

NEF Spelling Bee Rules and Regulations!

- All spellers are asked to arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. The Bee will begin promptly at 6:00.
- Teams should be nearby and ready to take the stage when the “swarm” before theirs is competing. (Check the program to find out what swarm you’re in.)
- All teams must have a designated speller who will write the team response on the whiteboard. Please write in large, legible print. If the judges can’t read your response, it will be considered misspelled.
- There will be two bees on your table. These are a tracking mechanism for each team, the judges, and the audience.
- The pronouncer will pronounce the word, define it, use it in a sentence, and then repeat it. You will then have 15 seconds to confer with your teammates and write the word on your whiteboard. (The group of teams participating in a swarm may ask the pronouncer to repeat the word one more time, but no more.)
- It is not necessary to include an accent or hyphen in spelling a word that normally has one. For example, you may spell “résumé” without the accents. It is also not necessary to capitalize a word that would normally be capitalized.
- When the timekeeper calls time, all markers must be put down, and the white boards must be held up and shown to the audience and judges. Any team continuing to write after time is called or attempting to change the word as written on the board will score a miss for that word. If the judges decide that a word as written is illegible or the letters are ambiguous, the word will be treated as misspelled.
- Do not erase your board until you have been told whether your spelling is correct. If a team erases its word too soon, it may be asked to remove a bee.
- If you have spelled the word correctly, please prepare for the next word.
- For the preliminary swarms: If you have spelled the word incorrectly, please place one bee face down on your table. If it is your first misspelling, prepare for the next word. If it is your second misspelling, please place your second bee face down and resign yourself to the fact that your team has been eliminated from the competition. If your team is eliminated, please wait until the end of the round before leaving the stage.
- If and when your team has been eliminated, you may write/draw humorous or otherwise entertaining messages/illustrations on your board to share with the audience. Please hold up your boards when the still-competing teams hold up their boards—not before. You might go home with the “Most Humorous” prize.
- For the semifinal and final rounds, it’s one miss and you’re out. If you misspell a word, put your bee face down and know that you did a great job getting as far as you did.
- If a round continues without seeming to produce a winner, the judges can rule to move an extra team into the semifinals or finals.

These procedures and rules will govern the Bee. The judges will resolve any disputes. There will be no appeals. In other words, what the judges say, goes.

The official dictionary and word source of the NEF Adult Spelling Bee is the online *Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary* (unabridged.merriam-webster.com), the largest, richest dictionary of American English.