

SPELLING BEE RULES

1. The County championship finals shall be an oral competition, with elimination on a “miss-and-out” basis in the traditional Spelling Bee manner.
2. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word the contestant may also pronounce the word before spelling it, after spelling it, or if she/he chooses not at all.
3. The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. **JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**
4. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in the retracing there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequences are changed in the respelling the speller will be disqualified.
5. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer’s list is given to the next contestant.
6. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer’s list, then she/he shall be declared the winner.
7. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to her/him then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer’s list, then she/he shall be declared the winner.
8. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspells the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall then continue under Rules 7 and 8.
9. Webster’s Third New International Dictionary and 1997 Addenda Section shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words. If a word has two or more accepted spellings, only the spellings set in boldface type and separated by the word or, and in some cases the word also, at the beginning of the descriptive manner will be accepted as correct. Words having the labels archaic and

obsolete (abbreviated obs) and regional labels (like North, Midland, South, Brit(ish), and Irish) will not be accepted as correct.

10. Contestants can protest a decision until it is her/his turn again.
11. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision is final on all questions.
12. Contestants are the only ones who can lodge a protest or raise an objection – members of the audience are not permitted to address the pronouncer or the judges during the contest.
13. Homonyms will be accepted unless the speller asks for and receives a definition from the pronouncer or the judges.
14. When spelling, face the pronouncer and the judges.