

Spelling Bee Rules

Glen Rock Women in Community Service

1. Participating 4th and 5th grade students must be residents of Glen Rock or attend a Glen Rock School.
2. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, it is recommended the contestant also pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.
3. The contestant may request that the pronouncer repronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The contestant may ask for the language origin of a word. No other information about the etymology or history of a 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. **JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**
4. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling the speller will be eliminated.
5. Upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant.
6. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given the opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, and also spells correctly the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
7. If one of the last two spellers misspells a word and the second speller, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him or 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 pronouncer's list, then the first speller shall be declared the champion.
8. 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 contest shall then continue under rules 6 and 7.
9. **The American Heritage Dictionary-College Edition** shall serve as the final authority for the finals. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct, if the word appears in boldface type and it either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer,

or it is clearly identified as being a variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Any spelling having the labels “archaic” or “obsolete” or “regional” (such as North, Midland, South British, Irish) that are different from those in boldface type will not be accepted as correct. 10. Any questions related to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. 11. 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. 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 misspelled the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience. 12. The decision of the judges shall be final on all questions.
