



## ADULT SPELLING BEE OFFICIAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

### TEAMS

- Each team will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four members.
- All members must be adults (18+). All members must have registered and paid their entry by March 6th.
- Teams may have sponsors, donors, or both.

### COMPETITION FORMAT

- Teams will participate in rounds or “Swarms”.
- Teams will spell in the order they registered for the Bee. Placement in the Bee will be determined by the order in which a team goes “out”; i.e., first one to misspell a word gets last place, etc.
- Pronouncer pronounces word, gives word definition, and pronounces word again. Teams may ask for alternate pronunciation and/or for the word to be used in a sentence. Team Captain repeats the word for clarity.
- Team members may collaborate on the spelling of a word.
- Teams may not use phones, computers, additional electronics or any sort of reference materials during the Spelling Bee.
- These procedures and official rules will govern at the spelling bee. Any disputes will be resolved by the judges. There will be no appeals. In case of a dispute over the correct spelling of a word, illegible handwriting, or any other question, **the decision of the judges is final.**

### PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- Each team will have a maximum of 60 seconds to spell its word by writing it on the white board distributed to each team. The Timekeeper will call a “fifteen second” warning and then “time” when the minute is up.
- Each team will select one member to write the team’s spelling of the word on the board provided. Please print clearly, neatly and as large as possible. Several versions may be

written; it is the team's responsibility to erase any misspelled words, leaving only one version to be judged. The Team Captain will spell the word aloud. The word written on the white board is the official entry.

- All teams must immediately stop writing when the time is up, and the MC directs the team to show its spelled word and spell aloud. The Team Captain will show the word first to the audience and then to the judges for their decision.

## **HIVE ELIMINATION**

- Any team that does not hold up its board when the judges call for time will be considered as misspelling the word.
- Any team continuing to write after time is called or attempting to change the word as written on the board will be counted as misspelling a word.
- If the word is illegible or if letters are ambiguous, the word will be treated as misspelled. If the team erases the board before the judge(s) give the directive, it will be considered as misspelling the word.
- Judges will determine if the word has been spelled correctly. If you have spelled the word correctly and the judges notify you of this, you may erase and prepare for the next word.
- If you have spelled the word incorrectly, your team is either eliminated or must use a Cheat to remain in contention.
- Each round is over when all teams have had an opportunity to spell a word and there are still at least two teams left. Eliminated teams may throw their (vocal) support behind another team, but may not help with spelling words.
- When a word is misspelled, that team can join the audience.

## **CHEATS**

- Players will have the opportunity to purchase Cheats to buy their way out of elimination. The deadline for purchasing Cheats is 5:30 the day of the event.

### **Rebuzz**

- A Rebuzz Cheat allows a team to re-enter the competition after misspelling a word. When a Rebuzz Card is played after a misspelling, the turn is passed to the next team. One Rebuzz may be purchased per team.
- ReBuzz is \$100.

### **Buzz-Offs**

- A Buzz-Off Cheat allows teams to pass on spelling a word. These words are discarded and a new word is given. One Buzz-Off may be purchased per team.
- Buzz-Off is \$100.

## **Stinger**

- A Stinger Cheat allows a team to pass a spelling word that they cannot spell to another team and the chosen team must spell that word.
- If the team that is stung does not know how to spell the word either, they can use a Stinger and pass the word to a different team. You can't sting a team that has already been stung or that has used their Stinger on that word (ie, boomerang the word).
- No other Cheats may be used during a Sting.
- If a team uses their Stinger, it is as if they spelled the word correctly and will advance to the next round.
- If every team gets stung on the same word, and the last team has a Stinger that they would like to use, but has no one to sting, they may forfeit their Stinger to remain in the competition.
- Stinger Cheat is \$150.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND**

- At the end of five swarms (rounds) or when there are only two hives remaining, whichever comes first, the championship round will begin.
- The Pronouncer will call three words, and the remaining teams will be asked to spell the same three words on their board. The Pronouncer will call each word, give a definition, and then pronounce the word a second time. There will be no sentences or alternate pronunciations provided. Team Captain will not repeat word. Teams will have one minute from the second pronunciation to both confer and write the word. The Timekeeper will call a "fifteen second" warning and then "time" when the minute is up. The Pronouncer will then go to the next word.
- No Cheats can be used during the Championship Round.
- Teams may erase and re-spell any words, or parts of words, during the allotted time limit. However, to avoid confusion, they must print the final spelling of each word clearly.
- When "time" is called after the third word, teams must stop writing.
- Team Captain will show the words first to the audience and then to the judges. The judges will determine which team has spelled the most words correctly.
- If two or more teams spell the same number of words correctly, the Pronouncer will call another list of three words. The Championship Round will continue in this manner until a First Place team is determined.

## **VOTING FOR BEST COSTUME**

- Audience members are encouraged to vote for their favorite team costume. Each vote is a minimum of \$1. No coins please to help us have a speedy count. There are no limits to the number of times an individual may vote.
- Votes must be received prior to the Championship Round. Votes will be tallied during the Championship Round and winners announced after the final round.

## **PRIZES**

- All participants will receive a participation prize.
- The team voted with the best costume will receive a \$100 cash prize.
- Second place spelling winners will receive a \$150 cash prize.
- First place spelling winner will receive a \$300 cash prize.
- Gift basket for “Biggest Honey Pot” (most funds raised).