

STANISLAUS COUNTY SPELLING CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

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 and pencils are 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. Contestants have 20 seconds from this point to PRINT the word on their answer sheet before a STOP signal is given. If a contestant wishes the word to be re-pronounced and defined, he or she should immediately signal the Spelling Master by raising his or her hand. The Spelling Master will recognize the signal by reading the word, defining it, and reading it again. In such cases, timing will begin after the last reading of the word.
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 (if requested).
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 on the overhead projector.
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. 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. Spectators are not allowed to approach officials during the competition to report discrepancies.
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. The top 50% of spellers, based on their composite score in the Qualifying Round, move to the Competition Round. Spellers remain in the contest until they have **misspelled three valid words** in the Competition Round.

QUALIFYING ROUND: All registered students participate. Proctors keep a running total of the correctly spelled words. At the end of **30 minutes**, the top 50% of the students, based on their composite score, will move to the Competition Round. All others join the audience and wait to receive their award at the end of the championship. All words for the Qualifying Round are chosen randomly from the official Stanislaus County Word List.

COMPETITION ROUND: Top 50% of competitors from Qualifying Round 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.

TIES: Qualifying Round: If under the 50% rule, there is a tie for the minimum number of correct spellings allowed to move forward to the Competition Round, all tying students will move forward.

