



OFFICIAL SPELLING BEE RULES

1. Each team will consist of three members. All members must be adults (18+). All members must have registered and paid their entry fee prior to competing.
2. Teams will participate in rounds.
3. Placement in the event is determined by the order in which a team goes out (first one to misspell a word gets last place, etc.)
4. Teams may not use any electronic devices or other reference materials during the event.
5. These procedures and official rules will govern at the spelling bee. Any disputes will be resolved by the judges. There will be no appeals. In case of a dispute over the correct spelling of a word or any other question, the decision of the judges is final.
6. Each team will spell one easy word for warm-up. Homophones may be discussed prior to the beginning of the contest. For example: blue and blew. The contestants will be reminded to ask for the word to be repeated and to ask for the word to be used in a sentence.
7. **SPELLING PROCEDURES:** When it is a particular team's turn, the entire team will stand and walk to the designated team area at the front of the stage. Then a team representative (contestant) will approach the microphone and engage with the word caller. The word caller will announce the word, and then a 60 second timer will begin. The contestant may ask for the word to be repeated once, and they may also ask for the word to be used in a sentence once. Then the contestant may optionally walk back to the team, confer with them, and then return to the mic before the end of the 60 second timer. The actual spelling of the word is not subject to the 60 second timer. The team representative must rotate with each round.
8. **MULLIGANS:** Each team will be allowed to use a single (optional) \$50 mulligan, which must be paid for prior to the start of the competition. The mulligan can be used if a word is misspelled by the contestant, and it would allow the contestant a 30 second period to confer with their team. The contestant must return to the mic before the end of the 30 seconds. The actual spelling of the word is not subject to the 30 second timer. The previous rules apply to the second chance attempt. The team may not switch contestants during a mulligan. Mulligans cannot be used when only two teams remain.
9. A contestant may pause during the spelling of the word and start over as long as the sequence of the letters is not altered and they start over with the first letter of the word. If the sequence of the letters is altered, it is considered a misspelling, and the team is out of the competition.
10. The teams must leave the stage and return to their dinner table once they are eliminated from the competition.
11. When the contestants are reduced to two teams, and one misspells a word, the other team shall spell the same word. If the second team spells that word plus the next word on the word caller's list, the second team is the winner.
12. Because of time constraints, the announcer and the judges have the right to move to a more difficult list of words whenever they deem necessary.
13. MPISD Foundation Board Members are not eligible to compete on any teams.