

WFHESL SPELLING BEE RULES
2007

1. All spelling bee contestants must participate at the grade level appropriate for the age of the contestant. However, if a contestant would like to compete at a grade level above, that would be permissible. Contestants may compete in only one grade level.
2. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the speller a word, the speller will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling in in a say-spell-say format.
3. The speller may ask the pronouncer to repeat the word and may ask for a definition.
4. If more than one spelling is listed in the dictionary of choice for the spelling bee, any of the spellings shall be accepted as correct with the exception of obsolete or archaic spellings.
5. If a word has one or more homonyms, any correct spelling of any homonym of the word will be accepted.
6. The speller shall not be disqualified for failing to note that a word is capitalized.
7. A contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling of a word from the beginning; however, the contestant will not be allowed to self-correct. There can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and/or their sequence are changed in the retracing, the speller will be eliminated from that round.
8. The competitions shall be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.
9. When a word is spelled incorrectly, the contestant will then need to take his seat on the platform.
10. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a speller immediately drops out of the competition. The next word on the pronouncer's list will be given to the next speller.
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 shall begin and the speller shall be given the opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If a speller succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the speller shall be declared the winner. If he/she does not spell the word correctly, the contestants eliminated during the previous round will remain in competition and begin a new round.

13. To avoid distracting the contestants, we ask that the contestants and members of the audience refrain from talking during the spelling bee. Parents, please remove your child from the auditorium if your child's behavior becomes a distraction.
14. Questions relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately. No protest can be entertained after the round in which the word involved was given.
15. The judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decision shall be final on all question.