



Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Today's Random Little Tidbit – [A Triple Q Ribbon for Obedience? Why Not!](#)

Rally and Agility trials offer "Triple Q" ribbons (usually a fancy rosette) awarded to the team earning three (3) qualifying scores in three (3) different classes, referred to as a Triple Q win. But where is the one for Obedience? Well, there is none, **BUT** that does not mean a club cannot offer one! Obedience has a different class structure with the Regular, Alternative and Optional titling classes, all with different jump height requirements which can make it challenging compared to the Highest Combined (Open B & Utility or Preferred Open/Utility) score award. Plus, a club does not need to be faced with another burden *requiring* them to provide such a ribbon at an additional expense where a particular class may have a history of few entries. You may have noticed National clubs sometimes offer *special* ribbons/rosettes at their national shows such as Highest Scoring Champion, etc. So let's look at the Obedience Regulations and think outside the box for a moment and see how a club can offer a Triple Q ribbon/rosette in Obedience.



Chapter 1, Section 21. Ribbons and Prizes:

- *..."Prizes for which dogs in one class compete against dogs in one or more other classes at licensed or member trials or at sanctioned matches will be awarded only to dogs that earn qualifying scores. Prizes at a licensed or member obedience trial must be offered to be won outright..."
- * ..."Prizes offered only to members of certain clubs or organizations will not be approved for publication in premium lists..."
- * ..."If an award in any of the regular, preferred, or optional titling classes is cancelled, the next highest scoring dog within that class will receive that award. If there is no dog to move up, the award will be void. If the AKC cancels a dog's win, the dog's owner must return all ribbons and prizes to the show-giving club within 10 days of receiving the AKC's cancellation notice..."
- *..."Optional titling classes are not considered to be regular or preferred classes..."
- * **Read the whole section** for other details and/or options on Ribbons and Prizes.
- * Any ribbon/rosette requiring different qualifications (other than the ones listed in Chapter 1) must be spelled out in the Premium List.
- * Also, keep in mind [Chapter, 1 Section 19](#) for the wording and *minimum* size requirements.

For example, one such Triple Q rosette ribbon could be offered to the dog with the Highest Qualifying Scores in Open B, Utility and Versatility. These classes require the same minimum jump heights, if that is a concern. Or, a rosette ribbon could also be offered for Preferred Open, Preferred Utility and Versatility, keeping in mind the minimum jump heights will differ from the Preferred Classes (PO & PU) vs. Versatility, if that is a concern. Such an offering may help boost entries, especially in Versatility if it were to be offered, plus add prestige, goals and bragging rights to the winners of such awards. It is definitely worth a try with the only additional cost being the rosette ribbon, which may well be offset by additional entries in the combination of the three classes! Another option to consider might be to offer a Highest Combined Score in Graduate Novice and Graduate Open to maybe boost those entries.

In the current Obedience Regulations there is no longer, as in the past (1972), a stipulation as to the color of a special ribbon. Then such ribbons were defined as *special ribbons* and were to be green in color. It appears to me that a club may now offer such a rosette/ribbon in a different color other than solid green. Club colors would be an option to consider. If you belong to a club offering such a ribbon, be sure to advertise well before entries close.

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