

Spelling Bee Contest Rules

Please review carefully. Be sure that your spelling bee contestants understand these rules before they attend the district spelldown.

1. Words used during the district competition will be randomly selected from the list of high-frequency writing words in Rebecca Sitton's Spelling Sourcebook. In the event that this list is depleted, words will then be taken from the current fifth grade Houghton Mifflin spelling book.
2. During the competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant may also pronounce the word before spelling it, after spelling it, or, if he/she chooses, not at all.
3. The contestant may request the pronouncer to repronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests 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 retracing there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
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 the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant 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 him/her, 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 he/she shall be declared the winner.
8. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall continue under rules 6 and 7.
9. Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making a protest is before the contestant affected would have received his/her next word had se/she stayed in the contest. No protest will be entertained after that word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, that is, before the second speller has started to spell the word given to him/her, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience.
10. The judges are in complete control of the bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.