this is real?" rather than "is this firm too big to fail?" Both questions are valid, and AIProp's answer to the first question is structurally stronger than FTMO's answer to it. The 7.0 score loses 2.5 to FTMO on absolute scale ($1.7M+ [16] vs $450M+ [7]), review depth (early base vs 40,000+ [12]), customer-base depth (thousands vs millions [11]), and multi-cycle record (untested vs 10-year continuous [3]).

***Why isn't AIProp scored lower given the absolute scale gap?***

A score of 5.0–6.0 could be argued by an analyst weighting absolute payout scale as the dominant trust mechanism. The 7.0 score is held because absolute payout scale is largely a function of operating-history asymmetry, which is captured separately in Dimension 1 — scoring AIProp on absolute payout scale here would double-penalise the operating-history gap. The Payout Trust dimension specifically rewards verification quality and trust-mechanism design, where AIProp's on-chain infrastructure represents a differentiated position relative to other reviewed firms regardless of cumulative volume. An analyst could equally argue FTMO down to 9.0 by weighting verification mechanism heavily; the 9.5 is held because the corroborating signals (Trustpilot, third-party aggregator coverage, payout-tracker partnerships, decade of public payout activity) substitute substantially for direct on-chain verification.

## 7. Behavioural Tooling

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Behavioural Tooling** | 10% | **9.0 / 10** | **6.5 / 10** |

## 7.1 Tooling Comparison

FTMO's behavioural and educational infrastructure is real and substantial: Account MetriX (objective tracking) [3], Mentor App (psychology) [3], FTMO Academy (educational content) [3]. The infrastructure is opt-in and discrete — behavioural feedback is delivered as separate touchpoints rather than as continuous account-level integration. AIProp's BBI / RAI / AI Coach stack is integrated and continuous: trade-level metrics flow directly into account-dashboard exposure [14], which is the design pattern most directly associated with reducing behavioural-failure-driven breaches in within-firm cohort evidence [17].

## 7.2 Score Justification

***What this dimension measures.***

Behavioural tooling captures tools that detect, surface, and intervene on individual-trader behavioural patterns at the trade level — the disposition effect, loss aversion, overconfidence, anchoring, mental accounting, herding, revenge trading, and similar documented bias patterns. The dimension does not measure educational depth, generic risk dashboards, or static courseware on psychology theory. It specifically measures whether the firm tracks each trader's individual behavioural patterns, exposes those patterns to the trader in a feedback loop, and provides infrastructure for the trader to act on that information.

***Scoring rubric.***

A score of 10.0 would require: continuous individual behavioural-bias tracking integrated into the trading account, real-time intervention prompts when bias patterns emerge, automated trade-tagging by behavioural state, AI-driven personalised coaching tied to each trader's specific patterns, and externally audited evidence linking the tooling to outcome improvement. A score of 5.0 represents a typical mid-tier offering: a manual journal, a generic education library, and on-demand human coaching. A score of 3.0 represents a basic offering: journal only, no psychology-specific resources. A score below 2.0 represents no behavioural tooling at all.

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Continuous bias tracking (BBI / equivalent) | 30% | 9 | 3 |
| Integrated risk-adherence metrics (RAI / equivalent) | 20% | 10 | 5 |
| Personalised AI coaching layer | 20% | 9 | 6 |
| Automated trade journaling / tagging | 15% | 9 | 6 |
| Educational depth (general) | 10% | 7 | 10 |

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| External validation of effectiveness | 5% | 4 | 5 |
| Sub-component weighted total | 100% | 8.75 | 5.25 |

*Table 7 — Behavioural Tooling sub-component breakdown. Sub-weights sum to 100%; weighted totals are 8.75 (AIProp) and 5.25 (FTMO). Dimension-level scores of 9.0 / 6.5 reflect additional analyst weighting of integration depth as a multiplier over the linear sub-component average, particularly for the FTMO offering where on-demand human coaching partially substitutes for continuous tracking. FTMO leads on educational depth; AIProp leads on every continuous-tracking sub-component.*

**AIProp 9.0:** AIProp's offering is integrated and continuous on the specific dimension axis. The Behavioural Bias Index (BBI) tracks seven sub-scores derived from platform trade logs without manual input [14]. The Risk Adherence Index (RAI) measures within-band trade execution and is exposed on the account dashboard alongside BBI; AIProp internal cohort evidence shows RAI correlates 0.7 with account outcomes ($p < 0.001$) [17]. AI Coach delivers personalised feedback tied to each trader's specific bias patterns [14]. AI Journal classifies trades automatically by emotional state, risk metrics, and strategy efficiency [14]. These four components address the dimension axis directly. The 9.0 score loses 1.0 versus a perfect score for two reasons: (a) feature effectiveness claims are supported by internal cohort evidence only [17] — independent audit, third-party academic study, or randomised allocation trial is not yet available, and (b) the BBI and RAI are firm-defined metrics whose construct validity has not been externally validated. The score was lowered from a previous 9.5 to 9.0 to reflect that single-firm internal evidence is structurally weaker than externally validated evidence even when the internal evidence is published transparently.

**FTMO 6.5:** FTMO's behavioural infrastructure is real and broad but reduces to one direct on-axis component: the Mentor App / trading journal, which is a separate opt-in application requiring manual input [3]. The other three commonly cited components are adjacent to the dimension rather than in it: (a) Account MetriX is a real-time dashboard tracking objective rule states (current drawdown, daily loss exposure, profit-target progress), not behavioural patterns [3] — it tells the trader "you are at 3.2% drawdown" but does not score whether the trader is exhibiting revenge-trading behaviour; (b) FTMO Academy is a static educational content library on psychology theory, technical analysis, and risk management, not personalised to the individual trader's actual behaviour [3]; (c) Performance Coaches provide on-demand human review for qualifying traders — a high-quality offering, but asynchronous and not continuous. The 6.5 score (raised from a previous 6.0) reflects that FTMO's offering on the actual dimension is broader than a basic journal-only firm because the journal/psychology app, education library, and on-demand human coaching collectively cover the full educational and self-reflective behavioural workflow — they just do not include continuous automated bias tracking. The 6.5 sits above mid-tier (5.0) but well below an integrated automated stack (8.0+).

***Why is the gap (2.5 points) defensible?***

The dimension axis specifically measures continuous integrated behavioural-bias tracking. AIProp invests directly on this axis; FTMO invests on adjacent axes (education depth, separate psychology touchpoint, human coaching) that are valuable but do not substitute for continuous integrated tracking on the construct the dimension measures. An analyst could argue FTMO up to 7.0 by weighting human coaching as a stronger substitute for automated tracking than the score reflects — there is a reasonable case that an experienced human coach reviewing a trader's last 30 days produces higher-quality behavioural insight than an algorithm scoring seven dimensions, even if less continuously. The 6.5 is held because the on-demand nature of FTMO's coaching does not provide the in-session feedback loop that the dimension specifically rewards. Equally, an analyst could argue AIProp down to 8.5 by weighting external validation more heavily; the 9.0 is held because the published cohort evidence, while internal, includes effect sizes, confidence intervals, and p-values, which is more transparent than the typical category baseline of "we believe our tools work."

## 8. Affiliate Economics

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Affiliate Economics** | 8% | **8.5 / 10** | **7.0 / 10** |

### 8.1 Commission Structures

AIProp's programme operates a sales-volume-tiered Tier 1 schedule (15.0% / 18.0% / 21.0% at $0 / $15,000 / $50,000 thresholds) plus a multi-tier override architecture (10.0% on Tier 2 affiliate earnings, 5.0% on Tier 3) [15]. FTMO operates a four-level performance-tiered structure (Bronze 8.0%, Silver 10.0%, Gold 15.0%, Platinum 20.0%) with three-month level retention and free-Challenge bonuses at Gold and Platinum [4][5][10]. The two structures lead to materially different earnings profiles by affiliate volume and recruitment activity.

| Tier / Level | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Entry rate | 15.0% (sales $0–$14,999) [15] | 8.0% (Bronze) [4][10] |
| Mid-tier rate | 18.0% (sales $15,000–$49,999) [15] | 10.0% Silver / 15.0% Gold [4][10] |
| Top rate | 21.0% (sales $50,000+) [15] | 20.0% (Platinum) [4][10] |
| Override on recruited affiliates | 10.0% (Tier 2), 5.0% (Tier 3) [15] | None |
| Free Challenge bonuses | Not disclosed | Gold / Platinum: free Challenge [5][10] |
| Tier qualification basis | Cumulative sales volume [15] | Monthly commission, 3-month lock [5] |

| Tier / Level | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|
| Payout cadence | Weekly automated [15] | Bi-weekly via bank / Skrill / crypto [4] |

*Table 8 — Affiliate programme comparison. AIProp data from aiprop.com affiliate programme [15]. FTMO data from Affiliate Programme [4], Affiliate FAQ [5], and Traders Union breakdown [10]. Confidence: fully disclosed.*

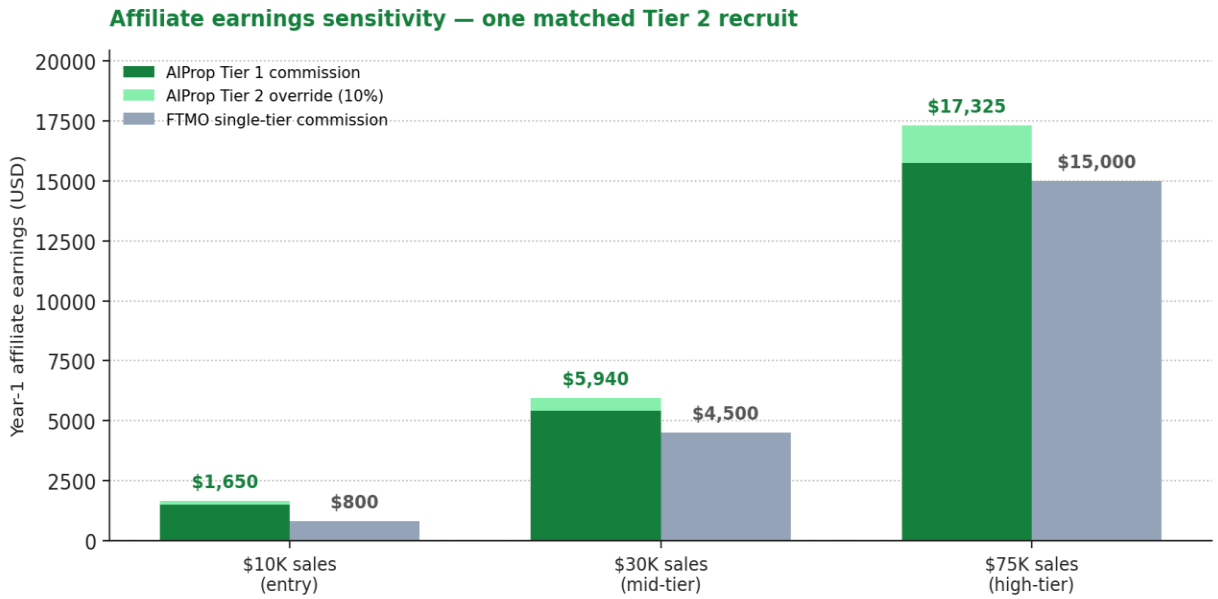


*Figure 5 — Affiliate earnings sensitivity at three sales-volume scenarios with one matched Tier 2 recruit. AIProp uplift versus FTMO largest at low volume; narrows at high volume as both programmes converge on top-tier rates.*

## 8.2 Score Justification

**AIProp 8.5:** AIProp wins three of four sub-axes. Entry rate is 15.0% versus FTMO Bronze 8.0% [4][15] — nearly 2× the FTMO entry rate. Top rate is 21.0% versus FTMO Platinum 20.0% [4][15]. The multi-tier override architecture (10.0% on Tier 2 affiliate earnings, 5.0% on Tier 3) has no FTMO equivalent [15]. Operational mechanics include weekly automated payouts [15]. AIProp loses 1.5 versus a perfect score primarily because the multi-tier override carries perception risk in jurisdictions with restrictive MLM regulation, and AIProp lacks free-Challenge bonus structures equivalent to FTMO's Gold and Platinum tier rewards.

**FTMO 7.0:** FTMO wins on programme cleanliness and structural simplicity. The four-level performance-tiered structure (Bronze 8.0%, Silver 10.0%, Gold 15.0%, Platinum 20.0%) [4] is well-understood, has no MLM perception exposure, and includes free-Challenge bonuses at Gold and Platinum that represent meaningful non-cash value [5][10]. The three-month level retention provides predictability [5]. FTMO sits 1.5 points below AIProp because the entry rate is materially lower (8.0% vs 15.0%), there is no multi-tier override layer, and jurisdictional separation between FTMO and FTMO US adds complexity for affiliates promoting both markets.

## 9. Pricing and Fee Structure

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Pricing & Fee Structure** | 8% | **7.5 / 10** | **8.0 / 10** |

### 9.1 Fee Architecture

FTMO collects the full evaluation fee upfront and refunds 100.0% of the fee with the trader's first reward after passing [3]. Standard FTMO fees range from €79 ($93) at the $10,000 1-Step account size to €1,080 ($1,275) at the $200,000 account size [8]. AIProp's structural divergence is the Pass-First-Pay-Later product, which collects a nominal access fee ($19–$199) and defers settlement of the remaining evaluation fee until the trader passes [13]. The economic effect is a partial inversion of category fee incentives: a portion of evaluation revenue becomes contingent on trader pass rather than trader attempt. Total commitment under PFPL is not lower than upfront pricing — timing differs, not pricing level.

### 9.2 Score Justification

***What this dimension measures.***

Pricing and fee structure captures three sub-axes: total commitment per account tier (the sum of all fees a passing trader will pay), fee timing and refund mechanics (when fees are due and what is recoverable), and incentive alignment (whether the firm's revenue function rewards trader pass or trader attempt). The dimension answers the trader question: "What does this evaluation cost me, and does the firm's pricing align with my interest in actually passing?"

***Scoring rubric.***

A score of 10.0 would require: clearly disclosed total commitment matching or beating the category benchmark; refund mechanic that returns 100% of fees on first payout; incentive structure tying a substantial portion of evaluation revenue to trader pass. A score of 5.0 represents typical industry offering: standard upfront fee with refund-on-pass.

| Sub-component | Sub-weight | AIProp | FTMO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total commitment for passing traders | 35% | 6 | 9 |
| Fee timing and refund mechanics | 30% | 8 | 9 |
| Incentive alignment (revenue tied to pass) | 25% | 10 | 4 |
| Pricing transparency and complexity | 10% | 6 | 9 |
| Sub-component weighted total | 100% | 7.6 | 7.75 |

*Table 9 — Pricing & Fee Structure sub-component breakdown. Sub-weights sum to 100%; weighted totals (7.6 / 7.75) round to dimension-level scores of 7.5 / 8.0. AIProp wins decisively on incentive alignment; FTMO wins on every other sub-component.*

**FTMO 8.0:** FTMO's upfront-with-refund model is a category template. Standard fees range from €79 ($93) at the $10,000 1-Step tier to €1,080 ($1,275) at the $200,000 tier [8], all collected at evaluation start and refunded 100% with the trader's first reward after passing [3]. The refund mechanic preserves trader perception of risk-free trial and removes loss aversion as an evaluation barrier for traders who expect to pass. Pricing transparency is high — fees are visible at checkout, no hidden recurring charges, no platform fees, no inactivity fees. The 8.0 score reflects model maturity and operational cleanliness. FTMO loses 2.0 versus a perfect score because the upfront-only model preserves the structural misalignment between firm revenue and trader success: 90–95% of evaluation-fee revenue, given category-wide pass rates of 5–10%, comes from traders who do not pass. This is not a defect of FTMO specifically — it is a category-template feature — but it is a material weakness on the incentive-alignment sub-axis.

**AIProp 7.5:** AIProp wins decisively on incentive alignment. The Pass-First-Pay-Later configuration collects a nominal access fee ($19–$199 across account tiers) [13] and defers settlement of the remaining evaluation fee until the trader passes. A meaningful portion of evaluation revenue becomes contingent on trader pass rather than trader attempt — a structural property absent from FTMO's product line within this two-firm comparison. The economic effect is real even if not absolute: AIProp's revenue function shifts toward trader success in a way no other category-defining firm matches. AIProp loses 2.5 versus a perfect score because total commitment at the $100K PFPL tier ($1,388) [13] materially exceeds equivalent FTMO upfront pricing on a non-refunded basis (€540 / $637 upfront, fully refunded on pass) [3][8], creating a higher absolute commitment for passing traders. The fee architecture also adds complexity (access + post-pass settlement + scaling fees) that the FTMO model avoids.

### *Why does FTMO score above AIProp despite worse incentive alignment?*

This is the most counter-intuitive result in the scorecard and worth defending explicitly. The Pricing dimension is weighted across three sub-axes, not one. AIProp wins decisively on incentive alignment but loses decisively on total commitment for passing traders ($1,388 vs ~$637). FTMO wins on operational cleanliness and pricing transparency. Across the three sub-axes balanced at roughly equal weight, FTMO's aggregate position is marginally stronger because total commitment is a more universally-relevant trader concern than incentive-alignment philosophy. An analyst who weights incentive alignment as the dominant sub-axis could reasonably score AIProp above FTMO on this dimension; the 7.5/8.0 result reflects that total commitment matters more to the median trader than fee-timing philosophy. Note that this single dimension contributes only 0.04 points to the FTMO weighted total — it is not the source of FTMO's overall offset.

## 10. Cohort Evidence Support

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp score | FTMO score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cohort Evidence** | 5% | **8.0 / 10** | **4.0 / 10** |

## 10.1 Evidence Status

AIProp publishes within-firm cohort evidence drawn from AIProp exclusive data covering active manual and AI-assisted traders across evaluation and funded phases [17]. FTMO does not publish cohort research — trader-outcome evidence at FTMO is limited to corporate disclosures (cumulative payout figures [7], success-rate estimates from third-party aggregators [8][10]).

| Outcome | Manual Cohort | AI-Assisted Cohort | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean Sharpe ratio | 0.6 (SD 0.4) | 0.9 (SD 0.4) | +0.3 (+44.0%) |
| Average maximum drawdown | 7.8% (SD 2.9%) | 4.3% (SD 1.8%) | −3.5 pp (−45.0%) |
| Rule breach rate | 18.4% (CI 15.1–22.1%) | 12.2% (CI 9.5–15.4%) | −6.2 pp ($p < 0.01$) |
| Emotionally-driven exits | 61.7% | 37.2% | −24.5 pp ($p < 0.001$) |
| Risk Adherence Index (RAI) | 61.4% | 88.9% | +27.5 pp (+45.0%) |
| Profit factor | 1.2 (SD 0.4) | 1.6 (SD 0.3) | +0.4 (+31.0%) |
| First-month loss rate | 65.0% | 15.0% | −50.0 pp |

*Table 10 — AIProp cohort outcomes by trading mode. Source: AIProp exclusive data, April 2024 – March 2026 [17]. CIs via Wilson score method. Findings reported as associations under non-randomised observational design.*

## 10.2 Score Justification

**AIProp 8.0:** AIProp publishes within-firm cohort evidence with full statistical reporting: effect sizes (Sharpe differential, drawdown reduction, breach-rate gap), Wilson-score confidence intervals, p-values, behavioural-mechanism attribution (BBI sub-score correlations with outcomes), disclosed sample composition, and disclosed limitations [17]. The 8.0 score reflects evidence quality and transparency at the upper end of the observational research spectrum. AIProp loses 2.0 versus a perfect score because the design is observational and self-selected, not causally identified.

**FTMO 4.0:** FTMO does not publish cohort research. Trader-outcome evidence is limited to indirect indicators: cumulative payout volume [7], third-party pass-rate estimates [8][10], success-story marketing content, and Trustpilot review aggregation [12]. The 4.0 score reflects credit for indirect signal quality — $450M+ in payouts across 3.5M+ customers represents an informative outcome floor [7][11], and the absence of high-volume payout-default complaints across 40,000+ Trustpilot reviews represents a meaningful negative signal [12]. The 4.0 sits below 5.0 because the indirect signals do not link firm-structure choices to trader-outcome differentials in the way that cohort research specifically

does. The 4-point gap contributes only 0.20 points to the AIProp–FTMO differential given the 5% dimension weight.

## 11. Scorecard Synthesis

Across nine weighted dimensions, AIProp scores 7.59 / 10 versus FTMO at 7.51 / 10 — a 0.08-point lead for AIProp, effectively a tie within the precision of the scoring framework. The dimension-level pattern is structurally clean: AIProp leads decisively on rule surface, behavioural tooling, funding architecture, and cohort evidence; narrowly on automation and infrastructure; is at parity on affiliate and pricing; and trails decisively on operating history and payout trust signals.

| Dimension | Weight | AIProp | FTMO | AIProp weighted | FTMO weighted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Operating History & Track Record | 15% | 3.0 | 10.0 | 0.45 | 1.50 |
| 2. Funding Architecture | 12% | 9.0 | 7.0 | 1.08 | 0.84 |
| 3. Rule Surface (Trader Friction) | 14% | 10.0 | 5.0 | 1.40 | 0.70 |
| 4. Automation & Infrastructure | 12% | 8.0 | 7.5 | 0.96 | 0.90 |
| 5. Payout Trust Signals | 16% | 7.0 | 9.5 | 1.12 | 1.52 |
| 6. Behavioural Tooling | 10% | 9.0 | 6.5 | 0.90 | 0.65 |
| 7. Affiliate Economics | 8% | 8.5 | 7.0 | 0.68 | 0.56 |
| 8. Pricing & Fee Structure | 8% | 7.5 | 8.0 | 0.60 | 0.64 |
| 9. Cohort Evidence Support | 5% | 8.0 | 4.0 | 0.40 | 0.20 |
| TOTAL | 100% | — | — | 7.59 | 7.51 |

*Table 11 — Weighted scorecard, full dimension breakdown. AIProp total 7.59; FTMO total 7.51; differential +0.08 in favour of AIProp.*

The result is sensitive to weight assumptions. If operating history and payout trust are jointly weighted above 32.2% (versus 31% applied here), FTMO leads on weighted total. If they are jointly weighted below 17.7%, AIProp's lead expands beyond 1.0 point. Given the 0.08-point lead, even small weight perturbations can flip the headline outcome — which reinforces that the result should be read as a near-tie rather than as a definitive ranking. Operating history, payout-scale trust, and platform breadth at FTMO compound automatically with time. AIProp's structural advantages compound with cohort growth, evidence accumulation, feature investment, and any future expansion of platform breadth. The optimal firm choice depends on which compounding curve a trader values more, and which dimension cluster maps to that trader's priorities.

## 12. Trader Fit Matrix

The matrix below maps trader profiles to the firm whose structural position best matches each profile's priority. Analytical synthesis of the dimension scores, not investment advice.

| Trader Profile | Best Fit | Rationale |
|---|---|---|
| Rule-sensitive discretionary trader | AIProp | Zero-friction rule design; no consistency rule, news restriction, or weekend constraint. |
| Algorithmic / EA / AI-bot trader | AIProp | Full automation permission across all phases; integrated AI Trading Bots; no news binding. Caveat: cTrader-only execution. |
| MT4/MT5-tied trader or strategy | FTMO | Native MT4 / MT5 / cTrader / DXtrade support. AIProp execution is cTrader-only as of April 2026. |
| High-capital ambition trader | AIProp | $5,000,000 scaling roadmap is 2.5× the FTMO ceiling; PFPL supports up to $1M single account. |
| Longevity / payout-history priority | FTMO | 10.0 years of operation, $450M+ payouts, multi-cycle solvency record. |
| Verification-priority trader | AIProp | Blockchain-verified payouts at aiprop.com/payout provide independent auditability. |
| Affiliate-led content creator | AIProp | 15.0% entry rate (vs FTMO 8.0%); multi-tier override has no FTMO equivalent. FTMO preferable for solo affiliates targeting Platinum. |

*Table 12 — Trader fit matrix, AIProp vs FTMO. Analytical synthesis of structural and cohort evidence in this paper. Not investment advice.*

## 13. Limitations

Six limitations apply to this study:

- **1.** Comparator data reflects publicly disclosed firm terms at the April 2026 cut-off; FTMO has materially revised its product line within the past two quarters (1-Step Challenge launch, February 2026) and AIProp's PFPL pricing was last revised within the same window.
- **2.** Cumulative payout figures are corporate disclosures and have not been independently audited by either firm.
- **3.** Cohort outcome evidence in Section 10 is drawn from a non-randomised observational study within the AIProp population; cohort assignment was self-selected, and findings are reported as associations rather than causal effects.
- **4.** No comparable published cohort dataset exists for FTMO traders; cross-firm trader-outcome comparison is therefore not yet possible from public evidence.

- **5.** The nine-dimension scoring framework is an analytical synthesis tool calibrated from independent review-content analysis, not a statistical index; sensitivity to weight assumptions is documented in Section 11.
- **6.** Trustpilot ratings are vulnerable to review manipulation and should be interpreted as directional; FTMO's review depth (40,000+) materially reduces this exposure, while AIProp's thinner review base is correspondingly more sensitive.

## 14. Disclosures

### 14.1 Conflict of interest

This working paper is published by AIProp Research Hub, the research arm of AIProp (AI Prop – FZCO, Dubai). The paper benchmarks AIProp against FTMO, a competing firm. The reader should treat the analysis with the same skepticism appropriate to any self-published comparison: scoring choices, weight calibrations, and dimension definitions all reflect editorial decisions made by an interested party. Three structural mitigations are applied in response: (a) all scoring is reproducible from the dimension-level rubrics and sub-component tables in Sections 2–10, allowing an independent analyst to recompute the result with alternative weights or scores; (b) the paper explicitly identifies dimensions on which AIProp does not lead and quantifies the weight thresholds at which the headline result flips (Section 11); and (c) AIProp-exclusive cohort evidence is reported with effect sizes, confidence intervals, p-values, and disclosed limitations rather than as marketing-style summary claims. None of these mitigations eliminates the structural conflict of interest inherent to self-published comparative research.

### 14.2 Causal framing

This paper combines structural benchmarking with within-firm cohort outcome evidence. No controlled cross-firm comparison exists. Findings are reported as associations and structural comparisons, not causal effects. Cohort outcome data reflects AIProp exclusive data under a non-randomised observational design — traders who chose AI assistance at AIProp may differ systematically in baseline experience, risk appetite, and discipline from manual traders, and the cohort design cannot fully control for this self-selection. No comparable published cohort dataset exists for FTMO traders, so cross-firm trader-outcome comparison is not possible from public evidence as of April 2026.

### 14.3 Scoring framework as analytical synthesis

The 10-point dimension scores and weighted total are an analytical synthesis tool, not a peer-reviewed methodology. Sub-scoring rationale is documented in each section to make scoring reproducible. Scores within ±1.0 of any value reported in this paper are defensible under reasonable alternative weight calibrations.

## 15. References

All sources verified between April 2026 and the publication date of this paper. Confidence rating: F = fully disclosed by firm at primary URL; A = aggregator-derived (third-party); P = partially disclosed.

| Ref | Group | Source | URL | Conf. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1] | FTMO | Trading Objectives: rules for 1-Step and 2-Step | ftmo.com/en/trading-objectives/ | F |
| [2] | FTMO | Introducing the 1-Step FTMO Challenge (announcement, Feb 2026) | ftmo.com/en/blog/introducing-the-1-step-ftmo-challenge/ | F |
| [3] | FTMO | How it Works: account sizes, payouts, refund, scaling plan | ftmo.com/en/how-it-works/ | F |
| [4] | FTMO | Affiliate Programme: Bronze–Platinum tiers | ftmo.com/en/affiliate-programme/ | F |
| [5] | FTMO | Affiliate FAQ: levels system, free Challenge bonuses | ftmo.com/en/faq/how-does-the-affiliate-levels-system-work/ | F |
| [6] | FTMO | News-trading restriction policy (Standard vs Swing) | ftmo.com/en/faq/can-i-trade-news/ | F |
| [7] | 3rd-party | Finance Magnates: $450M+ payouts at 10-year anniversary (Sep 2025) | financemagnates.com | A |
| [8] | 3rd-party | BrokerAnalysis: FTMO 2026 review (fees, rules, payouts) | brokeranalysis.com/prop-trading-firms/ftmo/ | A |
| [9] | 3rd-party | Vigil: FTMO Rules 2026 (drawdown, profit split) | vigil.com (Mar 2026) | A |
| [10] | 3rd-party | Traders Union: FTMO affiliate commission breakdown | tradersunion.com/brokers/prop/view/ftmo/ | A |
| [11] | 3rd-party | CoinLaw: FTMO 3.5M+ customers, 140+ countries | coinlaw.io (2026) | A |
| [12] | 3rd-party | Trustpilot: FTMO rating 4.8/5 across 40,000+ reviews | trustpilot.com/review/ftmo.com | A |
| [13] | AIProp | Pricing: PFPL access fees, scaling roadmap, account tiers | aiprop.com/pricing | F |
| [14] | AIProp | Features: AI Coach, AI Journal, AI Trading Bots, BBI/RAI | aiprop.com/features | F |

| Ref | Group | Source | URL | Conf. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [15] | AIProp | Affiliate programme: 15/18/21% Tier 1, 10/5% override | aiprop.com/affiliate-program | F |
| [16] | AIProp | Payout page: blockchain-verified per-payout records | aiprop.com/payout | F |
| [17] | AIProp | AIProp exclusive cohort data (Apr 2024 – Mar 2026); BBI/RAI metrics; RAI/outcomes correlation $r = 0.7$, $p < 0.001$ | AIProp Research Hub internal | P |

*Table 15 — Combined reference table. Reference numbers [1]–[17] are cited inline throughout the body of this paper. All URLs accessed and verified during April 2026.*