

*Poised for Success Freestyle  
Titling Program*

*Tribute Division  
Guidebook*

## *Welcome to the Tribute Division!*

This special titling class is for dogs who can no longer perform in the Regular Divisions (with reasonable modification of options), or who are no longer with us.

The purpose of this Division is to give teams with dogs in these categories an opportunity to receive recognition for their accomplishments in Canine Musical Freestyle.

Teams who meet the following criteria, are eligible to participate in the Tribute Division:

- ✚ **Due to age, illness, or other circumstance, it is not in the best interest of the dog, (or, possibly, handler), to create video for submission for entry in the regular PFS Freestyle Divisions.**

For teams in this category, new video may be created, if the dog is able to participate in the creation of current video clips. In addition, **use of video that already exists is permitted**, as long as it is not from a live event whose organization prohibits such use. A mixture of both types of video is acceptable.

- ✚ **The dog is deceased.**

For teams in this category, use of video that already exists should be used, as long as it is not from a live event whose organization prohibits such use.

Dogs who are actively participating in the Regular Divisions of the Poised for Success Freestyle titling program are not (currently) eligible to participate in the Tribute Division.

Teams who have earned Regular Division Titles, but have retired from that work are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Tribute Division.

However, if the Tribute Division is appropriate for a dog, or handler, due to an injury, or other circumstance that might change in the future, and the situation later allows for participation in the Regular Divisions, the team may participate in the Tribute Division and then go back to work in the Regular Divisions.

## *A Note on the Tribute Division and Titles*

I have created this Division in order to provide a way for handlers to earn Poised for Success Freestyle titles with past Freestyle partners, and as a way for handlers to enjoy participation in the Poised For Success Titling Program with dogs who cannot take part in the Regular Titling Program due to age, injury, or other circumstance.

For those submitting video of past Freestyle partners, it is my hope that you will find joy in remembering your past experiences with your dog, and that going through and arranging past video for titling submission is a labor of love. I look forward to viewing and judging these entries.

For those submitting video of dogs who are still with you, it is my hope that you will find joy in working with your dog to create what you still can together, and in remembering your past experiences with your dog as you go through existing video to create your titling submission. I hope that participation in this Division will provide you and your dog with an opportunity for a satisfying and meaningful experience.

I realize that for some teams, I have created too many titles in this Division, and that it will not be possible to earn all of them. I have created all of these different titles to provide different teams in different circumstances with a variety of titling options.

Some handlers have a lot of past video, and they may be able to create submissions for all of the Tribute Division Titles. However, it is my hope that I have provided a way for all handlers who wish to participate in this Division to be able to earn at least one!

If you have any concerns or questions about this Division, please feel free to contact me any time at: [pfsfreestyle@gmail.com](mailto:pfsfreestyle@gmail.com)

## *General Rules and Guidelines*

We recognize that teams submitting for these titles are most likely in a circumstance where video cannot be re-shot. Therefore, some rules are subject to modification. Please contact Kristine at [pfsfreestyle@gmail.com](mailto:pfsfreestyle@gmail.com) with any questions regarding modification of criteria for these titles. Every attempt to allow substitutions will be made.

### *Food and Toys*

In the Tribute Division food and toys may be visible to the dog in video submitted for these titles. Food or toys may even be in-hand.

If video exists where food and/or toys are not visible to the dog, handlers are encouraged to choose such video wherever possible. However, training and performance videos where food or toys are visible absolutely can be submitted in the Tribute Division.

### *Music*

Use of video clips that have music playing as the dog performed is encouraged. However, this is not required.

For the Artistry Title, and the Performance Titles, music may be added to the video for submission.

For the Skills Titles, music should not be added if no music was playing in the original video. It is acceptable if there is no music in this category.

### *Moves and Behaviors*

For the Tribute Division Skills Title, any safe moves and behaviors that meet the criteria for a certain category may be submitted. Video clips from Agility, Rally, Canine Parkour, Obedience, etc. contexts may be used as entry clips for the Skills Title.

These skills can all be used, or adapted, to Freestyle in some way, so exhibition of successful performance of these skills can absolutely be considered demonstration of a "Freestyle Skill".

Video clips from non-Freestyle contexts may be used for submission for the Artistry Title, as long as they meet the criteria set forth for the title. A music overlay may be used.

For the Performance Titles, a choreographed sequence of some sort must be demonstrated. An “obedience routine” or performed demo may be submitted, but a regular numbered Agility course, Agility game, Rally course, or Obedience competition run cannot be put to music and submitted. Some aspect of individual creation by the handler must be evident in a Performance Title submission.

### *Titles*

Two categories of titles are available in the Tribute Division: **Skills Titles** and **Performance Titles**.

Unlike the regular Divisions, these titles do not form a progression. Teams who have full performance video need not complete the Skills Titles prior to entry for Performance Titles. In addition, submission for multiple titles at the same time, in any order, is allowed.

In order to enter for Skills Titles, video should be split and trimmed to demonstrate the skills designated in the guidelines for each Title. These can be compiled into a single entry video, or into a YouTube Playlist for entry.

In order to enter for Performance Titles, the full-length video of the performance should be submitted.

### *Tribute Skills Titles*

**Tribute Division-Skills Title** – PFS – TS - Choose any two of the following categories and compile a video and/or playlist which demonstrates the number of skills specified for each category. Instructions for each category are found below.

or

**Tribute Division-Skills Extraordinaire Title** – PFS – X - TS - Choose any four of the following categories and compile a video and/or playlist which demonstrates the number of skills specified for each category. Instructions for each category are found below.

-  Tricks and Moves
-  Props
-  Heelwork
-  Positional Transitions
-  Distance

## *Tribute Skills Titles - Continued*

**Artistry Title** – PFS – TA - Choose any three of the following categories and compile a video and/or playlist which demonstrates the number of skills specified for each category. Instructions for each category are found below.

or

**Artistry Extraordinaire Title** – PFS – X – TA - Choose any five of the following categories and compile a video and/or playlist which demonstrates the number of skills specified for each category. Instructions for each category are found below.

-  Move to the Beat
-  Use of Floor/Space
-  Flow
-  Props and Moves in Flow
-  Sequencing
-  Synchronized movement

## *Tribute Division Performance Titles*

For the Tribute Division Performance Titles, the handler should submit a video of a performance of movement and moves to music. This should be a continuous sequence of moves and movements, as performed in Musical Freestyle.

In this category, an Obedience run, or Rally course, or numbered Agility course is not eligible for submission.

Video may be of a polished performance, complete with performance attire. However, a practice video may be submitted.

### **Tribute Division - Short Performance Title** – PFS – T - SP

For this title, submit a 0:30 – 1:45 minute video of a Freestyle performance. (No editing, other than trimming the ends from the video and/or music overlay is permitted)

### **Tribute Division - Long Performance Title** – PFS – T - LP

For this title, submit a 1:45 – 3:00 minute video of a Freestyle performance. (No editing, other than trimming the ends from the video and/or music overlay is permitted)

### **Tribute Division - Silver Screen Title – PFS – T – SS**

For this title, submit a 1:50 – 3:00 minute edited Freestyle performance video.

Edited video may be composed of video from different performances, but video used for the Short Performance or Long Performance Title submissions may not be included in your edited performance.

### *Tribute Division Combined Titles*

### **Tribute Division – Master Performer – PFS – TMP**

Earn:

-  One Short Performance Title
-  One Long Performance Title
-  One Tribute Division Silver Screen Title

or

-  One Short Performance Title
-  Two Long Performance Titles

or

-  One Short Performance Title
-  Two Tribute Division Silver Screen Titles

### **Tribute Division – Master Performer Extraordinaire – PFS – X – TMP**

Earn:

-  One Tribute Division Master Performer Title
-  Tribute Division Skills Title \*
-  Tribute Division Artistry Title \*

\* A previously earned Regular Division PFS Overture Title may be substituted for one and a previously earned Regular Division PFS Melody Title may be substituted for both.

## Poised for Success Freestyle Titling Instructions by Category For Skills Titles

### **Skills - Tricks and Moves**

Create a video, or a video playlist, that shows your dog demonstrating any six Freestyle Ticks and/or Moves.

These need not be performed in a Freestyle context, and behaviors that are not typically considered to be “Freestyle Moves” are acceptable. For example, a Rally “Call-Front-Finish” would work.

Following are some suggestions, but possibilities are not limited to these:

- ✚ Spin
- ✚ Leg Weave
- ✚ Circle (Dog circles handler)
- ✚ Paw touch
- ✚ Paw lift
- ✚ Bow
- ✚ Sit pretty
- ✚ Scallops (Any number acceptable)
- ✚ Jump over an arm or leg, etc.
- ✚ Pivot
- ✚ Back around the handler
- ✚ Stand tall on back legs
- ✚ Dog backs away from handler as handler remains stationary

Optimally, submissions in this category should not include use of props, but tricks including props may be used if necessary.

### **Skills – Props**

Create a video, or a video playlist, that shows your dog demonstrating any six behaviors where your dog interacts in some way with a prop. “Props” need not be actual “stage props”. Use of training equipment, items found in the environment, Agility equipment, or fitness equipment are perfectly fine.

These need not be performed in a Freestyle context.

## Skills – Props (Continued)

Following are some suggestions, but possibilities are not limited to these:

- ✚ Dog places two paws on a prop
- ✚ Dog stands on a prop with all four paws
- ✚ Dog performs a trick on a prop
- ✚ Dog circles a cane or stationary prop
- ✚ Dog sends our around a prop
- ✚ Dog jumps over a prop
- ✚ Dog touches a prop with paws
- ✚ Dog performs a Figure 8 with a prop, or set of props
- ✚ Dog places two paws on a prop and pivots

## **Skills - Heelwork**

Create a video, or a video playlist, that shows your dog demonstrating any six Heelwork Skills.

These need not be performed in a Freestyle context.

Following are some suggestions, but possibilities are not limited to these:

- ✚ Dog and handler move forward together in a straight line, with dog on the left or the right
- ✚ Handler moves backward and dog moves toward the handler in a straight line, in center position
- ✚ Dog and handler move backward together, either in a straight line or curve, with dog on the left or the right
- ✚ Handler moves forward while dog moves backward, either in a straight line, or curve, with the dog in center, remaining in relative proximity to the handler as the team moves
- ✚ Team makes a big circle (big enough to be a circle, not a turn), with dog on the outside of the circle. Preferably, the team completes the circle, but if at least a half circle is completed, that is fine.
- ✚ Team makes a big circle (big enough to be a circle, not a turn), with dog on the inside of the circle. Preferably, the team completes the circle, but if at least half the circle is completed, that is fine.
- ✚ Dog and handler team move together to the left or to the right with dog moving laterally in any position
- ✚ Dog and handler team complete a 180, 270, 360, or 450 degree turn together (as performed in Rally) with the dog on the outside of the curve

- ✚ Dog and handler team complete a 180, 270, 360, or 450 degree turn together (as performed in Rally) with the dog on the inside of the curve. The dog may pivot, but this is not required

### **Skills - Positional Transitions**

Create a video, or a video playlist, that shows your dog demonstrating any six Transitions from one position to another.

Transitions can be performed with both members of the team in motion, or with handler stationary and dog moving. Only one transition may consist of the dog remaining stationary while the handler moves from one position to another.

These need not be performed in a Freestyle context, and behaviors that are not typically considered to be “Freestyle Moves” are acceptable. For example, a Rally “Call-Front-Finish” would work.

Following are some suggestions for transition moves, but possibilities are not limited to these:

- ✚ Leg weave
- ✚ Circle around handler
- ✚ Swing into a new position
- ✚ Pivot into a new position
- ✚ Switch
- ✚ Dog and handler turn toward one another
- ✚ Spin or twirl into center from heel or side
- ✚ Cut behind handler
- ✚ “Run across the toes”
- ✚ Dog remains stationary while handler moves around dog

Optimally, submissions in this category should not include use of props, but transitions including props may be used if necessary.

### **Skills - Distance**

Create a video, or a video playlist, that shows your dog demonstrating any six distance skills.

There is no minimum distance required, but there should be some obvious space between dog and handler.

## Skills – Distance (Continued)

These need not be performed in a Freestyle context, and behaviors that are not typically considered to be “Freestyle Moves” are acceptable. In addition, clips of the dog training with a target or barriers will be accepted for this category, except where indicated.

Following are some suggestions for distance skills, but possibilities are not limited to these:

- ✚ Dog moves away from handler and performs a behavior (no prop or target used) – this option can be used twice, as long as the dog performs two different behaviors
- ✚ Dog moves away from handler and places at least one paw on a target or prop
- ✚ Handler moves away from dog and dog performs a behavior (no prop or target used)
- ✚ Dog performs a behavior using a prop or target at a distance from handler – this option can be used twice, as long as the dog performs two different behaviors
- ✚ Dog backs away from handler at least 4 steps
- ✚ Dog backs away from handler and performs a behavior – this option can be used twice, as long as the dog performs two different behaviors
- ✚ Distance Spiral
- ✚ Other Distance Behavior or Skill that does not meet any of the criteria above

### **Tribute Division Titling Instructions by Category For Artistry Titles**

#### **Artistry - Move to the Beat**

Share a short video clip that shows your dog moving to the beat of two songs or pieces of music. Other moves besides forward movement may be incorporated into the video clips, but enough forward movement must be shown for movement to the beat to be evident.

For this category, it is preferred if the original audio is used for the video, but an overlay is permitted.

Recommended length of video clip: About 30 seconds

### **Artistry - Use of Floor/Space**

Share two video clips that show you and your dog moving or performing in a way that makes effective, or creative, use of your performance space. These might be floor patterns, or use of space in a way that provides contrast in a movement sequence.

The full performance space need not be used, and any size performance space is acceptable.

### **Artistry - Flow**

Share video clips that show at least two examples of flow from one movement into another, without significant pause. (It is fine if the handler pauses as dog moves, but the team should not pause in unison)

### **Artistry - Props and Moves in Flow**

Share video clips that show at least two examples of flow from a prop move or behavior into movement, or a Freestyle move, without significant pause. (It is fine if the handler pauses as dog moves, or works with the prop, but the team should not pause in unison)

### **Artistry - Sequencing**

Share video clips that show at least two examples of sequences of at least 5 different Freestyle moves and/or movements. Heelwork is considered a "movement". It is fine if a particular move or movement is repeated and the full sequence contains more than five, but five different behaviors/skills must be shown.

Some of the same moves/skills/behaviors may be used in both of the sequences, but the two sequences should be clearly different from one another.

### **Artistry - Synchronized Movement**

Share video clips that show at least two examples you and your dog moving or performing synchronized movement.

Examples of synchronized movement include: Forward or backward heelwork in a straight line or curve, simultaneous spins, dog moving backward as handler moves toward dog, both dog and handler moving laterally together. Basically, you and your dog need to be doing the same thing.

## *Tribute Division - Submission Details*

### Registration

Unless you already have a Poised for Success Freestyle Registration number for your dog, you are asked to fill out a Tribute Division Registration Form when you make your first Tribute Division submission for your dog.

There is no fee for registration for the Tribute Division, and you will not receive a registration number. Records are kept for the Tribute Division under your dog's name.

### Fees

The fee for each submission for a Tribute Division Title is \$15.00 per title.

Preferred payment method is PayPal. Please submit payment to:

[pfsfreestyle@gmail.com](mailto:pfsfreestyle@gmail.com)

If you prefer to pay by check, please contact us to request the mailing address.

At this time, credit cards can only be accepted through PayPal.

### Submission Process

Please fill out the entry form for Tribute Division. This can be found on the Poised for Success web page under the tab, "Titling in Musical Freestyle", or in the "Files" section of the Poised for Success Freestyle Facebook Group.

The form can be filled out, saved, and attached in an email, or you can copy and paste the information into the body of your email.

Send an email with the following for each of the titles for which you are submitting:

-  The links to your entry video(s) or Playlist(s)
-  Tribute Division Entry Form

If you did not before you entered, be sure submit your payment!

That's it! I look forward to seeing our submissions!

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: Do the Tribute Division titles need to be completed in any particular order?**

A: No. Tribute Division titles can be completed in any order.

**Q: Do I need to complete a Tribute Skills or Tribute Artistry Title before submitting for a Tribute Skills Extraordinaire or Artistry Extraordinaire title?**

A: No. If you have enough video, you can go ahead and submit for the Extraordinaire Title without the Skills or Artistry Title

**Q: Is there a limit to the number of Tribute Division titles a handler can submit for at one time?**

A: No, there is no limit. You could submit for all of them at once, if you wish!

**Q: Can video clips be re-used from one Tribute Division submission to another?**

A: Technically, yes. I do not want to limit a handler who may not have a great deal of video to create submissions from.

I ask that, if possible, you do not re-use video clips from one Tribute Division submission to another. I'd like to see as much of your work as possible!

However, if you need to re-use video clips in order to create multiple submissions, you are certainly most welcome to do so. No questions will be asked.

**Q: Can video clips be re-used from entries submitted for Regular Division Poised for Success Freestyle title entries?**

A: Same answer as above! I would prefer that you do not if you have other video to create clips from, but you certainly may use video from PFS Freestyle submissions if need be. Again, no questions will be asked.

**Q: Can I use video clips from live demonstrations?**

A: Yes, as long as you own the rights to the video and there are no restrictions on the use of your video.

If your performance was done for free at a public event, and the video was shot on your own camera, you can go ahead and use that video

However, if your video is from a paid performance, or was shot by a professional videographer, please secure appropriate permissions, and inform me of those permissions by email before submission.

**Q: Can I use video from video submission to other Freestyle organizations?**

A: If the organization to which you submitted allows this, it is fine. I know that the Dogs Can Dance Challenge does allow this (you own your video outright), so I can say “yes” if you submitted to the Challenge. However some others do not allow this, so please check with the organization to which you submitted your video to find out if this is permitted.

**Q: Can I use video from live performances for other Freestyle organizations?**

A: This can be permitted only if you have a statement in writing (digital is fine) from that organization, allowing permission. Or, if such permission is granted, in writing, in the official rules of the organization.

**Q: What age is considered a “senior” dog?**

A: There is no age specified for the Tribute Division titles. Different dogs weather the effects of age differently. You are welcome to use your discretion as to when you consider your dog a “senior” for eligibility for these titles.

**Have more questions?**

Please ask Kristine at: [pfsfreestyle@gmail.com](mailto:pfsfreestyle@gmail.com) or on the Poised for Success Freestyle Facebook Group!