

STANISLAUS COUNTY SPELLING CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Modified for 2021-2022

1. The **Elementary** Championship is open to students from each **district** in Stanislaus County in **grades 4 - 6** who have been certified as champions. The **Junior High** Championship is open to **two students from each school** in Stanislaus County in **grades 7-8** who have been certified as champions.
2. This will be a **WRITTEN** competition, scored according to the procedures described below. Paper will be provided for each student. No personal materials are allowed in the immediate competition area.
3. The Spelling Master will read a word, use it in a sentence, and read it again, **define the word, and read the word for the final time**. Contestants have 20 seconds from this point to PRINT the word on their answer sheet before a STOP signal is given.
4. Students may begin spelling the word at any time after the Spelling Master has signaled to begin. However students must put their pencils down IMMEDIATELY when the STOP signal is given.
5. Students may correct spelling errors before the STOP signal. Corrections MUST be made in the following manner:
Cross out the entire word, and rewrite it on the same line **or**
Thoroughly erase a letter or letters and clearly insert the correct letters.
6. Homonyms must be spelled according to the usage described in the sample sentence and the definition given.
7. After the STOP signal is given, the Spelling Master will read the word again, and the correct spelling of the word will be revealed.
8. The proctors will check the spelling by marking correct spellings with a plus (+) and incorrect spellings with a minus (-). Any spelling which cannot be READ by the proctor will be considered a misspelling. The student may NOT tell the proctor any letter or word.
9. Competition Round: It is the responsibility of the **student or proctor** to signal any discrepancies to the Judge **immediately**, before the next word is given. In such cases, the Judge(s) and Spelling Master, in consultation with the proctor and student, will make the final ruling.
10. Words used in the competition are chosen randomly prior to the competition from any sources deemed appropriate by the Spelling Master and Judges.
11. The Spelling Master and Judges are in complete charge of the contest. Their decision is final. No protest will be entertained after the contest has ended.

SCORING

All registered students participate in the Qualifying Round at their school site virtually using Zoom. The top 10-20 spellers, based on their composite score in the Qualifying Round, move to the "in person" Competition Round held at a later date. Spellers remain in the Competition Round until they have **misspelled three valid words**.

QUALIFYING ROUND (At School Site): *All registered students participate.* Each school must provide a proctor. Proctor will be in the same room as student and will be responsible to connect student to the Zoom link. Answer sheets will be emailed to proctor to print for student. At the end of the Qualifying Round, proctors will enter into provided Google Form: Student Name, School, # of words missed. After a short break, students advancing to the Competition Round (later date) will be announced. Students not advancing to the Competition Round will receive a silver medal, program, and certificate delivered to their school. All words for the Qualifying Round are chosen randomly from the official Stanislaus County Word List.

COMPETITION ROUND: *The top 10-20 spellers from Qualifying Round will participate.* Scores from the Qualifying Round will NOT be carried forward. If the student spells the word correctly, the proctor will place a green card on the table. **If one of the contestants remaining in the competition round spells the word correctly, it is considered a valid word.** The green card is removed, once the word is deemed valid. A yellow card is placed on the table for a misspelled valid word. When a student misses a second valid word a second yellow card is placed on the table. When a student misses a third valid word the yellow cards are removed and replaced with one red card. The student will remain in the round, but no longer qualify as a finalist. Again, if the student spells the word correctly, the proctor will place a green card on the table but will remove the card once it is confirmed a valid word. Once a student misses three valid words a red card replaces the yellow cards. Words for the Competition Round are chosen randomly from any sources deemed appropriate by the Spelling Master and Judges.

When three students remain in the competition the first student to miss three words becomes the alternate for the state competition. The remaining **two** students represent Stanislaus County at the state competition.

THIS IS A CLOSED COMPETITION. NO SPECTATORS ALLOWED

