

SPELLING BEE RULES

1. When it is your turn:

- State the word
- Spell the word
- Repeat the word (Repeating the word indicates that the speller has completed his/her turn)

2. Reasons to be disqualified:

- If you refuse to start spelling
- If you do not approach the microphone
- If you engage in unsportsmanlike conduct
- If you utter unintelligible or nonsense sounds in the process of spelling. **Speak Clearly!**

Note: Spellers will **not** be disqualified for failing to note the capitalization of a word or the inclusion of accent marks hyphens or spaces in a word.

3. Speller's Role:

- Speak each letter clearly and loudly enough to be understood by the judges and the pronouncer.
- You may ask the pronouncer to:
 - Say the word again
 - Define the word
 - Use the word in a sentence
 - Provide the language of origin
 - Provide an alternate pronunciation(s)
- It **will be** acceptable for a speller to begin spelling a word, stop, ask the pronouncer to start over and then change the letters from those first spoken **ONLY** if said speller has not repeated the word after spelling it. By repeating a word after having spelled it, a speller indicates that he/she is completely done with his/her turn.
- Example: A speller repeats the word he/she is given, spells the word, but then asks to start over. This speller would be allowed to start over because he/she did not repeat the word after spelling it initially.
- Example: A speller repeats the word he/she is given, spells the word, repeats the word and then asks to start over. This speller would not be allowed to start over because he/she repeated the word after spelling it thereby indicating that his/her turn was complete.
- Example: A speller is given the word "lazy". The speller repeats the word, spells the word as "lasy", does not ask to start over, respells the word as "lazy" and then repeats the word. This speller would be out since without asking to start over, the judges would have recorded the spelling as "lasylazy".

4. Upon misspelling a word, the speller immediately drops out of the competition, except as provided for in the end-of-bee procedure that follows:

If all spellers in the final round misspell, all spellers from that round remain in the competition and a new round begins. If only one speller in this round spells correctly, a new one-word round begins for this remaining speller. If this speller succeeds in correctly spelling this word, he/she will be declared the champion. However, if the remaining speller misspells this word, a new round begins with **all** the spellers who spelled in the previous round.

5. Spellers will wait until the end of round to exit the stage. All spellers are encouraged to stay until the end of the bee in support of their classmates.

6. Ties:

- All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place.
- If necessary, spell-offs will be conducted to determine 2nd through 5th places.

