



ODACS RULES

ELEMENTARY, LEVEL I, GRADES 4-6

AREA FIVE: ACADEMICS

GENERAL RULES

A student may enter a total of two Academic categories. However, he may enter only one category from Division 3 and one category from Division 4. (He may not enter both composition categories or both science fair categories.) Example: He may take two academic tests; or he may take one academic test and enter a science fair project; or he may enter one writing category and one science fair project.

Division 2: Spelling

Category 7: Spelling

SPELLING RULES

1. Spelling will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee format in a double elimination fashion. (National Competition uses a single elimination format. ODACS competitions continue to use a double elimination format.)
 - a. Information regarding spelling lists is available on the AACS web site.
 - b. The dictionary specified in the current spelling bee booklet will be the final authority in determining correctness of spelling and pronunciation.
 - c. NOTE: The rules of other national spelling competitions are not necessarily the same as the AACS National Competition spelling rules or as the ODACS Competition spelling rules.
 - d. The competition will be recorded for judges' use only.
 - e. Capitalization of a word (whether omitted or added) shall not constitute an error.
 - f. Students are not required to provide judging forms for Spelling.
2. Spelling bee procedures:
 - a. All students will form a single line facing the Spelling Master.
 - b. All students will wear an identification badge.
 - c. Words will be given students from left to right.
 - d. A student will be permitted one spelling error before his disqualification.
 - e. Words will be chosen from the current spelling bee list. If the Spelling Master decides that additional words are necessary, the words will be chosen from the dictionary specified in the official spelling bee booklet. This will be done at the beginning of a new round.
 - f. Pronunciation will be according to the diacritical markings in the dictionary mentioned in 1.b.
 - g. With the approval of the judges, the Spelling Master may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of a word to supplement the dictionary definition(s) quoted.
 - h. During competition, after the Spelling Master gives the student a word, the student may also pronounce the word before spelling it.
 - i. The student may request the Spelling Master to re-pronounce a word, define it, give its part of speech, use it in a sentence, or give its language of origin. The Master will grant the requests until the judges agree that the word has been made clear to the student. Judges may call an error against any student who ignores a request to begin spelling.
 - j. The student will have fifteen seconds to spell a word. Timing will begin at the student's repeating the word, or at the commencement of the spelling of the word.
 - k. Having begun to spell a word, a student may stop and begin again, retracing the spelling from the beginning; but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first spelled. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be declared in error.



- l. The correct spelling of any incorrectly spelled word will always be given except when only two students remain. Upon making the second spelling error, the student will be immediately eliminated from the bee, and the correct spelling will be announced by the master. This is true even if only two spellers remain unless the two remaining spellers are tied. See rule (m) for the procedure when the last two spellers are tied. The next word on the Master's official competition list will then be given the next student, whether or not elimination occurs.
- m. When the students are reduced to two, provided that each student has committed one error or that each student is errorless, the elimination procedure changes, but not before the completion of the current round. At that point, when one student misspells a word, the other student will be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second student spells that word correctly, plus the next word, the second student will be declared champion.
 - The intent of the rule is to ensure that the remaining competitors have correctly spelled the same number of words as eliminated competitors before changing the procedure, so the current round must be completed before the procedure changes. If, at the completion of a round, only one competitor remains who has not misspelled two words, that competitor is the first-place winner and the two-person elimination procedure outlined in this rule does not occur. If, at the completion of a round, only two competitors remain, the elimination procedure outlined in this rule is employed to finish the contest. If, at the conclusion of a round, all competitors have been eliminated, the contest must resume as things were at the beginning of that round; all competitors who were still in the contest at the beginning of that round are restored, and a new round begins with those competitors spelling in the original order. *For ODACS Competition, if two or more competitors are eliminated in the same round, provided that they are tied for either second or third place, a second- or third-place tie will be declared.*
- n. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word will 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, he will be declared champion.
- o. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest, and the one who first misspells the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest will continue under rules (m) and (n).
- p. Any question relating to the spelling of a word will be referred to the judges immediately. Only a student speller may lodge a protest. The deadline for lodging a protest will be before the affected student would have received his next word had he not been eliminated. No protest will be entertained after a contested word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, i.e., before the second speller has begun to spell the word, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given.
- q. The judges have complete authority and control. Their decision will be final in any dispute.