

Saginaw Lutheran Spelling Bee Rules

1. The Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee is made up of two separate sections. The first part of the bee is a team competition made up of five spellers from each of the schools. Participants in this part are determined by each individual school. The second part of the competition consists of individuals participating in Spelling Bees by class. The participants in this part are determined by how well a speller does in the team competition.
2. General rules for the Spelling Bee:
 - a. **Speller's responsibility:** The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller *while facing the judges* makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin, and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
 - b. **Speller's responsibility:** Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.
 - c. **Speller's responsibility:** If a speller starts and then wishes to start over, that speller must pronounce the word and then start over.
 - d. Once an error is made, the spelling is declared incorrect – even if the speller goes back and spells the word correctly.
 - e. If an audience member has a challenge on a judge's ruling about an incorrect spelling, that challenge must be made within the next round of spelling. The challenger is to simply approach the judge's table and make the challenge known. However, alternate spellings for words on the studied list will not be accepted. They may only be challenged on the unpublished list.
3. Rules for the team competition:
 - a. There will be six rounds of words: 2 easy, 2 medium, 2 hard
 - b. If a speller misses a word during one of these six rounds, he is not eliminated from the team competition.
 - c. At the end of the six rounds, the winning team will be determined.
 - d. Also at the end of the six rounds, the scorers will determine who will return for the individual class competition. No speller should leave until they know if they will be in the individual bee or not; typically, the individual competition is made up of all the spellers who have completed the six rounds without error, but if there are no spellers or only one who have spelled correctly for six rounds, then the rest of the competitors will be made up the spellers who have missed one or possibly even more words. In the second case, where only one speller spelled correctly in the first six rounds, that speller is declared the champion and the next group of spellers vies for 2nd place.
4. Rules for the individual competition:
 - a. All of the general rules apply.
 - b. There will be four spelling bees according to grade level.
 - c. **Correction of a misspelling:** The pronouncer and judges will not ask the speller to correct another speller's misspelling, even in end-of-bee circumstances.
 - d. When a speller misses in this competition, he is not necessarily eliminated. See e.

e. **End-of-bee procedure:**

- *If all spellers in a round misspell:* If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new round begins.
- **Ties:** All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, spelling bee officials may opt to conduct tiebreakers (of their own design) if tiebreakers are necessary for the awarding of prizes or the determination of qualifying spellers for the next level of competition.
- *If only one speller in a round spells correctly:* If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.
- *Example 1:* In Round 12 there are four spellers. Spellers 6 and 21 misspell. Speller 30 spells correctly. Speller 42 misspells. So, Speller 30 is the only speller in the round to spell correctly. Speller 30 begins Round 13—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 30 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
- *Example 2:* Two spellers spell in Round 10. Speller 14 misspells. Speller 25 spells correctly. Speller 25 begins Round 11—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 25 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
- *Example 3:* Two spellers spell in Round 16. Speller 3 spells correctly. Speller 9 misspells. Speller 3 begins Round 17—a one-word round—and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 3 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round: A *new* round begins with ALL the spellers who spelled (correctly *and incorrectly*) in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.
- *Example:* In Round 8 there are three spellers. Speller 12 spells correctly and Spellers 23 and 37 misspell. Round 9—a one-word round—begins, and Speller 12 is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 12 misspells the anticipated championship word. Round 10 begins and includes Spellers 12, 23, and 37. The rules prescribe that spellers 12, 23, and 37 spell in their original order; so Speller 12 gets the next word on the list even though Speller 12 misspelled the previous word on the list. Round 10 is not complete until all three spellers have spelled.