

RULES FOR MONROE-RANDOLPH SPELLING BEE

The grade level champions representing your school may be chosen in any manner that the participating schools desire but since we have changed the word lists we suggest following the guidelines used for the Regional Spelling Bee so your students will be more prepared.

1. School champions will be selected by grade level – one champion per grade. It is advisable to have an alternate available in the event the champion cannot participate.
2. District Bee Word and Student Word lists have been supplied to each participating school.
3. The Spelling Bee shall be an oral competition, with eliminations on a miss-and-out basis in the traditional Spelling Bee manner.
4. Contestants shall step forward and compete in the order in which they are lined up. Order for line-up will be determined by drawing numbers for place in line. There shall be one warm-up round which shall not count against the participant.
5. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word the contestant may pronounce the word before spelling it, or not at all.
6. The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce a word, define it, request word origin and/or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant.
7. The judge(s) determines whether or not the word was spelled correctly. The judge is in complete control of the Bee. His decision shall be final on all questions. It is advisable for judges to be seated so that they are able to see all contestants and the audience.
8. Upon missing the spelling of a word the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the list is given to the next contestant in line.
9. Having started to spell a word, the contestant shall be given NO OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE LETTERS ONCE PRONOUNCED. A speller having started to spell a word may retrace, providing letters and sequence are NOT changed in retracing.
10. In the spelling of a word, the contestants shall be required to say the letters clearly and distinctly in order that the judge and pronouncer can determine the spelling with unmistakable clearness-otherwise the judge may disqualify the contestant from the Bee. In words that contain hyphens or spaces, the contestant must state hyphen or space, as “i-c-e-space-c-r-e-a-m” = ice cream, “h-i-g-h-space-s-c-h-o-o-l” = high school, or “o-l-d-hyphen-f-a-s-h-i-o-n-e-d” = old-fashioned. Capital letters must also be stated.
11. Webster’s Tenth New Collegiate Dictionary will serve as the final authority for the spelling of words used in the Spelling Bee. If a word has two or more accepted spellings, only the spellings set in boldface type and separated by either of the words “or” or “also” at the beginning of the descriptive matter will be accepted as correct. Spellings having the labels archaic and obsolete (abbreviated obs.) and regional labels (like North, Midland, South, British, Irish) that are different from those in boldface will not be accepted as correct.

12. **End-of-bee procedure:**

If all spellers in a round misspell incorrectly:

If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new spelling round begins.

Ties:

All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, judges will conduct tiebreakers.

If only one speller in a round spells correctly:

If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word spelling round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell a word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.

Example: In Round 12 there are four spellers. Spellers 6 and 21 misspell. Speller 30 spells correctly. Speller 42 misspells. So, Speller 30 is the only speller in the round to spell correctly. Speller 30 begins Round 13—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 30 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

Example: Two spellers spell in Round 10. Speller 14 misspells. Speller 25 spells correctly. Speller 25 begins Round 11—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 25 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

Example: Two spellers spell in Round 16. Speller 3 spells correctly. Speller 9 misspells. Speller 3 begins Round 17—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 3 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

VERY IMPORTANT: If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round:

A **new** spelling round begins with **ALL** the spellers who participated in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.

Example: In Round 8 there are three spellers. Speller 12 spells correctly and Spellers 23 and 37 misspell. Round 9—a one-word round—begins, and Speller 12 is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 12 misspells the anticipated championship word. Round 10 begins and includes Spellers 12, 23, and 37. The rules prescribe those spellers 12, 23, and 37 spell in their original order; so Speller 12 gets the next word on the list even though Speller 12 misspelled the previous word on the list. Round 10 is not complete until all three spellers have spelled.

13. ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SPELLING OF A WORD MUST BE REFERRED TO THE JUDGE **IMMEDIATELY**. Deadline for making protest is before a new round begins.

A person desiring to protest will raise his hand to be recognized. (He may ask for caucus with other observers before formally protesting). **No protest will be entertained after the next word has been given 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 him, or if both missed the same word, before the spelling is given to the audience.

Rules may not change after the annual publication of the rules unless the change is approved by a majority of representatives from participating schools.