

Tuscola County 4th Grade Spelling Bee Guidelines

The following rules will be used in the Tuscola County Fourth Grade Spelling Bee:

The judges are in complete control of the Spelling Bee Proceedings. Their decision shall be final on all questions or protests.

Each oral competitor shall be assigned a numbered placard during registration bearing his or her name, and the contestant number they shall respond to during the oral competition. This placard shall be worn during competition on the chest of each speller.

Each oral competitor shall have his or her assigned number placed in a hat given to the head judge of the competition. The head judge shall draw one number out of the hat. That number will determine which student spells first in the oral competition. If number 21 was drawn number out of forty numbers in the hat, number 21 would spell first, number 22 would spell second, number 23 third, until all contestants had spelled their first round word. The end of each round will be announced.

Once the competition begins, the pronouncer will give the contestant a word to spell.

Each contestant must come to the microphone to spell. As soon as one contestant leaves the microphone, the next contestant should move quickly to the microphone for his/her turn.

After each contestant misspells his/her given word, an adult will direct them on stage as to where they will sit in the audience.

The contestant must repeat the word before and after completing his/her spelling of the word. A contestant will not be disqualified if they forget to repeat the word.

The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. Only dictionary pronunciations will be allowed. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to begin spelling.

Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling given from the beginning, but in the retracing there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or sequence is changed in the respelling of the word, the speller will be disqualified from further spellings.

All spellings shall be tape recorded and played if either the judges or contestant or an audience observer protest a judge's decision. Any questions related to the spelling given for a word should be referred to the judges immediately. No protest will be entertained after the next contestant begins to spell his or her word. Once a word has been misspelled in the competition the word will no longer be used until the number of contestants is reduced.

When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure will change. 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 pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.

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

The contestants have seen and studied word lists A and B. They have not seen or studied word list C. After completion of the word lists A and B, word list C will be used. Word list C will be used to **BEGIN** a new round. (This will avoid the situation where some students get list B and others get list C in the same round.) Those contestants remaining in the competition at the completion of list C will be declared co-champions.