

OFFICIAL SPELLING BEE RULES

1. The contest will be entirely oral.
2. The competition will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of the round will spell one word in the round.
3. The pronouncer will make every effort to pronounce the words according to the diacritical markings in the Albany Institute word list.
4. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the speller a word, the speller will be required to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.
5. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, and/or provide the language of origin. Root word questions will not be entertained by the pronouncer and judges.
6. The judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling.
7. Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. In retracing, however, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
8. Upon missing a spelling of a word, a speller immediately drops out of the competition. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next speller.

Final Round

9. At the end of the spelling bee, a final round will commence with the remaining spellers.
10. If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of the round spells a word correctly during this round, all shall remain in the competition.
11. All spellers eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place.

12. If only one of the spellers remaining in the competition at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, a new round will begin and the speller will be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the speller will be declared the champion. Otherwise (that is, if the speller does not succeed in correctly spelling the new word,) all the spellers remaining in the competition at the start of the previous round shall remain in the competition. A new round will begin, with these spellers spelling in the original order.
13. The champion is not the champion until he or she has spelled correctly two more words than the speller(s) placed second have spelled. These two words will be spelled consecutively only if the champion is the last speller in a round.

Appeals

14. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official immediately in writing on the official appeal form.
15. Parents, legal guardians, or teacher of the speller who is seeking reinstatement in the contest may file appeals. The judges will not entertain appeals from individuals seeking to dislodge another speller from the competition.
16. The deadline for filing an appeal is *BEFORE* the speller affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the competition. No appeal will be entertained after that word has been given to another speller.
17. When only five spellers remain, an oral appeal must be made immediately, that is before the speller affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the contest.
18. The judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decisions shall be final on all questions.

Good Luck!