

Which Incentive Model Is Right for Your Independent Brokerage?

An 8-dimension comparison for broker-owners choosing which model to build — not agents choosing which brokerage to join.

The key structural difference: Revenue share calculates from **gross company dollar** — before any operating expenses are deducted. Profit share calculates from **net profit** — after overhead. That one difference determines which model works at most independent brokerage stages.

GREEN = Revenue Share advantage

AMBER = Profit Share advantage

GREY = Tie

DIMENSION	REVENUE SHARE	PROFIT SHARE
Calculation Base	Gross company dollar — before any operating expenses	Net profit — after all brokerage overhead is deducted
Agent Predictability	✓ HIGH — agents calculate exactly what they earn per transaction	✗ LOW — variable; depends on brokerage profitability each period
Payout in a Slow or Unprofitable Year	✓ YES — funded from gross revenue regardless of margin	✗ NO — if brokerage doesn't profit, agents earn nothing
Overhead Sensitivity	✓ NONE — unaffected by staffing, lease, or marketing decisions	✗ HIGH — any increase in overhead directly reduces the pool
Recruiting Argument Strength	✓ STRONG — 'X% per transaction' is concrete and modelable before joining	✗ MODERATE — 'share in our profits' is harder to quantify for recruits
Implementation Complexity	✓ LOWER — referral tracking + per-transaction calc + one-page document	✗ HIGHER — requires P&L; reporting, reconciliation, financial transparency
Best-Fit Brokerage Stage	✓ ANY STAGE — self-funding from new production; works from Day 1	Established — needs consistent profitability to deliver meaningful agent income
Agent Retention Incentive	Strong — agents with revenue share income have direct financial reason to stay	Strong — agents invested in brokerage profitability also have reason to stay

VERDICT FOR MOST INDEPENDENT BROKERAGES

Revenue Share — particularly for brokerages under 100 agents, still scaling profit margin, or needing a strong external recruiting argument without exposing internal financials. Profit share is right for established brokerages with consistent multi-year profitability and a culture of financial transparency.

Model your revenue share programme economics: rightally.io/roi-calculator **Download the Revenue Share Starter Checklist:** rightally.io/revenue-share-checklist **Book a call:** rightally.io/book-a-call