

# R.E.A.C.H. Foundation Spelling Bee Rules and Procedures

## *2018 Abridged Version*

1. The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation (REACH) Spelling Bee is an oral competition based on contestant single-elimination in the traditional spelling bee manner. A contestant missing the spelling of a word (and/or any other infraction listed under Spelling Bee Procedures) immediately drops out of the contest, and the next word on the Pronouncer's Word List is given to the next contestant.
2. The words used in the REACH Spelling Bee have been randomly selected and have been approved by PYLUSD. The word list shall be arranged as follows:
  - Word lists comprised of words from each grade level (grades 4 to 6).
  - A confidential Challenge Word List of differing levels of difficulty.
  - Word Lists will not include homonyms or synonyms.
3. All contestants will be seated on the stage in an order predetermined by a random drawing of names. Each contestant will be given a number placard to wear around his/her neck during the Bee
4. The procedure used by the pronouncer will be (1) pronounce the word, (2) read the definition of the word, (3) use the word in a sentence, (4) pronounce the word.

### **Spelling Bee Procedures**

1. Upon receiving the word, the contestant will pronounce the word, spell the word orally, and pronounce the word again.
2. The Head Judge will have the responsibility for stopping the student if he/she fails to pronounce the word or if the student pronounces the word incorrectly.

3. If the student still begins to spell without pronouncing the word, he/she will be disqualified from the contest.
4. The contestant must:
  - Pronounce the word before spelling. This is to ensure that the student has heard the correct word.
  - Look at the Pronouncer when spelling the word.
  - Spell the word orally.
  - Pronounce the word again after the word is spelled.
  - Speak clearly and loudly. The Judge's 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 Pronouncer.

#### Timing

1. A contestant shall have a full minute to spell a word.

#### Spelling Bee Single Elimination

1. When a contestant misspells a word, he/she immediately drops out of the contest. The next word is given to the next contestant.
2. When the contestants are reduced to two, (the last contestant eliminated is the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner) 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.
3. If the second contestant spells that word correctly plus the next word on the Pronouncer's Word List, then the second contestant shall be declared the Champion of the competition.

4. If one of the last two contestants misses and then the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him/her, the misspelled word shall be referred to the first contestant.
5. If the first contestant then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the Pronouncer's list, then he/she shall be declared the Champion.
6. If both contestants 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 pattern will continue until one of the contestants is declared the Champion.

## General

Other infractions in which a contestant may be disqualified besides clear misspelling are:

- Failure to state the word before and after the correct spelling
- Failure to begin spelling the word correctly within 1 minute
- Failure to approach the microphone within 30 seconds unless there are extenuating circumstances
- Engages in unsportsmanlike conduct
- Alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered
- Utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds
- Talking and/or hand signal among the contestants and members of the audience.

## Please Note:

Contestants that are eliminated return to the Green Room off Stage Left and will remain there until the completion of the Bee. While in the Green Room the eliminated contestants will be consoled by REACH Foundation and PYLUSD volunteers. Refreshments will also be provided. These students will also be able to view a live video feed of the Bee.