

Humboldt County Office of Education

Spelling Bee

Rules and Procedures

These rules are guidelines designed to assist spelling bee officials and spellers at the local level. County Spelling Bee guidelines are based on the State Spelling Bee guidelines. Spelling bee officials include the pronouncer (elocutionist), judges, coordinator, or sponsor.

Preface: The Humboldt County Spelling Bee has no authority over the conduct of local spelling bees. Consequently, the Humboldt County Office of Education will not render judgments relating to the conduct of local spelling bees. Individuals bearing complaints about the conduct of local spelling bees should register their concerns with local spelling bee officials. Decisions of local spelling bee officials are final.

Eligibility: This spelling championship is open to two students from each region in Humboldt County in grades 4-6 (Elementary) and 7th – 9th (Jr. High) who have been certified as region champions.

1. Participating schools may use any selection process to choose their student representatives.
2. This is a written test. A note pad and pencil will be available for each contestant to print the spelling word.
3. The Elite Elocutionist will read the word, use it in a sentence and then read the word again. This will be followed by a pause to make sure the word is clearly understood. The Elite Elocutionist will then say BEGIN and students may write the pronounced word.
4. A contestant may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence before the start signal is given. The Elite Elocutionist shall grant the request until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. Students may write the word as many times as needed before the 15-second STOP signal. However, all words except the one to be corrected must be crossed out at that time. When STOP is called, students must immediately raise their pencils.
5. The judge may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start or stop the spelling of a word.
6. If, inadvertently, no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, they must spell the word as used in the context of the sentence.
7. In competition, proctors will check each word and note whether the word is spelled correctly or not. Words should be printed clearly! The word is marked with a "C" if it is correct; and, if incorrect, marked with an "X" and then spelled correctly by the proctor on the pad.
8. When a speller fails to spell four words correctly on the note pad, they must drop out of the contest.
9. In competition, words will be chosen from any source deemed appropriate by the judges, including the official Elementary and Junior High Word Lists. Words will not be limited to any specific list; however, all words will be taken from the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary Unabridged Online Website, the official reference for the

competition. If there are multiple pronunciations for any given word, we will use www.dictionary.com as a secondary pronunciation source.

10. The Elite Elocutionist, proctors and judge will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final on all questions.

11. Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area. Family and friends are not permitted in the spelling area.

12. Restroom breaks: Spellers may—one at a time—request to use the restroom. Spellers will be escorted. Upon returning to the competition, the next speller who needs to use the restroom may follow the same procedure.

13. To minimize disruptions during this competition we ask audience members to turn off cell phones and pagers.

For more information, please contact:

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