

# Garden State Homeschool Spelling Bee

## RULES

1. The Garden State Homeschool Spelling Bee will be an oral competition, with elimination on a “miss-and-out” basis in the traditional Spelling Bee manner.
2. It will begin with 2 rounds of warm-up words. The results from these two rounds will not count for anything – they will not count for or against any speller. They are just to help the students, pronouncer and judges learn the procedure and anticipate potential misunderstandings.
3. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the student a word the student may also pronounce the word before spelling it, after spelling it, or if she/he chooses, not at all.
4. The student may request the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer will grant the request until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the student. **JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**
4. Having started to spell a word, a student 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 sequences are changed in the respelling the speller will be disqualified.
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 student/contestant.
6. When the student/contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant will be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer’s list, then she/he shall be declared the winner.
7. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to her/him 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 she/he shall be declared the winner.
8. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspells the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest will then continue under Rules 7 and 8
9. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision is final on all questions.
10. Students/contestants are the only ones who can lodge a protest or raise an objection –members of the audience are not permitted to address the pronouncer or the judges during the contest.
11. Homonyms will be accepted unless the speller asks for and receives a definition from the pronouncer or the judges.
12. When spelling, face the pronouncer and the judges.