

SPELL BEE

Competition Manuals:

- Participants are to follow all of the guidelines as stated in this manual.
- There will be revisions from time to time in procedures and expectations. All college, Coordinators, officials, and judges will be made aware of the revisions (if any).

Guidelines:

Purpose

- To improve and advance the skills associated with good spelling habits.
- To enhance participants development of poise and communication under pressure.
- To expand participants vocabulary and encourage accurate word usage and pronunciation.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to meet and interact with students from other peer colleges.

Description of Event:

- Spell Bee will be held in a location designated by Rostra Organizing Committee.
- Colleges will be provided with practice spelling lists on the website for the purpose of participants' preparation, but words used in the actual event may or may not be from this list. This event goes beyond mere memorization of listed words.
- Contestants will compete on or above their own grade level to determine the level winner.

Event Procedure:

PRELIMINARY ROUND:

- This round will be a written round.
- The preliminary round consists of 25 words.
- The Event Master will pronounce the words.

- The meanings of the word as well as the language of origin will be given if asked for.
- Tie breaker words will decide the outcome of two persons with same number of correct questions to qualify for the next round.
- The qualified contestants will be sent to next round.

FINAL ROUND (GENERAL FORMAT):

- The Event Master will pronounce the word.
- The participant then pronounces the word, spells the word, and pronounces the word again.
- The Head Judge will be responsible for stopping the participants if he/she fails to pronounce the word or if the participant pronounces the word incorrectly.
- If the participant still begins to spell without pronouncing the word, he/she will be disqualified from the contest.
- The participant must :
 - Pronounce the word before spelling. This is to ensure that the participants have heard the correct word.
 - Look at the Event Master when spelling the word.
 - Spell the word orally. Participants will not be allowed to write the word before spelling it.
 - Pronounce the word again after the word is spelled.
 - Speak clearly and loudly. The officials' decision is final in determining the correctness of the spelling, which may be misunderstood if not spoken clearly.
- The participant may ask for any pronunciation, meaning, or sentence to be repeated for clarification before spelling. If a participant takes undue advantage of this rule, he/she will be advised by the Event Master.
- The Finals consist of rounds of oral spellings with each round having their individual format which will be revealed on the spot and continuing until a champion is declared (or co- champions are declared).
- All spellers, who have not been eliminated from the competition, spell one word in general round. Upon incorrectly spelling the word, the speller gets eliminated.

Officials:

- Officiating the Spelling Event will be the **Event Master (Pronouncer)**, **Head Judge, Round keeper** and **The Arbitrator**.
- All four officials share responsibility for making decisions.

Timing (For General Round of Finals)

- The participant shall have 30 seconds from the time he/she pronounces the word until he/she must begin spelling the word. If the participant does not begin spelling at the end of the 30-second period, he/she shall be reminded by the Event Master, who will be informed by the Timekeeper.
- Once the participant begins spelling the word he/she will have 30 seconds to complete the spelling of the word.
- A participant will be disqualified if he/she does not follow the above listed timing rules.

Retracing:

- Having started to spell a word, participants may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. However, in the retracing, there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced and there will be no increment in the time to complete the word.
- If any letters and/or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be disqualified.

Protests:

In the Spelling Event:

- It is the responsibility of a college representative (or student) to pose any question relating to the spelling of a word.
- The question should be referred to the Arbitrator, in an orderly and quiet manner, by going directly to the officials' table.
- The deadline for making a protest is before the contestant affected would have received his next word had he stayed in the contest.
- When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately; this 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.

- The Arbitrator will oversee the investigation of the question for clarification with the assistance of the other officials. The Arbitrator's decision shall be final.

- **The Official Dictionary** for Rostra 2014 Spell Bee is the *Oxford English Dictionary* ®. This dictionary will serve as the final authority for word spelling and pronunciation.
- If a word has two or more accepted spellings, the spelling listed first will be accepted as correct.
- Some words on the list may not appear directly in the dictionary (plurals, Possessives, etc.). Accepted rules for these words will apply.
- Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in the dictionary, from which the Event Master shall select the definition or definitions that he gives.
- The Event Master may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition or definitions quoted.