

CLOVERLEAF SPELLING CONTEST RULES

PURPOSE: To add emphasis to the teaching of spelling and vocabulary study; to increase interest in spelling for students and parents; to increase the ability of the students to think correctly and quickly in competition; to promote friendship and understanding among students in the academic field.

COMPETITION:

In the individual contest, the students will have at least seven (7) rounds of words from the Spell It Booklet. The first round will be for warm-up, no elimination. After that round, each student will be eliminated when they misspell their first word. The words will progress in difficulty and are drawn from the "Sponsor Bee Guide I and II".

Upon missing the spelling of a word the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. There will continue to be rounds of words until there are two spellers remaining. The words are pre-drawn from the Sponsor Bee Guide and are not available to the contestants.

When the contestants are reduced to two (2), the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.

If one of the last two spellers misspells a word and the other speller, after correcting the error, misspells the next word submitted to him/her, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncers list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.

If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the competition, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell.

When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately; that is before the second speller has started to spell the word given to him/her; or if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience. Only a speller or a coach may make protest to the judges.

The judges and pronouncer are in complete control of the bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions and/or protests.

Any previous winners of the **Cloverleaf Spelling Bee** are eligible to compete and win the contest again as long as they have not passed beyond the eighth grade at the time of the individual school finals and they must not have reached their 16th birthday on or before the date of the National Finals.

ADDITIONAL RULES

Words are pronounced once. 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 it. They may be used in a sentence and repeated at the request of the contestant. Students may ask for its definition and part of speech. The contestant may ask for the language origin of a word. The pronouncer and judges will not entertain Root word questions. No other information about the word will be given. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. **The judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.**

Having started to spell a word, a contestant 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. A contestant should indicate this by saying, "start over", before retracing the spelling from the beginning. If the letters or the sequence is changed in the spelling, **the speller will be disqualified.** Having started to spell a word, a contestant **may not** stop and ask questions of the pronouncer. Any questions as to definition, parts of speech, word origin, or use in a sentence must be asked before a contestant starts to spell.

Any accepted **Webster's International Dictionary** spelling of a word will be allowed if a protest is made. If there is a question on a student's spelling of a word, the question must be voiced immediately to the judges and the same rules apply as to any other protest. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.

Students will not be allowed to study books while the competition is in progress. You may use the books before the competition starts and during breaks only.

Several rules to keep in mind when choosing members for competition are: (1) they must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1st of the current spelling year. (2) They must not reach their 16th birthday on or before the date of the national finals; (3) they, their parents, educators, relatives, or acquaintances must not have obtained a copy of the School Pronouncer Guide for use in studying; (4) they may not eschew normal school activity in favor of preparation for spelling bees.

We as sponsors will not make participation in its local spelling bee program contingent upon any of the following matters: race, religion, creed, gender, the type of school one attends, membership in an organization, or subscription to a publication.

Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making a protest is before the contestant affected would have received his/her next word, had he/she stayed in the contest. No protest will be entertained after that word has been given to another speller.

Coaches may not give information or answer any questions by the speller during competition. Questions and protests must be handled by the judges and pronouncer only.