

### Abbreviated Version of the Spelling Bee Rules

- 1. Once the pronouncer has given a contestant a word, the contestant may elect to spell that word with or without having to speak the word back to the judges.
- 2. After receiving a word, a contestant may request the pronouncer to: 1. re-pronounce the word, 2. define it, and/or 3. use the word in a sentence. **It is the responsibility of the contestant to make such requests of the pronouncer.** A contestant will be eliminated if they spell a word other than the one pronounced.
- 3. Once a contestant starts to spell a word, they may stop and start over, but they must not change the letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. A contestant who misspells a word will be eliminated and the next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant.
- 4. When there are 11 or more contestants, any questions should be referred to the judges immediately. The cutoff for making a protest is before the contestant receives their next word had they stayed in the contest.
- 5. When 10 or fewer contestants remain, a protest must be made before the next speller has started to spell the word given. Protests are made by the participating student only.
- 6. Play changes when there are 10 contestants left. When a contestant misspells a word, the next contestant will be given the SAME WORD to spell. The same word is given until a contestant spells it correctly. Once the word is spelled correctly, the previous contestants will be eliminated. If all contestants misspell the word, the word will be eliminated, and a new word given to the first contestant.
- 7. When 2 contestants are left a misspelled word is given to the next contestant. If the word is spelled correctly, the player must spell one additional word to claim the championship. If both contestants misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspelled the word is given a new word to spell.
- 8. **Judges decisions on questions regarding play are final.** Not every situation can be addressed in the rules, but the judges have authority to make decisions in the best interest of fairness to all.