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## RULES

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1. The competition will be conducted in sessions, with rounds alternating between Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of the session will spell one word in each session.
2. In the initial round, spellers are asked to introduce themselves by first name, last name and school.
3. After the pronouncer gives the word, the speller will **say the word, spell the word, then say the word again**. This is to confirm that the speller understands the given word. Each speller will have one minute to spell each word after the word is made clear.
4. The speller may ask the pronouncer to repeat the word again, define it, use it in a sentence and/or request the origin of the word. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. These are the tools available to each speller and should be used – especially for homonyms (such as flower vs flour).
5. Once a speller has begun to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing 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. A speller can't correct him or herself, even while it is still his or her turn.
6. Spellers will remain seated until the announced breaks, even if they are no longer in the competition.
7. When the number of spellers is reduced to two in each division, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one speller misspells a word, the other speller shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second speller spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncers list, then the second speller shall be declared the champion.
8. Judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decisions are final. Spelling bees are not unlike other sporting events in which referees call the plays as they see them. Players do not always agree with the decisions or like them, but accept them as part of good sportsmanship.
9. Most importantly - have fun and enjoy!

Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official immediately in writing by use of the appeal form accessible at the judges' table. 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, so please note; when it is down to the final spellers, raise your hand immediately to file an appeal.