

Shasta County Spelling Bee Rules 2023

24th Annual Shasta County Spelling Bee

1. This is an oral competition. A scratch pad and pencil are available for the spellers to write the word, but the speller must then spell the word out loud for competition. Paper and pencil are not allowed except as provided on the table.
2. In competition, spellers must pronounce the word before spelling, to assure they heard the word correctly, and after spelling to indicate the speller is finished spelling.
3. At any time, a speller may ask to have the word repeated as many times as necessary or until the judges feel the word has been made clear. The speller may also ask for the definition of the word, or to use the word in a sentence.
4. Once a speller has begun spelling a word, the speller may change letters and sequence of the letter. However, once the speller repeats the word the second time that indicates the speller is finished and no more changes may be made.
5. If the word given is a homophone, and no definition of a homophone is given, any correct spelling of the homophone will be accepted. However, if a definition or sentence is given for a homophone, the spelling of the homophone given is only accepted.
6. The speller must indicate capitalization, apostrophes, other punctuation or accent marks either over a letter or at the end of the word.
7. The competition shall be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall be given one word to spell in the round.
8. Once a speller spells a word, the judges will indicate whether the spelling is correct or incorrect. If the spelling is correct the speller shall return to his seat with the spellers. If the spelling is incorrect, the correct spelling will be offered and the speller immediately drops out of the competition and may sit with his/her family in the audience.
9. Any spellers eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place. A spell off **may** need to be held.
10. If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all shall remain in the competition.
11. *If we use all of the words on our original county bee study list without declaring winners, the bee reserves the right to pull words from alternate sources. The Shasta County Elementary Spelling Bee may resort to the Shasta County Junior High Spelling Bee list or other sources; the Shasta County Junior High Spelling Bee may resort to the state or national list or other sources.*

12. Competition continues until only two spellers remain. Those two spellers shall be declared the final winners. There will be no first or second place. The two winners of the county elementary bee will both go to the California State Elementary Spelling Bee and the two winners of the county junior high bee will both go to the California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship.

13. The judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decision shall be final on all questions.