**Criteria for Earning the Intermediate Rally-FrEe Badge**

Rally Freestyle Elements (Rally-FrEe) combines the structure of Rally Obedience with the creativity of Canine Musical Freestyle. The criteria for the Rally-FrEe badges is quite challenging because there are many behaviors the dog must learn and these behaviors must be performed on all four sides of the handler (left, right, center and behind) and in four directions (forward, backward, toward the right and toward the left). Responsiveness, precision, teamwork and apparent enjoyment of both dog and handler are essential in Rally-FrEe.

**Rally-FrEe Intermediate Badge:** This badge shows that the dog and handler understand and can perform **all of the** Intermediate Signs (#33 thru #54) adequately (score of at least a 4) and can also properly navigate off leash at least one fifteen station regulation Intermediate Course under 4 minutes earning at least 125 points. Signs #1 thru #54 may be used in the course and a minimum of 5 Intermediate signs must be included.

**Dog Requirements:** The dog must have earned the Novice Rally-FrEe Badge and must understand and be able to willingly perform each of the 22 Intermediate signs with as little luring or other help as possible. As required, the dog will be working on the handlers left and right as well as in front of and behind the handler. Subtle body cues and repeated verbal cues are allowed as long as the dog is in the act of performing. Example: Sign #29 “Walking Weave Thru x 4”, the handler may use repeated verbal cues such as “weave, weave, weave, weave” as long as the dog is continuing to perform each weave. Begging or encouraging the dog to perform with repeated cues is not acceptable performance.

**Owner Requirement:** The handler must have basic knowledge and understanding of the rules as set forth by Rally Freestyle Elements [www.rallyfree.com](http://www.rallyfree.com) and be able to navigate an Intermediate Course consisting of fifteen stations earning a score of at least 125. The handler must be able to correctly demonstrate all twenty-two signs and be able to demonstrate and/or explain how a particular sign or two (selected by the evaluator) was taught. Methods used must be positive reward based methods only.

**Equipment Needed:**

1. Ring sized 40 x 60 or one of comparable square footage (as long as it’s not too narrow).
2. Rally-FrEe signs. These signs can be found and printed off from the website [www.rallyfree.com](http://www.rallyfree.com)
3. Clips to mark what side the dog is on as the team approaches the sign & numbers for each station
4. Music system and music. The handler may provide their own music or music can be provided. The handler may decline the use of music.
5. Respectful, festive attire and fancy collars (not required but fun!!)

**Video Requirements:** In video presentation all the equipment as described should be the same. The videographer should be in a position that would provide the evaluator with a clear view of both the dog and the handler. Performance at each station should be visible as well as the movement between stations. The video/judging should continue until after the team has performed Sign #32 (Bow) and has moved past the station, at which time the course will be considered completed. The handler will be given a choice between pre-designed courses, or may submit for approval a course they have designed. The handler must also submit a video showing the performance of all of the Intermediate Signs as listed on the check-off sheet that were not included in the course or not properly performed within the course (or courses).

**Not Allowed:**

1. Food and/or toy reinforcement on the handler or in ring while performing the course
2. Correction based collars (chain, pinch, choke)
3. Head collars/head halters/front attach harnesses (considered to be a training aid)
4. Leash or collar reprimands

**Allowed:**

1. Respectful festive attire and/or dog collars
2. Plenty of verbal praise and encouragement
3. Multiple subtle body and verbal cues as long as the dog is working willingly and not refusing a behavior
4. Flat buckle/snap collars, harnesses (leash on back ring- no martingale action) and properly fitted fabric or nylon martingale/limited slip collars with no chain

A performance longer than four minutes or earning less than a score of 125 will not qualify for the Intermediate Rally-FrEe Badge, but the handler/dog may attempt the course again after some practice of the exercises they struggled with. The dog eliminating in the ring, dog or handler leaving the ring or the performance of a FrEe Choice Sign that the evaluator views as unsafe for the dog, handler or spectator, will not qualify for the Intermediate Rally-FrEe Badge.

**Scoring:** (Same as for the Novice course)

Attempted with **deficiencies** **1-3** points

Performed **Adequate to well: 4-7** points earned
Performed **Very well to superb:** **8-10** points earned

15 stations/exercises = 1-10 points each

Over all heelwork = 1-10 points
Over all attention = 1-10 points
Over all teamwork = 1-10 points
Additional 1-5 points for the creativity and difficulty of each free choice sign

Maximum points for a course = 200

Points to qualify: 125 regular division or 100 for dogs/handlers that qualify for Alternative Div.